

# NAFR Quarterly Newsletter

## Nanaimo & Area Branch

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September 2014

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One Hundred Fifty Seven people turned out for our June meeting held at the Bayside, Parksville.

### Next Meeting

**Date/Time:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 , General Meeting starts 1100 AM.

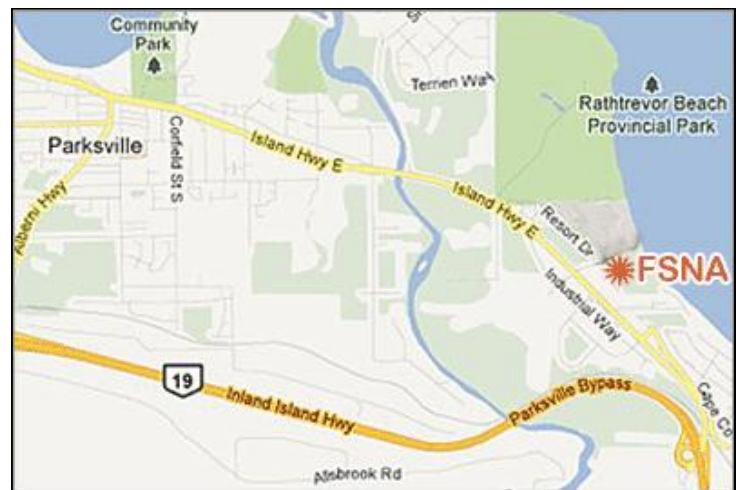
**Location:** Tigh-Na-Mara Resort and Conference Centre, 1155 Resort Drive, Parksville, B.C.

**Directions:** Resort Drive is 1.5 km West on W. Island Highway from Exit 46 on Inland Highway 19. Turn right onto Resort Drive. Tigh-Na-Mara Resort is 170 meters off the Highway.

**Meeting/Lunch:** Doors open at 10:00 AM. There will be a short business meeting followed by the presentation concluding at about 12:30.

### **Presentation - Wills and Estates**

**Reservations/Cancellations:** Your local FSNA volunteer will phone you to ask whether you plan to attend the lunch. If you confirm your attendance, please be aware of our **new cancellation policy**. The Branch is required to pay for all meals ordered on your behalf; therefore, if you subsequently are unable to attend, you must cancel your reservation to avoid being charged for the meal. To cancel, please call **Jim Gahr at 754-0989**. **The last date for cancellation to avoid billing is Sunday, September 21, 2014.**



**Don't forget your name tag**



FSNA Nanaimo Events 2014					
DATE	EVENT	PLACE	VENUE	MEMBER \$	GUEST \$
Sept 25	General Meeting	Parksville	Tigh Na Mara	\$22.00	\$24.00
Nov 20	General Meeting	Parksville	Tigh Na Mara	\$23.00	\$25.00

## President's Message, September Newsletter 2014:



**Pres. Bob Willis**

Welcome to the National Association of Federal Retirees:

Effective the 27th of June 2014, FSNA, as we well remember, has now been rebranded and we are now legally known as the National Association of Federal Retirees. (NAFR).

This coming year will be one of challenges, change and continuance. We cannot let up our efforts, nor can we allow our focus to waver.

Although we have changed the name, our logo remains the same; a bit. The logo will remain as is, however, there will be a colour enhancement to make it more vibrant. We are awaiting the colour changes and hopefully we will have a choice as to the composition.

On the local level we are gearing up for the year ahead, but it should be noted that one of our Board members, Jennifer Turner, has resigned her position as Director-at Large.

### Here is a compilation of the AGM in Montreal 2014:

1. FSNA rebranded as **National Association of Federal of Retirees**. (NAFR/ANRF)
2. Current "LOGO" to remain with some color scheme for enhancement.
3. Articles, By-Laws and Regulations approved for submission for Certificate of Continuance under the Bill C14 (NFP) by October 17, 2014.
4. Half-day President's Forum a resounding success and to be continued at the AMM (Annual Members Meeting) to be held in Ottawa June 2015.
5. The IT Renewal Project presentation was very informative and very well done. The changes as to how we do business today will be eye-opening in the near future.
6. Very moving live performance by J. P. Cormier who sang his song: "Hometown Battlefield". (check it out on YouTube)
7. Resolutions concerning (a) Defense of Benefits Emergency Reserve Fund, b) Borrowing Authorization (funds for new building) and (c) the

Multi-Year Membership Fees, were all passed



8. The NBOD urgent resolution concerning mail-out cost reserve fund of \$550,000 was defeated and not allowed on the floor for debate.
9. There was great support for the creation of Pan-Canadian Electronic Health Record, and the resolution passed by a great margin.
10. The BCo9 Victoria Fred-Whitehouse Branch resolution regarding donations was defeated
11. The last afternoon of the AGM was devoted to Advocacy, and a path outlined that we will be following as we go forward. Hassan Yussuff, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, gave an impassioned presentation of the issues that need to be resolved nationally in terms of Pensions, Seniors, Health, and Veterans.
12. Marie Bergeron was elected National Vice-President.
13. The Financial Report presentation was not impressive and delegates were not permitted to ask technical questions concerning the Report. Ken (our Treasurer/VP) will probably have more to say when he submits his observations.
14. The notion of "Town-Hall" meetings with local Federal, Provincial, and Municipal officials in attendance has begun and will be held across the country as an initiative to expose areas of concern. Advocacy action will involve all of us, so we need to be prepared for the upswing on focusing on the issues that concern our members, and all Canadians.

That's all I have for now, please feel free to email or phone me if you have any questions

Respectfully submitted:

Robert (Bob) Willis

President BCo5

### **Payment Dates for Government Pensions**

The following are dates that pension payments are transferred in pensioner's account, via Direct deposit or that regular pension cheques (paper) can be cashed.

August 28	November 27
September 29	December 30
October 30	

# FSNA - NANAIMO & AREA BRANCH GENERAL MEETING Minutes

Date: 19 June 2014

Time: 11:00 AM

Place: The Bayside Hotel, Parksville, BC



Attendees: 157

By Penny Kanigan

Meeting was called to order by Bob Willis, President and Chair.

1. Minutes of the GM held November 21, 2013 were circulated. No errors or omissions were noted. M/S/C

## 2. Committee Reports

### President's Report

The President's report was copied and distributed throughout the meeting room. John Finn, our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President died on April 26, 2014 – he will be missed. The name of our organization will be changing. The change will be made official after the National AGM June 25 to 27. The new name will most likely be the **National Association of Federal Retirees**. A new logo will also be selected. Besides the new name and logo, the AGM will be focused on “money”. The National Office is proposing the purchase of a new building (3 Million), increasing the Defense of Benefit Fund (5 Million), review of membership dues, and establishing a reserve of funds for Fundamental Change (to cover increased costs such as postage.)

FSNA is a non-partisan organization but with an up-coming federal election, the FSNA will be approaching each candidate and making known our wants and needs. The feedback will be shared with the membership. On February 05/2014, Thomas Mulcair, Official Leader of the Opposition, tabled a petition in the House of Commons on behalf of federal retirees, who worried that the Government would not meet nor honour the promises made to its retired employees and veterans regarding their compensation. This petition was signed by thousands of federal retirees and their supporters.

We have a volunteer for the position of Programs Director – Rick Roberts, as well as for the position of Registrar – Jim Gahr. We also have two (2) new Directors-at-Large – Jennifer Turner and Bob McDonald. Thank you for

stepping up. We would also like to have more volunteers to join us as committee members – no need to attend every Board meeting – just to give us a hand once in a while. Phoner's, of course, are always needed. Volunteer sign-up sheets can be found throughout the room.

Bob shared the National Office's dress code suggestions for the AGM in Montreal.

### Finance - Ken Jones

The financial statements were circulated prior to the start of the meeting. A question was asked re the interest rate we are receiving on the GIC's. Answer: less than 2%.

### Membership - Vic Ashdown

The membership report was circulated prior to the meeting. A minute of silence was observed in memory of the eleven (11) deceased members and three (3) RCMP officers killed in the line of duty in Moncton, NB. Vic is filling two positions and is seeking a volunteer for the Membership Director, he would also like some assistance with little jobs that take up a lot of his time – jobs such as looking for lost members, and speaking with the spouses of deceased members re membership choices. Help in these area's would ease his workload. Vic ended his report with two (2) tasteful jokes which are always good for chuckle.

### Scam Corner - Charles Scrivener

Many members are still receiving scam E-mails that are “phishing” for personal, credit card, or bank account information. One member recently received an E-mail supposedly from the Canada Revenue Agency, asking her to login to a website and check her income tax account. The “Shaw Cable” scam that indicates suspicious entry to your account, then requests “updating” your information or they will close your account; is still going strong. It has gotten so bad that some Canadian Banks have been sending E-mails to their account holders assuring them that they would NEVER request personal information over the internet except through secure sites. The Canadian Government, Banks, or Utilities would not request any personal information over the internet that was not “password” protected.

Awards/Speakers/Historian - Charles Scrivener

The Branch's Administrative Procedures Manual is to be revised. Anyone with suggestions for revision – let Charles know. The revised version will be presented at the November GM. There were a few copies of the Estate document, the current Administrative Procedures Manual and various other handouts available on the front table.

All of the Five Year awards have been handed out with the exception of A. Tully.

Awards presented to Duncan and Lute by President Bob Willis. A brief history of their years of service was shared.

Any suggestions for speakers is always welcome. Tell Charles.

Health & Benefits - Sharon Whalen/  
Bob McDonald

No formal report. Sharon is recovering from major back surgery and Bob is out of town. One request for assistance was received re medical benefits and the member has been helped.

Programs – Rick Roberts

Rick stated that he was new to this job but is working on it. Dates of the up-coming General Meetings were announced.

September 25/14 – Tigh Na Mara, Parksville, BC

November 27/14 – Tigh Na Mara, Parksville, BC - our Christmas lunch

Newsletter/Internet - Ian Williams

The website has been renewed but only for one (1) year – we don't know whether or not the web may or may not fall under the National Office. Ian explained the difficulties he encountered getting the most recent Newsletter printed and mailed out. The newest mailer, based in Victoria, may be able to reduce our postage cost from 73¢ to 45¢.

Hospital Visits (Nanaimo) – Irene McLean

Irene has been visiting two (2) members, both of which have now been released from the hospital. Mr. Henderson was one of the members that received visits from Irene and he expressed his thanks.

Let Irene know if you know of a member that would like a visit.

Name Tags/Hospital (Parksville) – Harold Goodman

Harold has had no requests for hospital visits. Anyone wanting a name tag, see Harold.

Telephone Director – Barrie Bonfield

Barrie thanked the phoner's for a job well done. The phoner's contact approximately 800 homes. As usual, more phoner's are needed due to attrition.

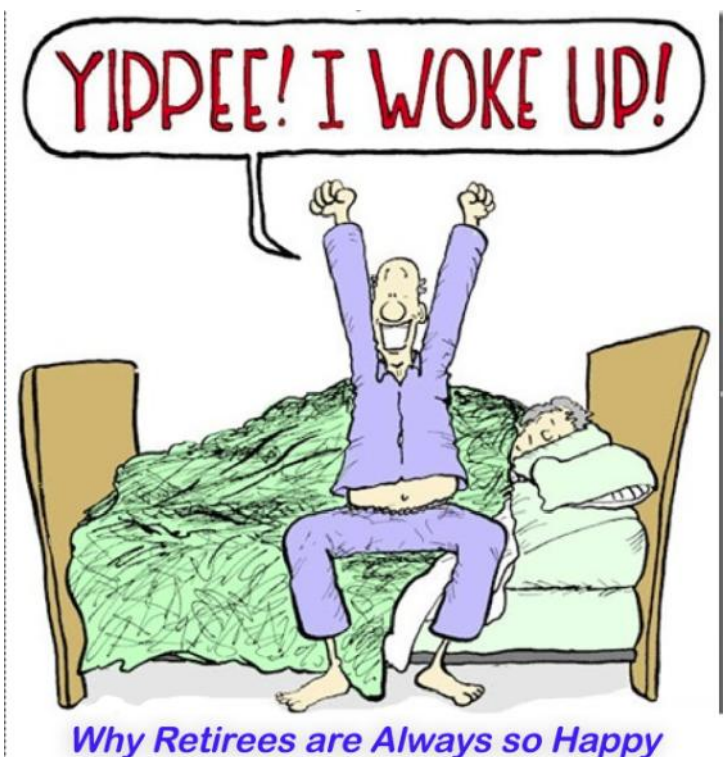
Registrar – Jim Gahr

Jim introduced himself to the membership and acknowledged Susanne Body and the immense help she has provided him. Jim presented Susanne with a potted flower and his heart-felt thanks.

Communications – Fran Graham

Ad's have been placed in the Nanaimo Senior's Directory and the Parksville Senior's Directory. An ad has also been placed in the McGuffey's Coffee News. These ad's are to encourage federal retiree's as well as those federal employee's who are still working, to join the FSNA. The more members, the bigger voice we have.

***All reports accepted as presented.***



### 3. Correspondence

Air Canada: A new policy re baggage of active and retired Canadian Forces and US military personnel has been put in place. 3 bags of 70 pounds each will be free. Military identification is required. Air Canada reference code is: **ACP685071 – Military Baggage**. If you wish to check this out the website is: **www.aircanada.com/en/news/140529**. This is valid for Air Canada flights only, not on affiliated airlines.



### 4. Unfinished Business

Eyeglasses left at our March AGM at the Coast Bastion have not yet been claimed. If the glasses are yours, please contact Bob Willis.

**Meeting adjourned at: 12:00**

## Branch Financial Report—Ken Jones

### Canadian Western Bank Reconciliation 18 August 2014



Actual Cash on Hand	
Total Cash Balance	<b>\$6266.43</b>
Liabilities Per Capita 2014/Minus	\$0.00
2014 Dues paid at branch/Minus	\$
Minus sub total	\$
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$6266.43</b>

Out Standing cheques	Out Standing Deposits
Chq #0817 National Office \$528.53	
Chq #0819 National Office \$ 67.20	
<b>Total \$595.73</b>	

<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>Canadian Western Bank Statement 18 August 2014</b>
Total Cash \$ 6266.43	Current Balance \$6862.16
	Outstanding deposit \$ 000.00
	Sub Total \$6862.16
	Minus outstanding cheques \$ 595.73
<b>Total Cash \$6266.43</b>	<b>Total Cash \$6266.434</b>



**FSNA Board—L-R; Ian Williams, Vic Ashdown, Charles Scrivener, Rick Roberts, Bob McDonald, Bob Hoogerbrug, Penny Kanigan, Rene Marchand, Sharon Whalen, Jim Gahr, Fran Graham, Barrie Bonfield and Pres. Bob Willis.**

## Director's Corner



**Vic Ashdown** was born and raised on a farm in eastern Saskatchewan, an area remote enough that he had to take his first three years of high school by correspondence courses. Higher education called but with no money for university, he applied for the military Regular Officer Training Plan and was accepted at the Royal Military College in Kingston.

On graduation with a Politics & Geography degree, he was commissioned in the Canadian Intelligence Corps. Over the years, this Corps became the CF Intelligence Branch and, when he retired with the rank of Colonel in 1996, Vic was the head of that Branch. He recalls his 35 years of service as being, “Many fascinating jobs in interesting places, in the company of extraordinarily dedicated and talented people. All you had to do was keep an open mind, not jump to conclusions, never underestimate your adversary, and always remember that details matter”. Piece of cake!

Vic & Michelle moved to Parksville in 1998 to escape the Ottawa ice storms! Vic joined FSNA Nanaimo in 2002 and became Membership Director in 2003. Because of his ‘electronic database’ experience, he was quickly ‘volunteered’ as Regional Coordinator to help implement the new Web-based Membership System (WMS) in the five Island Branches and later as a member of the WMS Ad Hoc Committee overseeing implementation across Canada. While continuing to cover Membership, he served as Branch Vice-President for two years, and has temporarily filled in as Newsletter Editor, Telephone Director and several other Board positions, often for months or years at a time. Michelle has helped with these tasks and is also a Phone Captain and the Card Person for Parksville-Qualicum.

Vic enjoys keeping current on world events (old habits!), military history, cycling, gardening, and woodworking. Re the latter, he taught himself to use a wood lathe and has turned out hundreds of bowls, bracelets, candle holders, and “anything round”.

Vic & Michelle will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. They have two sons (Ottawa & Vancouver) and four grandsons.



## Membership Report - Vic Ashdown

As of August 15th, 2014, the Nanaimo and Area Branch had 1997 members comprising 1329 retirees and 668 spouses. Of the 1329 retirees, there are 1163 on DDS and 166 pay at Branch. Since the last Report (May 15th), the following changes have taken place:

### ***New or Reinstated Members (30)***

Allison Andronik  
Richard & Roberta Beamish  
Wayne Becque & Ann Barber  
Jennifer Birchall-Creighton & John Creighton  
Valerie Booth  
Joseph & Betty Briand  
Alan & Esther Coombes  
Katherine Dobinson  
Margie Dunsmore  
Patricia Edwards  
John & Marianne Ewankiw  
Harold & Sharon Ferguson  
Peter Haynes  
Tina House  
Robert Knight & Eva Mork  
Helen Lane  
Barbara McKay  
Sharon Schofield  
Barry & Bonnie Sparkes  
Ruth & David Stewart

### ***Transferred In (18)***

Maurice & Claudia Adams from BC09 Victoria-Fred Whitehouse  
Sharon Daoust from BC07 Central Okanagan  
B & Emile Dubois from AB17 Edmonton

P & Marilyn Hodgkinson from AB16 Calgary & District  
Joe & Elaine MacDougall from MB31 Winnipeg & District  
Carol McCallum from BC06 Vancouver Island North  
Peggy Mitchell from ON43 Ottawa  
Peter & Theresa Pearce from NB62 Fredericton & District  
Lynne & Garry Stewart from BC14 Sidney & District  
John Townesend from ON43 Ottawa  
Mike & Lena West from BC09 Victoria-Fred Whitehouse

### ***Transferred Out (9)***

Denis & Mary Finnan to BC06 Vancouver Island North  
James & Luella Goodwin to BC09 Victoria-Fred Whitehouse  
Dick Henderson to BC04 Fraser Valley West  
Al & Madelyn Ritchie to BC09 Victoria-Fred Whitehouse  
Doug & Audrey Wright to BC12 Kamloops

### ***Membership Cancellations (0)***

## In Memoriam

Audrey Armstrong  
David Booth, survived by wife Valerie  
Ronald Crossley  
Doreen Curnow  
Kathleen Davidson  
Jean-Paul Guy, survived by wife Judith

Derek Harvey-Smith, survived by wife Diana  
Robert Hughes  
Beverly Martin, survived by husband Steve  
Elizabeth Pass  
Gertude Salmins, survived by husband George  
Alfred Schroeder, survived by wife Anita

### **How to achieve good vision while driving during a heavy downpour.**

**Most of the motorists would turn on HIGH or FASTEST SPEED of the wipers during heavy downpour, yet the visibility in front of the windshield is still bad.....**

**In the event you face such a situation, just try your SUN GLASSES (any model will do), and miracle! All of a sudden, your visibility in front of your windshield is perfectly clear, as if there is no rain.**

## FSNA Nanaimo Executive, Directors & Volunteers 2013-2014

Class	Position	Name	Phone	Email
<b>Executive</b>			All 250	
Exe	President	Bob Willis	468-0260	<a href="mailto:bobwillisbc@shaw.ca">bobwillisbc@shaw.ca</a>
Exe	Vice-President	Ken Jones	586-5002	<a href="mailto:casper6@shaw.ca">casper6@shaw.ca</a>
Exe	Secretary	Penny Kanigan	760-0929	<a href="mailto:pennykanigan@shaw.ca">pennykanigan@shaw.ca</a>
Exe	Treasurer	Ken Jones		<a href="mailto:kenethhjones3791@gmail.com">kenethhjones3791@gmail.com</a>
Exe	Past President	Rene Marchand	753-1657	<a href="mailto:bendawn@islandnet.com">bendawn@islandnet.com</a>
<b>Directors</b>				
Director	Membership			
Director	Membership Database	Vic Ashdown	248-2027	<a href="mailto:ashdown@shaw.ca">ashdown@shaw.ca</a>
Director	Health & Benefits	Penny Kanigan	760-0929	<a href="mailto:pennykanigan@shaw.ca">pennykanigan@shaw.ca</a>
Director	Health & Benefits	Sharon Whalen	758-7012	<a href="mailto:fsnaswhalen@gmail.com">fsnaswhalen@gmail.com</a>
Director	Program	Rick Roberts	248-7171	<a href="mailto:rick.roberts@shaw.ca">rick.roberts@shaw.ca</a>
Director	Newsletter Editor / Web	Ian Williams	758-0954	<a href="mailto:ianwilliams@fsna-nanaimo.org">ianwilliams@fsna-nanaimo.org</a>
Director	Awards/Speakers/Hist.	Charles Scrivener	758-2240	<a href="mailto:scrivener@shaw.ca">scrivener@shaw.ca</a>
Director	Telephone	Barrie Bonfield	954-3780	<a href="mailto:bbonfiel@shaw.ca">bbonfiel@shaw.ca</a>
Director	Registration	Jim Gahr	754-0989	<a href="mailto:heidleberghound@shaw.ca">heidleberghound@shaw.ca</a>
Director	Communication	Fran Graham	933-4766	<a href="mailto:francesgraham@shaw.ca">francesgraham@shaw.ca</a>
Director	At Large	Bob McDonald	751-2282	<a href="mailto:bmbmcdon@telus.net">bmbmcdon@telus.net</a>
<b>Coordinators</b>				
Area	Parksville	Harold Goodman	248-3269	
Area	Port Alberni	Marg Pierce	723-9791	
Area	Qualicum Beach	Sherwood Moore	752-1048	
Area	Tofino/Ucluelet	Sandy Henry	726-7086	<a href="mailto:macfunnelcover@telus.net">macfunnelcover@telus.net</a>
Cards	Nanaimo & Area	June Wiebe	756-4873	<a href="mailto:juneldo@shaw.ca">juneldo@shaw.ca</a>
Cards	Parksville/Qualicum	Michelle Ashdown	248-2027	<a href="mailto:ashdown@shaw.ca">ashdown@shaw.ca</a>
Cards	Port Alberni	Marg Pierce	723-9791	
Nominations	Committee Chair	Bob Hoogerbrug	751-8735	<a href="mailto:r-choog@shaw.ca">r-choog@shaw.ca</a>
Hospital Visit	Nanaimo Area	Irene McLean	245-2181	<a href="mailto:rim2@shaw.ca">rim2@shaw.ca</a>
Hospital Visit	Parksville/Qualicum Area	Harold Goodman	248-3269	
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Anne Elphick	751-2993	<a href="mailto:aelphick@telus.net">aelphick@telus.net</a>
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Bertha Nixon	758-0378	
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Barb Williams	758-0954	<a href="mailto:williv@telus.net">williv@telus.net</a>
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Marion Rivers	758-9783	<a href="mailto:merivers33@shaw.ca">merivers33@shaw.ca</a>
Phone Captain	Parksville/Qualicum	Marjorie Rose	586-7007	<a href="mailto:marjoriebrose@shaw.ca">marjoriebrose@shaw.ca</a>
Phone Captain	Parksville/Qualicum	Michelle Ashdown	248-2027	<a href="mailto:ashdown@shaw.ca">ashdown@shaw.ca</a>
Phone Captain	Port Alberni	Marg Pierce	723-9791	