



National Association of Federal Retirees Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

CHARLOTTETOWN

CHARLOTTETOWN BRANCH REPORT SPRING EDITION – MAY 2016



My first year as president is now behind me and a busy year it was.

The Federal Election played a large part of my activity. With the help of RSO Lloyd Kerry and Jack MacDonald from Charlottetown and Richard Savidant from Summerside, we successfully arranged and conducted two all party town hall sessions. It was my privilege to moderate both of these sessions and both were lively and informative. Many of our members attended these sessions and by all accounts the idea of the town hall was well received.

Results of the election were generally positive for federal retirees with all the chatter about changing how pensions are calculated stopping. Unfortunately, at least for now, the topic of our health care premiums continues ahead. On this topic, the National Association of Federal Retirees has launched a class action lawsuit against the government. The current status of this lawsuit has arguments pending for this summer on the material presented in the lawsuit. Following the result of these arguments we will know how the lawsuit is going to proceed. These types of action usually take a long time so we will just have to wait and see how things proceed. In the meantime, feel free to keep this issue in front of your local Member of Parliament and let them know we are not happy about the government failing to keep its promise.

We continue to work towards making our local pages on the national website relevant to our members. Currently, when you log on to the website (federalretirees.ca), you will see information on our upcoming events and new information on contacts for all of our Board members.

We ask that you take some time to thank the many volunteers that impact your life both inside and outside of this organization. Volunteers are the backbone to many positive aspects of our lives and without them, this would be a different country. We will recognized a couple of our own at the meeting and, as always, ask if you have a little extra time to put your name forward. Keeping a large organization such as ours going takes a few people to spread the work around and we should not continue to rely on the same people year after year. Our organization requires renewal with new faces to keep us relevant and current.

Just to keep your hope of spring coming soon, the Branch is planning our annual BBQ and strawberry social for noon, July 12 at the Farm Centre. Hope we see you all there.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the next year including representing you at the national Annual Members Meeting in June.

Doug Shackell
President





The Charlottetown Branch welcomes Brenda Powell, recently elected to the Board.

Brenda has been appointed to the tough task of Program Chair.

Brenda will be responsible for making arrangements for speakers at each of our general meetings as well as leading the co-ordination of both the BBQ and Strawberry Social and our Annual Gala Banquet.

If you think of a speaker that may be of interest to our group, please call or email Brenda. We are always on the lookout for good speakers.

Brenda can be reached at brendasunny1@gmail.com or you can phone her at 902-628-6929.

National web site

Your new national internet site is up and running at www.federalretirees.ca . This site contains a lot of useful information for our members.

On the top menu, click on Branches – Prince Edward Island – Charlottetown. This will bring you to our local presence on the site.

On the right hand side is information and details on our upcoming events and dates as well as details where needed.

On the left hand menu there are a couple of links for you to explore. Just updated is a list of all the Board members as well as their areas of responsibility. This information responds to our members requests for identifying who is responsible for what. Contact info is also provided.

More pages will follow in the near future including links to current newsletters as well as archived additions. This option was not there at the time of doing this newsletter but we hope to have it there soon.

MEDOC



We were fortunate to be able to lure Shawn McCord from Johnson Insurance (MEDOC) to our April Annual Meeting. (sorry I caught him with his eyes closed)

MEDOC is one of our Preferred Partners with substantial benefits to our membership.

Shawn tackled all your questions to make sure you understand all the rules when it comes to travel insurance.

Shawn left with one question as it relates to prior conditions. The question posed was whether a change in your medication from name brand to generic was considered a change. He got back to me with this response:

My medication has been changed from a name brand to a generic version. Will this affect the medical stability clause?

Sometimes doctors may change their patient’s medication from a name brand to a generic brand instead. If your medication is changed from a name brand to a generic brand because it is less expensive (with no change in dosage) it would not be considered a change that would affect your stability. The same applies to the routine adjustment of Coumadin or Warfarin, insulin or oral medications to control diabetes, as long as it is not newly prescribed or you have stopped using the medication entirely.

Good news for many of us and thank you Shawn for a great presentation.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



At our Annual General Meeting in April, I had the opportunity to present a President's Award to one of our outstanding volunteers Irene Gallant.

Irene has been on the Board for over ten years and has held virtually every role there is. Irene has held the Program Chair for the last couple of years. She is also involved with many other organizations including the Girl Guides and Catholic Women's League. She needs to find a little more time to devote to other works and while she has passed the Program Chair to Brenda Powell, she remains an active member of the Board.

Thank you Irene for all your years of dedication to our Branch and we are glad you are able to continue to help the Board into the future.

Changes of Address, Email and/or Telephone Numbers / Membership Dues

It is **IMPORTANT** if members have a change of address or phone number that you inform:

Patrick Kinnear - Membership Chair,
by telephone at 566-5049 or by email at:

pat@ptassociates.ca or by mail:

Charlottetown Branch,
PO Box 1686, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N4.

Please note that if you pay your membership dues by cheque rather than by deductions (and we hope you change to deductions), your membership dues for 2016 are **now due**. In part, your membership dues pay for the cost of this newsletter. Don't chance missing any copies. Send your cheque today or go online to <http://www.federalretirees.ca> and update your membership by credit card.



We know summer is going to arrive eventually so it is time to plan for our annual **BBQ and Strawberry Social**.

Tuesday, July 12
Farm Centre
Food will be ready at noon.

Bring your smiles and appetites. BBQ goes rain or shine although we hope for the shine part. Great chance to meet old and new friends, See you there.



Blair Swallows
Photo: Bill Maynard/Audubon Photography Awards



At a recent meeting, PEI Branches had the opportunity to welcome both our Atlantic Directors to Charlottetown. We had chance to discuss items going on within the Atlantic as well as address several issues on the national stage that impact our local membership.

Pictured above from left to right are: Lloyd Kerry, Regional Services Officer for PEI; Doug Shackell, President Charlottetown Branch; Cliff Poirier, President Summerside Branch; Leonard LeBlanc, Atlantic Director; Peter Kerr, Atlantic Director; and Shirley Pierce, Provincial Advocacy Officer for PEI.

Nalda Elaine Wheeler May 16, 2016



Our Branch suffered a devastating loss with the passing of our friend and long time Board member. Nalda was a friend to everyone and nothing short of a super-volunteer. Her passing will be felt by many friends and especially her family.

Upcoming events

Annual BBQ and Strawberry Social
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
Farm Centre – Starts at noon

October General Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 2016
Farm Centre – Starts at 2:00 p.m.

Annual Dinner and Gala
Saturday, November 19, 2016
Jack Blanchard Hall
Meet and Greet 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Cost is \$15.00 per ticket
Entertainment – Bruce Rainne and “Boomer”
**Tickets will be available at the October General Meeting