



## **BLUEWATER Branch Report**

Winter 2017

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hello Everyone:

As you read this you are already in the throes of what I hope is a very mild winter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been taking part in our general meetings and special events.

In the past few months, we have enjoyed a golf outing and a Canada 150 celebration. This year our golf outing was smaller in numbers but no less fun. Our general meeting in Goderich was a Canada 150 celebration with lots of door prizes and a trivia contest. Thanks to Bob Stennett for the lovely birdhouse which he donated for a door prize. Our guest speaker was Ted Young, National Director for Ontario who spoke on what National Office is doing to help the branches and advocacy. We also had entertainment in the form of Truelove Ways, a husband and wife duo who entertained before the lunch and after.

As always, I am concerned with the number of volunteers we have. In April 2018 the Executive will be up for election. There is no guarantee that the present Executive will continue. So I am asking you to talk to one of the executive. Find out how much time is involved and please volunteer to help. This is your association and you should have some say in how it runs.

I am also concerned with our membership members. If you know of anyone who is a retired federal employee and is not a member, please talk to them about becoming a member. The Association is fighting for all federal retirees' pensions and benefits.

Have a great winter and spring.

Gloria Cayea, President

### **Where to find us**

#### **Federal Retirees, Bluewater Branch (ON36)**

PO Box 263, Sarnia, ON N7T 7H9

**Telephone:** 519-869-6326; **E-mail:** fsna.bluewater@gmail.com;

**Web:** [www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/ontario/bluewater](http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/ontario/bluewater)

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

My quote for this issue:

“Do More of What Makes You Happy”

I am writing this just after our September “Canada 150” meeting. We had a festive, delicious lunch in Goderich. Ted Young, National Director for District of Ontario was our guest speaker and we also had entertainment from Truelove Ways.

Our Bluewater Branch is still doing well, keeping within our Budget. We do subsidize the General Meetings; our average is around \$3.00 to \$15.00 per meeting per person. The cost of meals and hall or restaurant room costs have steadily been going up but we are trying to keep the cost to our members down.

Enjoy the rest of the year and keep healthy and happy.

Diane

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

I hope everyone had a great summer and fall. It has been quite hectic this year with all the hurricanes, floods and wildfires. I sincerely hope you and your loved ones came through these natural disasters okay.

Our Bluewater Branch membership numbers are relatively unchanged around 600.

If you know of any Federal employee who has or will be retiring please encourage them to join our Association or pass their name to one of the Branch officers. **THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS!!**

The dues for 2018 are as follows:

- Single \$48.96 per year or \$4.08 per month Direct Deduction
- Double \$63.60 per year or \$5.30 per month Direct Deduction

If you pay annually you have several payment options.

1. Online go to "Federal retirees.ca"
  - a. Select drop down menu "renew membership" and follow instructions.
2. By cheque:( please include membership number)
  - a. To Bluewater Branch make cheque payable to Bluewater NAFR and mail to: PO Box 263, Sarnia, On, N7T 7H9
  - b. To National Headquarters make cheque to National Association of Federal Retirees and mail to: 865 Shefford Rd, Ottawa, Ontario K1J 1H9
3. By phone: Call 1-855-304-4700 and have credit card and membership number available.

Once again I would encourage members to sign up for Direct Deduction from their pension.

Have a great winter and spring.

Bill

## **IN MEMORIAM**

No Report

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT**

No Report

### **Outreach Coordinator**

As Outreach Coordinator, I try to be sure all our members are informed of upcoming functions, whether they are General Meetings, or Social Meetings. To accomplish this we use our web site, phone calls, email and publishing information in three local papers. My goal is to make sure that each and every one on our membership list gets contacted. As we get notification of new members, they get assigned to a caller, or get put on the email list, whichever they prefer. If you would like to assist with calling, please let me know at 519-869-8872.

I welcome any ideas, suggestions or recommendations that anyone may have to help make this outreach even more efficient. I encourage members to get involved with their branch. I always have callers who may have to give up calling for any number of reasons, so I am always looking for new callers.

Pat.

## **HEALTH BENEFITS OFFICER REPORT**

No Report

## **WEB SITE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Please take a look at our National and Branch Websites. They are full of great information. National Site: [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca) and Branch Site: [www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater](http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater),

Our Branch site has information on our Branch Executive and Board, upcoming Branch Events, copies of this and past Sage Branch Inserts; Minutes from Branch and Executive meetings, and more.

Current information for the next two Branch Events appears on the right side of our HOME page. For more details on specific events click on, guess what, "More Details". Future, planned Branch Events can be retrieved by clicking on "Branch Events" in the Bluewater Branch (ON36) box at the middle bottom of the home page. I try to keep this Events information as current as possible.

I am always looking for web content suggestions and pictures relevant to Branch activities and/or our members. Please forward any suggestions/input to [nafr.bluewater.kerr@cogeco.ca](mailto:nafr.bluewater.kerr@cogeco.ca). Please confirm individuals in pictures are OK with having their pictures published, on our web site, in the public domain.

Doug

## **Bluewater Branch Board**

### **Executive, (Elected)**

**President** - Gloria Cayea, 519-869-6326 | *dcayea@cogeco.ca*

**Vice-President** - Bob Jackson, | *bojack@sympatico.ca*

**Treasurer** - Diane Kerr, 519-869-8824 | *nafr.bluewater.kerr@cogeco.ca*

**Director of Membership** - Bill Mason, 519-869-8872 |  
*fsna.bluewater@gmail.com*

### **Board Members (Appointed)**

**Program Coordinator** - Mary Ann Burgess, 519-524-6981 |  
*enmacdougall@hurontel.on.ca*

**Outreach Coordinator** - Pat Mason, 519-869-8872 |  
*fsna.bluewater@gmail.com*

**IT and Web Site Coordinator** - Doug Kerr, 519-869-8824 |  
*nafr.bluewater.kerr@cogeco.ca*

**Health Benefits Officer** - Earnie MacDougall, 519-524-6981 |  
*enmacdougall@hurontel.on.ca*

**Secretary** – Bob Jackson, | *bojack@sympatico.ca*

**Member at Large** - Murray Lester, 519-481-0385 |  
*mlesham@sympatico.ca*

**Member at Large** - Georgina MacIsaac

**Member at Large** - Diana Wright, 519-786-4738 |  
*dmwilsonwright@gmail.com*