

General Membership Meeting and Luncheon  
Harbour Hill Retirement Suites, Goderich  
September 13, 2017

Branch web site **<http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater>**

Present -

President - Gloria Cayea  
Treasurer - Diane Kerr  
Program Coordinator - Mary Ann Burgess  
Health Benefits Officer - Earnie MacDougall  
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr  
Secretary - VP - Robert Jackson  
Member at Large - Georgina MacIssac  
Member at Large - Murray Lester

Absent -

Director of Membership - Bill Mason  
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason  
Member at Large - Diana Wright

Special Guests-

Ted Young, NAFR Director, District of Ontario  
Bob Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce

Cathy Truelove and Dale Sewers, known as the Truelove Ways Duo, provided live music before President Gloria Cayea officially opened the meeting at noon. The theme of the meeting was to celebrate Canada 150. Gloria reminded members that it was also an appropriate time to remember Canada's response to the tragedy of 9/11 when we assisted airline passengers stranded by the closure of North American airspace.

Gloria introduced our guest speaker, Ted Young, Director, District of Ontario. Ted reminded the attendees the importance NAFR attaches to listening to its membership; and the importance for members to feel and be engaged in volunteering to meet various NAFR needs.

Ted gave an overview of some major issues facing the NAFR Board of Directors at their upcoming September meeting:

- The decision arising from the court case involving our health insurance premiums was not in our favour. To date NAFR has spent some \$370k in attempting to protect retirees from the health insurance premium changes. A decision is required whether to appeal.
- Advocacy work continues respecting Bill C-27, An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985. While current retirees' defined benefits plans are safe, this is not the case for current federal employees. NAFR CEO Simon Coakeley is scheduled to meet with Treasury Board President Scott Brison to discuss our concerns.
- Ted touched on the tragic loss of NAFR employee Louise Bergeron, who was so instrumental in NAFR's work on health care issues for seniors.
- Ted summarized continuing NAFR membership recruitment and advocacy work. He also informed the meeting the Advocacy Program Officer position has been filled.
- Ted gave an overview of the upcoming September NAFR Board of Directors meeting agenda items. Besides the court case decision mentioned above, the Finance Committee work towards a balanced budget, the CEO's review of NAFR headquarter operations, the membership recruitment plan and on-going Strategic Plan work will all be included.
- Ted also mentioned the need to fill NAFR's Director, Finance and Administration vacancy; the need to resolve the issues Branches face in finding volunteers; and the on-going organizational needs for both an up-to-date Strategic Plan and an up-to-date vision of the future of the organization.

Ted and Gloria both emphasized the approachability of Headquarters staff and our membership's ability to contact HQ if needed. CEO Simon Coakeley's continued visits and consultations with Branches was also cited.

Prior to the serving of lunch, the National Anthem was sung, and Mary Ann Burgess led the meeting through a moment of silence for departed members and grace.

MP Bob Lobb stopped by the meeting and offered his appreciation for the contributions made to Canada by the members during their public service careers.

Following lunch, the drawing of the 50/50 prize and the award of various door prizes took place. Of particular note was the finely crafted grand door prize, a bird house decorated for Canada 150 made and donated by member Bob Stennett. Bob took a moment to speak about his considerable charity work involving his bird houses.

The Truelove Ways Duo concluded the meeting with another pleasant round of songs and music.

Participants were reminded the next General meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at MacPherson's Restaurant, Port Franks.