



Kitchener / Waterloo Branch Report (Fall 2017)

A Message from the President: by Carol Grieco, President

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to a colourful fall. In April, the branch held our annual members meeting and elected a new executive for the coming year. Our National President, Mr. Jean-Guy Soulière, was the guest speaker and he provided information on Governance, Bill C-27, PSHCP and the New Strategic Plan. Attendance at this branch meeting was very low. The number of members attending our meetings has been declining and that concerns me. I welcome any suggestions from you the members on ways to increase our numbers.

Please mark your calendars for our next general members meeting being held on Tuesday, October 3rd at Conestoga Place. I hope to see more of our members at this meeting.

Our National Association held its annual members meeting (AMM) in Ottawa, June 14 – 16. I attended the meetings along with Louise Nobbs, (Treasurer), and Frank Bayne & Lynn Borthwick, (Vice President & Past President). All of the delegates and observers attending the AMM are volunteers with the organization. It was a busy few days but much was accomplished.

I'm asking again for someone to help out at the branch office on Thursday afternoons from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Please see Gerard Carmichael or myself for more information.

We celebrated Canada's 150th birthday on July 1st with festivities held all across the country.

The executive met again in August and started planning for our October meeting. We also received an update on the status of our Kitchener Website. More details on this will follow.

Suggestions on topics or guest speakers that you would like to make presentations at our meetings would also be appreciated.

I must close on a sad note. The Kitchener Branch lost a long-time volunteer and advocate when Graham Weber passed away on June 5th, after a sudden but short illness. Graham was very involved in the branch for many years and will be missed. Our condolences go out to his wife Helen their family.

IN MEMORIAM: Submitted by Lynn Borthwick

ON BR 39 has lost three long time members who all were dedicated volunteers on the board of directors.

Frank Burgess enlisted in the RCAF during WWII and continued to serve for an additional 28 years before moving to the University of Waterloo Human Resources department. He joined the board in 1993 as director at large and took on the job of Membership from 1994 to 1999 while he 'groomed' Frank Bayne for those duties. We all enjoyed watching the Air Force veteran try to train an Artilleryman! After a short period away from the board, he returned in 2001 and took the role of Special Events and Projects Director for the next 10 years. If you took a tour of the Toyota plant, Frank did the organizing.

Many of you will remember Harvey McLean, long time member and Health Benefits Officer (HBO). Harvey first joined the board in 1996 and immediately assumed the role of Member Services Director. He held that position until the position of HBO was created in 2002 and served in that role until 2010. He knew the PSHCP and PSDP benefits guide inside and out and astutely responded to member queries. Prior to joining BR 39 he served 25 years in the Canadian Air Force and worked in Indonesia with PT INCO before settling in Cambridge with his wife Shirley, who also volunteered as our Office Manager.

Graham Weber: BR 39 member since 1998, Programs Director/Kitchener, President, Past President, and Regional Services Officer. A Gardener with a BIG heart, who loved to share his vegetables and we at BR 39 benefited from all that he did for us. Graham died in early June and his absence will be felt by all of us who knew and worked with him. In University, he enlisted in the COTC, Canadian Officers' Training Corps, then headed into the diplomatic service at External Affairs with postings that included Ottawa, Winnipeg, St. John's and Mexico City where he learned to siesta and fiesta! Retirement brought him back to Kitchener. This Branch, our NAFR region, his family and friends all feel this loss.

September 2017 – March 2018

Tuesday, October 03, 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting
Registration: 10 am. RVSP deadline is Wed Sept 28.

Tuesday, December 05 ,2017 Christmas Social
Registration at 11:30 a.m. RVSP deadline is Wed Nov. 29.

110 Manitou Dr, Kitchener ON N2C 1L3

Phone: 519 - 742-9031

e-mail: fsna39@gmail.com

Call for Volunteers: Submitted by Lois Brown

We need members to volunteer as telephone callers **3 times a year**. Callers are provided with a list (15 – 20 names) and a script to remind members of upcoming meetings. You only call once and leave a message if no answer.

We also need a volunteer to help out in the office on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Please notify a member of the Executive if you are willing to help out.

Office hours: Tues: 10 a.m. to noon; Thurs: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Office phone: 519-742-9031**

ARE YOU PREPARED? Submitted by Frank Bayne

Over the past years I have assisted several BR 39 survivors with the steps involved after the death of a pensioner. It is a stressful time and can be confusing to your survivor as they deal with their loss and all that follows. It takes time and patience to make it through the process.

PENSIONERS: You have a responsibility to keep your files up to date.

Dig out the **YOU AND YOUR SURVIVORS** workbook. Have you made and updated the entries? Part 2, Section 1 is a very important part of that workbook.

PENSIONERS: The best thing you can do for your survivor is to ensure that your pension number, SIN number, Military service number, Veterans 'K' card number, insurance policy numbers, bank accounts and investment account numbers are on an easy-to-access list, in an easy-to-access place!

WHO TO CONTACT FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF A PENSIONER

LAWYER Get the original will from the lawyer

PENSION OFFICE Canadian Forces Pension Office	1-800-267-0325
Public Service Pension Office	1-800-561-7930 English
	1-800-561-7935 French
RCMP Pension Office	1-800-661-7595

Have the following information ready:

- Pension number (from the Direct Deposit Payment Statement issued each January)
- Full name
- SIN number

ASK them to send you the Survivor's Package. They will tell you to mail or fax (the better method) them the following, unless you have already sent the information in to be placed on your file:

- Marriage certificate
- Spouse's birth certificate
- Copy of will
- Death certificate
- Divorce decree, if applicable

As soon as they receive the information they will mail you the package. This will contain

- The amount of Survivor's pension and the amount of the Supplementary Death Benefit **(this SDB is NOT Taxable)**

- A note to indicate that the survivor is entitled to the pensioner pension for the full month in which they died. All other payments must be returned.
- Instructions on completing an Application for the Public Service Health Care Plan and the number if you want to maintain the Pensioner's Dental Services Plan (PDSP)
- Instructions for direct deposits of the pension (sending a VOID cheque)

CPP/OAS The funeral home normally does this, and they will have several copies of the death certificate for distribution, as required. If they don't, call 1-800-277-9914

They will require:

- Death certificate
- Marriage certificate
- Spouse's birth certificate
- Copy of will
- Funeral bill

YOU will receive the CPP Surviving Spouse's pension and the CPP death benefit (maximum of \$2500.00) payable to the estate of the Deceased. **This IS taxable.**

REVENUE CANADA They will want the deceased's SIN number, a death certificate and a copy of the will. Kitchener Office: 1-800-959-8281

OTHER PENSIONS They will want the pension plan number, death certificate and a copy of the will

LIFE INSURANCE They will want a copy of the death certificate and a copy of the will

BANK Don't close the accounts until everything is settled. To close the account, they will want a copy of the death certificate and the will

VAC Veterans' Affairs Canada 1-866-522-2122

Call them and give the 'K' card number and full name of Veteran.

Surviving spouse should get 100% of the pension for the first year following the death of the veteran, and then 50% after, plus VIP services will continue for the surviving spouse.

FSNA National Association of Federal Retirees

When the pensioner dies, their members and the spouse's memberships ceases since the 'Dues deduction' ceases. Once you receive your first Survivor's pension cheque with a pension number, send an application to remain an FSNA member to Ottawa.

For an application, contact the Membership Director at the BR 39 office:

1 – 519 – 742 - 9031

PLEASE save this article...it will help when the time comes.

NOTE: all telephone numbers accurate as of June 9, 2017