



Your Voice

MUN Pensioners Association (MUNPA) Newsletter—Volume 8, No. 11; November, 2010; Daniel Stewart, Editor

Editorial

Contributions from members are always welcome in *Your Voice*. A while ago an old friend of mine (and many others), Abe Ross, wrote to ask how he might help out. I said, “Just write something about being retired in Nova Scotia.” The first half of his response is below and the second will be in December’s or January’s issue.



MUNPA Past President, Evan Simpson; MUN President, Gary Kachanoski; and MUNPA President, Doreen Whalen at the MUNPA Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting

On October 13 MUNPA held a very successful and well-attended Annual General Meeting. At the meeting Doreen Whalen was elected President and Evan Simpson will assume the role of Past President on the board. Newly elected Executive Board members are Tom Daniels, Tony Dearness, Jack Strawbridge, and Ralph Tapper. The full Board of Directors is listed on the next page. Gary Kachanoski, MUN President, joined us at the reception following the meeting.

Group Home and Auto Insurance available (finally) from Waterloo

It is a long story but MUNPA members are finally able to take advantage of group home and auto insurance offered at low rates (up to 60% less) by *Waterloo Insurance*.

On the web see:

www.waterlooinsurancequote.ca (Group Code:

6262) or call Waterloo Insurance Sales and Service Centre at 1-866-247-7700. Anyone who calls for a quotation by December 17 will receive a \$5 *Tim Hortons* card and will be eligible to win a \$5000 prepaid *MasterCard*.

More details are available on the MUNPA website. Members without web access can contact MUNPA and we will mail you the information.



DARE TO CAMPAIGN LAUNCH--hosted by Dr. Gary Kachanoski, President and Vice-Chancellor, **Nov. 18 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am in the Physical Education Gymnasium (PE-2000)**. The entire University community, including retirees, Regents, faculty, staff, and students, are invited to attend.

Flu Shots

Flu shot clinics will be held on the St. John's campus on **November 9th and 10th**. **MUNPA members can receive flu vaccinations at these clinics. For details call 864-7406.**

Letter from Abe Ross

Dear Dan,

You ask how we ended up living in Nova Scotia on a small lake off a dirt road running between the towns of Trafalgar (no longer existent except on a map) and Dean. I guess the story has to start with why we left Newfoundland. We liked living in St. Phillips, we liked our house and we had friends there. However, the big problem, as everyone who lives in NL knows, was getting on and off the island. Our children had settled on the mainland, my mother still lived in the States so getting on and off the island was important. As well, we wanted to spend our winters in warmer climes.

So, several years before retirement my wife and I started the hunt. Deciding where to live can be a difficult decision when there are no work constraints. What are the criteria we use to make a decision when there are no particular attractors (i.e., a specific place you want to live or live near)? We knew what we didn't want but we weren't sure about what we did want. We knew that we didn't want to move back to the States, the health care system alone was enough to keep us away. We knew that we didn't want to live in a big city and we knew that we wanted to live on the eastern part of the continent. Toronto was about as far west as we were willing to go. This was because our children and my mother lived on the east coast of the US. Knowing where we didn't want to live still left a lot of places to look. Our one other criterion was that we wanted to live within an hour of a major airport so that getting away and home again wouldn't be too much of a burden. (To jump ahead in the story, this was the one criterion we didn't meet since we live an hour and twenty minutes from Halifax Airport.)

We started out by exploring the Eastern Townships outside of Montreal. I liked Montreal as a city to visit and we had heard a great deal about the Townships. We explored but nothing we saw quite seemed to fit our needs (and our pocket-books). The next year we explored the Toronto area. We liked Peterborough, it seemed a town that was age friendly (sort of like "user friendly"). But then we tried to get to the Toronto Airport. Forget it! Just getting from one side of Toronto to the other on the 401 took more than an hour and that wasn't even during rush hours. We looked at the Guelph and Waterloo areas. Those were attractive but we knew that on warm summer days there could be

"bad air" warnings as foul air from the US moved north. Not a good idea for older people (not that we were "older" yet but we hoped to be there long enough to be older).

The next year we looked at the Hull/Ottawa area. It meant that we would not be at an airport hub; that is, we would have to change planes if we went to the States, but we were willing to accept that. Once again, nothing in the Ottawa area was interesting. There were several places on the Hull side which we liked but a friend who had worked in both health care systems warned us about problems with the health care in Quebec. Some services which were available in Ontario were not available in Quebec. We wondered where to look next. Then we thought of Nova Scotia. Goodness knows we had spent enough time in Halifax waiting for the flight to NL which had been cancelled due to ice, moose on the runway, fog . . . you name it.

In that awful year 2001, we set out to explore Nova Scotia keeping in mind our main criterion that we be within one hour of the airport. In my next letter, if you or anyone else is interested, I'll tell you how we ended up on West Loon Lake.

Abe (rossabe@hotmail.com)

[to be continued]

Contact MUNPA

Mail: Pensioners Association, Memorial
University of Newfoundland
St. John's, NL, A1C 5S7
E-mail: MUNPA@mun.ca
Phone: 864-6979 (note the new number)
Website: www.mun.ca/munpa

Board of Directors:

Sharon Buehler	skb@mun.ca
Barbara Cox	bcox@mun.ca
Tom Daniels	tdaniels@swgc.mun.ca
Tony Dearness	tdear@mun.ca
June Ellis	jellis@mun.ca
Charles Gosse (Treasurer)	charlesandshirley@nl.rogers.com
Joanne Myrick-Harris	jharris@mun.ca
Evan Simpson (Past President)	esimpson@mun.ca
Daniel Stewart	stewartd@swgc.mun.ca
Jack Strawbridge	jack.strawbridge@gmail.com
Ralph Tapper	ralph_tapper@yahoo.com
Doreen Whalen (President)	dwhalen@mun.ca
Ed Williams	ewilliam@mun.ca
Glenys Woodland (Secretary)	gwoodland@nl.rogers.com