

YOUR VOICE

MUN PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION (MUNPA) NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5, No. 10 October 2007 – Evan Simpson, Editor

REPORT ON THE AGM

About 50 MUNPA members attended the September 19 annual general meeting of the association. It was preceded by a presentation by Mark Graesser and followed by a social.

Romance and Reality

Mark's talk, "At Home in Newfoundland and New Zealand," described his retirement life, which is divided between a home in Nelson, NZ, and his home in St. John's. Every year for Mark and Alice consists of two summers, during which he is free to indulge his interests in hiking, or "tramping" as the Kiwis say.

One of Mark's main messages was that retirees who will be away can plan for mail forwarding, house sitting, tax filing, banking and the like. Health insurance and repayment for medical expenses through MCP also present no problem as long as elementary information is exchanged between MCP and individuals before going abroad. It is by no means necessary to own a house abroad to take advantage of these opportunities. Mark is available to answer questions from interested members at <mark at mun dot ca>.

Business

A lively business meeting approved the minutes of the 2006 AGM, received the President's and Treasurer's reports, discussed reports of the Benefits and Wellness Committees and received a verbal report on 'Your Voice.' The editor encouraged more input from members and suggested that the name of the newsletter

might soon become "Our Voice."

There was vigorous discussion about the right of Executive Committee members to depart in their official capacities from positions taken by the majority of the Executive. On a motion from the floor, the membership indicated that all members of the Executive are bound by positions taken by a majority of the Executive on any issue. Members also discussed the growth of the Association's assets and encouraged the Executive to adopt an annual expenditure budget for 2007-08 and future years.



Mark Graesser explaining one of many interesting slides during discussion of dividing one's retirement year between Newfoundland and abroad.

The membership also elected its Executive Committee for 2007-2008. The Constitution requires the new Executive to determine the officers of the Association for the following year. The Executive met on September 26 for this purpose. Their choices are reported below.

Social

Following the business meeting members were pleased to have an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and conversation with one another and Lisa Hollett, Director of HR.

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MUNPA EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 2007-08

Past President	Don Steele
President	Evan Simpson
Vice-President	*Harold Squires
Secretary	Chris English
Treasurer	Glenys Woodland
Newsletter Editor	Dan Stewart
At large	Sharon Buehler
	Derek Burton
	Bill Marshall
	Doreen Whalen
	Ed Williams

*Co-opted in accordance with the Constitution

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Please note that these avenues of communication are currently staffed entirely by volunteers. But please see the following request for administrative help. Meanwhile, we will get back to you as soon as possible.

More information at the MUNPA website:
www.mun.ca/munpa

ADMINISTRATIVE HELP SOUGHT

In order to serve MUNPA members better, your Executive Committee is looking for a person who will monitor our telephone and e-mail systems on a regular basis. The budget for 2007-2008 will include provision for an honorarium for services rendered that will be mutually agreed upon. If you are interested in helping your fellow members in this way, please contact the Treasurer.

SERVICE TO MEMBERS

MUNPA's membership consists of all retirees and survivors. As previously reported in *YOUR VOICE*, in order to provide adequate service to everyone, the Association has asked the University to disclose minimal personal data to MUNPA – specifically members' names, home addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers – subject to stringent privacy protections.

In meetings with University officials in September, MUNPA was advised that this information will be provided wherever members explicitly consent to its release. We therefore expect to be working with Human Resources and Marketing and Communication to devise a mail reply card that members can return in order to create a complete picture of the association. We will count upon your help to compile this information. More details will be forthcoming as plans develop.

As part of becoming a more responsive association we hope you will reply positively when the time comes.