



Parkland News

May 2017

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President's Message

To all Parkland Chapter members,

Hello to all our Parkland members near and far. I trust everyone is enjoying our not so nice balmy spring weather. I am beginning to think snow in April and May is the norm for this part of the world. I am sure you are all looking forward to the hot dry summer which is being predicted.

I am hopeful that by the first part of June we will have fantastic weather for our annual spring BBQ, details of which are included in this issue, I encourage all of you who have not yet submitted your annual dues to do so, so you can take advantage of the best price you will ever get for a complete steak dinner.

I would like to welcome all our recent new members and invite them to become active members so they can enjoy our many activities and the benefits that come with active membership. Active membership comes with the payment of local annual dues and makes you eligible for lower rates to our functions and major benefits like Medoc travel insurance.

I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming BBQ.

Lloyd Rogowski
President Parkland Chapter 28

WE'RE ON-LINE: Check out our new website

Check out the latest Parkland Chapter news and activities and other chapters at: www.heritageclub.ca



Spring BBQ

Join us for our Annual Spring Barbeque

We have once again booked this year's BBQ at the Devon Lions Park gazebo.

The date for the BBQ is:

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2017

Time: Noon to 4:00 (lunch at 1:00 PM)

Location: Devon Lions Park Gazebo
Devon AB

The park is located in the river valley right next to the Devon Golf Course.

See the map at the back of this newsletter for directions to the park.

Feel free to bring a bottle of wine, or other refreshment. This is a private park so we do not have the same restrictions on alcohol as we do with public parks .

Please complete the BBQ Attendance Registration form enclosed with this newsletter, and send it along with your payment to the Heritage Club office, at the address indicated.



This BBQ is a fun event, and is very well attended.

The event goes "Rain or Shine" – the gazebo provides excellent shelter if it rains.

Cost of the BBQ is:

- \$10.00 per person for paid up members and spouses.
- \$ 15.00 per person for non-members.

If you would like to attend, but require a ride, or need additional directions to the park, please contact any of the executive (see the list of club executive members at the back of this newsletter).

Quarterly Luncheon

OPPS!! At our last luncheon, the restaurant manager failed to honor the luncheon price agreed to by their main office. This we have been assured was the manager's error, and has been corrected. We have however decided that we will not be returning to that location.

We will continue to host quarterly luncheons and social get togethers but the location will now change to the Beijing House Buffet, a Chinese buffet restaurant that we have not been to for a few years.

Our next luncheon for 2017 will be on:

Thursday July 6, 2017 - 11:30 AM

Come and enjoy a great lunch at a great price, and share some good times with old and new friends.

Please call Rene Plouffe 780-476-7230 or Lloyd Rogowski 780-458-8936 to confirm attendance.

Thursday July 6, 2017

11:30 AM

Beijing House Buffet

13619 St Albert Trail

Edmonton, AB

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION

Canada is home to 36 million people and 15 million cattle, 9 million of which live on the Prairies.

Fall Banquet:

*Please Mark
your Calendar*

The Parkland Chapter Fall Banquet will be held:

Saturday September 23 2017.
Continental Inn
16625 Stony Plain Rd
Edmonton, Alberta,

2017 SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	Heritage Club Banquet
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The Annual Fall Banquet is another one of the club's very popular events. It is a chance to dress up a bit, and get out for a great evening featuring a great meal at a terrific price, along with a few hours of entertainment. All that with the added bonus of catching up with old and new friends to see what they have been up to over the

summer, and compare winter plans.

We hope as many of you as possible will make it out for an evening of fun and fellowship.

We will be sending out another Newsletter in late summer that will contain more information, but for now please reserve Saturday September 23, 2017.


Membership

The 2017 membership campaign is well underway.

If you have already paid your 2017 membership, you will find your 2017 membership card enclosed with this newsletter. If instead your newsletter contains a membership renewal form, then we have not yet received your annual renewal, and we would ask that you please take a moment and complete the membership form enclosed.

Please remember that our Heritage Club chapter receives only a portion of our funding from the national office, and membership fees are necessary for the chapter to offer a range of activities and to keep everyone informed via newsletters and bulletins.

MEMBERSHIP
Parkland Chapter



The annual dues in Parkland Chapter are still one of the lowest in the country at \$10.00 per member and \$10.00 for a spouse.

If you have any questions regarding your membership status, or if you are aware of a member that does not receive this newsletter, please have them contact Judy Broomhall at 780-481-8627 to confirm their membership status.



**Change of
Address**

Have you moved recently???

If you have recently moved or are planning a move, please let us know so that we can update our mailing list.

Please let us know by email at parklandheritageclub@gmail.com, or by mail at The Heritage Club, 12135 – 149 St. Edmonton AB. T5L5H2. You can also contact our membership coordinator Judy Broomhall at 780-481-8627, or by contacting any of the executive – contact information on the back page

Golf Group:



Hurray!! The snow is gone, the flags are back on the greens, and the driving ranges are busy. It must be golf season again.

Our golf group will be up and running again this year, with the intention of organizing one golf outing per month for interested members.

There are no serious golfers here..... Just a bunch of posties out for some fun on the links. So, clean up those golf clubs, and get ready to once again get out with some postie friends for a few rounds of golf.

The golf group meets the 2nd Wednesday morning of each month.

We attempt to go to a different course each month. (Subject to being able to obtain tee times). If you are interested in joining us, please call Bob Broomhall at (780) 481-8627, or email parklandheritageclub@gmail.com

Interested members should let us know at least a week in advance so sufficient tee times can be arranged.

If you have any suggestions on courses you would like to play, let us know as well.

The first outing this year will be Wednesday May 11, (time and location TBD).

OBITUARIES:

It is always with a heavy heart that we hear of the passing of some of our members. We have been made aware that the following people have passed away:

Don Foster
Violette McNamara
Duncan Brooks
Kathleen Colahan
Dolores Beauliua

Win Bachman
John Gallupe
Darleen Balfour
John Baxter
Douglas Myhre

Jennie Croken
Joyce Kachkowski
Rob Matthew

If you are aware of a member or a spouse passing, can you please contact one of the executive, and let us know the name, date, and any information that you may be aware of, as to their career with Canada Post.

New Members:

Parkland Chapter of the Canada Post Heritage Club is pleased to welcome the following new members to the chapter:

Terry Armstrong - Sherwood Park
Sheri Medynski - Edmonton
Holly Malinowski - Edmonton
Anne Marie Ludwig - Mannville
Beverly Cunningham - Hinton
Brenda Swift - Edmonton
Janice Zotzman - Sherwood Park

Kenneth Jacobsen - Camrose
Adilio De Sousa - Sturgeon County
Wendy De Sousa - Sturgeon County
Valerie Lozinski - Blackfalds
Ronald Smith - Edmonton
Glen Teague - Mayerthorpe

Retirement.

It is nice to get out of the rat race but you have to learn to get along with less cheese.

Heritage Club Travel:



TRAVEL OPPORTUNITES FOR 2017

August 14, 2017 - 14 day Alaska cruise - Vancouver return on the Norwegian Sun
Inside cabins from \$2530.00 CAD pp including all taxes.

August 14, 2017 - 14 day Alaska Cruise, Seattle return, on the MS Amsterdam, Visit Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Icy Strait, Homer, Kodiak and Anchorage. This ship sails further north visiting some more remote Alaskan communities. Inside cabins starting at \$2454.00 CA pp including taxes.

August 29, 2017 - 12 day British Isles - Southampton return, Caribbean Princess. Visit Southampton, Guernsey, Dublin, Belfast, Orkney Islands, Invergordon Scotland, Edinburgh, Le Havre(Paris). Inside cabins begin at \$1525.00 Cad pp plus taxes \$249.00. Airfare extra.

September 26, 2017 - 5 day repositioning cruise Vancouver to San Diego on the Amsterdam. Visit Victoria and San Francisco and fly home from San Diego after free time in southern California. Inside cabins from \$454.00 Cad pp plus taxes \$311.00.
This is also an option for people going on the October 1 Grand Voyage in lieu of flying to San Diego.

October 1, 2017 - 30 day cruise San Diego to Hong Kong, on the Amsterdam visiting Dutch Harbour, 5 cities in Japan, 2 ports in South Korea, overnight in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Insides starting at \$7642.00 including taxes. Air extra.

October 1, 2017 - 80 day Grand Voyage from San Diego return on the Amsterdam. Visit Dutch Harbour, 5 cities in Japan, South Korea, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Darwin, Cairns, Sydney Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa and Honolulu. Call the Heritage Club Office for detailed itinerary and prices.
This cruise can also be done in 53 days from San Diego to Sydney Australia.

October 8, 2017 - 10 day Pacific Coast cruise, on the Star Princess, Vancouver return, visiting Santa Barbara, Catalina Island, Los Angeles and overnight in San Francisco. Inside cabins start at \$1429.00 CAD pp plus taxes \$253.00 pp.

November 4, 2017 - 7 day Mexican Riviera Cruise, on the Carnival Miracle, Los Angeles return. Visit Cabo San Lucas (2 days), Puerto Vallarta & 3 fun at sea days. Inside cabins \$789.00 plus \$140.00 taxes Cad pp. Ocean view \$857.00 plus taxes, Balcony \$910.00 plus taxes pp.

REMINDER: Be sure you have out of country travel insurance for any trip you book and that it is in active before any cancellation penalty fees are in effect for your trip. For those with MEDOC, ensure you have renewed your Heritage Club Membership for 2017 and paid your dues to be covered.

Contact the Heritage Club office for information on any trips.
Van Fraser Heritage Club 604 482-4311 or email: fwdanells@hotmail.com

If you're going to try cross-country skiing,
Start with a small country.

Post Offices of Central and Northern Alberta.

Continuing in our series of historical looks at post offices in Central and Northern Alberta, for this issue, we look at the Edmonton Post Office as seen in 1948. The article below is an excerpt from an article in the Post Office magazine - Postmark- dated 1948.

Thank you to Fred Danells for passing along this article. The complete article can be seen on our website

Edmonton

Gateway To The North - Crossroads Of The World

It seems incredible when considering the place which Edmonton holds in our scheme of national and international communication that a mere seventy-two years ago when Postal Service was first established there it was a small community which consisted chiefly of traders, trappers, missionaries, a few settlers and the Royal Northwest Mounted Police.

At the present time, Edmonton is a key point on the Trans-Canada Air Mail network. From it radiate the Edmonton, Whitehorse, Fairbanks A.M.S., stretching through the northern areas of Alberta and British Columbia to Alaska. Northward the famous CAM 57 carries air mail, ordinary first class mail, parcels and newspapers, together with supplies to the vast area served along the Mackenzie River, Great Bear Lake and Lake Athabaska Districts, serving such points as Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, the mining region at Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Fort Norman, Norman Wells, Aklavik and the Coppermine on the Arctic shores.

From Edmonton, Railway Mail Services and motor services radiate in every direction. Geographically, Edmonton is equidistant between Vancouver and Winnipeg, and is also the starting point of the famous Alaska Highway. None need be reminded of the strategic importance which the city assumed during war days on the lines of communication by road and by air to the far Northwest and to Alaska.

The city has earned its soubriquet "Gateway To The North" because from the first it has been the "jumping-off" place and distributing centre of all the area which we now know as the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

The Northwest Territories alone occupy an area of 1,300,000 square miles, or nearly one third of the area of Canada. This vast northern region has received its mail through Edmonton from the days when it was carried by courier and dog team in winter, by canoe, and later by steamboat in the open season, until the present when the mail planes wing north serving the settlements and newly opened mining areas far within the Arctic Circle.



Paradoxically, Edmonton, while one of our new cities, has long held a position on the map of Canada. It was founded as a trading post in 1807.

At the time the Post Office was opened on August 1, 1876, a mail service was established between Winnipeg and Edmonton, a distance of about 900 miles, serving five intermediate offices. The one-way trip was performed by stage over "the Edmonton Trail" in about 21 days.

As the C.P.R. continued to move westward from Winnipeg, the mails were carried to the end of steel and thence transported by wagon. By 1882, the mails were carried from Troy (Qu'Appelle Station), 323 miles west of Winnipeg, to Edmonton, a distance of 584 miles, the one-way trip being about 15 days.

The city's modern postal service dates from the completion of the C.P.R. railway between Calgary and Edmonton in 1891. From this period, the mails were carried by railway to the terminus of this long stage route.

There was a further improvement in service when the main line C.N.R. reached Edmonton in 1907. In the same year, the first Post Office was established at Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories, and was served through Edmonton, and by 1910 regular postal service was being given to numerous far northern points.

A memorable year in the postal development of the northland was 1929, when the first mail carried by air, north from Edmonton reached Aklavik at the mouth of the Mackenzie close to the Arctic Ocean.

Speaking generally of the growth of air transportation into the hinterland, it is not commonly known that in 1937 (before the war put a temporary curb on mining activity) more air tonnage was flown north from Edmonton than the whole total carried by plane in the U.S.A.

From the modest annual revenue of \$21.71 reported for two quarters at the close of the first year of operation in 1876, the gross revenue of the Edmonton Post Office has grown to \$1,388,049 in the fiscal year 1946-47.

The departmental publication Postmark was first issued in August 1939. In December, it was suspended for the duration of the Second World War and resumed publication in May 1948. In March 1969, Postmark ceased publication.

Restructuring the Canada Post Pension Plan: - Update

PLEASE NOTE: This article applies only to Canada Post retirees that have retired after Oct 1, 2000. Those members that retired prior to Oct 2000 are on the Public Service Superannuation Plan, and are not affected by these potential changes.

In February 2014, the Government of Canada introduced regulations that provides Canada Post with relief from the need to make special payments into the Canada Post Pension Plan for four years (from 2014 to 2017). The relief is meant to provide Canada Post with a brief period to transform their business and its pension plan. Canada Post is expected to resume special payments in 2018.

We have heard many times that Canada Post is considering many options to restructure its pension plan, but after 3 years we have still heard nothing. Also, after almost 3 years, the C&C (Communications & Consultation) Group elected to help facilitate the exchange of information between the corporation and plan members, have held only 2 minuted meetings, and have sent out no updates on the subject.

Bill C-27

On October 19, 2016, the Federal Government quietly introduced Bill C-27 which is legislation to modify the Pension Benefits Standards Act (the PBSA). This long-standing act governs the workplace pension plans found in federally regulated industries such as banks, telecommunications companies, interprovincial transport companies and most, if not all, Crown Corporations, including Canada Post Corporation. The pension plans in these sectors are almost all Defined Benefit (DB) pension plans - the most desirable, because of their predictability and security. Bill C - 27 introduces the concept of 'Target Benefit' (TB) pension plans as an addition to the options currently available to employers and employees covered by the Act.

Briefly, TB plans strive for, but do not guarantee, a specific pension benefit. Under a Target Benefit plan, if investment returns are not sufficient to fund the promised level of pension, then increases may be postponed or cancelled, benefits may be reduced, and/or employee contributions may be increased.

Can Current Plans Be Converted?

The proposed changes to the PBSA permits federally-regulated employers to establish Target Benefit plans; however, to make this happen, they are required to establish a "new" plan and it does not permit the conversion of an existing Defined Benefit or Defined Contribution plans to a Target Benefit plan.

An employer, may however, provide the option for a member to consent to surrender his or

her current benefits under an existing plan in exchange for a Target Benefit. Defined benefits earned for service to date under a DB provision may only be transferred to a TBP with the consent of members, former members and survivors. Consent must be provided at an individual level, except that in a unionized workplace the union may consent on behalf of active members.

Buy-out annuity purchase

So, what might plan sponsors offer to retirees? Bill C-27 also permits DB pension plans to extinguish their liability to members through the purchase of a buy-out annuity. The annuity must be purchased from a life insurer or another issuer approved by the Superintendent of Pensions. The plan must authorize the annuity purchase and the annuity must replicate the benefits under the plan.

Summary

First, it must be remembered that at this time, Bill C-27 is only proposed legislation. The bill is experiencing significant pushback on several fronts. It may be a long time, if ever, before the legislation is enacted, and even if approved it will likely undergo many changes from its current form.

From an employer perspective, the Target Benefit plan design — with its significant compliance costs, rigorous funding and governance requirements — may discourage many employers from pursuing the new option. However, employers such as Canada Post, with large and volatile defined benefit liabilities may continue to see it as an opportunity to change course on their future retirement obligations.

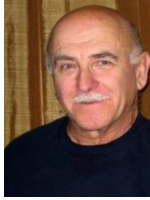
Since the federal proposals don't permit the conversion of past accrued benefits under an existing plan, it will be interesting to see whether employers like Canada Post will avail themselves of the option of seeking consent to surrender benefits under an existing DB plan in exchange for benefits under a newly established Target-Benefit plan. The ability for DB plan sponsors to extinguish liabilities through the purchase of buy-out annuities could be a very expensive undertaking, but may help federally regulated DB employers remove pension liabilities from their financial statements. Those that undertake that process will certainly face significant negotiation and compliance costs, but may continue to see the benefits of shedding traditional defined benefit obligations as a worthwhile investment.

Why do Retirees smile all the time?

Because they can't hear a word you're saying!

Heritage Club - Parkland Chapter 28

2017 Executive



President

Lloyd Rogowski
(780) 458-8936



Secretary:

Bob Broomhall
(780) 481-8627



1st Vice President:

Rene Plouffe
(780) 476-7230



Treasurer:

Bill Kobitowich
(780) 476-8265



2nd Vice President:

Paul Otto
(780) 484-8636

Committee Members:

Bill Chrapko

Helen Chrapko

Doreen Rogowski

The executive will do their best to serve the members of the Parkland Chapter in every way possible. Please do not hesitate to call any one of us to answer any of your questions.

You can also contact us via our email address. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to let us know by sending us an email at:
parklandheritageclub@gmail.com

Did you Know ?

The post office was one of the first federal government departments formed after Confederation, and took over the postal service on April 1, 1868.

As the Canadian Pacific Railway stretched across the prairies in the 1880s, a railway post office, called "End of the

Line", moved with it, bringing banking, money-order and mail-order facilities to the settlers. On June 28, 1886, another railway mail car left Montreal and arrived in Port Moody, BC, on July 4. It began a national mail service which was the envy of the world for 80 years.

I joined a health club last year. I spent about 250 dollars and haven't lost a pound.
Apparently, you have to go there!

2017 Spring BBQ

- Enter Devon on Athabasca Ave (Main Street)
- When you get a chance go north (left) 1 block to Saskatchewan Ave.
- Go East on Saskatchewan Ave. It will go down a long hill into the river valley.
- At the bottom of the hill you will see Lions Park.
- Follow the signs to the Gazebo

Date: **Thursday June 8, 2017**

Time: **Noon to 4:00**

(lunch at 1:00 PM)

Location: **Devon Lions Park Gazebo
Devon AB**

The park is located in the river valley right next to the Devon Golf Course.





2017 SPRING BBQ

- Registration Form:

Date: **Thursday June 8, 2017**

Time: **Noon to 4:00 (lunch at 1:00 PM)**

Location: **Devon Lions Park**

Price \$10.00 per person for paid up active members.
\$15.00 per person for non-members.

Name : _____

Number in party: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Please submit to the Heritage Club no later than May 31, 2017

Send to:

Heritage Club
12135-149 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 5H2



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2017 - Membership Renewal

\$10.⁰⁰ per member and \$10.⁰⁰ for your spouse.

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

City: _____

Telephone : _____

Postal Code: _____

Amount Submitted: _____

email address: _____

I would prefer to receive my newsletter

___ by mail

___ by email

Please submit to the Heritage Club by May 31, 2017

Send to:

Heritage Club
12135-149 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 5H2