



Newsletter, Summer
July-August 2015

PINERIDGE Chapter



What's to come at a glance:

- Next Luncheon: Sept. 10th
- Fall trip to the Laurentians
- Volunteers needed for Santa letters
- Christmas Banquet

President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope you're having a great summer and have had a chance to participate in some of our activities. Any feedback or suggestions would be very much appreciated.

You should check out our new web site: heritageclub.ca. You will find our most current newsletter and a list of all our upcoming events. You can also check out what our sister chapters in the Toronto area, as well as across Canada, are up to.

We will continue into the fall season with a program of events that should have something for everyone. We encourage you to come out, meet former colleagues, renew old ties, and enjoy some of what we offer.

As we eventually slip into fall, we will pray that Mother Nature has a kinder, gentler winter in store for us!

Take care,

J.P.

**Jean Pierre Leguerrier
President
Pineridge Chapter**

UPCOMING EVENTS for 2015

Thursday, September 10th, 2015, noon: Luncheon Buffet at The Mandarin

We meet at noon at The Mandarin Restaurant, 1725 Kingston Road, in Pickering, for our regular buffet luncheon. Register early by sending in your cheque, and don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Banks. Seniors, please bring your ID. The cost is \$12 per active member, \$15 non-members.

Contact **Bernie** to reserve and mail in your payment to: Pineridge Heritage Club, 629 Markham Rd., PO Box 90593, Scarborough ON, M1H 3G7.

September 22nd to the 25th, 2015: Autumn in the Laurentians

Enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Laurentian Mountains, north of Montreal, along with Fine Dining, Daily Organized Fun Activities, and Nightly Live Entertainment on this delightful start-of-autumn getaway! It awaits your pleasure at the lovely Auberge du Vieux Foyer in the village of Val-David. Includes a taxi pickup, a welcome reception, 3 nights accommodation and 9 meals at the Auberge. Also a guided tour of the area, including a visit to the village of Tremblant and the Casino. Just \$759.00 per person, double occupancy. A \$100 deposit is required, with the balance paid by **August 22nd**.

Call **Time of your Life** (416-224-0684) to reserve.

Thursday, December 10th, 2015, 12:00-16:00: Christmas Banquet

Our Christmas Banquet this year promises to be even better and bigger than last year as we partner up with our sister Chapter, Simcoe for a joint effort. We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, Highland Creek Branch, 45 Lawson Rd., Scarborough, at noon for some cocktails and chatting in the lobby, then have a sit down full course turkey breast luncheon with all the trimmings in the banquet hall at 1 PM. There will be prizes and good times as you share some quality time with your friends.

You must reserve your spot at the latest by November 15th by contacting Bernie and sending in your payments. Member price is \$15, non-members \$18.

TRENT SEVERN CHAPTER EVENT

Saturday, September 26, 2015, 13:00: Trent Severn Heritage Chapter Charity Golf Tournament.

Trent Severn Chapter is holding a golf tournament at the nearby Deer Run Golf Course, 10 Brook St., Little Britain, ON K0M 2C0. Tel: 705-328-3781.
Directions: 8 km south of Hwy. 7 on Elm Tree Road, south of the flashing light.

This includes 12 holes of golf with cart, steak dinner, and many prizes. The price is \$65 per person. The putting contest is 3 balls for \$5. 50/50 draw. Contact: Les Kimmerer @705-320-9480, or trentsevern22@hotmail.com. Please reply by September 4.

The LOCAL NEWS

Heritage Club Web Site

Have you misplaced your newsletter? Can't remember the dates of the next events? You can look it up anytime at our web site: <http://heritageclub.ca>. After you have clicked on "Select a Chapter", choose "Pineridge".

Continuation of Work Perks

WorkPerks[®] with Canada Post may have come to a close on April 10, 2015, but for customers insured with The Co-operators Insurance, they have teamed up with Venngo and are excited to provide Canada Post employees with uninterrupted access to all of the great *perks* from over 1,200 national brands and local retailers across Canada.

Those customers who are insured with this company have already had their accounts transferred and are all set to go. Just sign in with your WorkPerks[®] account name and password, just as you always have, and continue to enjoy all the great benefits. Continue saving today at: <http://cooperatorsgroupinsurance.venngo.com>

Welcome and/or Congratulations to our New Members and/or New Retirees

Laura C. Healey, Wayne Toomey

Congratulations

Happy 60th wedding anniversary, Mr. & Mrs. Byron Wilcox. Happy birthday First Lady Gloria Mac Donald and our own Bernie Snyder.

Elections

The results of the elections for the Pineridge Chapter executive positions posted on the previous newsletter are the following: Bernie Snyder is re-elected as Treasurer, and Jack Vitto as Secretary. Congratulations to both.

The results of the National elections held at the Annual General Meeting in Vernon this year are the following: Jean Pierre Leguerrier, elected 1st Vice President, and Harold Onagi re-elected 3rd Vice President.

The "LIFE is GOOD" Section

For the rich there's therapy....for the rest of us there's chocolate.

Once you lick the frosting off a cupcake it becomes a muffin....and muffins are healthy...right?

I have come to the conclusion that dryer lint is the cremated remains of all of my missing socks.

Relationship tip for men: when a woman says, "correct me if I'm wrong but...."
DON'T DO IT!! IT'S A TRAP!! DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT correct that woman!!!

Keep your head above water: During a visit to a mental hospital, I asked the director, "How do you determine whether or not a patient should be institutionalized?" "Well, " said the director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand." I said. "A rational person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup." "No" said the director, "A rational person would pull the plug on the drain. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Odds and Sods

"You are never too old to set another goal or dream another dream." C.S. Lewis

One of the most profoundly human thing you can do is to talk to someone instead of about them.

Doing what you like is freedom. Liking what you do is happiness.

We don't meet people by accident. They are meant to cross our path for a reason.

As we grow up, we realize it is less important to have lots of friends, and more important to have real ones.

Live your life and forget your age.

Be kind to unkind people. They need it the most.

PORTRAIT of HEROES

Our Canadian hero for this edition of our newsletter is John MacLeod, who represents the 1.1 million average Canadian men and women who volunteered for service in World War II. John also happens to be the father of Debbie Greenwood, our Vice President for Pineridge Chapter. Following are excerpts of a story that appeared in the Toronto Star in March of this year by Star Reporter, Henry Stancu. The story also commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Dutch Liberation by Canadian troops during that war.

This spring, Holland marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the darkest period in the history of a land widely known for its tulips, windmills and clogs. The people of the Netherlands will show their gratitude to their aging heroes, the Canadian soldiers who liberated the country from German occupation in The Second World War. There will be fewer of the surviving warriors, now in their late 80s and 90s, but those still able to travel will be there.

And Scarborough's John MacLeod will be among them. MacLeod will again stand proudly among 'Our Boys' as he has on many visits since the fight for freedom in Europe was won all those decades ago. At 92, the veteran radio operator and gunner looks forward to staying at the home of a Dutch family with children he can and talk about the deeds of his comrades.

Between September, 1944 and May, 1945, Canadian soldiers converged by land, sea and air in the final Allied push to overcome the Nazi occupation of much of Europe. More than 7,600 Canadian soldiers died on Dutch soil in the effort of pushing the Germans out. From those who survived to the school children of today, the Dutch honour the sacrifice of the Canadian soldiers who freed their country from the foreign invaders.

"Canadian troops played a crucial role in liberating the Dutch people, who suffered from terrible hunger and hardship under enemy occupation," said Minister of Veterans Affairs, Erin O'Toole. O'Toole announced in February that an official national delegation of veterans will travel to the Netherlands for the May 3-9 celebrations and commemorations. "Lest we forget the tremendous service of Canadians in this effort and the opportunity for freedom for millions that their sacrifices secured," he added.

Beginning with the devastating 1940 bombing of Rotterdam, which levelled the port city and forced the surrender of the Netherlands to Germany, the country that had tried to remain neutral was plunged into despair, as forced labour, mass deportations and murder, and widespread starvation became the norm over the ensuing five years.

As the Allies invaded Europe and thousands of Canadian soldiers pressed through the Dutch countryside, villages and cities driving out the enemy, they were greeted with joy and open arms by the liberated people.

Since 1990, Verstraete Travel and Cruises, has arranged commemorative tours to the Netherlands for the anniversaries of Holland's liberation. Travellers booking with Verstraete have the choice of staying in a hotel or in the home of a Dutch family, in various communities, as arranged by Netherland's Welcome Again Veterans Foundation.

"In 1995, which was the 50th anniversary, it was a massive event and we sent 4,000 people over there," said Baldwin Verstraete, the travel firm's president. "Of that, 3,995 chose to stay with Dutch families. "This big liberation event happens every five years and the numbers have been going down, because there are fewer veterans able to travel as they get older. But I just booked a 94-year-old veteran the other day," said Verstraete, "and, I must say, it's no wonder those guys won the war."

MacLeod's daughter, Debbie Greenwood, of Ajax, has attended victory celebrations with her dad six times over the years, taking in ceremonies and battlefield tours through Italy, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. "My Dad can't wait until we step off the bus to the warm and friendly greetings, especially from the children," said Greenwood.

This year, Greenwood, her husband, Paul, and her father are going on the Verstraete tour staying in the Deventer, in eastern Holland, which has become kind of a home away from home for them. He'll be staying at the home of a family with three children and Debbie and Paul will be staying at another house.

Born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, MacLeod began his military training in Quebec in 1940 and shipped off to southern England, then North Africa, where soldiers prepared for the Allied invasion of Italy in 1942. He was a wireless radio operator aboard a tank in the Royal Canadian Artillery's 8th field regiment fighting along the Adriatic coast.

His regiment also advanced through France and Belgium and the final push to liberate Holland, the country he's had the strongest connection with. He stayed in the Netherlands for the next six months, in Canada's rebuilding campaign, before going to Scotland, where he met the woman who was to be his bride, Nancy, in Edinburgh. The couple had two daughters, Debbie and her sister, Lynne.

They settled in Quebec's Saguenay region where MacLeod worked as a tech with Alcan for 25 years before moving to Ontario. He worked at Scarborough

Hydro for 20 years, then retired. Nancy died in 2010. MacLeod lives on his own, with a little help, in their Scarborough home. "Last year my father went on his own and stayed with a family who helped him get around. He read the Act of Remembrance at the Holten (Canadian War Cemetery) ceremony," said Greenwood. "He went to the school their children attended and the students got to ask him all kinds of questions, because learning about it is part of their curriculum.

"The people are so warm and friendly," she said. "As soon as you get off the coach there's a big celebration, the sound of the pipers, and people want to hug and kiss you. It's just unbelievable." "The Dutch people call the veterans 'Our Boys' and have signs saying 'Welcome back, our boys!' They wave the Canadian flag and they just love the Canadian flag pins. It makes you really feel proud. "Dad loves going over there and, although it can be tiring for him at his age, he won't show it. He's a real trooper who keeps on smiling, and I guess it's why his generation won the war."

"It is touching to hear the stories of the veterans. Thousands of Canadian soldiers stayed in Holland to help rebuild the country and the fact that so many of them lived with Dutch families is what formed that special bond that exists to this day."



John MacLeod, one of our senior and most regular participant at Pineridge Chapter functions. A photo taken on his recent trip to the Holland Liberation Commemoration Ceremonies this year.

Pension Issues and the upcoming Elections

The Canada Post Pension Plan is not the only one that is under scrutiny for changes; also in the mix for review are all Crown Corporations, government pensions under the Superannuation Act, as well as private sector pension systems.

Following is an excerpt from **SAGE**, the quarterly magazine of The National Association of Federal Retirees, Spring 2015 Edition, in an editorial called: ***“We’ll Stand for Pension Protection in the 2015 election....and after.”***

Federal elections give us the opportunity to remember the good, the bad and the ugly work of Canada’s political parties over the past four years. We can’t change the past – but we can do something about the future and there’s no better time than now to speak out and stand up for what we believe in.

In the last issue of Sage, I mentioned the advocacy campaign we’ve developed to put the Association in a solid position to strengthen political and public support during the 2015 election campaign for protecting pensioners. All order of government, along with private sector employers, have been setting the stage to implement target benefit pension plans. Target benefit plans may be good options to replace defined contribution savings plans, or for workplaces which have no pension savings plans at all – but target benefit plans may allow employers to reduce pension benefits and eliminate indexation for pensioners after they’ve retired. Employees work under an agreement – a promise – that they’ll receive certain benefits upon retirement. It’s simply unfair for any employer, in any sector, to renege on promises made to their now-retired employees.

*The coming federal election is our time to speak out for pension protection, and for employers to honour the pension promises they’ve made. We’re calling our federal election campaign **Honour Your Promise** – and echo of the campaign we used to speak out against changes to the Public Service health Care Plan.”*

Gary Oberg
President
National Association of Federal Retirees

Santa Letters

Thinking of Christmas in August? You bet. Anyone wishing to volunteer to write replies to kids’ Santa letters, call our Secretary Jack Vitto @416-694-6643 and volunteer for this very good cause.

Annual Pineridge Chapter Charity Golf Tournament



A very “damp” Les Kimmerer, President of Trent-Severn Chapter, and MC of the Pineridge Chapter Golf Tournament, comes in from the cold and rain to enjoy some post golfing camaraderie.

Thirty-two members of Pineridge, Simcoe, and Trent-Severn Chapters soldiered on a very wet day for 18 holes of golf and competitions. The lowest scores were with Don Harris, Don Harris Jr., Dave Scott, and Dave Henderson.

Longest Drive for the Women went to Sheryl Leith, and for the Men to Mike Smith. Closest to the Pin for Women went to Sheryl Leith, and for the Men to Don Richardson. Putting green: Sheryl Leith

Lea Maynard also won \$100 on the 50/50 Draw.

Newsletter Distribution

This newsletter is produced quarterly and is distributed to every member and associate who has paid the annual dues to the Pineridge Chapter. Also, a general distribution is made once a year to every person currently listed as retired, or has 25 years of service in our Chapter area. Articles of general interest for the newsletter are always welcomed from our members.

New Members

New members will receive our newsletter in the current year of retirement; after that, they need to signify their intent to join by paying dues to the Chapter in order to continue receiving our communications. Our membership year runs from **January to December**.

Do you have any suggestions for trips or special events you would like to participate in? Are you looking to find like-minded travel partners? Give our V-P Debbie a call: dagreenwood4@gmail.com, 905-706-5285 or 905-683-5750. She will research the most economical trip for you and may know of individuals who are interested in the same event.

Volunteering

The motto of the Heritage Club is "**People helping People**"; we would like to know of any activity you are currently participating in that benefits people and/or the community, and how many hours you spend at it per month. This is one of the criteria we are measured on by CPC, and it affects our yearly funding.

Life Events

Have you had any life events you would like the Heritage Club to announce? Marriages, births, special anniversaries (i.e. 50th wedding anniversary), deaths, hospitalizations, etc. Let us know so we can pay tribute.

Membership Advantages

In order to benefit from all the advantages and discounts offered by Johnson, MEDOC, and Co-operators insurance companies, you must mention your Heritage Club Membership Number, and you must have paid your membership dues to a Heritage Club Chapter for the current year.

