

#### Newsletter, Spring April 2018

# PINERIDGE Chapter

# What's to come at a glance:

- Mandarin buffet group luncheons
- Spring and Fall bus tours
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Check out our Web Site: heritageclub.ca, then select Pineridge Chapter

# President's Message

# Dear Members,

As we "bunny hopped" into Spring on the 21<sup>st</sup>, it was nice to see a lot of you turn out to our first group luncheon on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and here's hoping for many more happy "get together" times this year.

Once again, we have a pretty complete agenda of group luncheons, day excursions, golf tournament, and bus tours to entice you to come out and share some good times with your friends and former work mates.

As always, you can check out what's happening on our web site, heritageclub.ca, and select Pineridge Chapter, to see a list of our upcoming activities.

To all our loyal members who continue to support us with your membership dues every year, thank you, without your support, we could not continue.

I hope to see you soon and often, enjoy the Spring time.

J.L.

Jean Pierre Leguerrier President Pineridge Chapter

# UPCOMING EVENTS for 2018

# Thursday, May 3rd, 2018: A Spring Cruise on the Chi-Cheemaun

Travel to Owen Sound with Time of Your Life Tours to board the Chi-Cheemaun Ferry for its spring positioning" cruise as it leaves its winter berth here for its summer dock in Tobermory. Until late autumn it will operate the daily round trip ferry service from Tobermory to South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island. On this annual fun cruise (noon – 4:30 p.m.) you'll enjoy a buffet luncheon and live entertainment as you cruise your way up the Bruce Peninsula from Owen Sound to Tobermory. Following the cruise, your tour coach will be waiting at the Tobermory dock to return you home. Enroute back, we'll make a stop in Orangeville for a snack or light supper on your own.

Just \$126.00 per person (members), includes motorcoach transport, lunch cruise and entertainment, all taxes and meal tip. \$136.00 for non-members.

Contact **Time of Your Life Tours** at 416-224-0684.

# The 2018 Mystery Tour: May 29th– June 1st, Somewhere in Ontario...

Back by popular demand is the 15th Annual "*Mystery*" Tour. Last year, everyone who went on this tour raved about it. We never have a lot of details (obviously!), all we know is that it will be great food, accommodations and entertainment, and crossing an international border is not involved. As always, you will have a great driver and escort team to look after you, plus you will be picked up at your home by limo and return you there after the tour. Cost \$995 per person, double occupancy.

Contact **Time of Your Life Tours** at 416-224-0684. A deposit of \$100 is required upon booking, and the balance due by April 29th, 2018 (Visa, M/C, Cheque)

## Thursday, June 7, 2018, noon: Luncheon Buffet at The Mandarin

Our second group luncheon will be held at The Mandarin Restaurant, 1725 Kingston Road, in Pickering. Register early, and don't forget to bring a nonperishable food item for the Food Banks. Seniors, please bring your ID. The cost remains a low \$14 per member, \$20 for non-members.

Contact **Bernie** at (416-439-9505) to confirm your attendance and reserve by mailing in your cheque to: Pineridge Heritage Club, 629 Markham Rd., PO Box 90593, Scarborough ON, M1H 3G7. Anyone needing a ride to go to the restaurant, let us know.

# Friday, June 22, 2018: Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Calling all golfers in the Pineridge, Humber, Simcoe and Trent-Severn Chapters: The annual golf tournament and dinner will be held at the same location as last year, Lakeridge Links/Whispering Ridge Golf Course, located at 1355 Brawley Road, Brooklin.

The cost has remained the same now for the last few years: \$70 per member with no cart, \$83 for a senior/member with a cart, and a non-senior \$88 with a cart. The tournament will be followed by a dinner and many prizes will be awarded. When registering, please advise us if you require a cart, as we need to reserve these as soon as possible.

Contact **Les Kimmerer** to register at (705) 320-9480. Cheques should be made out to Pineridge Heritage Club, 629 Markham Rd., PO Box 90593, Scarborough ON, M1H 3G7. Please indicate what you are paying for. All registration should be completed by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

# Sunday, September 9th to Thursday, September 13th, 2018: Quebec City

Quebec City is one of the most beautiful cities in Canada, with a European look and unique charm of its own. It holds an imposing and picturesque location overlooking the majestic St. Lawrence River, and it offers incredible dining choices, shopping and museums, plus a delightful Old Town area with cobblestone streets and charming historic shops and buildings. We've chosen the impressive Hotel Le Concorde for your 3 night stay in Quebec City, a 26 floor property with an excellent downtown locations overlooking the historic 'Heights of Abraham.' It offers the renowned Le Ciel revolving Restaurant and Bistro Bar at the top of the hotel, where you can dine or enjoy a drink while taking in a breathtaking 360° panoramic view over the city and St. Lawrence River. The hotel is also within steps of wonderful Dining from a multi-choice of sidewalk restaurants and cafes on the famous 'Grande Allée,' We've included Sightseeing Tours for you in Quebec City, along with Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré and Montmorency Falls, plus an overnight stay and Sightseeing Tour in Montreal enroute to Quebec City. Come join Time of Your Life Tours for a delightful trip and an opportunity to see more of our great country!

Just \$1,155.00 per person, double occupancy, \$1,539.00 for single occupancy. Includes limousine pickup and drop off at your home, motorcoach transportation, accommodations, meals, all taxes, and tips. A deposit of \$100 per person is required, and a balance of payment due by August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Time of Your Life Tours at 416-224-0684.

# THE LOCAL NEWS

#### Welcome to New Members/Retirees and/or 25-year service veterans

Gisele M. Morrison, Koober Nuckchedee, Elaine Myall, Bryan Angus

#### **Congratulations**

Happy birthday to Diane Wludyka, of the Belleville Postal Retirees Assoc. Congrats to Mr. & Mrs. Harold Collins, 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

#### In Memoriam

Albert James "Jim" Doherty, C&D Supervisor & APOC Executive.

## The Best Deal in Town!

Come dine with us at our Mandarin Restaurant group luncheons: the regular price for a luncheon, with a drink, tax and 15% tip for a Senior is \$23.61 (Dec. 2017). Our subsidized price for members: \$14.00.



Most recent group luncheon attended at The Mandarin, Pickering.



# Travelling just got easier!

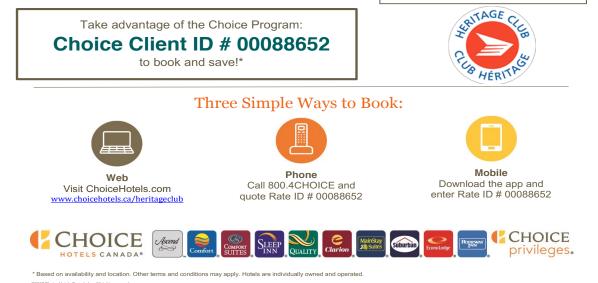
Heritage Club, has teamed up with Choice Hotels® to make Business & Leisure travel a little more enjoyable and convenient – and save up to 20%!

To give you some background, Choice Hotels<sup>™</sup> includes Comfort<sup>™</sup>, Quality<sup>®</sup>, Clarion<sup>®</sup> and a few others like the upscale Ascend Hotel Collection<sup>®</sup>. There are over 325 Choice locations spanning all provinces – and over 6,300 worldwide. Hotels are conveniently located near major airports, key highways and business districts. You'll also be able to connect easily with colleagues and friends using free high-speed Internet, and jumpstart your day with free breakfast at most locations.

#### Earn rewards when you travel

With the Choice Privileges<sup>®</sup> rewards program, you can earn points every time you stay at one of our hotels. You're never far from your next reward. The points add up fast and it's free! For a limited time, we have a Choice Privileges bonus points offer! Earn a welcome bonus of 500 points when you sign up for our rewards program and another 500 bonus points after your first stay. <u>Sign up</u> <u>Now!</u> Remember to enter your Client ID # 00088652 in your Choice Privileges profile.

The link www.choiceprivileges.com/signup/CNB2B must be used in order to track and award bonus points. Only one bonus per member. Offer valid for new members only who enroll between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018 and who make a qualifying stay with arrival before December 31, 2018.



Pineridge Chapters supports the aims and goals of the Royal Canadian Legion. Highland Creek Legion Branch 258, 45 Lawson Road, Scarborough, has a \$5 lunch, every Wednesday, from 1 to 5 pm, open to the general public.

# The "LIFE is GOOD" Section

# Could this possibly be the future?

CALLER: Is this Gordon's Pizza?

GOOGLE: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

CALLER: I must have dialed a wrong number. Sorry.

GOOGLE: No sir, Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month.

CALLER: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

GOOGLE: Do you want your usual, sir?

CALLER: My usual? You know me?

GOOGLE: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni,

mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

CALLER: OK! That's what I want ...

GOOGLE: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten free thin crust?

CALLER: What? I detest vegetables.

GOOGLE: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

CALLER: How the hell do you know?

GOOGLE: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years. CALLER: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

GOOGLE: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you only purchased a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, 4 months ago.

CALLER: I bought more from another drugstore.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

CALLER: I paid in cash.

GOOGLE: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

CALLER: I have other sources of cash.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.

CALLER: WHAT THE HELL?

GOOGLE: I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

CALLER: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me. 7

GOOGLE: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...

# Children Are Quick

TEACHER: Why are you late? STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor? JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?' GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L' TEACHER: No, that's wrong GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago. WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty? GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

**TEACHER:** George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it.

Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him? LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating? SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's.. Did you copy his? CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested? HAROLD: A teacher

# Bill C-27: Learn More

An exert from the Canadian Federal Retirees Association, an advocacy group.

# What's the issue?

The federal government introduced legislation in October 2016 (Bill C-27). Bill C-27 could allow Crown corporations and federally-regulated employers to change good defined benefit pension plans into target benefit pension plans.

Target benefit pension plans or shared risk pension plans are often seen as middle ground between defined benefit plans, which offer a guaranteed pension, and defined contribution plans, which provide a lump sum amount based on investments.

Target benefit plans provide targets; pensions depend on plan performance. All the risk is transferred to employees and retirees. In tough times, target plan benefits can be reduced, providing less retirement security for its members.

# What's at stake?

Employers promised current employees and retirees defined benefit pensions as part of their compensation. These pensions are a form of deferred wages.

Retired Canadians were counting on their pensions to live. They worked and earned their defined benefit pensions, and made life decisions based on what was committed to them.

We believe a deal is a deal and employers should not be able to take back compensation they promised to their employees or retirees.

Bill C-27 would permit federally-regulated and Crown corporation employers to do exactly that – and it could become a bigger trend that will impact even more Canadians, making retirements less secure.

That's bad news for retirees, millions of middle class Canadians, government bottom lines, our economy, and even our healthcare system.

# How does this affect me?

This issue is important to every Canadian. If you yourself are retired, have a family member who is retired or one day wish to retire, this issue has a direct impact on you and your retirement security.

# What about Canadians who don't even have a pension?

Nearly 7 out of 10 working Canadians do not have a workplace-based pension. We believe government and private sector employers should make retirement income more secure, instead of reducing pension benefits for existing retirees. None of the money saved by these cutbacks are designed to go into new pensions for those currently not covered. This is the beginning of a slippery slope that will reduce the already precarious situation retirement income of millions of Canadians, including pensioners.

#### What are you asking for?

There is a sacred trust for the federal government to protect the retirement income security that's already been earned by millions of Canadians in defined benefit plans.

In 2015, Prime Minister Trudeau clearly promised to the National Association of Federal Retirees in writing that defined benefit plans "which have already been paid for by employees and pensioners, should not be retroactively changed into [target benefit plans]".

We're asking Prime Minister Trudeau's government to honour that promise and to continue his efforts, as highlighted in the government's work on the Canada Pension Plan, to build up retirement income security for Canadians. Bill C-27 is not going to make retirement income more secure.

#### What can you do?

Remind your Member of Parliament of your concern.

# Coming April 1, 2018 Improvements and changes to the PSHCP

Good news! Following years of advocacy from the National Association of Federal Retirees and our negotiating partners, the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) has finally announced the launch of digital services, including electronic claims submissions and a mobile app. Plan members will be able to access these new resources on April 1, 2018.

This long-awaited improvement to the PSHCP is a victory for Federal Retirees. Finally, members will be able to submit claims online and track them while they are being processed, which will also help speed up claim reimbursements.

Additionally, as anticipated, Treasury Board has announced the contribution rates for retired members of the PSHCP with supplementary coverage will be adjusted on April 1, 2018 to reach the 50% : 50% (retired member : employer) cost-sharing ratio.

The transition to 50%/50% cost-sharing ratio is the result of the Treasury Board's unfair and unlawful actions in 2014. The National Association of Federal Retirees, together with a group of representative individual retirees, have challenged and continue to challenge the government's conduct in Federal Court. In August, the Federal Court made an alarming and troubling ruling on our challenge. Nevertheless, the Association is appealing this decision and will continue to advocate on behalf our members on this important issue.

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A POSTAL SERVICE STORY



**RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE – Exerts from a story by R.L. Kennedy** 

For more than 100 years, the Railway Mail Service played a crucial role in the postal service. Mail was handled on trains from the earliest times, possibly as early as 1836 with the opening of the first railway, the tiny Champlain & St. Lawrence. Postmaster General James Morris wrote the Governor General of British North America, August 12,1853, suggesting travelling post offices. The first one began January 1854 on the Great Western Railway between Niagara Falls and London, Ontario, which line was opened November 1, 1853.

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In early times "Postal Conductors" accompanied mail, but this was soon changed to Railway Mail Clerks who actually sorted and cancelled the mail. (In later years as the volume of mail grew, only letters mailed at railway stations, and all Registered mail, was cancelled in the R.P.O. increasing the rarity of these cancels for stamp collectors). The travelling post offices the Postmaster General wanted became known as Railway Post Offices (R.P.O.), and were part of the Railway Mail Service. Sorting of mail en route saved time, and a network of these "travelling post offices" soon covered all of Canada. Railway Mail Clerks were the elite of the postal service, their training, knowledge and dexterity, all in cramped guarters that moved beneath their feet set them apart from all others. Mail was sorted to towns on route and connections to other trains, a very complex matter. Mail for cities was sorted right down to the Letter Carrier's walk. Busy R.P.O. runs involved men sorting one piece of mail every 2 seconds! The annual test involved a rigorous 1000 pieces in one hour! 90% accuracy was demanded. All classes of mail were handled by the Railway Mail Service, but not all of it was in R.P.O.'s, much was carried as 'through" mail in closed cars especially parcels. There was even a letter slot in the side of the mail car where letters could be posted at station stops! Regularly scheduled passenger trains were used to ensure dependable movement. Mail was picked up on the fly using a catch arm on the side of the car swung out by a Railway Mail Clerk who at the same time kicked off a sack of mail for that place. This was a tricky maneuver especially at night or in bad weather and with high speed. Although the engineer was supposed to slow up, if the train was running late and he was making up time, it was just theory. The engineer was to whistle the Mail Car approaching the pickup point, likely this was just the normal one long blast at one mile when approaching a station. Rules 31, and 14 (m) applied. Not much warning, less than a minute at 60 mph, which is a mile a minute. One thing's for sure, if the catch was missed, the train didn't stop!

Mail Cars on the heaviest main line runs had 72-foot interiors staffed by up to 10 men, while others had a 60-foot interior, worked by 5 men. Secondary runs involved a Mail & Express car with a 30-foot mail section staffed by 3 men, the other 30 feet being for Express. The men lived on these cars for long runs and thus they were equipped with stoves, toilet, sink, cooking facilities etc. Men received a travel allowance (15 cents per mile in 1955), to cover their meals and hotel expenses.

All went well until 1948 when the Post Office introduced the "all up" system whereby most letters went by air without the premium rate. Local letters cost 3 cents, out of town was 4 cents, and air mail 7 cents.

Parcel Post remained a very important aspect of the Postal Department involving huge volumes of mail including the extensive mail order catalogue business of the Eaton's and Simpsons department stores which allowed even the smallest community to promptly receive goods.

Newspapers were long an important aspect of the Railway Mail Service, again to reach people in outlying rural areas. Perishables from farmers such as baby chicks, bees, eggs, etc. were also handled along with Registered mail that included money and gold! Even ballot boxes from Federal elections were carried by the Royal Mail. Access to the Mail Car was restricted to Postal employees, not even the train Conductor was permitted inside it. The system grew until in 1950 there were 192 R.P.O.'s staffed by 1,385 men, covering some 40,000 miles of route and 834 "through" cars. A national rail strike in 1950 (the first ever), gave trucks the mail and the Post Office saw the flexibility that permitted. It was all down hill from there on. Loss of the mail contract often resulted in discontinuance of passenger service, especially on branch lines. The last R.P.O. ended its run April 24, 1971 returning from Campbellton, New Brunswick to Levis, Quebec. Mail was still carried by rail until 1987, when it was finally turned over entirely to trucks and planes. (The first official Airmail flight had taken place June 24, 1918 between Montreal and Toronto.) A very efficient system of delivering mail was lost with the ending of the Railway Mail Service and the R.P.O.

Stamp collectors, known as philatelists, often specialize in certain areas one of which is "covers", the actual envelope and stamp. This is to preserve the cancellation, which indicates the date and place of mailing. One of the most popular covers is those cancelled on board the R.P.O., over the years thousands of different cancellations tell the history of the Railway Mail Service. One of the most unique of these cancellations was that used during the construction of the CPR which read "End-of-Track B.C."

Read the full story in <u>On Track, The Railway Mail Service in Canada</u>, by Susan McLeod O'Reilly.



Cheryl Leith & Debbie Greenwood sporting their Easter colors at our lunch.

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## <u>Who we are</u>

Pineridge Chapter is one of 26 Chapters across the country; it covers an area of the Greater Toronto Area which is mainly east of the Don Valley (eastern York County), encompassing Scarborough, and areas within Ontario, Durham and Northumberland Counties.

## Have you checked our national web site?: heritageclub.ca Select Pineridge Chapter.

# What we do

The Pineridge Chapter organizes subsidized luncheons, bus travel, annual banquet and golf tournament for its' members. Also, we collect and donate food for the food banks, as well as donations to various charities throughout the year. In December, we hold a Holiday banquet for our members and we participate in the Santa Letter writing campaign.

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: <u>dagreenwood4@gmail.com</u>, (905)-706-5285 or (905)-683-5750. She will research the most economical trip for you and may know of like-minded individuals who are interested in the same event.

# Why Join? – The Membership Advantages

Johnson Home and Car Insurance: discounts of up to 35% Discounts for you and who travels with you with **MEDOC Travel Insurance GoodLife Fitness**: discounts up to 50% off the regular all club access rates. **Choice Hotels**: discounts of up to 20% at 325 locations in Canada, and 6,300 worldwide. Also, **Telus Mobility** discounts.

**IMPORTANT:** In order to benefit from these discounts, you must mention your Heritage Club membership number, and you must have paid your membership dues to the Pineridge Chapter for the current year, otherwise coverage could be denied or terminated.

# Life Events

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

## Newsletter Distribution

This newsletter is produced quarterly and is distributed to every member and associate who has paid their annual dues to the Chapter. Also, a general distribution is made once a year to every person who have applied for general membership to the Heritage Club in our Chapter area. Articles of general interest for the newsletter are always welcomed.

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# YOUR EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP

J.P. Leguerrier, Chapter President, Writer-Editor, Newsletter Web Master, Membership Database. *Email: jnglor@rogers.com* Debbie Greenwood, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Trip Co-ordinator/Travel Co. Liaison *Email: dagreenwood4@gmail.com* Bernie Snyder, Treasurer, Membership Dues *Email: jobernsnyder@gmail.com* Les Kimmerer, Past President, Annual Golf Tournament *Email: kimmeles@hotmail.com* Margaret Fisher, Honorary Lifetime Member Support Staff: G. Mac Donald, J. Snyder, K. Dayal, J. Vitto, M. Fisher, S. Leith

# CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE FORM

Name: Old Address:

New Address: Postal Code: Phone Number:

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership dues for the following year are due with the last newsletter of the year, in **October**. Remember: annual dues paid by our members are instrumental in keeping our chapter active.

New members to the Heritage Club will receive our Chapter's newsletters in the current year of their retirement or having achieved 25 years of service; after that, they need to signify their intent to join our Chapter by paying dues to the Pineridge Chapter, in order to continue receiving our communications.

Our membership year runs from **January to December** and costs only \$10 per member, or \$20 per couple. If you are no longer mobile, but still want to keep in touch by receiving only the newsletter, the cost is \$5.

MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL SLIP	
Name:	Name of Spouse:
Address:	
City:	Postal Code:
Phone Number: Email (optional):	
Renewal for Self: Couple: Is this a Renewal: or	Amount Enclosed: \$ a New Membership:
We would like to find out about yourself (optional) Do you do Volunteer Work: Hours per month: Name of Organization:	

# **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 your community, such as fund raisers, work with health, religious or seniors' organizations, coaching children groups, etc., and the 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. You can report these hours on your dues renewal form.

There are many examples of volunteering, ways you can help your community and fellow man, and feel good about yourself: church, organizations, knitting groups, literacy and schools, Santa letters, heritage club, library and museums, hospital and seniors' homes, soup kitchens, food banks, meal on wheels, shut in programs, income tax prep, fund raisers, Christmas hamper programs, etc.

Send the completed above form and/or information to: Pineridge Heritage Club, 629 Markham Rd., PO Box 90593, Scarborough ON, M1H 3G7. You may also phone our Treasurer, Bernie: (416) 439-9505. **Cheques for luncheons and membership dues** should be made out to **PINERIDGE HERITAGE CLUB**.

**For bus trips**, make cheques out to <u>**Time of Your Life Tours**</u>, and send to 500 Sheppard Ave. East, Suite 203, Toronto ON, M2N 6H7, (416) 224-0684. Mention you are a Pineridge Chapter Heritage Club member for any applicable discount.