



Heritage Club Terra Nova Chapter

December 2015

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President's Message

A friend who was vacationing down south was asked where he was from, and when he answered Newfoundland, he was asked "Why would anyone live *there*?" His answer? "Because it's home."

The answer is as simple, and as complicated, as that.

The best that can be said about our weather is that we don't have extremes. Unless you count extremely bad weather. But no cyclones, no tornadoes, and any hurricanes that make it this far have for the most part had much of their will to destroy battered out of them. So as long as you don't set your standards too high – like expecting the sun to shine for an hour or so a day – the weather's fine.

This wonderful island of ours is also a bit of a trap for those with the travel bug. As we all saw this past year, travelling in or out of Newfoundland is fraught with challenges. The ferry won't sail if it's windy, and even if it would, the highways leading to them are slick with snow and thick with moose. Lightning can fry the computer systems and delay sailings for hours. Depending on the time of the

year, ice can both attract visitors and freeze ferry traffic at the wharf.

And flying in or out of Newfoundland can be much more of an adventure than you counted on. Suddenly a three hour flight is a three day odyssey, taking you on a mad excursion through places you never dreamed you wanted to see, with stopovers on back-breaking airport benches and at bank-breaking airport eateries.

So why are we here? Because it's home. It's where our people are. And because we share a sense of place, and a sense of humor (tested at times), which allows us to laugh at the never-ending RDF and actually take a perverse pride in setting records for the absolute worst July weather on record, even as the same July saw the highest average global temperatures since record-keeping began.

But it's home. And we love it.

El Holmes,

President, Terra Nova Chapter

*We don't get much of a spring or fall to speak of. Up here, for ten months a year, the weather has teeth in it.
- Marcel Theroux, Far North*

Heritage Club Update

Much of the focus of the National Club this year was in the development and implementation of our new website. Its successful launch in late spring will go a long way in making it easier to communicate with our members.

Executive News

The current executive of the Terra Nova Chapter, Heritage Club, consists of

- Eldred Holmes, President,
- Eric Howlett, Vice-President,
- Dave Roche, Secretary/Membership Officer, and
- Bill Marshall, Treasurer.

Elections for these offices are scheduled for May 2016.

If for any reason you are unable to contact the president and you need information right away, you can refer your question to Eric Howlett. Eric can be reached at the same mailing address, email cakesbyalice@yahoo.com or call him at (709) 368-2692.

If you'd like be more involved, particularly in organizing social or volunteer activities within your community, please contact El Holmes, and the Club will assist you in any way possible.

Year in Review

The past year was a busy one for the Metro Chapter, 25 Year Club.

Monthly meetings resumed in September 2014, followed by a supper meeting at the Golden Phoenix Restaurant in October.

During November a social evening was held at the Senior Citizen's Club in St. John's. While those in attendance enjoyed the music and food provided, inclement weather and low attendance kept the evening from being an unqualified success.

Several of our members participated in the Wreaths Across Canada project in December, placing wreaths on the graves of armed services veterans. It was a very moving ceremony.

The Santa letter writing campaign was another great success. Thank you to everyone who participated. As in previous years the national campaign has offered awarded incentive prizes, and Fred Janes was the winner for Terra Nova Chapter.

In February a number of members participated in a tax seminar with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

The May general meeting was a barbeque, another well-attended event, which also saw the election of officers for both the Terra Nova Chapter and the 25 Year Club.

Members helped out with the Janeway Telethon in June. A special thank you to everyone who supported these very successful efforts.

The coast is an edgy place. Living on the coast presents certain stark realities and a wild, rare beauty. Continent confronts ocean. Weather intensifies. It's a place of tide and tantrum; of flirtations among fresh- and saltwaters, forests and shores; of tense negotiations with an ocean that gives much but demands more. Every year the raw rim that is this coast gets hammered and reshaped like molten bronze. This place rolls with power and a sometimes terrible beauty. The coast remains youthful, daring, uncertain about tomorrow. The guessing, the risk; in a way, we're all thrill seekers here. - Carl Safina, The View From Lazy Point: A Natural Year in an Unnatural World

Membership and Dues

Annual membership fees are still \$10.00 per year, payable either to the 25 Year Club **OR** the Heritage Club, and are due now for 2016. A renewal form is included for your convenience. Please complete the questionnaire and return with your payment in the envelope provided at your earliest convenience.

Please note that Chapter correspondence other than the annual newsletter will only be sent to **active, ie. dues-paying**, members.

In addition, you will need your membership number and you must be an active member in order to take advantage of any Heritage Club discounts.

Associate membership is available for the surviving spouses of deceased members who wish to continue receiving correspondence, participate in activities, and keep up with news from their friends in the Club. Paid up **Associate Members** will be issued their own membership number, which will allow them to continue to receive Heritage Club newsletters, and access discounts available to regular members. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, please advise the Terra Nova Chapter President as soon as possible after the member's death.

A prize draw for paid-up Heritage Club members (other than Metro Chapter) is held each year. The lucky winners of small cash prizes for 2015 are Inez Manning, Mike Nolan, and Arlene Ralph. The winners were drawn in October by Eugene Bishop, witnessed by Noel Keough.

Congratulations to this year's winners. A similar draw will be held in late 2016, so be sure to get your dues payment in and get your name in the hat.

Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn't start a conversation. - Kim Hubbard

Can you help?

Attached is a form to update member information. If you're moving, or have moved, or are aware of a member's death, please complete this form and return to us so that we can update our mailing list. We're also trying to update our email list. Please take a moment to complete the questionnaire attached and give us your current email address. A complete list could make communicating with you all much easier.

Do you have any information about the following "lost" members?

Dona Jennings	Lewisporte
Margaret Ollerhead	St. Anthony E.
William Penney	Port Rexton
Patrick Ruth	Corner Brook
Bessie Ryan	Catalina
Reginald Simms	Gander
Sarah Snow	Victoria
Donald White	Whitbourne

A special thanks to those who helped us out with our list last year.

Discounts and Deals

Due to belt-tightening at the Corporation, the WorkPerks program as it was offered through Canada Post ended as of April 15, 2015. Some discounts are still available to members, through a couple of options.

If you have a property insurance policy with Co-operators Insurance, in addition to receiving special premium rates for Heritage Club members you will also have access to its CustomerPerks program.

Alternately, for a limited time Heritage Club members can sign up for Venngo discounts under WorkPerks for 50% off the regular annual subscription price of \$49.99 per year plus taxes. Some members may find that the discounts available are worth the annual fee. Further information is available on the Canada Post Alumni website.

Membership discounts have also been negotiated with Johnson Insurance for home and auto policies, and if you're planning to travel a bit, MEDOC travel insurance is a great plan.

If you're buying or selling a home, Relocation Services Group can be of assistance, and may save you money. Call them before you call a realtor or a mover to ensure your maximum benefit.

A member's discount is available at GoodLife Fitness. Check for one in your area, and if you're interested contact the President for a membership application form.

The sun did not shine. It was too wet to play. So we sat in the house. All that cold, cold, wet day. - Dr. Seuss, The Cat in the Hat

Website Navigation and Features

The Heritage Club website can be found at www.heritageclub.ca. The website has been completely redesigned, and is available to all members. Navigation through the site is

simple, and each chapter has its own page for posting local information.

The Terra Nova Chapter is doing its best to keep our information up to date, with upcoming events, meeting times, and minutes of recent meetings.

If you have any suggestions for content to be included, please pass them on to the Chapter President. We will be adding as much local content as possible, including pictures and local activities. We do want to respect our members' privacy however, so if you would rather your name or photo not be posted to the site for any reason, please be sure to let the President know.

Members who have been receiving monthly minutes of 25 Year Club meetings via email will now be able to check the website and see those minutes as soon as they become available.

The Canada Post Alumni site is also on-line now, although not all features are currently available. More information on accessing these sites follows in the "Good To Know" section.

*One can find so many pains when the rain is falling. -
John Steinbeck*

Upcoming Events

The 25 Year Club will be holding a Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Elks Club on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

Taped music provided by Metro Music. Friends and family welcome. The tickets will be \$25.00 single, and \$50.00 double, and are available from El Holmes or Eric Howlett. If you're going to be in the St. John's area that weekend, please contact us for tickets.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Santa Claus letter writing campaign will be getting underway in the next couple of weeks. If you'd like to participate, contact your local post office. It's a simple way to put a smile on a child's face, and corresponding with Santa is a great way to encourage a child to read, which fits well with Heritage Club's focus on literacy.

The primary charity of the Corporation is the Canada Post Community Foundation for Children. The focus of their efforts is to extend financial assistance to support the grassroots volunteers and non-profit groups and schools who work every day to improve the lives of children. The sale of the Children's Charity stamp will support this Foundation.

The Heritage Club has been asked to assist in fund-raising efforts for this worthy cause, and if you see an opportunity to help out in your area, you're encouraged to participate wherever you can.

Take a look around in your community. Whether through a church or community

group, you may be sure that there are real needs which you can help to fill. If each of us volunteers an hour, great things can be done.

Not reassuring when weathermen say "Today will be terrible but don't worry, it won't be as terrible as tomorrow or Friday. - Jonah Goldberg



Good to know – *Tips for retirees and about-to-be's!*

New Heritage Club Website

The Heritage Club website address is www.heritageclub.ca. This is the national homepage, and from here you can view information about the national club, or drill down to specific information about any chapter.

At the very top of the page are a number of selections, such as Forms, which includes the on-line membership application form.

The banner immediately below those selections includes a red tab entitled "Select a chapter". Click on this and you will see a map of Canada with the names of all of the local chapters. To view information for our chapter, select "Terra Nova". This will bring you to our home-page, where you'll be able

to view details of upcoming events, such as meeting dates and times, copies of recent minutes, and our current and some previous newsletters.

Have a look at the website. See what's happening here in Newfoundland, and check out the activities in other regions. We'll be doing our best to keep the information on the site up to date, and we'll add more content as time goes on.

I've lived in a good climate, and it bores the hell out of me.
- John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*

Canada Post Retiree Website

The long-promised retiree website is on-line. It's still under construction, but as it exists right now there is a lot of very useful information gathered in one convenient place. The web address is www.canadapostalumni.ca. The sign-in portion of the website is not available yet.

But if you click on the tabs along the top, you'll find, in addition to Heritage Club information, links to sites regarding our pension, life insurance, the Great West Life Extended Health Care Plan and Dental Insurance, and Out of Country coverage. Under the Forms tab, you'll find the claim forms for Great West Life reimbursement,

and also the form to request a Drug Exception.

In the Great West Life page, there's also a direct link to the list of covered drugs, found at www.canadapost.ca/drugplan. Select the category that fits you, and you can verify whether a suggested drug will be covered, or whether you'll need to complete a Drug Exception form.

The information found on this website was available previously, but it was often a chore to find. It's really convenient to have the links all gathered together in one place. We look forward to seeing the completed site, and what else it will have to offer.

CPC Pay Equity

Those of you involved with the Canada Post Pay Equity case will most likely have received your settlement cheques by now. There are known to have been some problems with the interest calculated on some of these payments.

If you wish to have the interest on your payment reviewed for accuracy, you must call and file a request for review at 1-800-959-8281.

*May you always have work for your hands to do.
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.
May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.
May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near you.
And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.*

— Irish Retirement Blessing

