



**SIMCOE CHAPTER– CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB
72 Leuty Avenue Toronto ON M4E 2R4**

Fall Newsletter - October 2020

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is doing well or as well as can be expected. I hope you are doing everything within your power to stay mentally and physically healthy. What a strange year it has been, many of us have never experienced anything like it. In our 31 years of existence, never has the Heritage Club been so idle. But all this is for the safety of our members and Canadian people. COVID requires physical distancing and curtailed social activities to ensure safety above all else, and hopefully a return to normalcy soon.

October is time to renew your membership with the club for next year. This ensures you continue to receive our newsletter four times a year with the news on activities and gain access to the great discounts we have negotiated for you.

For those of you who have never joined as paid members, I hope you would consider joining. The membership fee is only \$10 per year, it gives you great discounts at our luncheons, bus trips, hotels, fitness club, scholarship opportunities for your kids and grandkids, home, auto and travel insurance, etc.

This year have been an inactive year for us, but once things return to normal when we can safely socialize in large group. We will definitely be organizing some social luncheons and activities when COVID-19 pandemic eases up and we will be following Government guidelines, so it is safe for our members.

We hope you have safe, physically distancing interaction with close friends, family and neighbours to ensure you don't feel isolated and or lonely. Staying in touch with other people is key to longevity and helps to fight off depression. So, stay safe for now, but we look forward to meeting once again.

Anna Huang
President
Simcoe Chapter
President's Message

UPCOMING EVENTS for 2020 & 2021

It is a quite different dining experience at the Mandarin Restaurant now. We considered doing a Mandarin luncheon now that they are doing a table service instead of a buffet style; however, the health guidelines dictate a group of no more than ten people inside, and you would have to sit with the people in your bubble. This would not be very conducive to a group outing. If ever restrictions ease, we might consider going back to our favourite restaurant, but for now, we play it safe.

Christmas Banquet, December 2020 - CANCELLED

With regret, we have to cancel this popular annual event. As I write this newsletter, some Provinces are now closing down large banquet halls due to a resurgence of the virus. Therefore, we have erred on the side of caution and not planned our annual banquet and conference meeting for this year. Stay safe.

Following, are two one-day bus tours which you may enjoy. Mentioning that you are a paid Heritage Club member will get you a \$10 discount.

Saturday, Nov. 28th, Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, and Saturday, Dec. 5th, 2020:

Festive Niagara, Featuring Dinner at the top of the Skylon Tower.

Travel to Niagara Falls and enjoy a Full Course Dinner (Prime Rib of Beef or Grilled Salmon – *please advise your choice at time of booking*) in the revolving dining room of the Skylon Tower (4:30 pm – 6:30 pm). Great dinner, great view!

Following dinner, enjoy a driving tour of Niagara's lovely Festival of Lights (6:45pm - 7:45 pm), before returning home. Just \$115.00 per person. Cost includes motor coach transportation, Dinner, Tour of the Festival of Lights, All Taxes and Meal Tips included. Departs 1:30 pm Cedar Heights Plaza, returns 10:30 pm.

Monday, Nov. 30th and Tuesday, Dec. 8th, 2020:

The Panorama of Christmas Lights in Simcoe, with Dinner at the Erie Beach Hotel.

Travel to Port Dover and enjoy a roast turkey dinner at the renowned Erie Beach Hotel, with all their nice extras: assorted Salads, Celery Bread, plus Tea/Coffee and Sherbet for dessert (5:00 pm – 6:30 pm). After dinner it's on to nearby Simcoe to pick up a Guide for a Tour of the beautiful Christmas Lights and Displays in downtown Wellington Park (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm). Following the tour, we'll motor home. Just \$105.00 per person. Cost includes motor coach transportation, Dinner, Services of Guide, All Taxes and Meal Tips. Departs 1:45 and returns 11:00 pm.

Message from Time of Your Life Bus Tours:

Due to theatre season cancellations, various restaurant closures, and group size limitations, we are unable to operate the tours that were offered in our 2020 Tour Book. In their place we are offering an alternate selection of day trips. After so many months of staying at home, we hope that these trips will be just what's needed to get you out and "on the road again"!

Please note the following:

** Stringent cleaning and sanitizing protocol have been put into place on the motor coaches.*

** Hand Sanitizer will be available both at the entrance to the coach and in the washroom.*

** To allow for social distancing, all of our tours will operate with a maximum of 26- 28*

passengers on board a 56-passenger coach. Seating will be assigned to allow for proper distancing on the coach. The very front seats of the coach on both the door side and the driver's side will be closed off by the coach company.

** Due to the low passenger count on board, it is advisable to book early, as departure dates may sell out quickly.*

** All bookings must be made by telephone, and payments are preferred by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) We will also accept payments by cheque or money order mailed to our office.*

** Single Passenger bookings will have to be limited on each departure. Single Passengers will be seated on their own, with no one next to them.*

While on a day trip with us:

*** Face Masks are required. Face Masks must cover both your nose and your mouth.**

** Passengers are encouraged to wash their hands as frequently as possible, and bring hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes with them.*

** Needless to say, if you have a fever or are exhibiting other signs of illness (shortness of breath, etc.), for the safety of all other passengers, please stay home.*

All that's left to do is for you to book your tour(s), then get on board and enjoy! It has been far too long!

THE LOCAL NEWS

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

Lucy Batista, Renato Bernardo, Naseer Farooqi, Marcelle Forde, Joe Gifkins, Edward Ing, Laurie Ing, Harvey Inouye, Vera Marentil, Donna Nuss, Sanjay Paliwal, Deborah Ann Pannozzo, Susan Purtle, Fitzpatrick Richmond, Joan Skelton, Candy Witcombe-Bancroft

IN MEMORIUM (People we have sadly lost during the year)

Sadly, Maureen Robinson, Fred Stevens (husband of Angela Stevens) , Edrienne Gale, Edith Dermott, Joseph Farrugia, Milan Copovic, Lester Cormier, Margaret Armstrong and most recently, David Dampier have passed away. Our condolences to their family.



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of David Dampier on Sep 24th at age 76. He is survived by wife Leslie and children Diana, Dylan and Kim and 6 grandchildren. He was deeply loved by his family, a great husband, father and provider; they will miss him so much.

David worked as postal clerk for the Post Office from Nov 1968 to June 2000 and mostly at SCLPP, folks might remember him for always riding his bike to work.

This list of colleagues and friends who have passed reflects only those that we were made aware of. We regret any oversight to the list. Please let us know of any life events you wish us to publish.

We are looking for updated contact Information: Ralph Edward Reid (Mail returned to us)

If you are moving, please inform us of your forwarding address.

GoodLife Fitness Discount

The GoodLife Fitness subscription year started in September 2020, through to 2021. If you intend on applying under the Heritage Club discount, you must have paid your dues to us for 2021.

DUES ARE DUE TIME!

It's October and it's time! Still only \$10 per year per member and \$10 for your spouse. Also, if you engage in any type of volunteerism, please fill out the information form included in this newsletter.

ATTENTION Small Business and Craft Merchants:

We support you during these troubled times, so if you are a paid member of our Chapter, we will gladly post your ads for your small business or craft in our four editions of our annual newsletters for free. A great way to increase your business and reach out to friends, former co-workers and like-minded people of the Heritage Club. We will also accept ads for upcoming social and charity events.

Happy Thanksgiving!

In spite of the current pandemic situation, we have a lot to be thankful about; we live in Canada; thus far the government and our people are doing a good job dealing with the pandemic. Our rate of infections and death tolls are better than many countries. We want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and hunkered down for the winter and second waves of the pandemic.



Heritage Club 2020 Scholarship Results

As we all know, the Covid-19 Pandemic has disrupted our lives in ways we never could have anticipated. Perhaps one of the more affected groups has been our young people, who are graduating high school without actually completing the year or observing any of the normal ceremonies of graduation. Now they are faced with trying to build a future as they enter university life without a clear picture of how that will look – certainly not what it looked like previously. Now more than ever they need our support, and for that reason we are very proud to present the Canada Post Heritage Club 2020 Scholarships to three very worthy recipients. Thanks to all who applied, thanks to the judges, and congratulations to Abigail, Anika, and Shanaya. Good luck with your studies.



Abigail Leu

Abigail Leu is the granddaughter of Walter Leu, member of Simcoe Chapter. She has shown herself to be a caring and capable leader through her participation in multiple activities throughout her high school years. Media executive for her school's on-line magazine, president of two very successful JA teams, founding member of Relay for Life team, her interests are many and varied. In response to the Covid-19 crisis she showed resilience as she was instrumental in transitioning the Kindness Project to virtual for her Business Leadership class, collaborating with speakers, creating training kits for other schools, and building the website. Her communications skills are well recognized, and she has maintained a high average throughout. We wish Abigail every success as she pursues her studies in Business Administration at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University.

Anika Heidinger is the step-granddaughter of Heartland member David Zayac. Anika has turned a learning exceptionality into Honor Roll success in her four years of high school. She has demonstrated her compassion and concern for others in her work as a gymnastics coach and her many volunteer activities. She is the Editor at Large for her school yearbook, having taken many of the pictures for the book and also helped create the layout of the book itself. Rarely seen without a camera, she also participated in a polar bear research trip to Churchill, MB, and is working on a young-readers book to educate others about climate change, proceeds to go to charity. Anika hopes to become a lawyer, and we wish her well as she begins her studies at the University of Winnipeg.

Shanaya McMillan is the granddaughter of Robert L Sweetland, member of Heartland Chapter. Shanaya received the Governor General's Academic Bronze Medal for her final average, while being the only graduate from her school to complete the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. In addition to her notable academic achievements, she was a leader in the Writing Club, Debate Team, Science Fair, as well as curling, soccer,

Ukrainian dance, and as a volunteer swim coach working with children who require extra help. A Type 1 diabetic herself, Shanaya has volunteered the JDRF for many years, even creating and delivering her own educational presentation for elementary and university students. She intends to pursue a Science degree at the University of Manitoba and we are confident that she will be successful in her endeavours.

A POSTAL SERVICE STORY

Our recent story on the Railway Mail Service, which started in Canada in 1854 under the Canada Post Office Department of the federal service, and ended in 1971, elicited a lot of responses from former Railway Mail Clerks who wanted to share their stories. Following is one of them:

Dear Sir,

I've just read your article "The Canadian Railway Mail Service." I was fortunate enough to be a railway mail clerk from 1958 until 1971. I worked on all of the R.P.O.'s emanating from Toronto to Montreal to Ottawa to North Bay to Sudbury to Niagara Falls, and many more that existed in my early years. We used to say, "that if God invented a better job, he kept it for himself."

As a spare, my salary started at \$2,850 per year, and 1½ cents per mile while we travelled. It was supposed to pay for hotels and food. It was not enough to pay for these things, but it was a great job. Regular clerks had to know Ontario. If you worked on the Montreal train, you also had to learn the Quebec province distribution. If you worked on the Sudbury R.P.O., you had to learn "Man and Sask". The Pass mark on yearly exams was 97%. It was a great way to make a living, wonderful camaraderie. It was a sad day for all of us, when it came to an end. I spent the rest of my Post Office time in the transportation department.

I've included photos of my crew mates. As far as I know, I am the only survivor of this group. I am 86 years old.

Sincerely,

Ron Young

Editor: a big thank you to Ron for sharing his story and insightful anecdotes

Pension Updater and Head Office News

Twice a year, members of the National Executive of the Heritage Club, of which our Heritage Club National President Mr. JP Leguerrier is a member, meet with representatives of Canada Post Head Office. Thirty-one years after founding this Club for retirees and long service employees of the Corporation, Canada Post still funds the activities yearly, and promotes the benefits of our association to newly retired and/or old-time employees. Every year, our National President also collect questions you may have concerning your pensions and benefits and meet with the representatives to get answers. This year, because of Covid 19, everyone at CPC Head Office was working from home and it was safer to have virtual meetings and get responses by email. Here is a sampling of some responses we obtained for our members:

Anything new with regards to retirements and the Heritage Club program?

As of today, it is still status quo, but not sure if we will have changes as a result of COVID.

Is the retiree's newsletter still being worked on?

Yes, we are working on the Fall edition of Intouch. In it will contain an article on disability retirement, the C&C election results as well as the Corporate Q2 results, describing a bit about the economic impacts of Covid-19.

Details on Santa Letter Program for 2020 to be ironed out?

Yes, we have been talking about the options. We realize that this year there will likely be different levels of comfort and availability for all of our volunteers, specially our Heritage Club members. We know many will not be comfortable gathering in large groups as they have done in the past, and some who are normally away over Christmas may be available to help this year. Therefore, we're working with our coordinators to figure out how

to get the letters to our volunteers. Some will likely want all of their letters at home, and some may be able to pick them up in person. We are relying on our coordinators to determine what process works best for them, and then will be there to support them to roll things out in whatever manner they choose.

What decision did CPC go with last year (re: letter to stake holders): reinvest funds back into company or allot some funds into the pension deficit?

I don't yet have the decision that the Government and Canada Post have taken on solvency relief for the Plan. In May 2020, OSFI announced the new Solvency Special Payments Relief Regulations, 2020. These regulations were introduced as a response to the current pandemic. The regulations provide funding relief to plan sponsors whose pension plans have a solvency deficiency, and who are normally required to make monthly payments to fund the deficiency and/or address their obligations through the use of letters of credit.

State of the pension deficit: was it aggravated by COVID?

As a result of the pandemic, OSFI implemented a freeze on Transfer Values out of federally regulated plans such as ours, in order to protect the plan's solvency ratios. This meant that no terminating employee could immediately access their Commuted Values. This freeze has since been lifted effective August 30, 2020. It is still too early to determine what the outcome of the Covid-19 pandemic has done on our Plan's solvency ratio. These numbers are generally calculated by Mercer when the Plan's valuation has completed, this will likely not be completely known until June 2021.

The Heritage Club does a lot of research into past histories of the Post Office, and collects artifacts for displays. Are there any postal archives at Head Office?

*Mr. JP Leguerrier asked Corporate Communication and Stamps Services and they confirmed that there is no Archives at Canada Post. Canadian Postal Museum, as part of History Museum, and Library and Archives Canada have rich archival material and artifacts relating to postal history. Some contacts: For Library and Archives Canada – Genevieve Morin at genevieve.morin2@canada.ca
For Postal Museum try Bianca Gendreau. at Bianca.Gendreau@museedelhistoire.ca*

Who we are?

Simcoe Chapter is one of 24 Chapters across the country; it covers an area of the Greater Toronto Area which is mainly east of Victoria Park Avenue (eastern York County) encompassing Scarborough, and areas within historic Ontario, Durham and Northumberland Counties. Have you checked our national web site: heritageclub.ca Select **Simcoe Chapter**

What we do?

The Simcoe Chapter organizes subsidized luncheons, bus travel, annual banquet and golf tournament with its partner Chapter for its' members. Also, we collect and donate food for the food banks, as well as donations to various charities throughout the year. Many of our members generously donate their time to local, charity organizations. 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? Please call President Anna Huang at (416)716-2898 or email her at ahuang0513@gmail.com

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% in Canada, and worldwide, which includes Comfort, Quality, and Rodeway Inns, Econolodge, etc.

Discounts to **Simcoe** Chapter events, luncheons and bus trips.

Current employee discounts with **Telus Mobility**.

Special **Scholarships** for your kids and grandkids of \$1,000 per school year. **(Note: the member must be a paid member for two consecutive years for their family member to qualify for consideration of application for scholarship award program.)**

IMPORTANT: To benefit from these discounts, you must mention your Heritage Club membership number, and you must have paid your membership dues to the Simcoe 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. 50th wedding anniversary), special awards, deaths, hospitalizations, etc. Let us know so we can pay tribute.

Payment for bus tours ONLY: cheques should be made out directly to **Time of Your Life Tours**, and sent to 500 Sheppard Ave. East, Suite 203, Toronto ON, M2N 6H7, (416) 224-0684. Mention you are a Simcoe Chapter Heritage Club member for any applicable discount.

Volunteering (see below)

Do you do volunteer work: _____ Hours per month: _____

Name of Organization: _____

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.

Our yearly funds from the National Executive is evaluated from the involvement of our members in Volunteer activities. I in turn, also do a year-end summary report of all the volunteer hours on behalf of Simcoe Chapter as recorded. I would ask that you keep a record of the hours that you spend this year doing volunteer work in your community and I thank you for helping me to collect your volunteer work hours. Please send this completed form / or information **by December 15, 2020** to Simcoe CPC Heritage Club, 72 Leuty Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 2R4. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Anna Huang at 416-716-2898 or Email: ahuang0513@gmail.com

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 welcome

2020 MEMBERSHIP COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HOURS

Name:

Address:

City:Prov.:Postal Code:

Please use this form to track your volunteer hours for 2020. Don't forget your knitting hours and Christmas hours and all your volunteer activities as a Heritage Club member. *Every hour counts!*

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED ANNUAL HOURS
Church	
Community	
Knitting	
Literacy Program/School	
Santa Program	
Library/Museums	
Hospital	
Soup Kitchen/Food Bank/Meals on Wheels	
National Postal Curling	
Heritage Club	
Seniors Homes/Shut In Program	
Income Tax Form Prep./Festivals	
Fund Raising	
Christmas Hamper Program	
United Way	
Others -	

MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL SLIP

Name: _____ Name of spouse): _____
(if applying as couple)

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email (optional): _____

Renewal for Self: ____ Couple: ____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Is this a Renewal: ____ or a New Membership: ____



**** send Dues by cheque to Simcoe Heritage or through etransfer to Simcoe.heritage2018@gmail.com**

Santa's Helpers Wanted (Please complete form)

We are getting prepared for all the mail that will soon arrive for Santa Claus. Each year children from around the world send their Christmas wishes to Santa, who lives in Canada's Great White North. Over the years Canada Post employees, both current and retired, have been bringing joy and happiness to these children, by responding to their letters. We are looking for The Christmas season is once again around the corner, and we are getting ready. Heritage Club Members who are willing to spend an hour or two replying to these letters at home this year, in order to stay safe and compliant with current safety protocols. If you would like to help spread a little joy and happiness, please contact Past President Ms. Lea Maynard at maynardlea2@gmail.com or any member of the Executive, or complete the form below and return to us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____ Languages: _____

Elections

The constitution of the Heritage Club, a volunteer organization, has a provision that the executive positions of a chapter are for a two-year term, after which they must be posted. Any current paid member of the Club, with over 25 years of service can submit their names for a position. In the beginning of 2020, Anna Huang took the position of **President** and Blesilda Yap as **Treasurer**. The position(s) are automatically renewed by the incumbent(s), if he/she is willing and if the position(s) are not contested. For any submissions, please inform anyone on the Executive, prior to end of November 2020. If the position is contested, we will hold an online election ballot. Unfortunately, we cannot hold our annual Christmas banquet, which serves as our Annual General Meeting for the Club.

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anna Huang, Chapter President, Newsletter Writer, Member's List, Recruitment

Email: ahuang0513@gmail.com Mobile 416-716-2898 Home 416-466-2595

Blesilda Yap, Treasurer / Secretary/ Editor

Email: babycua1@hotmail.com Mobile 416-723-1963

Email Transfers simcoe.heritage2018@gmail.com

Ms. Ann Boles, Editor

Members at Large: Claire Andrews, Marcella Drover

Past President, Lea Maynard

Your Benefits Contact Numbers:

Sun Life Insurance: 1-800-361-6212

Canada Post Pension Site: 1-877-480-9220

Govt. of Canada Superannuation: 1-800-561-7930

Canada Pension Plan/Old Age Security: 1-800-277-9914

Canada Life (formerly, Great West Life Assurance) : 1-866-716-1313

CPC Access HR (formerly known as Human Resources): 1-877-807-9090

Your Benefits Survivor procedures:

To ensure the survivor of a retiree maintains pension, health and medical benefits, a number of contacts must be made after the retiree's death.

Note: Update to Superannuation procedures

Access H.R. (1-877-807-9090)

Info required : ..retiree name; employee I.D.# ; social insurance number; copy of death certificate

C.P.C. Pension (1-877-480-9220)

Info required : retiree name; employee I.D.#; postal code; month & date of birth; copy of death certificate

Canada Life (1-866-716-1313)

Info required :_retiree name; employee I.D.#; copy of death certificate; plan number

NOTE: Very important to notify Canada Life as soon as possible in order to set up a new automatic withdrawal in the survivor's name to keep policy in force and maintain medical, dental and vision benefits.

C.P.P. / O.A.S. (1-800-277-9914)

Info required: retiree name; Social Insurance #; copy of death certificate

NOTE: Besides the survivor pension there is also a death benefit payable to the survivor.

SUPERANNUATION (1-800-561-7930)

Survivor calls the above number with: retiree name; social insurance number; copy of death certificate & copy of marriage certificate

NOTE: *Sun Life benefit premiums for survivor will be deducted directly from monthly survivor pension.*

Benefit Changes To Extended Health Care Plan – 2020

New - Flash glucose monitors now covered up to 80% for insulin-dependent active employees , retirees and their eligible dependents.

Changes – Most claims can now be submitted online , except out-of-country claims. Online claims must be submitted within 6 months .. paper claims can be submitted up to 12 months after a service.

Receipts will be required for all online claims. Photos or scanned copies of receipts will be accepted. You should keep original receipts in case you're asked to produce them.

Travel Insurance Coverage Update due to COVID 19 pandemic**Canada Life**

If you have out-of-country coverage, you'll be covered for eligible expenses when you have symptoms from a medical emergency and you need to seek treatment

Claims related to Covid-19 that occurred during travel to a country with travel advisory warnings will be assessed like any claim under your plan. Plan coverages vary, so that's why every claim will be handled on a case-by-case basis. It's important to review your plan coverage details carefully.

Medoc – Johnson Insurance

Check all Travel Insurance update on their website : <https://www.johnson.ca/travel-insurance>