

January 10, 2021

Dear friends,

Best wishes to you all for a healthy, happy, and safe 2021. As has been said many times, please God it will be a better year for everyone in this very troubled world.

This note is to update you on some recent developments regarding the Postal Employees 25 Year Club, and to share with you what we have accomplished even in the face of a worldwide pandemic and logistical challenges.

We regret to advise that both the president and treasurer of the 25 Year Club have found it necessary to step back from their positions. Eric Howlett is in the midst of a major health setback, and has passed the reins to me in the interim. I know that we all wish him and Alice the best, and thank them both for their many years of service to the club.

As well, Marje Keough has stepped down as treasurer due to outside work commitments. Again, we thank her for her service. I have assumed responsibility for the Club's finances.

Obviously my head cannot carry all of these hats forever, and I look forward to the day when we can meet in person to hold an election of officers and fill these very important positions.

One of the obvious difficulties of the current restrictions is that we cannot meet in person, and this means that while I have mentioned Eric's illness, I know that there are certainly other members who are also in difficulty. We wish them and their families all the best as they face their challenges.

As you know, we started 2020 with gusto. We held a fundraising breakfast in late February which resulted in a \$500.00 donation to the Waterford

Hospital Auxilliary. As it happened we just got that in under the wire, as access to the Kenmount Road facility was severely restricted a couple of weeks later.

In spite of the pandemic, I was asked by Canada Post to keep the Santa letter writing campaign going, and I'm very grateful to the 40 of you who stepped up to make that happen. Between us all we replied to over 5000 letters. The number of letters received was down significantly from previous years, but no matter how many Santa receives, each child whose face lights up when they see a reply in the mail – that's our reward! So thank you to every one of you who made the campaign possible this year. The Corporation recognized that this was a very different, challenging year to attempt this project, so they contributed a prize for participants. The lucky winner of a collectible NHL print was Bill Coultas, as a result of a random draw by CPC personnel. Again, thank you all for your support.

A couple of prize draws were held at the Kenmount Road facility during the Santa campaign, and incorporating the proceeds of those, the Club made \$250.00 contributions to five charities at year–end, in lieu of our customary fundraising projects. The beneficiaries were The Gathering Place, the Food Sharing Association, Choices for Youth, the Jimmy Pratt Memorial Soup Kitchen, and the Single Parents Association.

It's been a difficult year for the club, there's no question about that. But we can still provide service to our members, and to the community – with your support.

With that in mind, I would remind you that 2021 dues are now payable. Since taking over the accounts and membership list, it is apparent to me that payment of dues has not been kept current over the past few years. It was an issue before the pandemic, and of course since meetings stopped it has become even more difficult. Please, if you have not paid your dues for 2021 send them in today, payable to "<u>Postal Employees 25 Year Club</u>". We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Eldred Holmes President, Terra Nova Chapter