



Newsletter, Winter
February 2020

PINERIDGE Chapter

What's to come at a glance:

* Mandarin Luncheon

* "Mystery" Tour!

* Annual Golf Tourney

Check out our Web Site:
heritageclub.ca, then
select Pineridge Chapter

President's Message

Dear Members,

As we enter into 2020, I want to wish you all a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year. Historians talked about the "Roarin' 20's" (1920's) with nostalgia and fondness: will the 2020's be the same? It's up to us to fashion those years and decide how they will be remembered in the future.

The Heritage Club has now celebrated it's 30th anniversary last year. Over the years, we have seen some chapters close due to inaction and lack of participation. Your chapter in this Club can only be as active as your participation in it.

It is up to us to decide how we will remember our working years and the friendships we formed during those 30-35 years of our lives. I encourage you to seize the day and make the friendships you have formed during your lives a priority item. We are often told good friends, and family, ensures happy and long lives.

So I encourage you to participate as much as you can in our activities: we do it for you, and we couldn't do it without you.

Hope to see you soon,

J.P.

**Jean Pierre Leguerrier
President
Pineridge Chapter**

UPCOMING EVENTS for 2020

Thursday, March 12th, 2020, noon: Luncheon Buffet at The Mandarin

Come celebrate an early St. Patrick's Day with us at our first Mandarin luncheon of the New Year! We meet at noon at The Mandarin Restaurant, 1725 Kingston Road, in Pickering. Register early for this great opportunity to greet your friends in the New Year.

Don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the food banks and we will also be hosting a silent auction for collectable prints, all monies going for the Community Foundation charity.

We have had a slight (\$1) cost increase for 2020: \$15 for members, \$21.00 non-members. The current cost for a Senior to eat a lunch time meal here, with coffee, tax & tip, is presently \$22.35. As always, your parents and friends are welcome to attend. Anyone needing a ride to go to the restaurant, let us know.

Give **Bernie** a call (416-439-9505) to confirm your attendance or to set up an e-payment. Payments by cheques: **Pineridge Heritage Club**, 629 Markham Rd., PO Box 90593, Scarborough, M1H 3G7.

Sunday, June 14th to Wednesday, June 17th, 17th Annual "Mystery" Tour!

It's spring once again and time to head off to ... *destination unknown!* As always on our Mystery Tours, you won't know where you're going, but we ask you to put your trust in us to take you somewhere both nice and interesting. We promise that wherever we take you and whatever you do will be top-notch. This year's tour is once again right here in Canada – no passport required. Looking for something new and different? Try this!

Same cost as last year! (Different destination, though!):

Just \$1,195.00 Per Person, Double Occupancy

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- Limousine pick-up at your home (additional charge for outside of Metro Toronto) to Motorcoach Departure Point and Return.
- Motorcoach Transportation (Departure Points and Times TBA.)
- 3 Nights First-Class Accommodation (1 night at 1 Hotel, 2 nights at another hotel.), & 10 Included Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 4 Dinners
- Guided Touring, Cruising, Train Ride, and Attractions.
- All Taxes, Luggage Handling and Meal Tips.
- Services of a Time Of Your Life Tour Escort.

Payment Requirements (Visa, Mastercard or Cheque accepted):

* Deposit of \$100.00 Per Person is required at time of booking.

* Balance of payment due by May 14th, 2020.

Book now by calling: **Time of Your Life Tours**, 416-224-0684.

Heads up Golfers! Friday, June 19th, 2020: Annual Golf Tournament

Calling all golfers in the Pineridge, Simcoe and Trent-Severn Chapters: The annual golf tournament and dinner will be held again 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. In an effort to continue offering this event at an affordable price, new this year is that prizes will be awarded only to the winners of the different categories.

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. You can also contact Bernie Snyder (416-439-9505) if you wish to do an e-transfer of funds. Please specify what you are paying for. All registrations should be completed by May 31st.

MEMBER SURVEY: We would like to know how many people would be interested in the following activities: Mini-Golf, forming a local Darts Team, attending Blue Jays Games, etc. Let one of your Chapter executives know.

The Christmas Banquet: Our Assessment.

Your Participation was "great"! One hundred and twelve people attended.

The location, parking and accessibility were very good.

The food was not up to our standard, and for that we apologize.

If anyone has any suggestions for next year's event, please let us know.

We **REALLY** enjoyed seeing you all!

Did you know? On your behalf, every year we collect an enormous amount of food items for the food banks. As well, we donate over \$1,000 a year to worthwhile charities with the money we collect from the 50/50 draws, charity auctions, dues, etc.: **People helping People!**

THE LOCAL NEWS

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

Kenneth Daniel

In Memoriam – People we lost last year: May Tom, Douglas Snider, Julia Kavanagh, William Steed, Paul O'Neill, David Myrvold, Margaret Boyd, Charles Spradbrow, Ray Whittle

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 could submit their names for a position. Last year, the following positions were up for renewal: **President** and **Secretary**. The positions were automatically renewed by the incumbents, J.P. Leguerrier and Kenny Dayal, as it was not contested. Congratulations everyone.

Toronto in the Festive Season

A group outing at the Famous People Players Theatre to catch “Jingle all the Way”, followed by a walk through the St. Lawrence Market, and capped by the Toronto Christmas Market in the historic Distillery District.



Santa's Workshop

Santa Letter Writing Workshops were held at the South Central Postal Plant in November and December to try and get a leg up on the mountain of letters that Santa gets every year. Members from the Pineridge and Simcoe Chapters volunteered, as well as the many other volunteers who contributed by doing letters at their homes. Santa says "thanks to everyone who participated."



When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

To this day, especially in times of "disaster", I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers...so many caring people in the world.

- Fred Rogers (Mister Rogers)

Christmas Time Banquet

Our annual Christmas Banquet was held again this year with over a hundred participants. The members of Simcoe and Pineridge Chapters enjoyed a feast along with prizes, give aways, auctions for charity, food bank collection, music and good company.



The “L I F E is G O O D” Section

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a government. John Adams

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. Winston Churchill

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. George Bernard Shaw

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries. Douglas Casey

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else. Frederic Bastiat, French economist

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts. Will Rogers

In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other. Voltaire (1764)

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you! Pericles (430 B.C.)

Talk is cheap...except when government does it. Anonymous

What this country needs are more unemployed politicians. Edward Langley, Artist

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have. Thomas Jefferson

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. Aesop

And, 3 brilliant ones from Mark Twain: If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed.

No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.

PENSION ISSUES

When the House of Commons rose in June 2019, Bill C-27 effectively died on the order paper.

In October 2016, the federal government introduced Bill C-27. This legislation would allow employers to change employee pension plans, even after they have retired. In response, the National Association of Federal Retirees, along with the Canadian Coalition for Retirement Security, launched the “Honour Your Promise” campaign.

In the last federal election in 2015, Justin Trudeau clearly promised to 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]”. The “Honour Your Promise” campaign asked the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to keep their word. Over the course of the last three years, the campaign has delivered over 50,000 emails to Members of Parliament and the Finance Minister asking for this problematic legislation to be abandoned.

And it worked. The legislation fell silent and remained right where it started – at first reading, on the order paper. It never moved forward. When the House of

Commons rose in June 2019, and with the call of this election, Bill C-27 effectively died.

On September 9, Federal Retirees hosted a special telephone town hall with representatives from all major parties to discuss retirement income security, among other election priorities. During this town hall, Liberal representative Greg Fergus (Member of Parliament for Hull-Aylmer) said, in response to a question regarding Bill C-27, “This bill [Bill C-27] is dead. Dead. Dead. Dead. [...] A Liberal government would not present a bill like this in the future.” (*This quote has been translated from French.*) All other parties participating on the call also promised that their parties would not pursue this type of legislation.

“Federal Retirees is pleased that Bill C-27 has effectively died with the call of this fall’s election,” said Jean-Guy Soulière, President of the National Association of Federal Retirees. “Despite receiving informal indications that the government was not interested in further pursuing the legislation, it’s persistence on the order paper was troubling. We were also happy to hear that all parties have noted they would not introduce such legislation in the future.”

During the last federal election in October 2019, the parties were asked: “...and will your party commit to not making any changes to existing defined-benefit

pensions on a going forward basis....”Only two parties responded directly to the question: Scheer:”...we are not considering changes to defined-benefit pensions”. Singh: “We believe in protecting the strongest and best form of the pension, the defined-(benefit) pension plan.”

Another troubling issue, which only applies to Canada Post retirees who are on the Canada Post Pension, and not superannuation, is the financial situation with Canada Post which led the former Conservative government of Stephen Harper to give the Crown Corporation permission to waive the payments into the pension fund from 2014 to 2017. Equally troubling was the lack of decision making on the part of the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau who, upon taking power, did not make the decision on whether Canada Post should start paying back into the pension fund.

As it stands, Canada Post has issued a letter in August 2019 to all pension holders hinting it was favoring continuing the moratorium on the pension payments for three to five more years, on top of the past five years already past, in order to “invest in its competitiveness”. It plans to approach the new government with this proposal.

As of December 31, 2018, the pension plan was underfunded and had a solvency deficit of \$5.1 billion. Should Canada Post stop operating and all benefits needed to be paid out, there would not be enough assets to pay 100% of the pension benefits.

By foregoing any payments it should have been making all along, how will this situation ever come close to being resolved?

2020 Pension Advisory Council (PAC) Election

An election will be held in early 2020 to elect **three** members representing the retired members of the Canada Post pension plan. The term of the existing elected members expires in May 2020 and an election will be held between January and April. The election results will be announced in May.

Eligible pension plan members will have the option to vote by mail, online or by telephone.

A letter mailed to eligible Plan members at the end of January will provide all the details. You can also visit the pension plan website cpcpension.com > Governance > Pension Advisory Council.

THE POST HORN



A POSTAL SERVICE STORY

George Ross: who was he? He was Assistant Postmaster for Toronto. In 1901, he was sent to Washington to study the free rural mail delivery in the U.S.

In 1905, he became Chief Superintendent, Post Office Department, Dominion of Canada, and introduced free delivery service to rural Canada in 1908. Those are the rural mail boxes on posts you see along country lanes.

In 1911, with the onset of World War One, he instituted the military Postal Corps and was enlisted as the first civilian postal official. During the war, he continued as a civilian postal official but also served the army postal corps during the WWI as its' first Director, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Possibly, he created the iconic cap badge that Collection and Delivery employees proudly wore until Canada Post became a Crown Corporation. There is a strong resemblance to the Canadian Military Postal Corp cap badge. For his service to the war and country, he was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order by the King.



Tens of thousands of Canadian families were able to maintain contact with their loved ones overseas due largely to the work of the Canadian Postal Corps (CPC), a service created in May 1911 specifically to handle military mail. Initially, the CPC was a skeletal organization that rarely had much to do except for the months of June, July and August when militias across the country marched off to summer camps. That changed with the outbreak of war in August 1914.

Staggering amounts of mail had to be collected, sorted and moved back and forth across the Atlantic. In 1915, Canadians sent some 8.3 million letters and nearly 271,000 parcels while soldiers posted close to four million letters and 29,600 parcels. By 1918, the volume of outbound letters had exceeded 43 million and inbound approached 23.5 million and all this was handled by slightly over 200 officers and personnel. Small wonder, then, that Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie felt compelled to tip his hat to them at the end of the war. "Before the Canadian Corps breaks up," he wrote to Col. G.W. Ross, director of the CPC, "I would like to place on record my appreciation of the most efficient work done by the Canadian Postal Services during all the weary months of the war."

There was more to it than mere efficiency, of course. Mail from home gave the soldiers a tremendous emotional lift and that is evident from the letters they sent to family and friends back in Canada. "Just received parcel containing underwear, socks, handkerchiefs, gloves and knife for which I thank you very much," E.D. Hubbell wrote to his brother on Dec. 27, 1914, while stationed in England. The flow of mail was not restricted to family members. Some communities formed charitable organizations to collect food, clothing and other goods for soldiers serving overseas. The Thamesville Tobacco Fund, for instance, had coupons printed, which donors filled in and recipients sent back to acknowledge that they had received their package.

The CPC—like the rest of the military—receded to its pre-war stature with the end of the European conflict, but it was there in September 1939 to serve the troops and their families when the second great European war of the 20th century erupted.



Ref: Royal Canadian Legion, Wikipedia, Lt. Col. G. McDermid, Director CFPS (ret.), BNA Topics.

The general decline of letters in the mail: will future generations know the anticipation in waiting for a heartfelt "hard copy" letter from a loved one to hold? Maj. Kirkpatrick was taken prisoner at Ypres; two years later he was repatriated, suffering from "nervous prostration", symptoms similar to what we know today as PTSD.



ALLAN LINE

R.M.S. "Tusnⁿisian"

17-10-14

My Dear Aunt Rosa

Thank you so much for your kind letter of welcome to England, yours is the first letter I have received since I arrived. Douglas and I are both very well and send you all, our love.

As you say it was rather hard parting from our loved ones, hard on them particularly as we have a certain spirit of adventure to sustain us. Although, I can assure you we did not volunteer our services in any spirit of adventure but soberly and sadly though perfectly willingly to help repay the debt we owe the mother country and, because we feel that in this war a great principle of liberty is involved.

We shall try and do our duty when the time comes and I hope our efforts may be successful. Give my love to April, Claude & the girls, it seems very many years since I saw you all.

We have had a splendid voyage across the ocean and the general health of our men is excellent but this enforced inactivity is trying.

We expect to disembark tomorrow however.

I hope I shall have an opportunity of seeing you all soon.

Thanking you again and with much love,

Your affectionate nephew,

Arthur

Address:

Major A.J.E. Kirkpatrick

and ...

Envelope reads:
("no stamps available"
under cancellation COFF)

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Pineridge Chapter Travel Satchel - 30th Anniversary Limited Edition, \$40. Big enough to carry an iPad, small enough for passport, cell phone, wallet.



Who we are

Pineridge Chapter is one of 26 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 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. 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? Give our V-P Debbie a call: dagreenwood4@gmail.com, (905)-706-5285 or (905)-683-5750

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.

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

Canada Post employee **Telus Mobility** discounts. **Collette Tours** discount.

Access to special **scholarships** for your kids and grandkids.

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. 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 Pineridge Chapter Heritage Club member for any applicable discount at the time.

YOUR EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP

J.P. Leguerrier, Chapter President, Writer-Editor, Newsletter
Web Master, Membership Database. *Email: jnglor@rogers.com*

Debbie Greenwood, Vice-President, Travel Co. Liaison
dagreenwood4@gmail.com

Bernie Snyder, Treasurer, Membership Dues, e-payments
jobernsnyder@gmail.com

Kenny Dayal, Secretary, *kennydayal@gmail.com*

Cheryl Leith, Special Events, *cherylleith@rogers.com*

Les Kimmerer, Past President, Annual Golf Tournament
kimmeles@hotmail.com

Support Staff: G. Mac Donald, J. Snyder, M. Fisher

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 applying to the Heritage Club will receive our Chapter's newsletters in the current year of their retirement and/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 (if applying as a couple):

Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Phone Number:

Email (optional):

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

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

Volunteering (see below)

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

Name of Organization: _____

Send the completed above form and 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.**

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.

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.