

# *In Touch*

WITH THE SWIFT CURRENT CHAPTER OF STS

VOL 36

NO. 1

FALL 2022

EDITOR:

LORETTA A. ROMANKEWICZ

Our President's Report:

Hope you are all enjoying an eventful summer. I have returned from a West World tour to Ontario, cruised the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers, toured Ottawa, Kingston, Niagara Falls and St Jacob's Village in Waterloo. It was a great trip. I am looking forward to hearing about your activities at our To Hell with the Bell Breakfast Thursday, September 7.

Last year's activities ended with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Patti and her group did a great job of organizing the day. The celebration was well attended and Ken and his wife presented an excellent musical performance.

I would like to welcome our new members to our chapter. I am delighted to see that some of them have already joined our Chapter. I look forward to meeting them at our events.

We will start the year with the **'To Hell with the Bell' Breakfast and golf on Wednesday, September 7**, at Chinook Golf Course. An addition this year is an historic Cemetery walk at Mount Pleasant Cemetery led by Corla. Look forward to seeing many of you there.

**Thursday, October 13, we will be meeting at Riya's** at 1:00 for a buffet lunch and a presentation by John Foster about the Snowbird Association.

November meeting will be **Meet the President, Doug Still, at the Morse Museum**. Plan for a road trip **Thursday, November 17** for a homemade, catered lunch, Doug's presentation and a tour of the museum. I do hope the local members will join us.

As per usual, in December, we will have the **Christmas Social at the Elmwood Golf Course**.

If anyone is interested in the **Okanagan Wine tour September 18-29**, there is still space available. The trip will start out from Moose Jaw and we spend the first

night in Medicine Hat. Information is available on their website [getawayvacations.ca](http://getawayvacations.ca).

I do hope you find an occasion to join us.

**Gail Wesolowski - President of the SC CHAPTER**

## *Congratulations to the 2022 Superannuates throughout the Southwest*

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Brenda Brautigam-   | Sunset Hutterite Colony         |
| Beth Cadrain –      | Chinook Education Centre        |
| John Campbell –     | Maple Creek Composite School    |
| Tracy Chalk -       | SCCHS                           |
| Jessie Hanna –      | SCCHS                           |
| Kevin Hanna –       | Student Services/Chinook        |
| Patricia Job –      | Leader Composite                |
| Troy Kruk –         | Pelletier Hill Hutterite School |
| Palma Miller –      | SCCHS                           |
| Sheridale Pearman – | Leader Composite                |
| Jo Ann Sadden -     | Ponteix                         |
| Karen Schommer –    | O. M. Irwin                     |

*Sincere sympathy* to the family and friends of **ETIENNETTE BINETTE** and to the family and friends of **MARY MUDRY**. God bless you and may all your good memories comfort you.

*Friendly good wishes* to those who are facing health challenges in the hospital or at home. You are in our prayers and sincerely hope you will enjoy what remains of our beautiful summer.

"But oh! The blessing it is to have a friend to whom one can speak fearlessly on any subject; with whom one's deepest as well as one's most foolish thoughts come out simply and safely. Oh, the comfort -- the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person -- having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away."

| STS / SC CHAPTER FINANCIALS<br>May 16 to August 13 / 2022<br>(Mel Friesen, Treasurer) |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>OPERATING ACCOUNT (May 16)</b>                                                     | <b>\$2 313.65</b>  |
|                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>Income:</b>                                                                        |                    |
| Interest (May/June/July)                                                              | 0.55               |
| Transfer from Savings (June)                                                          | 3 000.00           |
| Chapter's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Event (June)                                         | 674.50             |
| <b>Total Income:</b>                                                                  | <b>3 675.05</b>    |
|                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                                                                      |                    |
| 2 Year Audit                                                                          | 150.00             |
| InTouch Costs (postage/envelopes)                                                     | 301.46             |
| May Luncheon Door Prizes                                                              | 20.00              |
| STS AGM Delegate Expense                                                              | 18.00              |
| Retirement Package Mailout                                                            | 22.44              |
| Chapter's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Event (June)                                         | 1 299.89           |
| Office Expense (New Cheques)                                                          | 204.28             |
| <b>Total Expense:</b>                                                                 | <b>2 016.07</b>    |
|                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>*OPERATING ACCOUNT (August 13)</b>                                                 | <b>\$3 972.63</b>  |
|                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>MEMBER REWARDS (May 16)</b>                                                        | <b>\$15.09</b>     |
| Credit: Shareholder Div/Interest Alloc                                                | 0.21               |
| <b>*MEMBER REWARDS (August 13)</b>                                                    | <b>\$15.30</b>     |
|                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>SAVINGS ACCOUNT (May 16)</b>                                                       | <b>\$9 354.49</b>  |
| Credit: Interest (May/June/July)                                                      | 8.83               |
| Debit: Transfer to Chequing (June)                                                    | 3 000.00           |
| <b>*SAVINGS ACCOUNT (August 13)</b>                                                   | <b>\$6 363.32</b>  |
|                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>*TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS (Aug 13)</b>                                               | <b>\$10 351.25</b> |
|                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>EVENTS SUBSIDIZED BY SC CHAPTER</b>                                                | <b>Amount</b>      |
| May Luncheon                                                                          | 20.00              |
| Chapter's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Event (June)                                         | 625.39             |

### UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

#### **1. Wednesday. September 7, 2022**

To Hell With The Bell Breakfast and Golf

Chinook Golf Course at 9:00 \$15.00

Historic Cemetery Walk- meet Corla at 11:00 at Mount Pleasant Cemetery

**RSVP by September 2 to Gail** at- 306-773-2112 text 306-750-7223 email [wesolowskigail91@gmail.com](mailto:wesolowskigail91@gmail.com)

Golf- 10:00 - regular golf fees RSVP – Cindy – text- 306-587-7826 email [cglennschultz@gmail.com](mailto:cglennschultz@gmail.com)

#### **2. Thursday, October 13, 2022**

Speaker- John Foster Topic: The Snowbird Association

Riya's Family Dining 1:00 pm Pay our own buffet lunch \$17.95 **RSVP to Gail** would be appreciated.

#### **3. Thursday, November 17, 2022**

Meet the Provincial President, Doug Still

Morse Museum 1:00 pm; cost- TBD

RSVP to Gail by **November 14** 306-7732112 text 306-750-7223 email [wesolowskigail91@gmail.com](mailto:wesolowskigail91@gmail.com)

### *Happy Birthday*

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Margaret Heese        | 03 Oct  |
| Cheryl Cocks          | 04 Oct  |
| Jill Cavanagh         | 05 Oct  |
| Lee-Ann Ebel          | 08 Oct  |
| Rick Lake             | 08 Oct  |
| Patti Gatzke          | 09 Oct  |
| Ivan Jeske            | 14 Oct  |
| Verna Lynne Knipfel   | 16 Oct  |
| Harvey Engel          | 19 Oct  |
| Jake Knelsen          | 23 Oct  |
| Patti Bunkosky        | 25 Oct  |
| Carole Tallon         | 26 Oct  |
| Donna Ford            | 31 Oct  |
| Gwen Uher             | 01 Nov  |
| Maryann Klymyshyn     | 02 Nov  |
| Ruth Sapinsky         | 02 Nov  |
| Dave Harrison         | 08 Nov  |
| Camille Hannah        | 09 Nov  |
| Irene Frederickson    | 02 Nov  |
| Nancy Franz           | 14 Nov  |
| Beth Reynolds         | 14 Nov  |
| Phoebe Bunnell        | 19 Nov  |
| Jean Scott            | 20 Nov  |
| Wendy Turner          | 23 Nov  |
| Sandra Hill           | 28 Nov  |
| Lorne Uher            | 28 Nov  |
| Shirley Stevenson     | 01 Dec  |
| Shirley Dyck          | 04 Dec  |
| Clint Schryver        | 06 Dec  |
| Dwayne Dekowny        | 08 Dec  |
| Bruce Waldie          | 09 Dec  |
| Myrna Hayes           | 11 Dec  |
| Joan Williamson       | 13 Dec  |
| Marion Engel          | 15 Dec  |
| Jacob Block           | 18 Dec  |
| Marcia Huber          | 20 Dec  |
| Pat Brososky          | 21 Dec  |
| Marlene Paproski      | 21 Dec  |
| Norine Torwalt Downey | 21 Dec  |
| Dawn Rogowski         | 23 Dec  |
| Leon Eckert           | 24 Dec  |
| Arlene Mason          | 24 Dec  |
| David Franz           | 26 Dec. |

## **HISTORY OF the SWIFT CURRENT CHAPTER of STS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY JUNE 12,2022**

Welcome, all of you and our special guests to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Swift Current Chapter.

I feel it is an honour to be asked to present the History of our Chapter. If you are wondering how I achieved this honour, I think it went something like this. The planning Committee was looking for someone who was familiar with our archives, possibly someone who was born in the thirties and knew of the hardships of teachers way back then and possibly still attended the STS meetings. They looked around and came up with me. I was produced in the dirty thirties, began my teaching career in the fifties. old enough to be classed as an archive and manage to attend most of our meetings.

My first teaching position was in Cedar Hill, a one-room school with nine grades. The nearest neighbor to the school was the cemetery, and the nearest living neighbor was about 3 miles away. The nearest phone was 7 miles away and, of course, I didn't own a vehicle. So where ever you went you walked. The first year of teaching I received a salary of \$1400.00 a year, not a month. Divide that by the 200 days you had to teach and that makes it 7.00 dollars a day. Quite different from today. Did you know that each Unit bargained teachers' salaries separately? High school teachers were paid more than elementary or primary teachers. Of course, you were placed on the Salary schedule according to your qualifications and years of service but if you were in class four or five you were expected to teach High School because you didn't need as much education to teach primary or elementary students.

We can be thankful that with the birth of our Sask.Teachers' Federation in 1933 and the Superannuated Teachers of Sask in 1973 this all changed.

Our Swift Current Chapter was born in June 12,1972 when 14 Superannuated teachers met at OM Irwin school under the guidance of Floyd Johnson. Our Chapter was one of the first members of the Provincial organization and helped form the nucleus of the Provincial STS. Our Chapter has had a stellar run of participants on the Executive ever since its conception.

We have been fortunate for 50 years to have strong leadership and an excellent Executive. Communication,

keeping people informed, is of utmost importance for any organization. In 1988 our newsletter, was born with Alexander Hrycyna as the editor. Then in 1991 Loretta Romanekewicz became the editor of the "In Touch" She has enjoyed this "labor of love" as she calls it ever since. We are truly very appreciative of your commitment to our Chapter, Loretta.

Our website is another great communication tool for our Chapter. This was set up and run by Jim Spencer. Our first communications officer was Rosalie Flynn; now followed by Lorne Uher.

We have rewritten our constitution recently. Rosalie also played an important role in this. She typed and retyped all the changes our committee came up with. Special thanks to Wally Derkach for his input and guidance.

Throughout the years our Chapter has hosted many Provincial activities such as golf, curling, bowling, bridge, quilting, and Lifestyle Planning for Teachers.

Our Activities committee has planned many great social activities and outings. We have been a very active and successful Chapter. Every organization is only as strong as their membership. We continue to encourage new retirees to join our STS.

We are pushing close to 12,000 members in the Provincial Organization. This is a very high percentage per capita, higher than most other provinces.

We can also be very proud of our Benefits Plan! We have one of the few plans across all of Canada that is run completely internally. Our Provincial Organization owns the Benefit Plan. We have the most successful benefits' plan and it is the envy of many other provinces.

We are all grateful for our pension cheque each month. The Teachers' Retirement fund was established in 1939 with a contribution rate of 6% paid ½ by the teacher and ½ by the government. The first pensions were paid in 1941 a flat rate of \$25 per month. And then the Fund started accruing an unfunded liability, because the government did not pay their share. Teachers employed in Saskatchewan prior to 1980 are members of the Sask Teachers' Superannuation Plan. The plan is administered by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Superannuation Commission.

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan provides pension benefits to teachers who began teaching after July 1980. The STRP Plan is administered completely internally by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

We, the retired teachers of Saskatchewan, are so fortunate to have our STS and the success we have achieved because of our close relationship with our grandparent organization the STF. We continue to have 8 councillors represented on STF, who continue to attend all the meetings and receive all the mailings that the teacher councillors receive. Thus, we have input into all areas of STF and can present resolutions that are passed at the AGM.

The success of our chapter is mainly due to the early pioneers, who had the foresight at that first meeting to build an organization for the welfare of all retired teachers.

When I was on the Executive of STS, I was part of the Lifestyle Planning for Teachers for many years. I used a Philosophy of life for retirees. I would like to share this with you.

Some guidelines or principles for a successful retirement:

1. Commit to believe you can do anything you want to do no matter what your age.
2. Commit to fall in love with your own future.
3. Commit to retire to something not from something,
4. Commit to a passion, a mission, a cause that is greater than any problem you could face in the second half of your life.
5. Commit to align yourself with a higher power or order.
6. Accept the fact "If it is to be, it is up to me"
7. Commit to forgive, cherish and not judge yourself every minute of every day.
8. Commit to forgive, cherish and not judge others in your life.
9. Commit to cherish every single moment of the rest of your life however long that may be.

In closing I wish to thank you for this opportunity to speak. I also wish our chapter a Happy Anniversary and many more years of success.

--submitted by Shirley Dyck

"Tact is the ability to step on someone's toes without messing up the shine on their shoes.

#### The 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the SWIFT CURRENT CHAPTER OF STS

On June 12, 1972 Floyd Johnson and 14 other interested and dedicated retired teachers formed one of the first Superannuated Teachers groups working for the rights of retired teachers. They were formed a year ahead of the Provincial STS. On June 12, 2022 we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> year to show appreciation for all that has been accomplished for the retired teachers in Swift Current, in Saskatchewan, and in Canada.

We met at the Tea House at Doc's town. Following the tradition of schools in 1972, O Canada was sung and the Lord's prayer was said. Gail Wesolowski, our president, greeted everyone and passed the master of ceremony duties to Patti Gatzke. Our provincial president, Sunil Pandilla, shared greetings and congratulations on behalf of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan. The Tea House staff served a delicious cold plate lunch and signature pie.

Patti Gatzke shared some of the changes encountered in her career in Special Education since 1967 in Manitoba to present day in Saskatchewan. Positive reinforcements used in Special ED for a time, was the use of M & M'S for correct responses or even making a response. Trivia questions pertaining to history of schools, Saskatchewan, and Swift Current were asked of the crowd. Correct responses earned a box of Smarties.

Shirley Dyck gave an interesting report of the history of our Chapter. We enjoyed the entertainment of Ken Friesen, one of our own retired teachers, as he played his guitar and was accompanied by his wife Karen, on vocals. During recess a tour of the school house at Doc's town was set up for anyone interested.

A special anniversary cake was cut by honorary life members, Shirley Dyck and Loretta Romankewicz, our two longest serving members of the local S.T.S. The cake was served to all. It was a very entertaining afternoon. Louise Walker won the 50/50.

---submitted by Patti Gatzke

You might not be a good golfer, or a good swimmer or a good cook but you are you and no one else can take your place.

