

In Touch with the Swift Current
Chapter of Superannuated Teachers

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The end of the year is quickly coming; time to get busy with my reports. Hope you all have had a good fall and are ready for winter, or are heading south with the Snowbirds.

There have been two successful STS events:

To Hell with the Bell was well attended with 8 new superannuates in attendance. As usual a delicious breakfast was served at the Chinook Golf Course Clubhouse, followed by golf and a tour of the Mount Pleasant cemetery.

October 13, we met at Riva's for lunch and a presentation by **John Foster about the Canadian Snowbird Association**. If you would like more information on the Snowbird Association, check their website at www.snowbirds.org

Our next two events are:

Thursday, November 17, we will meet at the **Morse Museum** for lunch at 1:00 and hear from the Provincial STS President, Doug Still, and our STS liaison, Joyce Hoffman. I do hope you plan to attend. You can plan to tour the museum before or after lunch. Anyone wishing to car pool from Swift Current can meet at the North side of the Swift Current Mall at noon.

Thursday, December 8, we have our **Christmas Social** at the **Elmwood Golf Course Clubhouse**. Dinner is at 6:00 and musical entertainment will follow. **Please bring non perishable food items or coffee flavouring syrups for The Center for on going programs.**

Idella and I attended the **STS Presidents' meeting in Saskatoon on October 26**. Information that needs to be passed along is as follows:

The STS has a new website, please check it out. The face book site is up as well. Go to Superannuated teachers of Saskatchewan and click on the STS logo. **Mark Eggleston is the STF Liaison for the STS.**

This year marks the **50th Anniversary** of the **Provincial STS** and they would like all chapters to celebrate locally. There will be grant money available to help fund them. If anyone has any ideas, please pass them along.

Provincial recreational activities are starting up. Watch for information on the STS website.

For **STS Life Membership** awards they have created a rubric to follow for applying. Applications must be in by **March 1, 2023**.

Health Care Plan:

It is in a good financial position for the first quarter. **Anyone who retired on or before July 1, 2021 has a 250.00 health spending account.** Approximately 50% of eligible members have not applied for this yet. **DEADLINE JUNE 30, 2023.** Need help- call the STS office, mornings at 1-306-373-3879. or check the website at sts.sk.ca ,

A group of us meets for coffee every Thursday morning at 9:30 at Springs Garden. Please feel free to join us.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gail Wesolowski, President of the SC CHAPTER

To Hell with the Bell

On **September 7, 2022** over fifty superannuates and guests attended our Hell with the Bell breakfast at Chinook Golf Course. Our president, Gail Wesolowski, welcomed everyone, Wally Pearson said table grace and a delicious breakfast was served. The treasurer's report was given by Mel Friesen stating we have 350 members on our Swift Current Superannuate list.

Brenda Brautigam, Tracy Chalk, Jessie Hanna, Kevin Hanna, Troy Kruk, Palma Miller, JoAnne Sadden, and Karen Schommer were welcomed as our eight new superannuates. Pearl Richert was the lucky winner of our 50/50 draw of \$95. Door prizes were won by Tracy Chalk, JoAnne Heeg Williams, Nancy Lake, Jim Spencer, Jim Bobick, and Jean Pearson.

Following the breakfast about 20 superannuates met at Mount Pleasant Cemetery for an interesting Historical Guided tour of the cemetery. The different styles and materials used for monuments were pointed out. Resting places of some of the famous citizens from the past were noted as well as the section for the military.

10 superannuates enjoyed the calm but hot day of golf and trivia following the breakfast. Cindy Glenn Schultz reported that Garth Kane had the best score and longest drive. Palma Miller and Colin Richert were tied for second, and Cindy Glenn Schultz won third place. Palma Miller won for the longest putt, and Fred Heese won closest to the pin.

Thanks to the golf sponsors: Sport Chek, Standard Motors, Stark and Marsh, W.W. Insurance, RBC. and Staples for donating the prizes for the tournament and Trivia.

Submitted by Patti Gatzke.

Snowbird Tips October 13, 2022

20 plus superannuates met at Riya's Restaurant at 1:00 for a delicious buffet. Following lunch John Foster gave a very interesting and informative presentation on becoming a Snowbird. He spoke on issues of safe border crossings, medical coverages as a traveler in Canada and the USA, the importance of travel insurance, and tips on ways to have a hassle-free holiday.

Our 50/50 draw winner was Gail Wesolowski. Door prize winners were Nancy Baumann Wall, and Rosalie Flynn.

Submitted by Patti Gatzke

Okanagan: Water and Wine Tour- Getaway Vacations - Submitted by Gail Wesolowski

September 18, seven of us boarded a bus for an amazing trip through Banff, 3 Valley Gap, Kelowna, Osoyoos, Nelson and Cranbrook. We had great weather so were able to enjoy the outdoors and the amazing scenery. We had many stops along the way and some of the stops were wineries, a vintage train ride, a boat ride with lunch included, a tour and BBQ at 3 Valley Gap, many scenic stops, and a brewery tour. With great travel mates we had a great trip. We would all recommend Getaway if you are planning a bus trip. You have no idea how much fun you missed.

STS / SC CHAPTER FINANCIALS	
August 14 to November 6 / 2022	
(Mel Friesen, Treasurer)	
OPERATING ACCOUNT (Aug 14)	\$3 972.63
Income:	
Interest (Aug/Sept/Oct)	0.49
"To Heck with the Bell" (Sept)	812.00
October Luncheon	35.00
Individual STS Membership	30.00
Bank Error Correction / Acct Credit	48.48
Total Income:	925.97
Expenses:	
"To Heck with the Bell" (Sept)	915.00
Individual STS Membership	22.00
October Luncheon	105.00
Chapter Website Contract Renewal	266.27
Remembrance Day Wreath	80.00
Office Expense (New Cheques)	35.44
Total Expense:	1 423.71
*OPERATING ACCOUNT (Nov 6)	\$3 474.89
MEMBER REWARDS (Aug 14)	\$15.30
Credit: Shareholder Div/Interest Alloc	0.28
*MEMBER REWARDS (Nov 6)	\$15.58
SAVINGS ACCOUNT (Aug 14)	\$6 363.32
Credit: Interest (May/June/July)	15.72
Credit: STS Membership Rebate(Nov)	3 800.00
*SAVINGS ACCOUNT (Nov 6)	\$10 179.04
*TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS (Nov 6)	\$13 669.51
EVENTS SUBSIDIZED BY SC CHAPTER	Amount
"To Heck with the Bell" (Sept)	103.00
October Luncheon	70.00

Happy Birthday!!

Jeanette Eckert	Jan 09
Edgar Siemens	Jan 10
Brian Dunn	Jan 11
Peggy Melhoff	Jan 14
Jean Allen	Jan 16
Katherine Jahnke	Jan 17
Harold Little	Jan 19
Kathy Wasylowisch	Jan 23
Walter Pearson	Jan 27
Agatha Dyck	Jan 30
Boh Ciona	Feb 01
Frances Wagner	Feb 01
Verona MacDonald	Feb 02
Sharon Pollock	Feb 04
Lawrence Kalmakoff	Feb 05
Harold Thiessen	Feb 07
Lynn Niessen	Feb 08
Colin King	Feb 08
Vickie Woods	Feb 15
Cindy Glenn-Schultz	Feb 16
Pat Bethel	Feb 17
Vivian Dunn	Feb 17
Dianne Fox	Feb 23
Joan Kalmakoff	Mar 03
Emily Rempel	Mar 05
Vic Klippenstein	Mar 08
Pat Barbier	Mar 10
Idella Harder	Mar 10
Ralph Jacobsen	Mar 10
Sally Knelsen	Mar 11
Peggy Koethler	Mar 16
Audrey Yee	Mar 16
Hal Lick	Mar 18
Theresa Brost	Mar 19
Betty Campbell	Mar 19
Carol Ann Ebel	Mar 25
Doreen Roh	Mar 26
John Wasylowisch	Mar 26
Georgie Schryver	Mar 28
Bonnie Perree	Mar 31
Lottie Siemens	Mar 31

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of **SHIRLEY QUINTIN** and to family and friends of **JOHN PEAKE**. May all your good memories comfort you.

Hearty get well wishes to all that are suffering health issues at home or in the hospital. Enjoy the happiest Christmas possible.

“Happiness is like jam. You can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself.”

At this time, we have 348 members in our Chapter. There are 8,828 members in Blue Cross and there are over 12,000 MEMBERS in the provincial STS.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!!!!

Our parent organization celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2023. Have you an idea of how we can celebrate this special occasion?



Thursday, December 8- Christmas Social
Elmwood Golf Course

Social hour at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00

Christmas Music Entertainment

by Mary Glover and Linda Klippenstein

Cost \$25.00 ; RSVP by Friday, December 2.

Please bring a non-perishable food item or coffee flavoured syrups for The Center.

Thursday, April 14- Spring Fling. Details to follow

Thursday, May 18 - Chapter AGM

Christmas Memory-Gail Wesolowski, President:
Aloha,

Christmas of 1972 I was in Hawaii, the only year not to experience a winter Christmas. There was sunshine, blue water and beaches, palm trees and warm temperatures, with Christmas decorations of Santa Claus, reindeer and winter wonderland. The two did not seem to go together for me. Christmas Evening was spent on a night club tour that included dinner ending with the Don Ho Show. It was truly a night to remember.

Mele Kalikimaka me Ku Hau'oli Makahiki Hou (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)

The Christmas Gift That Kept On Being Opened

by Gwen Lightfoot Uher

“Why don't you get an electric garage door opener rather than struggling with this piece of junk?” I commented to my mom and dad as I witnessed them struggling to get the garage door open. The look from my dad said it all, “Are you nuts! Why would we waste our money on something like that?” And Mom scoffed, “Gwen, don't be silly.”

The previous winter, mom and dad had moved from the farm to Swift Current and into a house with a detached garage that had a very stubborn, old fashioned, turn the

knob and pull up garage door. My dad having grown up on the farm, and both parents having lived through the thirties had the mentality of making do with what you had and definitely not splurging on anything deemed unnecessary.

Our Christmases were always a celebration of family, and this Christmas was to be no different, with my sister, Karen, coming home from Calgary and the rest of the extended family all getting together for Christmas day. This Christmas tradition dated back to the 1920s when the Wells and Lightfoot families would get together for Christmas dinner at 2, Christmas supper at 6 and a late night snack near midnight (turkey buns and plenty of goodies). Oh how I miss those days of overeating and not feeling the least bit guilty.

I digress...as Christmas drew near, we pondered over what to get mom and dad for Christmas. I (not sure if it was me, but I always love to take credit for the good ideas) suggested, "What about an electric garage door opener?"

And the planning began... Karen (armed with the remote control) would suggest to mom and dad that she would love to come to our place for a visit. Meanwhile my husband, Lorne, would meet my brother, Alan, at the house. They would install the garage door opener and then hide in the garage so they would be able to witness the opening of the gift.

Fast forward three hours. When I got the call that the mission was accomplished, I gave the nod to Karen, and she quickly said that they should get going. With Karen sitting in the backseat, off they went.

As they approached the garage, dad stopped the car and started to get out of the car to open the garage door. Karen pressed the remote button.

Seeing the garage door going up, Dad, known for his occasional, well placed, colourful expletives exclaimed, "What the hell?" and got back in the car.

Karen then pressed the button and the door went down. Mom and dad both sat dumbfounded. When dad started to get out of the car again, Karen raised the door.

No longer able to contain her giggles, Karen exclaimed, "Merry Christmas Mom and Dad!"

Lorne and Alan came out of the garage laughing. "You should have seen your faces! Merry Christmas!"

"Well, I'll be damned," Dad exclaimed as he drove the car into the garage.

38 years later, we still enjoy telling the Christmas story of, *The Christmas Gift That Kept on Being Opened!*

Loretta's favourite memories are of the Christmas Eve Sunday School Services at her church. 'Dressed in our Christmas best we sang carols, recited special verses and made our parents proud. Then with our goodie bag in hand we went home, sang more Christmas carols and opened our gifts.'

One very special Christmas memory was the year we decided to give our little grandsons drum sets. Gifts

were opened, as was tradition on Christmas Eve, except for the drums. Wisdom told us it would be a good idea to let the drums be their gift from Santa on Christmas morning. After everyone was settled for the night Santa set them up by the tree and then we went to bed anticipating their excitement in the morning.

In the morning as we watched our "Little Drummer Boys" we felt much satisfaction and thought we had found the perfect gift. The boys, dressed in matching pyjamas and slippers were like two little elves who would disappear and reappear to drum up a storm. However, later that day as the drumming got louder and longer, Santa (Grandpa) was heard chuckling and with a twinkle in his eyes said to the parents, "Sure glad those drums are going home with you." by Idella Harder

Growing up on our little farm in the 1950's and early 1960's we did the usual things that involved kids around Christmas. This was especially true when my many cousins and I got together at the grandparents' houses (dad's side on Christmas Day, mom's side on Boxing Day). There was tobogganing down snow drifts (sometimes on sheets of cardboard), skating on sloughs, fox and goose, and other outdoor activities. The meals were simple, usually consisting of cabbage borscht, baked ham, homemade bread and buns. Because of the numbers, people had to eat in shifts.

On the home front, we had modest means so the tree was only about three feet high. Gifts were not wrapped as that was considered wasteful. There were few decorations and lights. Dozens of received Christmas cards were hanging on strings leading across the living room. On Christmas Eve my sister and I would each bring a chair and a mixing bowl into the living room and be sent off to bed. The next morning, magically, the bowls were full of treats (nuts/peanuts/candy/ an orange/a few small trinkets or toys). One year I found a hockey puck in my bowl. Larger gifts were hung over the chair or placed underneath the chair.

One of my big concerns was that we didn't have a fireplace. When Santa came down the chimney, how could he get out of the oil space heater that was used to heat our home? -----by Mel Friesen

Whatever your memory or tradition, may each of you have a happy and meaningful Christmas AND to all a safe, healthy and HAPPY NEW YEAR!
From your Executive.

