

# OUTREACH



## To The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

### The President's Notes -- November 2004 -- Executive Meeting

#### - Horst Sawatzki

Ok, I have the golf clubs put away – said hello to the Tread Machine and now I need to get rid of a few sticky notes that are decorating my computer screen.

Note #1 ... Don Bartel, we wish you a speedy recovery; get ready to kick us in the shins at the next Executive meeting.

Note #2 ... Lest We Forget! A sincere thank you to our veterans who fought for the freedom, peace and rights we enjoy as Canadians. And to our service men and women who continue to be the world's ambassadors for freedom, peace and the rights of the individual we say thank you – you bring a new meaning to "I am a Canadian."

Your Executive at work: The committee and Executive meetings were held on November 16th and 17th respectively. You will find the specific committee reports and the recommendations to the Executive interesting and informative. I am impressed by how each committee tackles the assigned responsibility or agenda as well as by the thoroughness of the reports these committees bring to the entire Executive for debate/consideration. Adjudicating the business affairs of the organization with this professional approach has been extremely helpful to me; thank you team.

Let me just pick up a few points:

The financial affairs are on target – income and expenses are congruent with the budgeted dollars and cents. The investments are secure and generating interest – based on present interest levels.

Planning for the 2005 AGM is moving along with many aspects being marked complete; others just need a little tuning. Oh yes, your turn will come to submit resolutions, to forward Life Membership nominations, to present names for a slate of officers for the 2005-06 executive, etc. etc.

Celebrating Saskatchewan Centennial: the executive reviewed this topic and has decided to celebrate our growth as an organization at the same time the province steps through its planned activities.

How? A special column or page in *Outreach* depicting our start, our struggles, our celebrations, our growth, our vision beyond 2005 etc.

will be composed, edited and published throughout 2005 starting in January. Our/your pride in the organization needs to be celebrated – a modest approach; yet reaching each one of you.

Check out the STF request asking for your or a chapter's assistance in helping them host the CTF Conference in Saskatoon – summer 2005.

There was more to the meeting – duly reported under specific committee reports found in this edition. I am sure you will direct your attention to those reports. I shall now adjourn for today.

Best Wishes for the Holidays and a Happy New Year -- from your STS Executive.

Now! How many kilometres to burn 100 calories – That many! Ok, step one – ouch, step two – ouch . . .

### From the STS Office . . .



The STS office will be closed  
**December 18, 2004 and reopen  
January 3, 2005.**

To each and every one, a very Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year.

Colleen & Shirley

# Group Benefits Committee – Bert Gordon

Present: Bert Gordon (chair) Shirley Dyck, Doreen Lloyd, Ed Magis, Horst Sawatzki, Shirley Henderson, Wally Derkach, Darwin Forbes (Blue Cross).

We wish to say “thank you” to Randy Lewis for the help he has given us as the Blue Cross representative for our Plans. Randy has left Blue Cross to start a private business as an Insurance consultant. Darwin Forbes is once again our contact until a replacement is named. Thank you Darwin.

Membership in the Benefit Plans continues to increase. As of December 1, 2004, 2785 members are participants in one or both of the plans, up from 2564 on July 1, 2004. For any who might be retiring at Christmas, the open window will be there for 60 days. For others, applications can still be submitted but now a medical form must be completed and approved by Blue Cross. **APPLY NOW.** Don't wait until you need the insurance - that will be too late.

The Claims Ratio (ratio of paid claims to revenue) over the past 12 months of the current contract is 78.5 % and our surplus continues to grow, slowly but steadily. Be sure to get your claims in before the end of the year. If present trends continue the plans should be in a good position when we begin to negotiate the new contract for February 1, 2006. If you have thoughts about improvements and changes that could be made, please forward them to our office.

As of November 2004 the

STS Membership is

**7252**

## **FYI: Coordination of Benefits Process between**

### **STS Group Plan and individual policies with Saskatchewan Blue Cross**

- Blue Cross requires only one claim form.
- They require **both** policy and identification numbers to be clearly indicated on the claim form.
- The original receipts must be attached.
- Internally, all claims are submitted and processed through the Group Plan first. Group Plan pays whatever is eligible under the STS plan, then the claim is given to the Individual Plan to process and pay the balance.

## **Canada's Senior Games**

**Whitehorse, Yukon Aug 29 - Sept 4, 2004**

*(Condensed from an article by Vivian Sedgwick, Member of Swift Current Chapter of STS)*

The Seniors' 55+ Games have become a tradition in most of the provinces of Canada. In whatever locale they are hosted they are designed for all seniors. Those eligible are 55 years to as high as mid nineties. The theme is to promote physical, cultural, social and intellectual activities. At each level, be it zone, provincial or Canadian, medals are awarded : 1st Gold; 2nd Silver and 3rd Bronze.

This year, in mid July, the city of Humboldt (yes, it is our newest city) hosted the Zone finalists to decide who would represent Saskatchewan in the various events at the Canada Senior Games in Whitehorse, Yukon August 29 - September 4, 2004.

More than 20 'games' were featured at the Canada Senior Games along with marvellous social events. After the colourful closing ceremonies

## **STS Group Plan and other individual plans (ie GMS)**

- We are the primary insurer for the STS member.
- If the spouse is the policy holder under the individual plan then the individual plan is the primary insurer for the spouse.
- If the STS member of our group plan is also the policy holder of the individual plan, our group plan would be considered primary insurer.
- The primary insurer for dependents is based upon whose birth date falls first in the year.

which included a march past by each province's contestants waving banners and cheering loudly, nine hundred contestants, spouses and friends feasted at the banquet and enjoyed the program.

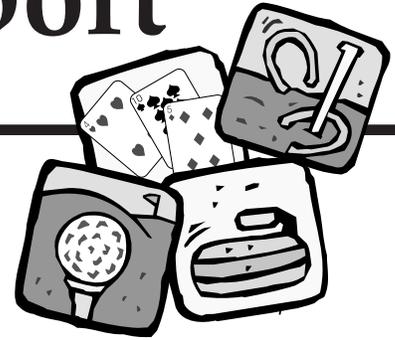
Vivian appeals to all readers of Outreach to swell the ranks of those who compete in Zone, Provincial and Canada Senior Games. "You are important and we need you all," says Vivian.

(Vivian successfully defended her 2003 title by again winning the GOLD in Ladies' 55+ "8 Ball" in 2004 in the Canadian Senior Games held in Whitehorse, Yukon.) Congratulations, Vivian!

"Gray Matters", the SSM newsletter tells us that there were 170 participants on the Saskatchewan team. They were awarded the "Spirit of the Games" for their enthusiasm, friendliness and sportsmanship. They also won 52 gold, 42 silver and 27 bronze for a total of 121 medals. Way to go Saskatchewan!

# STS Activities Report

Ed Magis, Audry Blais, Calvin Bachmeier



## And the Winner Is . . .

### Provincial Bridge

Saskatoon October 1 & 2, 2004  
48 participants- Director Bob Webber

#### Individual:

**1st** Guenter Weiner  
**2nd** Linda Olbort  
**3rd** Lawrence Gelleta

#### Pairs:

**1st** Liz Warren & Linda Olbort  
**2nd** Ken Connell & Linda Connell  
**3rd** Lew McIntyre & Ted Panchuk

#### Team:

**1st** Linda Connell, Ken Connell, Liz Warren & Linda Olbort  
**2nd** Eleanor Davidson, Len Davidson, Lawrence Gelleta & Marie Gelleta  
**3rd** Vivian Sedgwick, Helen Quick, Harold Kroeger & Ed Anderson

### Provincial Kaiser

North Battleford • October 14, 2004  
28 participants

Plaques and keeper trophies were received by:

**High Ladies'** – Rose Marie Gallais, St Brieux

**High Men's** – Dick Semeniuk, North Battleford

Cash prizes were given to the other winners

## Upcoming Events

### **Bowling -**

Saskatoon 2005;  
Esterhazy 2006

### **Curling -**

Prince Albert 2004;  
Moosomin 2005;  
Outlook 2006;

### **Golf -**

Nipawin 2005;  
Weyburn 2006

### **Kaiser -**

Possible hosts: Unity?  
Prince Albert? Saskatoon?

### **Birding -**

Eastend 2005

### **Bridge -**

Moose Jaw 2005

### **Cuba Tour -**

10 have paid; You are still able to apply. Contact Linda at CAA. We will join others if there are not enough of our own. Should we plan other trips - Alaska Cruise/ British Isles/ Continental Europe?

**Stitch & Quilt Retreat - Mainline at Kenosee Park 2005 Possibly North Battleford 2006**

## Stitch & Quilt Retreat:

Congratulations to the Moose Jaw Chapter for hosting the first Stitch and Quilt Retreat at Wood Acres. It was very successful and very well-organized by Mary Field and Karen Mundt with a great support staff and 40 participants( quilters and beginners). They realized a profit of \$1050.02 which they donated to the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation.

## From Your Editor

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What are you doing for the centennial? Are you having a home coming, like those published elsewhere in *Outreach*; or are you buying a flag or a commemorative license plate or are you writing a novel? There are all kinds of ways to celebrate our province's "100 Years of Heart". We have much to be thankful for in this great province of ours. I just finished reading Howard Birnie's novel *Return to Willows*, his centenary project, that features the return of a retired teaching couple to small town/village Saskatchewan. It brings back some delightful memories of growing up in Saskatchewan.

Have a warm, wonderful Christmas and all the best in 2005. Take care and God bless!

Loretta A. Romankewicz  
409 - 5th Ave. S.E., Swift Current, SK S9H 3N5  
Telephone: 773-5244; E-mail: [allorosa@sasktel.net](mailto:allorosa@sasktel.net)

## Letter to the Editor

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Loretta,

I am a new superannuate and just received my first copy of *Outreach* in the mail. What a welcome surprise!

After 30 years of teaching, I retired and moved back to where my roots are, that being B.C. While I have had no doubts about either decision (retiring and moving), I have had pangs of missing both teaching, and Saskatchewan. When I received *Outreach* today I felt that I was connected again. If at times you wonder about the impact of *Outreach* to members of the STS, please note that it sure was a welcome addition in my mail today. I trust that there are many others who have felt the same. I look forward to the next edition of *Outreach*.

Thank you to all who work on behalf of members of the STS.

Sincerely,

Heather Witzel

### STS Golf Tournament

Evergreen Golf Course

Nipawin • June 8 & 9, 2005

Open to members and spouses. More information in the next issue of *Outreach*. Contact: L. Rigg 428-2901 for further information.

### Return to Willows

a centennial project of STS member, Howard Birnie, is available in bookstores in Regina and Saskatoon

### Ogema Homecoming 2005

July 9th and 10th, 2005

CONTACT: Ogema  
Horticultural Society, Box  
234, Ogema, SK S0C 1Y0

<http://www.ogema.ca>

### 50 Year Reunion

June 17-19, 2005

Saskatoon

Welcome Alumni of

Saskatoon  
Teachers' College  
Class of 54-55

Contact:

Alice Hanlin  
1604 Early Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7H 3K1  
[javlin@vaniff.com](mailto:javlin@vaniff.com)

OR

Gladys Nahachewsky  
747 Wilkinson Way  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3L6  
[gnah@sasktel.net](mailto:gnah@sasktel.net)

# Councillors' Report - Margaret Martin

On Friday and Saturday, October 15 and 16, 2004 all eight STS Councillors met at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon for the Fall Councillor Conference and Special meeting of Council. After the meeting was called to order by STF President Murray Wall, the STF Provincial Executive was introduced. This was followed by an introduction of the Resolutions Committee. An update on Provincial Bargaining was given by Lyle Vinish, General Secretary of the STF. He noted the environmental factors at the present time: the government mandate, restructuring, School<sup>PLUS</sup> implementation and relationships/barriers. He also stressed

that teachers must give their support and be patient as the negotiation process continues.

The remainder of the day was spent looking at the Governance Review. Lyle reviewed the timeline of the Governance Review Implementation. The plan had been studied at Spring Council 2003, and the timeline was noted at Spring Council 2004. There is to be a Draft of the Legislation for *An Act Respecting the Teaching Profession* (Teachers' Federation Act, 2005) ready for Spring Council 2005. As well, we looked at a draft of the Bylaws of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. These will be filed with the Department of Justice

after the new Teachers' Federation Act is enacted.

On Saturday, October 16, 2004, we spent the morning looking at a draft document regarding Teacher Transfers, a document dated September, 2004, dealing with Contracts of Employment, and a draft document on Education Funding.

In the afternoon the Special meeting of Council was called to order. We voted on six resolutions. Three resolutions dealing with the new Teachers' Federation Act and the Bylaws were passed. Two resolutions were referred: 1) a Policy change to replace Policy 4.1.3 on Withdrawal of Services by Non-Teaching Staff and 4.1.4. on Collective bargaining by Non-Teaching Staff with the Policy: Effective Working Relationships with Non Teaching School Personnel; 2) regarding provincial bargaining

One resolution regarding changing the formula for Council Representation was defeated.



From left: Ed Magis, Siegrid Schergel and Doreen Lloyd

## Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation

The official dedication of the display dedicated to Dr. Stirling McDowell in the McDowell Meeting Room of the STF Building was held on Friday, November 19. We are pleased the STS assisted financially in the display of several beautiful large cases of pictures and memorabilia of Dr. Stirling McDowell.

We sincerely thank the Moose Jaw Chapter of STS for the donation of \$1050.02 to the Foundation. This was the profit made from the Stitch and Quilting Retreat.

## Honorary Life Memberships

- Darlene McCullough

Attention: Chapter Presidents

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STF office by Feb. 14, 2005. If you have worthy candidates for these awards, ensure that the nominations are submitted well before that deadline. Please check the Policy Handbook for the correct format of the nomination. If a Chapter wishes to have a previously submitted nomination considered again this year, ensure that the office is notified of this by the Feb. 14 deadline.

# Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism Report - Ernest Mazur

A Gala luncheon was held at the Ramada Hotel in Regina on September 27 to launch the commencement of SENIORS' Week Activities (Sept. 27 - October 4, 2004). Several STS Executive members, including President Horst Sawatzki attended this event. The September Board of Directors meeting followed the next day.

SSM is a non-profit volunteer organization that formed in 1989. The mission of SSM is to bring together Saskatchewan senior organizations to promote a unified voice; to research and react to issues affecting seniors, and to promote awareness and coordination of resources and services to seniors. Fifteen member organizations of SSM represent about 150,000 seniors throughout the province. SSM is experienced in managing complex projects, developing productive partnerships, and, in developing and implementing community based solutions to problems. Some of its current programs include: Development of What To Do/Protocol for Elder Abuse; a Speakers Bureau; Fit for Life Program; Seniors Hotline Information Centre (1-888-823-2211); publish a newsletter "Gray Matters"; ABC's of Fraud Program and workshops conducted throughout the province.

At the September meeting, decisions were directed to the creation, initial inputting and implementation of the SSM database into the SSM website. The Hotline phone number would be accessible to those who do not have a computer. At our most recent meeting, board members were informed that sufficient progress has been made to access the Website. The Website is a "work in progress", however, click on to [www.skseiorsmechanism.ca/search.php](http://www.skseiorsmechanism.ca/search.php) and follow the links. Feel free to browse and search. More database work will be completed in the weeks ahead.

The highlight of our Oct/Nov SSM

Board Meeting was the official launch of the Centennial Commemorative License Plate. In Saskatchewan 2005, the province's centennial year will be celebrated in communities throughout the province. On November 4 in Moose Jaw, Premier Lorne Calvert unveiled the Saskatchewan Centennial Commemorative License Plate and announced that five dollars from the sale of each license plate would be placed into a Centennial Legacy Trust Fund. The Fund will be administered by SSM and will be used to support seniors programs. The Premier noted that Saskatchewan owes a great deal to the people who built and characterized a province with 100 years of heart. The Saskatchewan Centennial 2005 Committee has chosen as its theme "100 YEARS OF HEART". The Centennial plates will be sold and distributed through the expansive network of Credit Unions throughout the province. Two dollars from the sale of each plate

will support a not-for-profit organization as selected by the participating credit unions. As you purchase these special plates, you will not only be demonstrating a centennial spirit and a provincial pride, but will also be contributing to the continuation of seniors programs and community-based organizations. GET YOURS TODAY.

Health Canada has developed an interesting website entitled Health Info for Everybody. Access at [www.canadian-health-network.ca](http://www.canadian-health-network.ca)

The Canadian Health Network (CHN) has stated that the website is "a galaxy of reliable web-based information" and is "Canada Made". The site is user friendly. Information may be downloaded and toll free numbers are available to allow people without software to access information. The e-mail address has been provided for your feedback and suggestions. TRY THIS ONE OUT.

## Nature Saskatchewan Spring Meet June 10-12, 2005

at Eastend, SK home of T Rex Discovery Centre situated in the Frenchman River Valley. For information contact: Nature Sask at [info@nature.sask.com](mailto:info@nature.sask.com) or Audrey Blais (STS) at 1-306-937-7115

### *Archerwill Homecoming 2005*

*July 29-31, 2005*

<http://www.archerwill.com>

Phone: Karla  
(306) 323-2137 (days) or  
323-2078 (evenings)

### *Rose Valley Homecoming 2005*

*August 5-7, 2005*

<http://www.rosevalley.tk>

To register: Box 370  
Rose Valley SK S0E 1M0  
Phone: 322-4485

# In Memoriam

*With great appreciation  
we remember our  
colleagues for their  
many years of  
educational services  
to the children and  
young people of  
Saskatchewan.*

Name (Nee)	Death Date	Last Taught
Bernhard, Sr. Mrgaret	Sep 11/04	Ursuline Academy
Bower Beverley (Lemchuk)	aug 11/04	Swift Current Comp
Boychuk, Victor M	Aug 3/04	Regina S.D.
Campbell, Mary Lucille	Aug 24/04	
Carriere, Alma M.	Aug 21/04	
Chorney, Steve	Sep 26/04	Deer Park S.D.
Connors, Wanda L.	Aug 14/04	Moose Jaw S.D.
Darras, Alice Henrietta (Sr. Marie Antoinette)	Sep 16/04	
Erlandson, Esther Olivia	Aug 31/04	Regina S.D.
Fraser, S. Dean	Jul 23/04	Souris Moose Mountain S.D.
Frison, Leo Stanley	Sep 12/04	Regina S.D.
Grosser, Madeline Elizabeth	Sep 6/04	Prince Albert RCSSD
Hill, Marjorie Evelyn	Aug 28/04	
Johnson, Wray	Aug 24/04	Kindersley S.D.
Koopman, Richard Charles	Sep 15/04	Saskatoon S.D.
Lalonde, Elfrieda Agatha Victoria	Aug 28/04	Shaunavon S.D.
Lamers, Mary E.	Aug 15/04	
Legasse, Marie-Ange Albina	Sep 11/04	
McKenzie, William John	Oct 2/04	
McLeod, Clarence Elmer	Sep 6/04	Kerrobert S.D.
Morris, Ernest J.	Aug 7/04	
Pylypiuk, vivian Josephine	Sep 5/04	Lanigan S.D.
Rice, Nora Marie	Sep 13/04	
Sarahnchian, William	Aug 15/04	Potashville S.D.
Smith, Ivy C.	Aug 7/04	Eastend S.D.
Strobel, Eleanor Helen	Sep 8/04	Saskatoon S.D.
Steiner, Marianne (Lueke)	May 8/04	Englefeld S.D.
Sullivan, Daisy T.	Aug 7/04	
Trojan, Lillian S.	Sep 16/04	Wadena S.D.
Waldbillig, Walter M.	Aug 24/04	North Battleford S.D.
Wilhelm, Gurly H.	Aug 12/04	
Workman, Ethel marie	Sep 5/04	North Battleford S.D.
Wotta, Reghina	Sep 9/04	Arcola S.D.

## Saskatchewan Health Line

**1-877-800-0002**

**(24 hrs)**

**Non-Emergency**

English language service with access to translation for French, Cree, Dene, and a wide variety of other languages. Provides free, confidential, health advice and information by registered nurses throughout Saskatchewan. Enables callers to make informed decisions about their own situation based on a timely, professional review of the relevant factors. (This is a public service provided by Sask Health)

## Cost of Living Adjustment

All superannuates who have received an allowance from the Teachers' Superannuation Commission or the Saskatchewan Teachers Retirement Plan for the full 2004 year will have their allowances adjusted upwards by 1.4% effective January 1, 2005. Superannuates who have received an allowance for less than the full 2004 year will have their increases pro-rated.

# 2005 Annual General Meeting

## *Celebrating Saskatchewan's Centennial*

The 2005 Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Ramada Hotel, Regina on Wednesday, May 25 – to Friday, May 27th.

We are pleased to announce the GUEST SPEAKER on Wednesday Evening is **JOAN McCUSKER**, Olympic Gold Medal winner with Sandra Schmirler's team. The topic of her address, "Ordinary People do Extraordinary Things." Entertainment for the opening evening will be the "Serenaders".

### **Interest Sessions:**

We will be offering five Interest Sessions, delegates may attend three.

**Fred Herron** – Restructuring Process of School Divisions

**Claude Jean Harel** – Travelling Saskatchewan

**Janet Thompson** – The In Motion Program used in the Elsie Mironuck School

**Jim Slough** – A Picture History of Saskatchewan

**Verda Petry, Joanne McDonald and Wally Coates** – Post Retirement Needs such as grand parenting, care giving in the home, and death of a spouse.

### **Banquet:**

Honorary Life Memberships will be bestowed following a banquet on Thursday evening. The entertainment will be the Regina Chapter Choir under the direction of Marge Byrnes.

### **Chapter Presidents:**

You will be receiving a package of information early in February. Please send your list of delegates to the STS office shortly after receiving the information. The formula for the number of delegates will be: two delegates for the first 40 paid-up members; and one additional delegate for each additional 40 paid-up members or portion thereof.

Plan to Attend!

**Shirley Dyck, Darlene McCullough**  
Co-chairs of the AGM Planning Committee

## Retirement Lifestyle Planning

We participated in two very successful STS-STF Pre-Retirement Lifestyle sessions in Saskatoon this fall. On October 30 and again on November 6 over 130 participants, teachers and spouses, gathered in the Eamer Auditorium for the sessions that ran from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Evaluations indicated a high degree of satisfaction.

A similar session may be held in Regina in March.

– **Bert Gordon**

### **Teach in Thailand**

**May/or July/2005**

Contact:  
gloaled.ca or  
gloaled@mts.net

**OUTREACH**  
To The Superannuated Teachers  
of Saskatchewan

The newsletter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, is published five times a year.

To control costs, one copy is sent to households where both spouses are members. If this is not satisfactory, please contact the STS office in Saskatoon.

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**Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8**  
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