

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report – Robert Wuschenny

The summer of 2012 was wonderful in many ways. Now the grandeur of summer greenery and vivid colours is slowly turning into the still vibrant colours of autumn, once again reminding us that it is time to return to a more scheduled way of life. For some, it's back to the routines of school and a myriad of activities; for superannuates, it's a return to organizations, meetings, deadlines and opportunities to serve. It is my hope that your summer was relaxing and that it included good times that will linger as beautiful memories.

I wish to express sincere sympathy to Executive member Kate McCorrison and her family on the passing of her husband, Mel. Kate, we share in your loss. Please know that we are ready to support you in any way we can.

It is my pleasure to welcome new Executive members Delmer Friesen and Sunil Pandila. I hope your time on the Executive will be rewarding to you. Welcome aboard!

Our first 2012-13 Provincial Executive meetings were held on September 18-20, 2012. We began with a day of strategic planning during which we examined our goals to see if they are still valid. We found that most still

are, but there may be some changes in direction as time progresses. All of our Committees met to set goals for the year and to decide on recommendations as the work of the Provincial Executive continues in 2012-13. Please take note of Committee reports in each issue of *Outreach*. These reports will keep you informed on STS Committee and Executive work.

This year we will celebrate a couple of important milestones. First, it is the 40th anniversary of the STS. It is a time not only to reflect on the past but also a time to enjoy our successes and to look ahead. Another milestone is that we now enjoy a membership of over 10,000. What an accomplishment! As our anniversary year unfolds, there will be time to celebrate this and other accomplishments. Our day of strategic planning is but the first step toward moving forward to reach new heights. Let us enjoy these exciting achievements!

With respect to our STS Group Benefits Plan, we are in the first year of a recently negotiated three year contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross. Our claims experience indicates we are off to a good start! We do encourage Plan participants

to continue to take ownership for our Plan and to do everything we can to keep it affordable.

Once again, our STS Councillors have been invited to participate in the STF Councillor Conference on October 18, 19, 20, 2012 and in the STF Special Meeting of Council on December 8, 2012. This is our opportunity to be part of the discussions and to be apprised of educational issues and trends.

It is not too early to be thinking of resolutions. Resolutions may be submitted to the STS office at any time of year for consideration by the Resolutions Committee. Likewise, we encourage you to be thinking of nominations for Honorary Life Members (deadline is February 1, 2013), to submit names and information for *Spotlight on Superannuates* and to be thinking of nominations for the Provincial Executive.

A number of recreation activities are being hosted by local Chapters and supported by STS. You are encouraged to participate in these activities. They are a good vehicle for maintaining friendships and contacts and for making new friends. Besides, they are a lot of fun!

Our annual Chapter Presidents' Meeting has been set for Saturday, October 27, 2012. Information about the day has been sent to Chapter Presidents. I look forward to meeting with all of our Chapter Presidents on the 27th.

Many Chapters have contacted me to participate in their Chapter meetings. I welcome such invitations and look forward to meeting with you. Please call me at 306-545-2712 or email r.wuschenny@sasktel.net if you would like me to visit your Chapter.

In closing, I wish all Chapters and members an abundance of success and good fellowship in the coming months.

Attention Chapter Presidents

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships must be submitted to the STS Office by February 1, 2013. If you have worthy candidates for these awards, ensure that the nominations are submitted well before that deadline. Please check the *Policy Handbook* on page 32 for the required information and for the correct format of the nomination.

Group Benefits – Margaret Martin

The Group Benefits Committee, Margaret Martin (Chair), Fred Herron, Shirley Henderson, Roger Marchand, Doug Haroldson, Joyce Hoffman, Mike Kaminski, Jerry Mamer, Maxine Stinka, Calvin Bachmeier, Sunil Pandila, and Robert Wuschenny, reviewed the Extended Health and Dental Plan Experience Reports for the period ending August, 2012.

We also reviewed the Financial Accounting Schedule for the period February 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012. This accounting was necessary because the fiscal year for the Group Benefits Plan is being changed from February 1 to January 31 (at present) to July 1 to June 30 to be in line with other STS audited financial information. Therefore, it is anticipated that the current premium schedule for the STS Extended Health and Dental Plans will remain in place from February 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.

The survey that will be conducted by Saskatchewan Blue Cross with a cross section of our STS members is

still expected to be undertaken. This survey will provide an opportunity for STS members to provide feedback regarding the STS Extended Health and Dental Plans.

Our Committee goals for 2012-13 are:

1. To closely monitor the Group Benefits Plan and the financial status of the Plan.
2. To continue to promote and provide information about the Group Benefits Plan to new superannuates, in particular, the distinction between a government-funded plan and our self-funded plan.
3. To review the policies and procedures of the Group Benefits Plan as set out in the STS Policy Handbook.

ACER-CART

George Georget

Website: www.acer-cart.org

Nominations

Margaret Martin
and Fred Herron

If you are or you know someone who is interested in running for the STS Provincial Executive, please consider and submit the name to the STS office.

Annual General Meeting

Elaine Broughton
and Jerry Mamer

The 40th Annual General Meeting of the STS will be held at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon on May 14-16, 2013.

Recreation

Calvin Bachmeier

Goals:

1. Continue to seek local Chapters to host Provincial recreation events as needed
2. Promote an active and healthy lifestyle among superannuates
3. Continue to be open to new activities

Resolutions

Mike Kaminski

Start thinking of resolutions that you would like to submit. Resolutions received by the STS office before April 30 shall be distributed to representatives before the STS Annual General Meeting.

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism – Mike Kaminski

The SSM AGM was held in Regina at the Hotel Saskatchewan on May 17. Betty Pickering was elected as president; Charles Keple as vice president; Andre Nogue as treasurer; and Isobel Fowler as secretary. Members-at-large elected for a two-year term include Jeanne Alexander, Maxine Stinka, Betty Nippi-Albright, and Marj Thiessen. Those elected for a one-year term were Kurt Holstein, Mike Kaminski, Kerrie Strathy, and Tracy Thompson.

The STS resolution: *Be it Resolved that Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism lobby*

the Federal Government to extend any tax credit for registration costs for wellness and/or recreation programs to seniors similar to that provided to youth was passed by the delegates.

The board set November 30 as a date for membership consultations with a focus on ensuring that SSM's vision and goals were ones that the membership felt positive about for long-term planning. Two members per member organization will be invited to participate.

The board also discussed the Open

Forums on the Future of Medicare and Pensions – cost versus benefits, interest and participation, and input and follow-up strategies. Other issues being addressed included affordable housing, Celebrating Seniors, ALCOA, Coalition on Mental Health, and Postal Service interruptions. Trial membership with the Mental Health Coalition will also be pursued.

An opportunity exists to nominate someone for the Governor General of Canada – Caring Canadian Award. Information and forms are available at www.gg.ca.

Support Services Report – Calvin Bachmeier

The STS Support Services Committee met on September 19, 2012. The committee consists of Judy Buzowetsky, Elaine Broughton, Wally Derkach, George Georget, Fred Herron, Joyce Hoffman, Roger Marchand, Al Schell, Dalton Tamney, Doug Glazer, Robert Wuschenny and Calvin Bachmeier (chair).

Our goals for 2012-13 are to maintain and monitor existing programs, strengthen the relationship between the STS liaison person and the local Chapters, keep the STS website current and be responsive to the needs of our membership.

During the meeting we discussed our goals for the coming year along with various ideas of how we might attain these goals. We also heard a report on Elder Abuse Prevention from Al Schell. We also considered an STS Activity Support Program application.

The committee considers the STS website to be an excellent way of getting information to its member-

ship. To increase repeat visits to our website we are introducing a new feature. When you go to the Support Services Website the words "What's New" will pop up. If you click on it, you will be given the opportunity to read news articles relevant to seniors. It might also be a photograph from the STS AGM or an update about the benefits plan. This will be changed monthly. Please watch for this new feature.

Congratulations to the

*STS 10,000th
Member*

Elizabeth Goertzen
of the Nipawin Chapter

Attention Superannuated Teachers

If you withdrew teaching services during a legal strike over the course of your career and as a consequence were required to delay your superannuation in order to accumulate additional contributory service, you may be entitled to a benefit from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. Applications will be received until October 31, 2012.

For information, please request an information package from:

Martha Galenzoski, Administration/Governance
Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
2317 Arlington Ave
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
Ph: 306-373-1660; 1-800-667-7762



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Bowling

Date: May 1-2, 2013
 Host: Regina Chapter
 Place: Glencairn Bolodrome

Curling

Date: November 5-7, 2012
 Host: Saskatoon Chapter
 Location: Sutherland Curling Club
 Contact: Bill Meger
 Phone: 306-249-1329
 (Registration form on STS website)

Fishing

Host needed for 2013

Golf

Date: June 12-13, 2013
 Host: Northwest Chapter
 Location: Goodsoil
 Northern Meadows Golf
 Course

Host needed for 2014

Kaiser

Date: October 18, 2012
 Host: Battlefords and District Chapter
 Location: Ukrainian Seniors Center
 Contact: Stella Ewanchuk
 Phone: 306-445-6721

STS 2012 Curling Registration Form

Saskatoon November 5-7, 2012 (Limited to first 20 teams, so register early)
 Chair: Bill Meger-306-249-1329 or wmege@sasktel.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

NOTE: All teams play Monday, November 5 in the afternoon

Team Registration Fee:	\$ 200.00
Extra banquet tickets: _____ X \$20 =	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	= \$ _____

Make cheque payable to STS Curling 2012 and send to:
 Bill Meger, 571 Adilman Drive, Saskatoon SK S7K 6E8

Stitch 'N Quilt

Date: October 16-18, 2012
 Host: Mainline Chapter
 Location: Wolseley
 Contact: Sharon Baker
 Phone: 306-736-8189
 website: <http://stitchnquilt.wix.com/stitchnquilt2012>

If Chapters are interested in hosting provincial events please contact the STS office or a member of the Recreation Committee. We would also be open to any proposals for new events (scrabble, pickleball, scrapbooking, slowpitch).

STS Fishing 2012

The STS Provincial Fishing Derby was held at Tobin Lake Thursday, June 21, 2012. This year the Nipawin and District Chapter hosted the event. Tisdale and Carrot River Valley Chapter members joined in the fish fry.

Twenty-five fishers caught 46 fish. One hundred and eight people were fed at the fish fry. The largest fish was caught by Team Ladouceur from Nipawin. The most fish were caught by Team Weiman from Melfort.

Thank you to Rod and Hazel Peterson for providing the photos.



STS Provincial Golf Tournament 2012

The Moose Jaw Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan held the annual golf tournament on June 11 & 12, 2012 at the Lynbrook Golf and Country Club in Moose Jaw. There were 61 participants the first day of the Scramble Play. The winning Scramble team members were Carson and Beryl Robinson, Marlene McBain and Doug Lyon. They received the winning prize with each of the teams receiving smaller prizes. This was all thanks to our committee members and our community who supplied us with gifts to use as prizes. Monday night we visited, enjoyed a great meal at the Lynbrook and presented the first day's

prizes. The second day with more promising weather, meaning less wind, saw 60 participants in several different flights for Stroke Play. After each group came in we were able to visit while the scoring took place. The prize monies and trophies were presented. The trophy winners were Rudy Makysmiw, senior men's, Carson Robinson, men's, Shirley Krone, senior women's, and Audrey Gordon, women's. Thanks to all those who made the trip to Moose Jaw and a special thank you to the committee members who planned the event. This is a fun event and many will enjoy the tournament next year in Goodsoil.



Left to right:
Scramble Team Winners,
Carson Robinson, Beryl Robinson,
Marlene McBain, Doug Lyon



Sr Men's Winner,
Rudy Makysmiw
(Kenosee Lake)



Men's winner,
Carson Robinson
(Swift Current)



Sr Woman's Trophy,
Shirley Krone
(Nipawin)



Women's Trophy,
Audrey Gordon

Adele Owatz presented all trophies and she is on the left in all photos

Announcement:

Lindale School, originally a rural school within the city of Moose Jaw, is celebrating its 50 Year Celebration on Friday, October 26. An evening is being planned to host Lindale staff and students, past and present, to celebrate this occasion.

If you plan to come please email Amy Johnson:

johnson.amy@prairiesouth.ca

Retirement Lifestyles – Shirley Henderson

When talking to active teachers, please advertise the difference between the Pre-Retirement Seminars put on by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and the Retirement Lifestyles Seminars put on by the STS.

Pre-Retirement Seminars by the STF are mainly focused on the financial aspect of retirement.

Retirement Lifestyles Sessions by the STS focus on the whole idea of

retirement which encompasses the mental, physical and some financial considerations before and upon retiring.

We will be presenting a Retirement Lifestyle Session on March 9, 2013, in the Eamer Auditorium, STF Building from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. More information will follow. Pre-registration will be needed.

Milton Block is our STF liaison.

Spotlight on Superannuates



Harold William Robertson – Submitted by John Ryder, Okanagan Valley Chapter

Harold W. Robertson's life began in the era of the early settlement of what is now Saskatchewan. He observed and participated in the changes from early pioneer days to modern times.

Harold's parents left Ontario in 1903 with their four children to homestead in what was then the North-West Territories, District of Assiniboia. The province of Saskatchewan was formed in 1905. Harold was born on the family homestead, Sec.18, Tp4, Rge5, W2nd, near Lampman, Saskatchewan, in 1910.

The family later moved to a farm one mile south of Weyburn. One reason for this move was that it was now easier for Harold and his nine siblings to attend school. They were able to walk or take the horses to the school in Weyburn. During this time, Harold developed an interest in boxing and often walked twice weekly to the gym in town. Later, his family financed his teacher training at the Normal School in Moose Jaw.

In January 1935, he was hired as the first teacher in Somme, Saskatchewan with 26 students in grades one to nine. Teacher pay was \$300 per year or \$30 per month for 10 months. Board and room was about half of that. The town had modified the community hall to serve as a school by adding windows, desks, and a blackboard.

Harold's belief in the benefits of physical activity led him to encourage fitness. For example, he asked the local blacksmith to make 3 metal rings which they hung from the rafter cross-ties. These allowed students to stand on the low stage at the back end of the room, grab a ring, swing out to the second ring, then to the third, then back to the stage. Lighting was provided by

windows and gasoline long stem hanging lamps. Heat was the usual converted oil barrel stove burning four foot cordwood and providing minimal heat.

In 1936, Harold met Myrtle Benson, a beautiful blonde Norwegian, whose parents had homesteaded at Porcupine Plain. Myrtle was his wife and partner for the next 73 years. The year 1937 saw them living in a small teacherage and Harold working in the one-room school at Yeoman, southwest of Weyburn. No rain and little pay in one of the hottest, driest years ever recorded in southern Saskatchewan was the motive to take a job as teacher back in the more northern bush. This was at a one-room, soon becoming a two-room, school with 59 students in Archerwill, a community about 35 miles north of Wadena. Initially renting rooms above the post office, by the fall of 1937, Harold had built his first house. This home was later bought by the school board and enlarged. In Archerwill, Myrtle and Harold had their three children. In 1945, the family moved to Imperial where Harold took a one-year rest from teaching.

From 1946 to 1950, Harold taught at McQuarrie in Hudson Bay School District #52, five miles northeast of Carragana. This was another one-room school with about 28 students in grades 1 to 8. In 1950, the family moved to Nora where Harold was principal of a two-room school which grew to be a four-room school over the next ten years. Physical education classes included the usual sports, as well as, gymnastics and tumbling. The ball teams always did extremely well in local competitions, as did the individual students at the local track and field days. Here, as

in all locations, Harold and Myrtle were helpful neighbours and active in community organizations. Later, after a few years teaching Industrial Arts and physical education at Wadena and, with children no longer at home, he and Myrtle moved to Viscount where he taught school. Throughout his teaching career, Harold notes that the students did well physically and educationally. There are many happy memories from the years in Nora and the other small communities, most still with only basic services at that time.

In 1970, after retiring from teaching in Saskatchewan, Harold and Myrtle moved to Kelowna, BC, where they built another home. Here, Myrtle and Harold enjoyed apple picking, square dancing, bowling, visiting family and friends, and traveling with their RV. Outdoor activities included gardening, archery, gold-panning, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Harold is a member of the Kelowna Sons of Norway and a charter member of the STS Okanagan Valley Chapter.

Myrtle passed away at the age of 95 in 2010. As of June 2012, Harold resides in the independent living section at Sun Pointe Village on Rutland Road N in Kelowna. He enjoys the friendship and care of the residents, staff, and volunteers. Harold maintains good health and was able to drive his Volvo until age 96. He spends his time socializing, reading, playing cribbage, doing jigsaw and word puzzles, playing pool/billiards, exercising, and participating as a member of their tone bells musical group. Sun Pointe Village held a 102nd birthday party for Harold on June 21, 2012.



STS Executive 2012-13

Back row: (from left) Elaine Broughton, Judy Buzowetsky, Joyce Hoffman, Mike Kaminski, Roger Marchand, Kate McCorrison, Sunil Pandila, Delmer Friesen, Calvin Bachmeier, George Georget (ACER-CART Representative).

Front row: (from left) Gerald Mamer, Shirley Henderson, Fred Herron (Executive Secretary), Robert Wuschenny (President), Margaret Martin (Past-President), Doug Haroldson (Vice-President), Maxine Stinka.

Superannuates Make a Difference – A Cuban Experience

When Joe Kurtz went to Cuba last January, it was his tenth trip. He first went for a holiday, warm temperatures and beautiful beaches. He now travels to Cuba to be with happy, grateful and very poor people. Cubans generally live on very low incomes and have many needs.

Over time Joe Kurtz discovered the real Cuba and met the real Cubans. He now has about forty friends with whom he stays in contact throughout the year. Through the generous support of many people here at home, he has been able to improve the lives of some people. Every trip seems to increase the number of people he meets who need help. Each September, at the first Kindersley Chapter STS meeting of the year, he puts on a raffle of books read or donated throughout the year. All the money collected (usually about \$200 - \$300 dollars) he takes or sends to help people in Cuba. The Chapter supports this project and waits to hear the latest news from the people they support. The Chapter has done this project for about eight years.

Here is an example of the assistance provided. Last April he met Albert, a

35 year old man who lives with his family on the eastern side of Cuba. Albert is a radio broadcaster, a journalist and an English teacher in his spare time. His wages for all three jobs is about \$30 a month. He speaks excellent English and has a computer at work so Joe can email him and send messages to other friends there. After Joe got home last April, Albert emailed to ask if it would be possible for anyone here to provide money as he and his family have no running water in their house and still go to the well each day to bring home water to cook, shower and do laundry. Joe needed to know the cost. Within one day, Albert emailed the cost details. What a surprise! Instead of a thousand dollars or more, it was \$200. Within one day of costing the project, two people each gave Joe \$100 and the money was on its way. They got a line put in from the well to a tank they dug into the ground by their house. In addition they installed a turbine to get the water into the house. They now have running water and rejoice at their good fortune.

This is an example of one superannuated teacher and one Chapter making a difference in the lives of

others. Congratulations Joe and the Kindersley Chapter.

Congratulations

Antoinette Simard
(Northwest Chapter)
celebrated 100th Birthday

Erma Rabourn
(Non Chapter Member)
celebrated 98th Birthday

Hazel Parker
(Non Chapter Member)
celebrated 93rd Birthday

Rose Schultz
(Weyburn Chapter)
celebrated 90th Birthday

Posthumously to **Mel McCorrison** who was inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame in North Battleford in August 2012. He was instrumental in the formation of the Lampman A's Men's Baseball Team in 1977. Since that time, the team has won provincials several times.

From The Editor's Desk

Welcome to all the new super-annuates. May your retirement be fulfilling, productive and fun.

The fall colours are starting to be quite spectacular at this time of year. Here on the prairies we have had a great hot summer. It looks like this may even continue into the fall.

Keep in mind:

IF MY BODY WERE A CAR:

If my body were a car, at this time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull.... But that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close. My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather. My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it... Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter... either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.

Till next time keep smiling and the world will smile with you.

Shirley

STS Executive 2012-13

President/Councillor	Robert Wuschenny, Regina Chapter
Vice-President/Councillor	Doug Haroldson, Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter
Past-President/Councillor	Margaret Martin, Saskatoon Chapter
Executive Secretary	Fred Herron, Saskatoon Chapter
ACER-CART Representative	George Georget, Saskatoon Chapter
Councillors:	
Calvin Bachmeier	Maple Creek-Medicine Hat Chapter
Joyce Hoffman	Swift Current Chapter
Mike Kaminski	Assiniboine Chapter
Gerald Mamer	Saskatoon Chapter
Maxine Stinka	Assiniboine Chapter
Members-At-Large:	
Elaine Broughton	Saskatoon Chapter
Judy Buzowetsky	Weyburn Chapter
Delmer Friesen	Kerrobert Chapter
Shirley Henderson	Prince Albert Chapter
Roger Marchand	South Central Chapter
Kate McCorriston	Nipawin Chapter
Sunil Pandila	Moose Jaw Chapter

Check out our
website at
www.sts.sk.ca

Reminder: Seniors' Drug Plan

If you are the primary plan holder of the STS Group Benefits Plan, and are eligible for the Seniors' Drug Plan please send a copy of the confirmation letter to the STS Office in order to have your monthly Extended Health premium reduced.

OUTREACH
To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

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.

The Outreach is available online. Please email the STS Office if you wish to receive notification when it is posted on the website instead of receiving a hard copy.

website: www.sts.sk.ca

Phone: 373-3879
Email: sts@stf.sk.ca
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