

OUTREACH



To The Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

President's Report

Siegrid Schergel

As I write this, my second report to an Annual General Meeting, I am pleased to report on another successful year for our organization. We celebrate our 35th year as an organization this year and when we look back on our growth and development over that time we can justly be proud of the STS. Where the organization is today is thanks to the vision and commitment of hundreds of members over the years both at the Chapter and the provincial level. Membership continues to grow as many teachers accept our invitation to make the STS part of their lives as retirees. We are rapidly closing in on 8400 members and by the time you read this we may have reached that milestone.

One of the major strengths of our organization is its committee structure and I'd like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the Executive committee chairs and the committee members. It is through the committees that our finances and group benefits plans are monitored, that programs are initiated and implemented, and that, in general, things get done!

The finances of the STS continue to be sound. We continue to be on track for the 2007-2008 budget year and the proposed budget for 2008-2009 envisages no fee increase. The audited financial statements for 2006-2007 were received from Deloitte and distributed to Chapter Presidents last fall and the audit plan for 2007-2008 has been adopted by the Executive.

Participation in the STS Extended Health and Dental Plan continues to increase and the Executive will be negotiating a new plan contract with Saskatchewan Blue Cross this fall. The current contract concludes January 31, 2009. An increase in the maximum eligibility for the Group Life Insurance Plan from age 75 to 85 was negotiated in the recent Teachers' Collective Agreement. The details for implementation of this change in eligibility are still to be worked out but we hope to have them in place by September. It is our understanding that the necessary legislation has received third reading but still requires Royal Assent.

The Recreation Committee continues to coordinate and facilitate a wide range of provincial recreational opportunities for the membership. Thank you to all the Chapters from one end of the province to the other who so willingly and ably hosted these events. Planning is on-going and looks ahead for years. If your Chapter is even thinking about hosting an event – see one of the committee members who'd be more than pleased to answer your questions.

Support for our members continues to be a major focus of the STS. The Support Services Committee continues its work maintaining the information links on the STS website and is expanding the service to Chapters through a clearinghouse of program ideas. A financial grant will also be available to support

program initiatives for Chapters. Presentations made at the STF Pre-Retirement Seminars held around the province and the Retirement Lifestyles Seminars tell prospective superannuates about our organization and about issues they may face as retirees. This year the Retirement Lifestyles Committee made a number of presentations at Showcase that were very well received in both Regina and Saskatoon.

Communication with our diverse and dispersed membership continues to be a priority. *Outreach*, "Spotlight on Superannuates" in the *Saskatchewan Bulletin*, direct communication from the Office, Executive member Chapter liaison contacts and visits, President's Chapter visits, the annual Chapter Presidents' meeting, and the AGM all have an important role to play in maintaining that communication.

Unfortunately, given the information we have received to date, it appears unlikely that the "In Memoriam" section of *Outreach* can be reinstated.

As I am reaching the end of my term as STS President, I would like to thank all of you – at both the local and the provincial level – for your commitment of time and energy to our organization. Thank you to all the Chapters who invited me to visit them; it has given me an insight into the STS that I couldn't have achieved any other way. And finally, I must single out Fred, Colleen and Heather. I can't begin to list all that they do to make my job so easy and all they do for this organization. Thank you for your unstinting commitment to our organization and its members.

STS 2008-2009 Provincial Executive



Back Row: (left to right) Maxine Stinka, Mike Kaminski, James Slough, Peter Wiebe, Shirley Henderson, Robert Wuschenny, Michael Gorkoff, Doug Haroldson, Elaine Broughton, Kate McCorrison

Front Row: (left to right) Fred Herron (Executive Secretary), Margaret Martin (Vice-President), Jim Segó (President), Siegrid Schergel (Past President), Shirley Dyck, Calvin Bachmeier

Highlights of the 35th AGM

Shirley Dyck & Darlene McCullough

The 2008 Annual General Meeting was celebrated as the 35th Anniversary of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan. The AGM held in the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon on May 13 to May 15 was a huge success. Registration began at 5:30 on Tuesday, May 13 under the direction of the Office Staff of Colleen Bailey and Heather Hase, assisted by the delegates from the Prince Albert and Swift Current Chapters.

Two hundred and three delegates representing 43 Chapters were registered plus seventeen Executive members, our Executive Secretary,

Fred Herron and two Office Staff. Included were representatives from our British Columbia Chapters of Victoria, Okanagan and Fraser Valley.

We again had Corporate Sponsorship for our AGM. We sincerely thank the Travelodge Hotel, Greystone Capital Management Inc., TCU Financial Group, Saskatchewan Blue Cross, and ESTI Consulting for their generosity.

Tuesday Evening – Galaxy Ballroom

President Siegrid Schergel welcomed

the delegates to the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan. To celebrate our 35th Anniversary, James Slough created the wonderful Power Point presentation with pictures and information of all the STS Presidents and Honorary Life Members. This was on display during the AGM for delegates to view. A copy of this DVD is available for Chapters who wish one.

Past President, Horst Sawatzki, Chair of the Nominations Committee introduced the candidates for Executive for 2008-2009.

Entertainment: Martin Janovsky



President, Siegrid Schergel introduced our guest entertainer Martin Janovsky.

Martin Janovsky is a Canadian pianist and a music teacher born in Czechoslovakia. Martin graduated from the Conservatory of Prague and Trinity College of London, England. Janovsky moved to Canada and launched the band Hipcheck. Two years later he and his band were asked to be the house band at the Saskatchewan Pavilion at Expo in Vancouver.

Martin's stage performance consists of music and comedy. The comedy revolves around Martin's (supposed) misunderstanding of the English language. Being new to Canada he finds it hard to understand our language (or so he would have you think). He finds new meanings in old sayings.

Mr. Janovsky was a huge success for our opening session of the AGM. I heard nothing but rave reviews. As a pianist he is absolutely remarkable, and combined with his entertainment was a real hit.

To quote: "What can we say about Martin – he is one of a kind – an excellent pianist as well as a very entertaining comedian. Put the two together and you have a dynamic individual."

Vice-President Jim Segó thanked Martin Janovsky for setting the tone and getting our AGM off to a wonderful start.

This was followed by an informal social complete with complimentary punch and chocolates courtesy of the Travelodge Hotel.

Wednesday, May 14

President, Siegrid Schergel, chaired the Plenary Session held in the Galaxy Ballroom.

Following the singing of *O Canada* accompanied by Penny Banks, Peter Wiebe gave the invocation. This was followed by a moment of silence.

President Siegrid delivered her President's Address.

Horst Sawatzki brought forward the slate of nominees. Fred Herron, Executive Secretary presented the budget. He then moved we table the Committee reports until Thursday.

Shirley Dyck, AGM Co-Chair, discussed the Annual General Meeting format.

Delegates then broke into five groups to discuss the resolutions.

In the afternoon delegates could attend three of the five Interest Sessions offered.

- A Tale of Two Futures: Saskatchewan in 1905 and 2005 – Dr. Bill Waiser.
- Estate Planning: Wills and Power of Attorney – Karen Tzupa and Trevor Kehrer, TCU Financial Group
- Forever...*in motion* – A Healthy Life Choice - Janet Barnes
- Gang Activity – Harvey Thunderchild, Saskatoon City Police
- Buying and Selling a Condominium – Jayme R. Mitchell, PLEA

Wednesday Evening – Banquet

On Wednesday evening we enjoyed a delicious banquet held in the Galaxy Ballroom.

President Siegrid introduced the head table, the Executive and Office Staff, the Honorary Life Members and special guests.

The Archives Committee of Horst Sawatzki and Jim Segó assisted by President Siegrid presented the

Membership Growth Awards to nine Chapters. President Siegrid read the list of superannuates who had received a Chapter Award in 2007.

James Slough, Chair of the Honorary Life Members Committee, bestowed this prestigious award on four worthy candidates: Darlene McCullough, Tisdale Chapter; Horst Sawatzki, Moosomin Chapter; Ed Magis, Yorkton Chapter and Al Schell, Saskatoon Chapter.

The evening concluded with socializing.

Thursday, May 17

President Siegrid Schergel introduced Dianne Woloschuk, President of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, who brought greetings on behalf of STF.

In her opening remarks, Dianne stated, "I'd like to take this opportunity to comment on the Federation year so far and flag some important initiatives and organizational developments this year."

Some of the issues she commented on were:

- The STF is celebrating their 75th Anniversary with the "I Teach" slogan.
- The STF is still working at improving communications and access to information for the entire membership through a revamped website system called T-mail, in which every teacher has an e-mail address through the Federation.
- CTF has produced a document entitled "Cyber tips for Teachers."
- CTF has lobbied the federal government to obtain tax deductions for teachers.
- The STF has focused on the roles that Executive, Council, and Fiduciary Boards play in the governance of the Federation.
- The test results from PISA, the Program for International Student Assessment, and from the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program.

- Dianne thanked the Councillors from STS for the significant role they play at STF Council.

Siegrid thanked Dianne for her very informative address.

The Annual Meeting

President Siegrid chaired the Annual Meeting.

The minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting were presented by Executive Secretary, Fred Herron. These minutes were adopted as distributed.

Past President, Host Sawatzki, presented the nomination slate and also conducted the Election of Officers. The report of the elections and the committee reports are presented elsewhere in this issue.

Committee reports presented and adopted were:

- Executive Secretary – Fred Herron
- Office and Staffing – Fred Herron
- ACER-CART – Fred Herron
- Budget, Finance and Audit – Jim Segó
- Recreation – Calvin Bachmeier
- Support Services – Calvin Bachmeier
- McDowell Foundation – Maxine Stinka
- Group Benefits – Horst Sawatzki
- Archives – Horst Sawatzki
- Councillors – Margaret Martin
- *Outreach* – Margaret Martin
- SSM – James Slough
- Lifestyles Planning – Shirley Dyck

Jim Segó, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented the resolutions.

Fred Herron, Executive Secretary, presented the 2008-2009 Budget. Deloitte was appointed as auditor for the next year.

Jim Segó presented the Courtesy Resolution.

THAT a sincere expression of appreciation and thanks be extended to the following:

- Martin Janovsky
- Harvey Thunderchild, Karen Tzupa, Trevor Kehrer, Jayme R. Mitchell, Dr. Bill Waiser, and Janet Barnes presenters at the interest sessions
- Dianne Woloschuk, STF President for bringing greetings from the STF
- ACER-CART representative, Vaughn Wadelius
- Penny Banks for playing *O Canada*
- Our corporate sponsors Travelodge Hotel, Greystone Investors, TCU Financial Group, ESTI and Saskatchewan Blue Cross
- STF memorabilia display
- The Management and Staff of the Travelodge Hotel for assisting in making our stay here so comfortable
- President Siegrid for her leadership this year
- The STS Executive for their work in executing the policies developed by the AGMs
- Colleen Bailey, Office Manager and Heather Hase, Assistant Office Manager, for the behind-the-scenes preparations that made the AGM run so smoothly
- Fred Herron, Executive Secretary, who oversees the administration of the STS and works so diligently on behalf of the members
- Resolution Group Facilitators and Resource Persons
- Prince Albert and Swift Current Chapter delegates for help at registration
- Our capable co-chairs of the AGM Planning Committee, Shirley Dyck and Darlene McCullough for planning and organizing another successful AGM.

Out-going President Siegrid in her closing remarks presented incoming President, Jim Segó, with the gavel.



Horst Sawatzki, Past President, presented a gift to Siegrid. She then thanked everyone for attending the 2008 Annual General Meeting and adjourned the 35th AGM.

2008 AGM Reports

Executive Secretary's Report – Fred Herron

The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan have experienced a relatively positive year in 2007-2008. We have met with some successes, some changes and some areas of concern.

1. Administration

- 1.1 Our membership continues to increase albeit at a more modest rate than in previous years. Our membership passed the 8,300 mark in March of this year.
- 1.2 The third annual STS Chapter Presidents' meeting in November of 2007 met with a positive response by Chapter Presidents.
- 1.3 Colleen Bailey was appointed Office Manager effective July 1, 2007 and Heather Hase was appointed Assistant Office Manager on the same date.

2. Finance

- 2.1 STS completed its second full audit of STS Operations and STS Benefits Programs by Deloitte for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.
- 2.2 STS experienced a surplus of \$37,774.00 in its operations for the 2006 - 2007 fiscal year.

3. Benefits Program

- 3.1 The Extended Health Program experienced a surplus of \$238,422.82 during the second year of the current three year contract for the period February 1, 2006 to January 31, 2009. There are sufficient reserves to hold premium rates for the duration of the contract period.

3.2 Participation in the Extended Health and Dental Plans continue to increase.

3.3 Changes to the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan have had significant implications for the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan.

While our organization continues to grow and flourish, we must be prepared to face future issues and challenges with strong leadership at the provincial and Chapter levels and with a sound financial base from which to respond to these issues and challenges.

In closing, let me express my thanks to the STS Executive, staff and membership for your support and encouragement. It has been a privilege to serve as your Executive Secretary.

Archives Report – Horst Sawatzki

Someone asked us "What is the archive committee responsible for?" Checking out the files we find it clearly defined that:

The Archives Committee shall:

1. File record and arrange for the safe storage of historical information of STS in accordance with the purposes of the STS archives and the off-site storage inventory guidelines.
2. Maintain and keep current the STS Archive's Inventory Database
3. With the assistance of the STS Office staff, keep the Honorary Life Membership Registry and the Bell Awards (Chapter's Growth Awards) Registry up to date [annually].

Yes, we did the above tasks:

- Updated the original Archive Report,
- Added a new listing (page 7) Sports Activities Winner Summaries for STS bowling, bridge, curling, fishing derby, golf and kaiser events. Thank you to the Sports/Activities Committee

for providing the archive committee with these summarized reports. Want to find out who was STS Men's Golf Champion for 1992 -- pace through the pages of the Archive Report – go to page 7 and then to page 12 of the Activity Summary Report and you will find that Howard Birnie of Saskatoon, won in 1992 men's golf at the Chinook Golf Course, Swift Current.

- Prepared all the necessary documents for the Honorary Life Membership Registry for 2008. Also prepared the information for the presentation of the Chapter Growth Awards.

Thank you to Jim, Calvin and Siegrid for getting it all started and maintaining the STS Archives; from the piles of files we have a data base that can be handled.

Group Benefits Report – Horst Sawatzki

The Group Benefits Committee: Calvin Bachmeier, Wally Derkach, Shirley Henderson, Fred Herron, Peter Wiebe, Robert Wuschenny, Siegrid Schergel and I continued to monitor the affairs of the Group Benefits Plan on a regular basis. Bob Wilhelms, Saskatchewan Blue Cross Employee Benefit Specialist, assisted the committee with information regarding claims and plan experience. He also assisted in the resolution of member issues and concerns.

Challenges to the Group Benefits Plan included:

1. The integration of the Government of Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan with the STS Group Benefits Plan. The integration resulted in the following:
 - Reduction of Health Benefit fees by approximately 45% for those members over age 65 as a result of the impact of the \$15.00 ceiling on drugs recognized in the Saskatchewan Health Drug Plan
 - Request from out-of-province members of the STS plan to

receive the same fee reductions as given to Saskatchewan residents.

2. Spikes in expenditures – directly reflected in the claims experience ratios for Health, Dental and the combined plans. By year end these ratios were at acceptable levels.
3. The changes to the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan effective July 1, 2008 include the following:
 - A requirement for seniors to apply for the benefit.
 - The inclusion of an income test for eligibility for the benefit.
 - A requirement to provide proof to the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan that approval has been granted for eligibility under the Seniors' Drug Plan in order to benefit from the reduced premium for the STS Extended Health Plan.

The STS Group Benefit Plan financial picture is positive in that:

1. Claims Fluctuation Reserves are at contractual requirements.
2. The net surplus of \$238,422.82 has been transferred to the Direct Deposit account.
3. The Direct Deposit Account had a modest growth due to interest surplus deposit.

Issues that will need to be addressed in 2008-09 will include:

1. Plan's renewal scheduled for 2009 – contractual terms, fee structures and benefits.
2. Affordability of "new" items or improved coverage in Health and Dental services.
3. The impact of drug cost and its major ramification of escalating costs, new biologic drugs or vaccines and the continued downloading of drug costs to patients or plan members.

The STS Extended Health and Drug Plan has served us well. You have made it the success that it is and I am sure, that the Benefits Committee, Fred and Saskatchewan Blue Cross will find the right formula for its continued growth and success.

Good luck and thanks for letting me be part of this major building block of STS.

Budget, Finance and Audit Report – Jim Segó

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee had goals for operation during the 2007-2008 year.

Goals were:

- to operate the STS in a fully transparent, sound, financial manner
- to ensure effective monitoring of the Benefits plan
- to establish a Business Continuity Plan
- to review membership, benefit's fees and general revenue sources

This report will assess our progress for this year.

To continue to fulfill goal one – sound, transparent operation of your organization, the committee has carried on its bi-monthly review of financial reports. Reports are now made on a quarterly basis. As part of our supervision of finances, we met with our auditors who commended us on our use of STF accounting services and the soundness of our administration. They were also pleased with the system of internal controls and with our business continuity plans, fulfilling a recommendation made at our audit meeting in September of 2006. As a result of the sound financial plans, we were able to contribute almost \$29,000.00 to the contingency fund.

This year, the rapid growth in our economy and extensive changes in accounting practices led to pressures on the STF accounting department. Because of the complexity of our benefit plan and the expertise they develop as STF staff, some accountants have been lured to other companies. We have completed arrangements between the STF and STS for a more formal contract for services. This more formal

relationship satisfies accounting principles and provides us with firm contractual obligations to provide updates on plans for the space and services we require.

In view of these changes and their impact on budgeting and in view of the STS commitment to provide a system of grants through the Support Services Committee, the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee is recommending a review of all revenue sources.

In January, we perused the Executive Secretary's draft of a budget for presentation to this year's AGM, reviewed it at the March meeting and recommended it for publication in *Outreach*. Since membership numbers are so important in this financial balance, we were pleased to see a steady increase in membership numbers highlighted by our reaching 8346 members by the March Executive meeting.

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee ably supported by Fred Herron, and Colleen Bailey play an important role in this organization. As well the wisdom of Siegrid Schergel, Wally Derkach, Mike Kaminski, Maxine Stinka, Margaret Martin and Doug Haroldson, the Executive members, contributed ideas and critical eyes to ensure that your financial affairs are in order. This year their help, constructive input, inciteful questions and suggestions made it a pleasure to work for the good of the membership.

Office & Staffing Report – Fred Herron

1. The Committee is composed of the following members: Fred Herron (Chair), Wally Derkach, Elaine Broughton and Margaret Martin.
2. The Committee met on November 14, 2007 to review proposed revisions to the contracts of employment of Colleen Bailey, STS Office Manager and Heather Hase, Assistant Office Manager.

The tentative agreements for 2008 were subsequently ratified by the STS Executive.

3. The Committee considered and agreed to monitor the office workload.

Outreach Report – Margaret Martin

The *Outreach* Committee is comprised of the *Outreach* Chairperson, Margaret Martin, the Executive Secretary, Fred Herron, the *Outreach* Editor, Shirley Henderson, and other members of the Executive, Shirley Dyck, Jim Segó, Maxine Stinka, and Siegrid Schergel (Ex-Officio).

The *Outreach* Committee has met five times during the past year – each time prior to the publication of *Outreach* and before a Provincial Executive meeting. As noted in the Policy Handbook of the STS our task is to ensure that “the publication and distribution of *Outreach* are accomplished in an efficient and appropriate manner”. We have reviewed that task with the goal of having *Outreach* printed and distributed in three weeks or less from the date of the Executive meeting. We will continue to monitor this while still maintaining the quality of our publication.

We were asked by the Teachers' Superannuation Commission not to publish the names of our deceased members in *Outreach* due to legal issues regarding the privacy of this information. We have received many calls, letters, and e-mails expressing regret at this decision. We are continuing to look at alternative ways of collecting this information so that it would be possible to publish these names without contravening the Privacy Act.

Our new addition to *Outreach*, Spotlight on Members, has been well received. We are examining ways to highlight the 35th Anniversary of the STS in an upcoming issue of *Outreach*.

Recreation Report – Calvin Bachmeier

This has been a learning year for me and my committee. Ed Magis did a great job in the past and he is, indeed, a hard act to follow.

I would like to thank all of the Chapters who have done an excellent job of hosting events. We try to move the events around the province so that all of our members have a chance to have these events close at hand. If you are interested in hosting an event, please talk to a member of the recreation committee. We can provide you with information on being a good host and also help you with your organization of the event. We like to have our hosts in place well in advance so they can attend the event the year prior to their hosting the event. Local circumstances may vary greatly and the event may be organized somewhat differently, but it does give the future host some food for thought.

We are always interested in considering new activities if Chapters have ideas. If you have suggestions please pass them on to us. One activity that was cancelled last year due to a lack of participants was Stitch & Quilt. We would like to see this activity continue, if a host can be found.

It is always nice to see teachers enjoying themselves at the various activities. During their teaching careers, teachers often don't have the time or opportunity to participate in events they enjoy. So please consider taking part in the various activities. At these events, you get to know a different side of teachers you may have worked with professionally for many years. In many cases, you also run into colleagues you haven't seen for a long time and it gives you a chance to renew old friendships. You may also make new friends.

I would certainly like to thank my committee members, James Slough and Peter Wiebe, for their efforts throughout the year. Their contributions have been greatly

appreciated and I would like to thank them for their efforts. I have really enjoyed working with these two individuals.

Support Services Report – Calvin Bachmeier

This has been a very busy year for us. However, I believe, we have made significant progress. We now meet prior to Executive Meetings which gives us time to address major issues.

At the Presidents' Meeting, ideas for Chapter meetings were generated. These ideas have been organized and added to our website. This gives everyone access to this information. It is hoped that other Chapters will be able to use these ideas to enrich their own meetings.

The Executive voted to offer financial help to Chapters planning activities, especially if they involve partnering with other Chapters. A final draft of the guidelines and an application form are being prepared. We have already received some requests.

The support services part of the website has been updated. It is very important that information be current and timely. We all know the frustration of a link to a website that no longer exists or is hopelessly out of date. I would encourage all members to visit this website. It is very informative and most of all it is easily navigated.

We have installed a counter on our website. This counter not only counts hits but gives more details about the areas of the site that are most often used and average time spent on the site. This counter will provide valuable information for future improvements.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Dalton Tammy for the work he does on our website. He not only does an excellent job of keeping the site current and workable, but he provides us with a host of ideas we could consider for the future. The enthusiasm and excitement he

brings to our committee has certainly influenced our whole group.

I would like to thank fellow Executive members Elaine Broughton, Jim Sego and Siegrid Schergel for their contributions to this committee. A special thank you to Ernie Epp, Doug Glazer (STF), Al Schell, Harold Shultz and Fred Herron who served on the committee. They offered insight from their vast and varied experiences. As Executive members we were indeed honored to work with this knowledgeable group.

Retirement Lifestyles Report – Shirley Dyck

The Retirement Lifestyle Planning Committee members are: Shirley Dyck, (chair), Shirley Henderson, Bert Gordon, Boyd Taylor; new to the committee in 2007 were Calvin Bachmeier, Elaine Broughton, Darlene Kidd and Dianne McLeod. George Georget served as STF liaison.

The committee met in Saskatoon at the STF Office on September 25th to plan the procedure for Showcase 2008 and to have an orientation for the new members.

The Retirement Lifestyle Planning Committee presented eight sessions to over 450 teachers at Showcase 2008. Four presentations were made in Saskatoon on February 21st and 22nd and four in Regina on February 26th and 28th.

Bert Gordon and Shirley Dyck, along with George Georget, presented at both Showcases. Shirley Henderson, Calvin Bachmeier and Elaine Broughton joined us in Saskatoon and Darlene Kidd and Dianne McLeod assisted in Regina. We were very pleased with the attendance and also the positive responses we received from the many evaluations.

A sincere "Thank You" to all who participated and assisted in any way to make this another successful year for Retirement Lifestyle Planning.

ACER-CART Report – Fred Herron

ACER-CART was founded in 1991 and now includes provincial organizations of retired teachers from every province in Canada with a total membership of approximately 250,000. The objectives of the national organization are:

1. To facilitate and promote liaison and mutual assistance among its member organizations;
2. To promote the interests of its member organizations;
3. To develop strategies for joint action on matters of common concern to member organizations;
4. To cooperate with other seniors' organizations on matters of common concern;
5. To promote excellence in education.

The association has developed a constitution, bylaws and policy statements on pensions and health care for Canadians. Standing committees on communications, health and pensions have been established. It is hoped that the work of these committees will assist ACER-CART to respond to the needs of the member organizations.

ACER-CART has also enabled provincial organizations of retired teachers to exchange information and share points of view with respect to their common concerns and programs. The provincial organizations regularly exchange copies of their newsletters and publications. Each year members of the STS Executive receive summaries of cross-Canada information, and these summaries are useful in planning and evaluating programs.

ACER-CART has become very active within The Congress of National Seniors' Organizations (CNSO-CONA). CNSO represents over two million seniors and advocates on seniors' issues to the Federal Government.

Among the issues supported by CNSO were an increase in the

earned income exemptions under GIS/OAS, the Tax-Free Savings Plan and Elder Abuse.

On a personal note, I wish to thank the members of STS for the opportunity to have served on the ACER-CART Board of Directors for the past year.

McDowell Foundation Report – Maxine Stinka

The Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research into Teaching has had another successful year. Two new ventures this past year were working with the Saskatchewan Literacy Commission and the first effort in commissioning research. The Board of Directors has allocated \$30,000 to be used in commissioning research with teachers into assessment experiences and needs in selected Saskatchewan schools. The Board is also continuing to conduct a governance review. A large expense this year was the development of new software to provide better management of data, generate timely and accurate reports, and facilitate the work of the McDowell Foundation in both receiving and granting money.

The 13th annual Learning from Practice Exchange held in Saskatoon in November saw an increase in numbers attending. The theme was "Connecting Research and Assessment: What? How? Why?" and participants were treated to a number of very interesting and motivating sessions from the first session Friday evening to the last one on Saturday. It is hoped that the results of the projects will be of benefit to other teachers who can incorporate the various ideas into their classrooms for a more effective learning environment. Also, this forum enables researchers to describe their experiences and results as well as learn more about conducting their own research. Researchers are also encouraged to present their projects at national and provincial conferences. Don Black was honored with the 2007

McDowell Foundation Award for his support of the Foundation since its inception and his work in soliciting donations from various businesses across Canada.

Over the last sixteen years, the Foundation has funded over 150 projects in the classrooms of elementary, middle and secondary teachers to an amount edging closer to \$1 million, an amount it is expected to reach in the upcoming year. The Project Review Committee awarded approximately \$825,000.00 in research grants for nine new projects for 2008-2009. The call for proposals goes to every school and local in January. Retired teachers are also encouraged to apply for grants and make use of the opportunity to conduct classroom and school-based research. Copies of the reports of completed projects are available online (www.mcdowellfoundation.ca).

The McDowell Foundation provides displays and presentations upon request to raise awareness of the value of teacher research and work being carried out by McDowell researchers. Fundraising has become increasingly difficult and financial support from retired teachers and STS chapters is greatly appreciated. Donations are tax deductible. Some retired teachers make gifts in honour of special occasions for particular members and some leave bequests to the Foundation in their wills. Donors receive acknowledgement letters, are listed on the Foundation website and are recognized on the displays at various functions. In the last couple of years, research grants have outstripped the donations made during that year. Adequate funding is essential if the work of the McDowell Foundation is to continue.

The McDowell Foundation has one STS representative on the Board of Directors and one on the Advisory Committee. Ernie Epp is the STS representative on the Advisory Committee and I would like to thank the STS for the opportunity to be its representative on the Board.

Councillor's Report – Margaret Martin

Our eight Councillors, Siegrid Schergel (President), Jim Segó (Vice President), Horst Sawatzki (Past President), Wally Derkach, Shirley Dyck, Mike Kaminski, Margaret Martin, and Peter Wiebe, or their substitutes were invited by the STF to represent the STS at both the fall (October 12, 13, 2007) and spring (April 23-26, 2008) meetings of STF Council. Our Councillors have been prepared to speak to the resolutions sent to the STF from the STS, as well as, other resolutions sent to Council by the STF Local Associations or STF members.

As a result of our STS resolution the last STF Provincial Collective Agreement signed in October, 2007 contained a clause that allowed for Teachers' Group Life Insurance Plan coverage for superannuates wishing to continue paying the premiums to age 85. The guidelines for this coverage are expected to be announced by September, 2008.

We also were invited to have a representative attend the February 8, 2008 Provincial Workshop on the draft STF Code of Professional Competence. This draft Code of Professional Competence was presented again as a Notice of Motion at the STF Annual Spring Council and was passed.

Councillors at this spring STF Council (April 23-26, 2008) also spoke to the STS Notice of Motion affecting the Saskatchewan Teachers Retirement Plan (STRP) and the STS resolution affecting the Saskatchewan Teachers Superannuation Plan (TSP) asking that teacher pension allowances be indexed at 100% of Consumer Price Index. This resolution was passed but the Notice of Motion was defeated by the 200+ Councillors present for this meeting. Also the STS resolution: **Be it resolved that the STF request CTF to make the changes necessary to allow retired teachers to be eligible as Project Overseas participants** was passed.

We thank the STF for this opportunity to dialogue with these Councillor members of the STF.

Councillors also re-elected Dianne Woloschuk as STF President and Sonja Susut as STF Vice President for the 2008-2009 year.

Seniors Mechanism – James Slough

It has been my privilege to represent STS on the Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism (SSM) Board for the past year.

But first, you should have a bit of background on SSM. It is an umbrella group that includes the following seniors' groups:

- Saskatchewan Seniors' Association Inc.
- Federation des Aines Fransaskois
- Regina Senior Citizens' Centre Inc.
- SaskTel Pioneers Chapter 59 (based in Regina)
- Federal Superannuates National Association
- Saskatchewan Seniors' Education Corporation
- Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees
- Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association
- Saskatoon Council on Aging
- Women of the Dawn (Joined in 2007)
- Senior Power
- Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

Each group has at least one representative on the board which meets about every two months. Some member groups are dependant on receiving grants from various government agencies, but STS is not one of these.

SSM is an advocacy group that attempts to promote the concerns and issues involving seniors to various levels of government. Beverly MacLeod, our current Executive Director, is aided by Lynne Couzens, an Administrative Assistant. The

modest but adequate office is located at #112 - 2001 Cornwall Street, Regina, just south of the Hotel Saskatchewan Radisson Plaza. SSM publishes a quarterly newsletter called Gray Matters. It is mailed to seniors' groups, centres and individuals all over the province. If you do not have access to it, you can be added to the mailing list by contacting SSM at the above address or by phoning: (306) 359-9956.

Highlights of the past year include:

1. A successful conference and AGM in May, 2007. The theme was "Limited Income Restricts Seniors' Access to Services". Three panels drew attention to seniors' lack of access to housing, health care and active living services.
2. Welcoming The Women of the Dawn as a new member of SSM
3. Finding new funding in order to continue presenting "The ABCs of Fraud" programme to seniors' groups across the province. Funding has not yet been finalized, but there are some hopeful leads.
4. Because of the change of government, we will re-submit the resolutions passed at the 2007 AGM. There was no action taken on them by the out-going government and we assumed they were likely misplaced in the changeover.
5. A Strategic Planning session was held on April 22, 2008 to chart the future direction of SSM. A facilitator helped guide our thoughts and plans.
6. By the time you read this, the 2008 Conference and AGM will have taken place. The theme this year is "Navigating the Health Care System". Among others, the Minister of Health is scheduled to address the conference.

Chapter Awards 2008

Battlefords Chapter

- Gwendolyn Laughlin
- Arlene Nachtegaale

Kindersley Chapter

- Joe Kurtz

Prince Albert Chapter

- Doris Town (2007-2008)

Red Deer River Valley Chapter

- Irene Brehmer

Regina Chapter

- Dorothy Thordarson

Saskatoon Chapter

- Bill Meger
- Ernest Epp (Ernie)

Victoria Chapter

- John Cook – 10 years
- Les Richards – 15 years
- Muriel Baines – 20 years
- Fred Dawe – 25 years

Yorkton & District Chapter

- Gabrielle Hamilton
- Ed Magis

Membership Growth Awards 2008

Chapter Name	Award	Chapter Name	Award
Biggar	Plaque	Regina	Plaque
Kerrobert	Plaque	Saskatoon	Plaque
Mainline	Plaque	Shamrock	Plaque
Moosomin	Plaque	Sturgis	Plaque
Outlook	Plaque		

STS Honorary Life Members



Ed Magis

- Provincial Executive Member for 10 years
- Served on Budget, Finance and Audit, Benefits, and Recreation Committees
- Received Chapter Award in 2008

Darlene McCullough

- Provincial Executive Member for 12 years
- Chair of HLM Committee for 11 years and Co-chair of AGM for 8 years
- Secretary-Treasurer for Tisdale Chapter for 16 years

Al Schell

- Provincial Executive Member for 7 years
- Chair of *Outreach*, Office and Staffing and SSM Committees
- Instrumental in creating Office Manager position for STS Office

Horst Sawatzki

- Provincial Executive Member for 9 years
- Vice-President, President and Past President
- Served on Budget, Finance and Audit, Benefits, Nominations and Archive Committees

STS Resolutions 2008

Notice of Motion # One

BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaw 2-2 be amended to read as follows:

The Executive shall appoint the following:

1. Executive Secretary (Non-voting)
2. *Outreach* Editor (Non-voting)
3. Chairpersons of all Standing Committees (Appointments must be from the elected members of the Executive). **DEFEATED**

Resolutions Directed to the STS

Resolution One

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS negotiate with Saskatchewan Blue Cross to either remove the \$6.00 deductible or eliminate the 25% co-insurance provision for drugs. **TABLED**

Resolution Two

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS negotiate with Saskatchewan Blue Cross to increase the annual limit for paramedical services to \$300.00 per specialty. **DEFEATED**

Resolution Three

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS negotiate with Saskatchewan Blue Cross an annual limit for all paramedical services of \$1500.00 **DEFEATED**

Resolution Four

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS explore the implementation of automatic membership fee deduction at source for retired Saskatchewan teachers who choose to join the STS. **CARRIED**

Resolution Five

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates attending the AGM for 2008 be paid mileage on a pro-rated basis as follows: One delegate per vehicle 20

cents per km, two delegates per vehicle 30 cents per km, and three or more delegates 45 cents per km.

DEFEATED

Resolution Six

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS Provincial Executive investigate the possibility of STS members being given the option of not receiving a print copy of *Outreach* as it is available on the STS website.

WITHDRAWN

Resolution Seven

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the STF to negotiate for 100% indexing of teachers' pensions.

CARRIED

Resolution Eight

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS Benefits Committee study the feasibility of covering annual vision tests for members 65 years of age and older. **CARRIED**

Resolution Nine

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS Benefits Committee study the feasibility of re-introducing the use of the Member card for submission of costs of prescription drugs to Blue Cross. **CARRIED**

Resolution Ten

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS annual fee for 2008 – 2009 be \$30.00 per person. **CARRIED**

Resolution Eleven

BE IT RESOLVED that the annual rebate to Chapters for 2008 – 2009 be \$8.00 per person. **CARRIED**

Resolutions

Directed to the STF

Resolution Twelve

BE IT RESOLVED that the opportunity to participate in the Teacher Insurance Plan to age 85 be

made retroactive to include all members who were participants of the Plan on July 1, 2006. **TABLED**

Resolution Thirteen

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request that the STF and ACER-CART urge the federal government to review and amend the Privacy Act in order to limit the government's ability to collect and share vast amounts of personal information.

CARRIED

Resolution Fourteen

BE IT RESOLVED that STS request STF to negotiate that Pension Indexing be based on the higher of the Saskatchewan CPI or the Canadian CPI. **CARRIED**

Resolution Fifteen

BE IT RESOLVED that STS request STF to negotiate that on January first of each year all retirees receive the benefit of the indexing for the full year. **CARRIED**

Resolution Sixteen

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS request the STF to investigate alternatives to the Canadian Consumer Price Index as a mechanism for adjusting teacher pensions to more closely reflect the provincial situation, i.e. Saskatchewan CPI, as well as indices related to economic growth, such as Average Weekly Wages in the province. **CARRIED**

Resolutions

Directed to the Provincial Government

Resolution Seventeen

BE IT RESOLVED that STS urge the Government of Saskatchewan to take action to reduce wait times for surgery, especially for seniors.

Amendment: omit "especially for seniors" **CARRIED**

Amendment to the amendment: change "surgery" to medical procedures. **CARRIED**
Resolution **CARRIED** as amended

Resolution Eighteen

BE IT RESOLVED that STS urge the Government of Saskatchewan to make mobility aids and wellness services more available to seniors.

Amendment: end the resolution after available. **CARRIED**
Resolution **CARRIED** as amended.

Resolutions Directed to ACER-CART

Resolution Nineteen

BE IT RESOLVED that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan ask ACER-CART to request the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada to substantially increase penalties for individuals convicted of contacting women and children for the purpose of prostitution.

DEFEATED

Late Resolution One

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS investigate including on the T4A slip which is issued to STS members by the Teachers' Superannuation Commission, the amount deducted for the health care and/or dental care premiums and the STS annual membership fee. **CARRIED**

Late Resolution Two

BE IT RESOLVED that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan negotiate with its health carrier a provision whereby people whose attendance at a medical appointment is required by the doctor and whose dependence on mobility aids requires the use of a taxi may have a portion of their travel costs reimbursed.

DEFEATED

Late Resolution Three

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS explore ways that names of deceased superannuates and where they last taught could continue to

be published in *Outreach*, or barring that, be communicated to members of the STS in some appropriate manner. **CARRIED**

Late Resolution Four

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS lobby Sask Learning to include in the K-12 curricula, compulsory components on historical events that lead to Canadian freedoms, on civic responsibilities and on patriotism.

Amendment: change Sask Learning to Saskatchewan Ministry of Education **CARRIED**
Resolution **CARRIED** as amended.

Late Resolution Five

BE IT RESOLVED that the STF investigate the ethics of the company overseeing Portaplan. **DEFEATED**

Late Resolution Six

BE IT RESOLVED that the STS Executive make forceful efforts to convince the Saskatchewan Government of the need to work with other provinces towards creating a national drug formulary

WITHDRAWN

Late Resolution Seven

BE IT RESOLVED that the yearly notice sent by the Teachers' Superannuation Commission informing superannuates of pension increases for the coming year, understood to be based upon 80% of the increase in the cost of living for the previous year in Saskatchewan, contain exact information on how the CPI figure used for pension purposes for that year was arrived at.

Amendment: change the word Saskatchewan to Canada

CARRIED

Resolution **CARRIED** as amended.

Late Resolution Eight

BE IT RESOLVED that chairpersons of all Ad Hoc Committees established by the AGM shall be appointed from the elected members of the Executive with the majority of committee members appointed from the membership. **TABLED**

Nominations

Horst Sawatzki

Executive Positions for
2008–2009:

President/Councillor:

Jim Sego

Vice-President /Councillor:

Margaret Martin

Councillors:

Calvin Bachmeier

Shirley Dyck

Michael Gorkoff

Mike Kaminski

Peter Wiebe

Members at Large:

Elaine Broughton

Doug Haroldson

Shirley Henderson

Kate McCorrison

James Slough

Maxine Stinka

Robert Wuschenny

ACER-CART

Representative:

Fred Herron

STS Group Benefits Plan ALERT

To: All STS members 65 and over participating in the STS group benefits extended health plan and living IN Saskatchewan.

From: STS Executive

Date: March 2008

Re: Important information regarding the changes to the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan and the implications for the participants in the STS extended health plan.

If you are over age 65 and live in Saskatchewan, you should have received information from the Government of Saskatchewan regarding the Seniors' Drug Plan.

A brief summary of that information is as follows:

1. The Government of Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan available to all Saskatchewan residents 65 years of age and older is valid only until June 30, 2008.
2. Starting July 1, 2008, you will be required to apply (Form A) to receive coverage under the new Seniors' Drug Plan.
3. You are eligible for coverage if you are a Saskatchewan resident 65 years of age and older as of July 1, 2008 with a reported individual income of less than \$64,044.00 on your 2006 income tax (line 236).
4. If you think you are eligible for coverage, return your application to the Seniors' Drug Plan by March 31, 2008 to ensure your Seniors' Drug Plan coverage is not interrupted as of July 1, 2008.
5. If you did not receive an application form by mail it is available as follows:
 - 5.1 Online at: www.health.gov.sk.ca/senior-prescription-drug-plan.
 - 5.2 At your pharmacy.
 - 5.3 Contact the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch in Regina at 787-3317 or toll-free at 1-800-667-7581.
6. You will receive a letter in the mail informing you if you have been approved for coverage or if you do not meet the eligibility requirements.

The changes in the Seniors' Drug Plan have significant implications for participants in the STS Extended Health Plan living in Saskatchewan and over the age of 65 as of July 1, 2008. Those implications are described as follows:

1. In order to benefit from the reduced premium for the STS Extended Health Plan, you must submit a copy of the letter that indicated that you have coverage under the Seniors' Drug Plan.
2. **That letter must be received at the STS Office as soon as possible, but no later than August 15, 2008 in order to retain the reduced premium effective September 1, 2008.**
3. If the STS does not receive a copy of this letter, your premium will revert to the full premium for Extended Health until such time as proof of coverage is submitted.
4. There will be not retroactive premium adjustments.

Please note: We require confirmation for eligibility for the Seniors' Drug Plan **NOT** the Special Support Program.

STS Group Benefit Plan Memorandum

To: All STS members 65 and over participating in the STS group benefits extended health plan and living OUTSIDE Saskatchewan.

From: STS Executive

Date: March 2008

Re: Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan

In 2007, the Government of Saskatchewan introduced a Seniors' Drug Plan that provided universal coverage for Saskatchewan residents over the age of 65 and in possession of a Saskatchewan Health Card. The coverage provided for a maximum cost of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per Prescription.

As a result of the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan, members of the STS Extended Health Plan had their premiums reduced. However, given the uncertainty of the continuation of the Plan, no changes were made to the premiums for out-of-province participants.

The Government of Saskatchewan has now introduced changes to the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan requiring seniors to apply for the benefit and introducing an income test for eligibility.

The STS Executive has made the decision to provide premium reduction for STS members over age 65 participating in the STS Extended Health Plan and living outside Saskatchewan if they meet the following requirements:

1. The member applies to the STS for coverage.
2. The member provides a declaration that their individual net income is less than \$64,044.00 as indicated on the 2006 Income Tax Return (line 236).
3. The member provides satisfactory evidence that the province of residence provides equal to or better drug coverage for seniors over the age of 65 (maximum of \$15/prescription).

The eligibility for a reduced premium for out-of-province STS members who participate in the STS Extended Health Plan is intended to be available under the same conditions as individuals living in Saskatchewan.

We thank you for your patience and understanding regarding these very important plan changes.



Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

Memorandum

To: All STS Members

From: STS Executive

Date: July 1, 2008

Re: Notification that *Outreach* is posted on the STS Website.

In an attempt to reduce both mailing costs and our impact on the environment, the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan will begin a procedure with the September/October issue, whereby STS members can be notified by e-mail that *Outreach* is posted on the STS website.

There are two options available:

Option One

I want to be notified that a new issue of *Outreach* has been posted on the STS website and I do not want to receive a hard copy of *Outreach*.

Option Two

I want to be notified that a new issue of *Outreach* has been posted on the STS website and I also want to receive a hard copy of *Outreach*.

In order to select option one or two, please e-mail haseh@stf.sk.ca with your name, e-mail address and the option you wish to select. In the event that your e-mail address is changed, please e-mail the change to the STS Office as soon as possible.

The STS is committed to maintaining your privacy so please be assured that your e-mail address will be held in confidence.

NOTE: All STS members that do not select one of the above options will continue to receive a hard copy of *Outreach*.

STS Recreation Committee Report

Calvin Bachmeier



Upcoming Events

Recreational Activities Participation STS Style . . .

Fishing

Unfortunately the Fishing Derby that was to be held on July 3, 2008 has been cancelled due to low water levels at Round and Crooked Lake.

Bridge

STS Provincial Bridge Tournament

- Date: October 7 and 8, 2008
- Place: Best Western Seven Oaks
777 Albert Street, Regina, SK
S4R 2P6
Telephone (306) 757 - 0121
- Cost: \$30.00 (Includes Tuesday Evening Social, Wednesday Lunch and Bridge)
- Hotel Rates: Standard Room with Tournament \$99.00
Must be booked by
September 20, 2008
- Senior Rate: \$89.00
Call Hotel directly to get these rates

- Contact: Amber MacLeod
228 - 2330 Hamilton Street
Regina, SK S4P 4M4
Telephone (306) 586-2785

Curling

STS 2008 Curling Registration

- Sutherland Curling Club,
141 Jessop Ave. Saskatoon, SK
- Monday November 3rd, 2008
8:00-10:00 p.m.- Social
- Tuesday November 4th, 2008
8:30 a.m. Curling starts
6:00 p.m. Banquet
(Extra tickets-\$15.00)
- Wednesday November 5th, 2008
8:30 a.m. Day 2 of Curling
- Registration Fee: \$140.00 per rink.

- Maximum of 16 teams will be accepted.
- Spouses of retired teachers are welcome to enter.
- Make cheques payable to Curl 2008, STS Saskatoon Chapter.
- Mail entrees with list of team members to:
Bill Meger
571 Adilman Dr.
Saskatoon SK S7K 6E8
Phone: (306) 249-1329
- Motel:
Colonial Square
1301 8th St. East, Saskatoon
\$89.00 / Night
(Make reservations early)
Ph. 1-800-667-3939

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.

The Seniors' Information Hotline: 1-888-823-2211

Please Note: This is not an STS hotline. This is a general hotline for all seniors.

Saskatchewan HealthLine: 1-877-800-0002

Surgery Wait Time Hotline:

Saskatoon Health Region: 1-866-543-6767 / Regina-Qu'Appelle Health Region: 1-866-622-0222

STS Support Services: www.sts.sk.ca

STS Wine Soiree/Octoberfest 2008

Wakaw Chapter

You are invited to attend a Wine Tasting Soiree/Octoberfest and on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at 2 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion – Wakaw, SK. (314 – 3rd Avenue South, Wakaw)



Program: Register early – limited numbers

Vintners must deliver wine by 1 p.m., Saturday, October 18

- 2:00 – 2:15 Welcome from Wakaw Chapter; M.C.
- 2:15 – 4:00 Wine Tasting
- 4:00 – 5:00 Entertainment, Biere Tent Gang
- 5:00 – 6:00 Catered Supper / Door Prizes
- 6:15 – 7:00 Wine Competition Awards, People’s Choice Award
- 7:00 – 7:30 Closing Remarks / Auction & Bottle Pick-ups
- 7:30 Entertainment/Social Activities

Tickets: \$25.00 each; must be purchased prior to October 7
Enquiries: Mel Osolinsky @ (306) 233-5596 or mooroz@sasktel.net

Stay at: Wakaw Lodge Motel, (306) 233-4345
Camping: Wakaw Lake Regional Park, (306) 233-5744
 Poplar Beach RV Resort, (306) 233-5584

Things to Visit: Diefenbaker Law Office, Regional Park – Golfing, Wakaw Lake, Batoche National Historic Site, Scrimshaw Gallery, Duck Lake, Prytula General Store, Tway

Registration

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ PC _____

Tickets required _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Make cheque payable to: STS Wakaw Chapter
 Send to: Phil Mueller, Box 159, Wakaw, SK S0K 4P0

Wine Competition: October 18, 2008

Entry Form (for wine-makers)

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

Prov. _____ PC _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

Please check type of wine and name of wine (max. of 2)

Class	Kit Wines	Scratch wines
Red Dry _____		
Red Sweet _____		
White/Blush Dry _____		
White/Blush Sweet _____		

• Classes will be decided based on entries!

 Vintner’s Signature Date Comp. Ticket #

• If additional ticket(s) required, please fill in “Ticket Request Form”

Regulations:

1. Competitors will supply at least 4 (750 mL) bottles of wine per class (maximum of 2)
2. Wine must be delivered by 1 p.m. Saturday, October 18
3. Competition starts at 2:15 p.m.
4. Bottles (and unopened wine) will be ready for pickup at 7:15 p.m.
5. Vintners will be charged only \$15.00; all other tickets are \$25.00 each and must be purchased prior to October 7.
6. There will be prizes in each category plus a “people’s choice” award
7. Entries will be accepted on a “first-come” basis based on space available, so enter early; limited entrants
8. For more information, contact Mel Osolinsky at (306) 233-5596
9. Mail entry form to: Mel @ Box 400, Wakaw, SK S0K 4P0, or by email mooroz@sasktel.net

Spotlight on Members

Orval Ens



Continued from last issue:

If there was a well, the water was usually stale and not too sanitary. At many schools drinking water was brought daily by one of the older students who came to school by horse and buggy or sleigh. The water was emptied into a fountain with a tap where children could dispense it, usually by means of a personally owned cup. A cistern or rain barrel was often the source, that yielded water for a noon-hour wash parade. In winter, it was common to melt a pail of snow on the stove in order to have water with which to wash. In many schools children brought jars of soup or stew to be placed in a boiler of hot water. This provided a daily hot lunch.

Lighting was rarely adequate. The long row of big windows tended to be drafty and cold in winter and allowed the blistering sun to scorch the classroom in summer. The bright sun also caused a glare on the chalkboard, which made it difficult for students to see. Rural electrification came to many Saskatchewan schools in about 1952. The new artificial lighting was especially helpful on dark, dreary winter days.

Double desks were common furnishing in the earlier years, but slowly more modern single units replaced them. Each desk was equipped with an ink well. When a desk was bumped, the ink could easily spill, thus creating quite a mess. I am told that girls with long hair were sometimes known to have the ends dyed a beautiful blue color. (Boys will be boys.) Invariably, the inkwells were frozen on cold mornings.

The playgrounds for schools varied in size, usually consisting of two-

three acres. In summer, the ball diamond was the busiest area. This game, as well as many other organized games, kept the students from getting into trouble during recess break. Usually when a teacher was not supervising recess activities, there would develop discipline problems. In wintertime a few schools made a skating rink. This took a great deal of time and ambition. The teacher, the students and often parent involvement were needed to flood the ice and also to keep it free of snow. The rink was keenly utilized even in the cold weather.

Classroom activities had to be well organized. A teacher in one school might have only a handful of students. On the other hand, enrolments were as high as thirty, forty or even more. This meant that students ranged in grades from one to eight and during some years, also a few grade nine or ten students. Older students often helped younger ones with their work. The teacher was swamped with work so that it was advantageous to combine classes such as music, art and physical education. Then too, the Department of Education had developed an "A" and "B" course arrangement for the teaching of Social Studies, Science and Health. Combined grades of one and two, three and four, five and six, seven and eight would take the "A" course one year and the "B" course the next year. This cut down the heavy load of preparation time for the teacher.

Most schools had few teaching resources. Maps, atlases, encyclopedias and books in general were in short supply. Slowly, school boards were catching up after the

hard depression years. Buildings needed repair and maintenance and resource materials did become more plentiful. Electrical power was a welcome arrival. Now, we could listen to school broadcasts on the radio especially designed for us. The music broadcasts were of great assistance.

Schoolyards often housed two other buildings. One was a barn where the horses were kept, while students were in class. The teacherage was the other common sight. The teacher lived in it in exchange for doing the school janitor work. The average teacherage was quite small in size but served the purpose. A single teacher who did not wish to batch could opt to board with a farm family.

Teachers rarely stayed for any length of time at one school. In some cases, a few months were the duration. There were others, who stayed a year or two or three and a few stayed ten and even more.

Students often walked or rode horseback as many as three or four miles. There were no buses, but there were carts, buggies, toboggans pulled by horses, and there were open sleighs and closed-in sleighs heated by a small stove. Some students were fortunate enough to be conveyed by car when roads were passable. Many students braved storms, rains, cold winds and fought off pesky flies and mosquitoes.

The hardships and inconveniences often endured developed the type of character, which helped make good citizens. The one room school is gone, but its memories live on.

Reunion Every Year

The Waldheim High School grads of 1946 meet each year. This class met on their 20th, 30th and 40th Anniversaries, and each year after that.

The 60th anniversary was

attended by 14 of the original 18 in 2006.

Fifteen of these grads were teachers, although four of them changed to careers such as doctor, dentist and police. Others

worked at various vocations including that of R.M. Secretary and homemaking.

These stalwarts have a date each third Saturday in July.



Waldheim Grads of 1946 at the 60th Anniversary in 2006:

Back Row: Lorne Ratzlaff (now deceased), Herman Berg, Homer Janzen, Herald Berg, Jack Ratzlaff, Orval Ens, Willmer Willems, Miriam Jantzen

Front Row: Ruth (Buhr) Bulbeck, Bertha (Peters) Thiessen, Olivia (Odnokon) Planidin, Leone (Schultz) Funk, Irene (Bergman Hiebert) Andres, Mary (Friesen) Strobel

Missing: Esther (Spent) Wecker of Kelowna

Deceased: Elizabeth Jantzen, Wilmer Strauss, Bernice (Loewen) Wilkins

From The Editor's Desk

Another successful AGM has taken place. The 35th Anniversary of the STS was well celebrated with wonderful entertainment starting the meeting, with the renewing of old acquaintances and with making new friends.

A special congratulations to our four new Honorary Life Members. A well deserved honour for each of them.

From my northern home there is a start of a glimmer of spring. The loons are calling, so this is a definite sign. Now it is my time to putter in the soil and wait for the seeds to germinate.

To each and every one of the STS members have a safe and wonderful summer.

Shirley

STS Executive 2007-2008

President/Councillor	Siegrid Schergel	Moose Jaw Chapter
Vice-President/Councillor	Jim Segó	Unity Chapter
Past President/Councillor	Horst Sawatzki	Moosomin Chapter
Councillors:		
V.A. Derkach		Nipawin Chapter
Shirley Dyck		Swift Current Chapter
Mike Kaminski		Assiniboine Chapter
Margaret Martin		Saskatoon Chapter
Peter Wiebe		Regina Chapter
Members At Large:		
Calvin Bachmeier		Maple Creek / Medicine Hat Chapter
Elaine Broughton		Saskatoon Chapter
Doug Haroldson		Maple Creek / Medicine Hat Chapter
Darlene McCullough		Tisdale Chapter
James Slough		Regina Chapter
Maxine Stinka		Assiniboine Chapter
Robert Wuschenny		Yorkton Chapter
ACER-CART	Fred Herron	Saskatoon Chapter
Outreach Editor	Shirley Henderson	Prince Albert 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, 2008.

For information, please request an information package from:

Martha Driedger, Administration/Governance
Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
2317 Arlington Ave
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8

Ph: (306) 373-1660; 1-800-667-7762

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.

Phone: 373-3879 • Fax: 374-1122

E-mail: sts@stf.sk.ca

2317 Arlington Ave.

Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8

Monday to Friday

8:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon

website: www.sts.sk.ca

Publications Mail Agreement No.40017216
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
STS Office
2317 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8