

APRIL 2019

# RETIRED WORKERS' CHAPTER

 NEWSLETTER



POWER WORKERS' UNION

**RETIRED  
WORKERS'  
CHAPTER**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE |



Dear Members,

To those of you that spent the winter in warmer climates, welcome home. To those of you that stayed home, I hope that you had a healthy, safe and enjoyable winter here in Ontario.

The RWC Executive and the PWU have been busy monitoring events that may have an effect not only on retirees but on society as a whole.

As you know, we are experiencing interesting times in Ontario. One of the first actions of the Ford majority government was a legislative attack on the most disadvantaged and marginalized workers in the province. The cancellation of the scheduled increase of the minimum wage - from \$14.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour - was but one of these regressive actions. They also passed legislation ordering PWU members at OPG back to work after the members had twice rejected a tentative collective agreement. The subsequent arbitration, which was imposed by the legislation, has settled this dispute, and a collective agreement is now in place at OPG.

The PWU continually faces Agenda items at bargaining from employers that are attempting to reduce benefits and attack pension plans. Governments are also threatening legislation that can affect retirees. RWC members will be kept informed of any issues in this regard.



By **Peter J Kelly**  
*President*  
*Retired Workers' Chapter*

***“Once again, I must emphasize the importance of retirees on the political scene due to our high voter turnout.”***



I encourage you to attend one of our membership meetings in May of this year. These meetings are very important for RWC members. You will be provided with information that will be helpful to you and you will get updated on issues that currently affect, or have the potential to affect benefits and pensions. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide input to the RWC Executive.

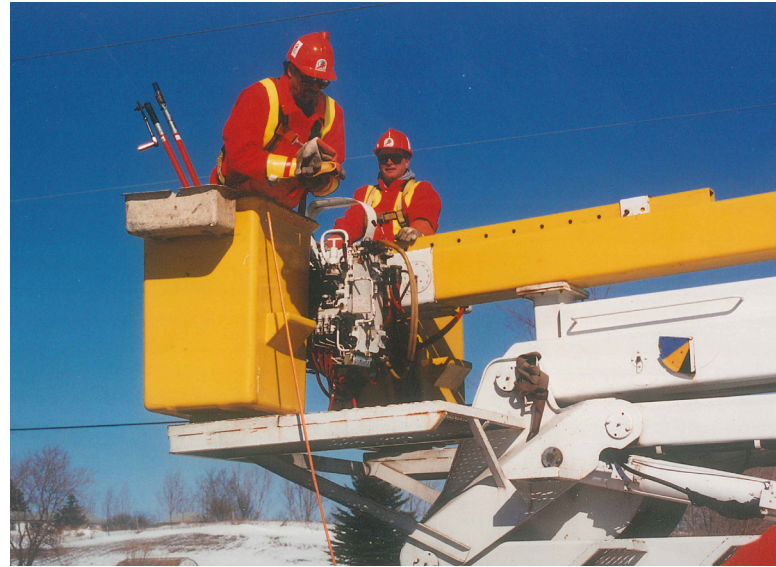
On page 3 of the newsletter, you will find a list of the locations and dates for the meetings which start at 12 noon. Spouses/partners are also invited to attend and lunch will be provided. So spread the word and encourage your PWU retiree friends to attend.

One of our initiatives this year is to update our website and provide more information via bulletins to RWC members. We welcome your ideas on these issues.

Hopefully we will see many of you at our membership meetings.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

**Peter J Kelly**  
President RWC







# RECENT NEWS |

## PWU RWC MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAY 2019

The main objective of the RWC is to further the interest of the PWU retirees. We do this in many ways as per our constitution. One means of accomplishing our goal is to conduct membership meetings across the province of Ontario.

Spouses/Partners are also invited to attend and lunch is provided. Our meetings, are not just for paid up members of the RWC. You may know PWU retirees who never belonged to the RWC or who have let their membership lapse. Retirees who have never belonged or who are lapsed members will be given the opportunity to join/rejoin at these meetings. So spread the word and encourage your PWU retiree friends to attend.

If you will be attending one of these meetings, please let us know which meeting and the number of attendees by email at [rwc@pwu.ca](mailto:rwc@pwu.ca) or call **1 888 481 1798**. Meetings start at 12 noon.

### THIS SPRING'S MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE LISTED BELOW.

**\*ALL MEETINGS START AT NOON**

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

Renfrew  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 148  
30 Raglan Street S.  
Renfrew, ON K7V 1P7

#### TUESDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

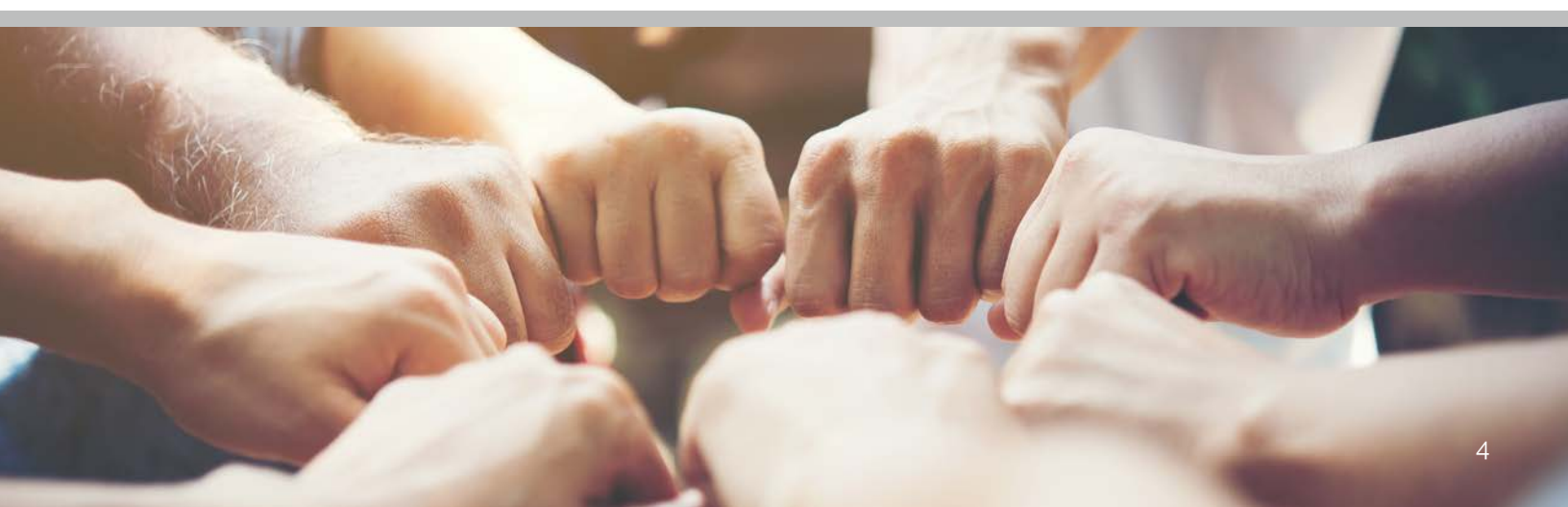
Pickering  
Canadian Legion Branch 606  
1555 Bayly St.  
Pickering, ON L1W 2Z1

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>

Bowmanville  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 178  
109 King St. East  
Bowmanville, ON L1C 1N4

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>

Barrie  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 147  
410 St. Vincent St.  
Barrie, ON L4M 4A6





## HEARING INSTRUMENTS: ARE THEY FOR YOU?

Hearing loss is more common among adults than most people think. Statistics Canada reports that 40% of adults between the ages of 27 to 79 have some level of hearing loss. Out of that 40%, about one fifth of those adults will take action to improve their hearing and quality of life.

Ask yourself if you have any of the following symptoms affecting your hearing. Do you sometimes struggle to understand words against a noisy background or in a crowd? Are you asking people to repeat themselves when speaking to you? Do you regularly turn up the volume on a TV or radio? When listening, does speech or sound come across as muffled?

Hearing loss most often occurs when the tiny hair cells located in the cochlea of the inner ear are damaged or die. These tiny hair cells are vital to convert sound to the auditor nerve. Noise, age and drugs are the main reasons for one's hearing to deteriorate.

Hearing aids are the most common solution to improve one's loss of hearing. Retirees should check their benefits to see if hearing aids and tests are covered. OHIP also covers some costs. If you are thinking about a hearing test and possible hearing aids, go see your physician and get a referral to see a Doctor of Audiology.



A certified audiology doctor will not only test your hearing but will also examine your inner ear, for possible lesions, scarring and other impairments before suggesting hearing aids specified to your needs.

Today, hearing aids are impressive medical devices that are compact and almost invisible when worn. Aids can restore sounds that you are missing out on and even filter background noise out so you can conduct a conversation above the roar of a crowd in a stadium.

If you suspect hearing loss, get checked out. Listening can be so much better when you have a second pair of ears.





# HELPING OTHERS/GIVING BACK

BY DAVID TRUMBLE

Spring, with summer on the way, often puts a lot of pressure on community organizations and non-profits such as food banks. Seasonal swings in demand notwithstanding, the demand for services in all of our communities is more acute in 2019 than ever before. Communities are under duress as job loss escalates unchecked and families now unemployed and underemployed, with fewer and fewer options to restore any semblance of prosperity, turn to agencies for assistance. In our own bargaining unit, we know the fear that members have at Pickering and Thunder Bay, as Durham faces the announced closure of General Motors in Oshawa and one third - 1,500 - of Windsor Unifor members face layoffs at the Chrysler plant.

As members of the PWU Retirees Chapter, we are the recipients of pension and benefits that accrue through sixty plus years of exemplary skill and determination by the PWU at the bargaining table. With this position, envied by so many, comes a responsibility to care for others and this often translates into community activism. A dignified retirement is an ideal platform for embracing community activism.

Being active in our communities does not have to be onerous, nor does it have to be of a particular nature. Look into your community and what are you likely to find? You will find a food bank or homeless shelter in need of a few hours a month, a hospice in need of an hour or two, a minor sports organization in need of a coach or equipment person, a labour council in need of a PWU delegate, a Royal Canadian Legion Branch in need of someone to call bingo, a person to help out at a school breakfast and many others that require nothing but a phone call or a visit to know how much you are needed.

Health care professionals have noted the benefits of an active retirement for years. Many, if not all of our PWU retirees, are very active; they golf, travel and much more. This energy does not only have to be spent in the very worthwhile pursuit of such activities. If you have not taken the time to also share your spirit and energy in some of the other ways mentioned and many other worthwhile ventures, one of the most satisfying chapters of your life is yet to be written.



## EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS UPDATE

Most PWU RWC members receive retiree EHB benefits. These benefits are covered under PWU collective agreements. Benefits are subject to change at contract negotiations. In most agreements pensioners and spouses are affected by any changes.

When changes that occur that affect pensioners/spouses, the PWU RWC will indicate in a newsletter or will issue a bulletin to the RWC members that will be affected by any changes and the changes will also be posted on our web site.

At the upcoming membership meetings attendees will be updated on any benefit changes that have occurred this year to date.

## ONTARIO POWER GENERATION EHB CHANGES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2019

The following changes to the plan are a result of the 2018/19 bargaining session.

Amend Health & Dental Benefits Brochure as follows:

### DIABETIC SUPPLIES

- Add Continuous Glucose Monitor and Supplies (for children under the age of 13 only)
- Add Freestyle Libre and supplies

**Psychologist** – add registered Psychotherapist

**Physiotherapy** – Subsequent Treatments Increase from \$60 to \$75.

**Drugs** – Implement a cap on frequency of dispensing fees for maintenance level drugs to five (5) every twelve (12) months, unless medical evidence (submitted through a drug exception form) is submitted to the provider (currently Sun Life Financial) that indicates why a maintenance level drug is to be dispensed on a more frequent basis, and is approved by Sun life Financial. This provision will be effective as of January 1, 2019.

Implement mandatory lowest price equivalent drugs (generic or brand name). For clarity, this does not require the plan member to go to an alternate pharmacy

It is anticipated that the new drug provisions above may create an issue for some RWC members/spouses. If you experience an issue in this area please follow the procedure outlined in RWC Directive "What to do if you are denied Health Benefits". This directive was included in the RWC Fall 18 newsletter and will be available on the RWC website in the near future.





# PWU RETIRED WORKERS' CHAPTER WEBSITE

Our website is currently being updated. The new site will be very user-friendly. The intent is to have information available to RWC members in a very easy, accessible format.

Once the site upgrade is complete, members will be provided access information via a RWC Bulletin.

We will be happy to hear any input that you believe should be include on the site.

Send your comments to: [rwc@pwu.ca](mailto:rwc@pwu.ca)

# PWU EVENTS







PWU ANNUAL CHARITY  
**GOLF**  
TOURNAMENT 2019

## JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT!

Date: Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2019

Time: 10 AM - 8 PM

Locations: Nottawasaga Inn Resort (Alliston, ON)  
& Woodington Lake Golf Club (Tottenham, ON)

### SCHEDULE

<b>10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</b>	Registration Sign-in & Activities
<b>10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</b>	BBQ Lunch
<b>11:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.</b>	Shuttle to Woodington Lake
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	Sharp Shotgun Start Woodington
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	Sharp Shotgun Start Nottawasaga
<b>5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>	Dinner, Prizes, Raffle

### FEE

**Full Day - \$145/Person**

*\* includes green fees, a power cart, a BBQ lunch and a buffet-style steak dinner*

**Dinner Only - \$60/Person**

### REGISTRATION

The registration form is available in your email under the subject line 'PWU Annual Charity Golf Tournament 2019'. Please submit this form no later than May 11, 2019.

