

ON GUARD



The Peel-Halton & Area Branch Report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer 2007

The flowers are blooming and we are now looking forward to enjoying the warm weather. I hope you took advantage of spring to take a fresh look at achieving optimal health and well being.

Annual General Meeting

Those of you who attended our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2007, heard John Rozenberg speak about "Active Living" as a way of life and how to integrate it into our daily life. John also mentioned the Ontario Senior Games Association (OSGA), which encourages older adults to participate in sports and recreational activities, to promote their interaction and physiological and psychological health. I hope you will take advantage of the good weather and get active.

In his presentation, our Newly re-elected Regional Director, Richard Poersch, who is also a member of our branch, gave us an update on the challenge to Bill C-78 and a brief summary on the 2007 Convention, the Governance issues and other matters that affect the members – such as recruitment efforts and recommendation on membership dues.

Regional Conference

The Central and Northern Ontario Regional Conference was held in Sault Ste. Marie from April 24 to 26, 2007. Items discussed at this conference were covered by Richard Poersch and reported earlier in my message.

The election of the Regional Director and Deputy Regional Director took place on April 26, 2007. Richard Poersch and John Schneider were re-elected for another term of three years.

Your 2007 Board of Directors

The list of the newly elected Executive and Board members for the year 2007 appears on the next page.

Renee Labbad-Thibault

HELP – Telephone Committee

As always ...we need your help! Please volunteer to make calls to members to announce meetings and other special events. If interested, please call 905-566-6150 and leave a message for Chris Buklin or email him at: cbuklin1234@rogers.com. Also, **please e-mail him your e-mail address** – just send a blank message with the words "FSNA E-Mail (*followed by your e-mail address*)" in the **subject line**. This is of special importance if you have, recently, changed your e-mail address.

Branch mail address: FSNA Peel-Halton and Area Branch, 1235 Trafalgar Road, Box 84018
Oakville, Ontario, L6H 5V7

Branch Telephone number: (905) 566-6150

Branch Officers: President - Renee Labbad Thibault / Vice President - Bob Brown (Health Benefit Officer) / Secretary - Daphne Ferrill / Treasurer - Len Summerfield / Membership - Harold Henry
(Website: www.fsnapeelhalton.org General e-mail: info@fsnapeelhalton.org)

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Our current Membership stands at more than 1600 consisting of 462 dual memberships and 729 single memberships. If you have not already renewed your membership please do so. Unpaid member accounts will be dropped from our listing.

HEALTH ISSUES

If you have questions or concerns on any health related issue, please contact **Robert Brown, VP & Director, Public Health Care Liaison** using the contact information provided below.

BRANCH MAIL ADDRESS

FSNA Peel-Halton and Area Branch
1235 Trafalgar Road, Box 84018
Oakville, Ontario, L6H 5V7

2007 Board Members & Contact Information

Branch Telephone: (905) 566-6150
Please leave a voice mail and specify to whom you would like to speak.

E-mail addresses:

PRESIDENT: Renee Labbad-Thibault
president@fsnapeelhalton.org

VICE-PRESIDENT and Chair - Health and Benefits: Robert Brown
healthbenefits@fsnapeelhalton.org

TREASURER: Len Summerfield
treasurer@fsnapeelhalton.org

SECRETARY: Daphne Ferrill
secretary@fsnapeelhalton.org

Chair - Membership: Harold Henry
Membership Secretary: Robert Lane
membership@fsnapeelhalton.org

Asst. Chair – Health/Benefits & Government Liaison: Shiv Bajwa
healthsupport@fsnapeelhalton.org

Chair - Recruitment: John Rozenberg
recruiting@fsnapeelhalton.org

Chair - Telephone Committee: Chris Buklin
telecom@fsnapeelhalton.org

Resolutions Committee: Spencer Gludish
resolutions@fsnapeelhalton.org

Branch Report Editor and Webmaster: Gerhard Mohr
editor@fsnapeelhalton.org or

Website: *www.fsnapeelhalton.org*

BEWARE OF SCAMS

*...The following is **an authorized** reproduction from a February 26, 2007 Toronto Star article, written by Life Writer "Nancy J. White".*

To read the full article visit www.thestar.com/article/185591 or visit our website at www.fsnapeelhalton.org/stalkers.html.

"...They've heard it all. The salesman's knock, then pitch: "Sign up now for new installed windows at our amazing seniors' discount." and the telemarketers' calls: "The XYZ children's charity needs your help." or "You've won a free Caribbean cruise!".

Sadly, the financial abusers aren't always strangers. Friends, family and hired caregivers have been caught dipping into a senior's bank account, even wiping out a life's savings.

...About 150,000 to 160,000 Ontario seniors suffer abuse - financial, emotional, and physical - every year."

According to the article scams including the sale of phoney bonds; telemarketer calls to suggest that you have won big sums of money which can only be released if you pay certain costs; phoney home repair or improvement proposals where you have to pay money up-front; and the impersonation of Health Care workers or counsellors, who calls on the senior and then steals whatever they can while the senior is not looking.

The article provides some cautionary notes and contact points for your use:

Catch the con: How to tell if you're a target

Some important tips from **PhoneBusters** on how to recognize a scam. It could be a scam if:

- It sounds too good to be true
- You must pay or you can't play. You've won something but need to send money to get it.
- You must give the caller your private financial information.
- The caller insists you send cash or a money order, not a cheque.
- The caller is trying to get you excited about a great opportunity.
- The person calling claims to be a tax official, banking officer or someone with the authority to ask personal question.
- The stranger calling behaves as if he or she is your buddy.
- A warning that "You must act immediately or you'll miss out on this offer".

Websites, phone numbers for answers, assistance:

For more information on elder abuse and to get help, call or visit:

- The Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse -- www.onpea.org (416-640-7784).

- The Victim Support Line directs a caller to the proper services, 416-314-2447, or toll-free 1-888-579-2888, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.
- Local police, in Toronto the main non-emergency number is 416-808-2222. (*...check your telephone directory's blue pages for the Peel, Halton and area police telephone numbers...*). Explain your problem to the operator, who will direct your call appropriately, and officers can offer advice.
- PhoneBusters, the national anti-fraud call centre operated by the OPP and RCMP. It's the central agency collecting information on telemarketing and identity theft complaints. It offers a seniors support program. 1-888-495-8501 or www.phonebusters.com
- Revenue Canada will check to see if a charity is registered. 1-800-267-2384, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday.
- Consumer Protection Branch, Ministry of Government Services, legal information. 1-800-889-9768 or 416-326-8800.

To read the full article visit:

www.thestar.com/article/185591

For more info on this and other safety issues - check out our website at:

www.fsnapeelhalton.org/useful_links.html

FSNA PEEL-HALTON & AREA BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FORM

This is your FSNA membership application or information update form. Membership dues are effective from January 1 to December 31. Please complete this form if you are **applying** for membership whether you are paying dues via automatic DDS (Dues Deduction at Source) or directly to this Branch and forward it to our Membership Director at the address outlined below, as soon as possible. **Please also use this form to notify us of address, telephone number, e-mail address, or membership option changes.** This will ensure that our membership data base and contact information is current. You can also notify us of changes by e-mail. Write to **membership@fsnapeelhalton.org**.

Please make cheques payable to: **“FSNA, PEEL-HALTON AND AREA BRANCH”**.

Members who have **NO CHANGES** to report and are **paying dues via DDS, need not submit this form**. Once your application and dues payment (if applicable) are received, a new membership card will be mailed to you. If you use the DDS deduction method, you will receive your membership card as soon as possible from FSNA.

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MEMBERSHIP Application/Renewal FORM

**FSNA Peel-Halton and Area Branch
attn. Membership Director
1235 Trafalgar Road, Box 84018
Oakville, Ontario, L6H 5V7**



Please indicate the applicable membership option

- Single member = \$30.00 /yr**
- Dual membership = \$40.20 /yr**
- Associate Member* = \$10.00 /yr**

Renewals: – please enter current FSNA Membership **Number:**

Are YOU a: *(please indicate the one that applies to you!)*

- Member whose dues are deducted at source (DDS) & have changes to report?**

- Member paying directly to Branch, *with enclosed cheque*, or have changes to report?**

Mr./Mrs./Ms/Miss: *(please circle the appropriate title)*

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: (_____) ____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

(Please note: Confidentiality is assured - your information will only be used for FSNA purposes.)

***Note: Associate Members are Federal Public Servants still employed but who wish to join the FSNA now.**