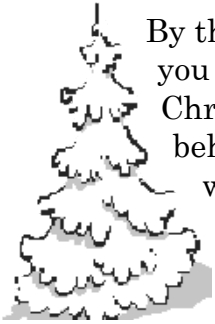




The Peel Halton & Area Branch Report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter 2008



By the time this report reaches you, you will be preparing to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to convey our very best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Our 2008 Fall General Meeting held on October 15, 2008 was a success; we had a few more of you in attendance and hope that we will continue to increase our attendance at membership meetings. Our speakers at this meeting were representatives from Alterna Bank, one of FSNA Affinity Programs. Information on Alterna Bank, and what it offers FSNA members, is available on the Association's web site.

Presentations were also made by John Schneider, our Regional Services Officer and Richard Poersch, National Director, Ontario. John covered topics relevant to the new FSNA Governance and his role as the first RSO for the Central and Northern Ontario Region. He also indicated that FSNA is celebrating its 45th year in protecting pensioners' interest. Richard thanked our Branch for supporting his candidacy for the position of National Director, Ontario.

Richard is a member of our branch and a past President. Richard covered the role of the National Director and some of the policy issues the National Board of Directors are presently promoting.

This year we lost one of our oldest members, James Rowlatt, at the age of 104, as well as Ruth Gray who was a member of our board of directors for many years. Your directors, on behalf of all members, would like to take this opportunity to convey their sincere condolences to all those who have lost a loved one in the past year, and wish a speedy recovery to those who have been in poor health.

As in past years, our branch took part in the Remembrance Day Celebration on November 11 and laid a wreath on your behalf.

We are, once again, inviting some of you to offer some of your time and to volunteer to help by assisting or becoming a member of the Board of directors of our branch.

Renée Labbad-Thibault

Useful Website for seniors:

Look up www.seniors.ca to find resources for seniors including federal assistance programs; health, legal and insurance information; consultations; news; entertainment; grand-parenting; and more. Also find sites for elder law, magazines, and organizations for senior citizens.

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

Branch Telephone number: (905) 599-6151

Branch Officers: President - Renee Labbad Thibault / Vice President - Spencer Gludish / Treasurer - John Rozenberg / Membership - Robert Lane

Website: www.fsnapeelhalton.org *General e-mail:* info@fsnapeehalton.org

Save Your Money – New Tax Initiative:

Tax-Free savings set for take-off – Plan takes effect January 1, 2009.

*The following contains excerpts from an **authorized reprint** of an article contained in the October 15, 2008 Toronto Star business page, authored by Ellen Roseman.*

The full reprint is hosted on our website at:
www.fsnapeelhalton.org/YourSavings.html

“There's nothing like a stock market plunge to make you warm to the idea of earning 2 to 3 per cent interest on your savings.

Still turned off by today's low rates? Just wait till January, when you can shelter up to \$5,000 a year from tax.

The tax-free savings account (TSFA), introduced in the most recent federal budget, will be available on Jan. 2, 2009 (when financial institutions reopen after the holiday).

Banks, investment dealers and mutual fund managers are taking applications already. They're starting to advertise and posting information at their websites.

How is the new tax-free savings account different from a registered retirement savings plan?

There are two key differences:

- Contributions to a tax-free savings account **are not** deductible from your taxable income, as are RRSP contributions.

- Withdrawals from a tax-free savings account **are not added** to your income and taxed at current rates, as are RRSP withdrawals.

The tax-free savings account also offers greater flexibility.

- You can take money out any time and replace it later without losing your ability to make future contributions, as you do with RRSPs.
- You can use a tax-free savings account as collateral for a loan, which you can't do with an RRSP.
- You can put money into a tax-free savings account for a spouse or child over 18 without being subject to the attribution rules that apply to RRSPs.

This means you won't be taxed on the income in a spouse's or child's TFSA and you can still contribute up to \$5,000 to your own plan.

Since RRSP withdrawals boost your taxable income, they can reduce your eligibility for means-tested benefits – such as the guaranteed income supplement and nursing home subsidies.

TFSA withdrawals **are not subject** to clawbacks of benefits, will allow low-income Canadians to save in a more fruitful way.

One final point: A tax-free savings account is not just for interest investments. It can shelter any income – stock dividends or mutual fund distributions – from tax.

So, ask your financial institution whether this new registered plan makes sense for you and when you can prepare the paperwork.”

Check with your investment advisor and/or your Financial Institution how you can take advantage of this tax saving initiative.

Ontario Senior Homeowners' Property Tax Grant (OSHPTG)

The OSHPTG is an annual amount provided to help offset property taxes for seniors with low and moderate incomes who own their own homes. For 2009 the Maximum grant is \$250.00. Get your information about the 2009 Senior Homeowners' Property Tax Grant by checking **our website** or contacting:

1-866-ONT-TAXS (1 866 668 8297)

Or visit **www.ontario.ca/revenue**

Branch Telephone Number

Please note our **telephone** number. If you wish to reach anyone on the board – you can call **905 599-6151**. Please leave a message and your contact information and the appropriate board member will call you back as soon as possible.

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

2008 Board Members' e-mail addresses

President: Renee Labbad-Thibault
president@fsnapeelhalton.org

Vice-President and Resolutions

Committee: Spencer Gludish
resolutions@fsnapeelhalton.org

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

Treasurer: John Rozenberg
treasurer@fsnapeelhalton.org

John has stepped in, temporarily. We are looking for a member to come forth to serve as treasurer of our chapter.

Secretary: Vacant

Chair - Membership: Robert Lane
membership@fsnapeelhalton.org

Member at Large: Shiv Bajwa
(Also assistant Health Benefits Officer)
healthsupport@fsnapeelhalton.org

Member at Large: Harold Henry

Chair - Recruitment: John Rozenberg
recruiting@fsnapeelhalton.org

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

Member at Large: Kanwal (Ken) Dean

We welcome our newest Board Member, Mr. Ken Dean. He will, initially, work with us as a member at large.

If you are interested in helping the board please contact our President, Renee Labbad-Thibault to discuss the portfolio in more detail.

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

www.fsnapeelhalton.org

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** = \$34.20 /yr
 Dual membership = \$44.40 /yr
 Associate Member* = \$15.00 /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?**

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

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

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

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