

The Duncan and District Branch Report

Our Board members

In conjunction with launching the new look of our branch report, we are including biographies of our board members. Some members have served you for several years, while others are newly appointed and are just learning the ropes. But make no

mistake, the combined life experiences of this group are a glittering tribute to (wo)mankind. If you have ever looked at the long list of names on the back page of this report, and wondered about the directors, read on....

but first some reflections from one member:

Too soon old, too late smart....as they say in Sweden

By Irene Hawkins

On approaching retirement, many people seek counseling to deal with their impending life style change. This counseling concentrates on financial aspects to the exclusion of everything else. Imagine, for thirty or more years your life has been shaped in every possible way by your employment, earning money. You unquestioningly accepted that to become employed almost all your activity would be circumscribed by expectations and schedules that had very little to do with your personal preferences. Think for a minute - when was the last time you spent a whole day doing exactly what you wanted to do rather than what you felt you had to do?

Gradually, along the way, we began to subscribe to an

immutable truth: all the freedoms we enjoyed 'pre-employment' were self-indulgent, egocentric - immature. You wanted to play the guitar, become an actor, write a novel. Happiness was staying out late, sleeping 'til noon, not making your bed!

Our season is now, folks! I challenge you to check in with your youthful self and see if one of those dreams can't become a reality. You have the freedom to spend your most valuable commodity - **your time** - any way you see fit. Wanted to visit the Tombs of the Pharaohs, Graceland, the Norwegian Fjords, the Goats on the - Roof up at Coombs? They're still there! You wanted to write that poem to the love of your life, or that piece for this report, cycle the Island Parkway? *Please do!*

A wise voice in Canada said: "At the end of it all, be sorry for what you did, not for what you failed to do!"

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Sing your song
by Nick Meijer-Drees

Board Biographies

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Frank Statham graduated from the British Columbia Institute of Technology in 1967, joined the Department of Transport and maintained the electronics at the Sandspit Airport. In the fall of '67 he reported to the Victoria Ship Electronics Workshop and except for five years working at the regional office in Vancouver, spent his entire career on that Coast Guard Base, ranging out to the light stations, marine radio stations, Rescue Co-ordination Centre, icebreaker patrols to the western Arctic, weather ship patrols, and several voyages around the island, preparing the vessels and stations for the summer season in the north. For the last ten years worked as the network supervisor for the Victoria Base. He taught digital and microprocessor techniques for Camosun College's night school program.

The technology he has used over the years has advanced phenomenally, from shooting the sun or stars to get a fuzzy position, to GPS, accurate within a few meters.

John Flannagan was born and grew up in or near Glasgow, Scotland. After graduation from High School he worked as a technician at the Zoological Field Station on Loch Lomond for the University of Glasgow, while completing his first degree. Moving to Canada he worked for the Freshwater Institute of The Fisheries Research Board of Canada in Winnipeg, where he completed his graduate work and became a Research Scientist and an Adjunct Professor at the Entomology Department of the University of Manitoba. He published a large number of research papers and reports mostly on aquatic insects and has edited (jointly with Eric Marshall of the Duncan Branch of FSNA) a book on Mayflies. John retired in 1995 and moved to Salt Spring Island.

Eugene Wessan served 34 years in the Canadian Armed Forces in Canada, NATO and on a UN mission in Israel. In his role as logistic officer he provided operational support and training.

Eugene retired in 1994 but continued as a logistic officer with NATO in Somalia and in Brindisi, Italy and as a consultant with human resources management in Ottawa. His expertise provided support in various east block European countries to achieve NATO military standards. In 2005 he moved to Vancouver Island with his wife Claire and applied his logistics skills to his father in law's house and later to his own house. He is still trying to retire...

Dianne Ham began her employment with DND at CFB Esquimalt in the summer of 1961, her first job being secretary to two bosses, a 4-ring captain and a 3-ring commander. This was a great introduction to the military hierarchy! The project at hand was the construction of the HMCS Saskatchewan and Yukon. After her marriage she moved to the east coast for a brief stint and returned in 1965 to Esquimalt and continued to work for HMCS Venture before her experience at both coasts brought her to the post of secretary in the Regional Director Civilian personnel (Pacific), from which position she retired in 1996. She and her spouse moved to Mill Bay on retirement and enjoyed a good five years before her spouse passed away in the spring of 2001.

Christine Van Ham was born in Magdeburg, Germany. After escaping from behind the Iron Curtain she completed her education in Cologne, emigrated and obtained her Canadian citizenship in 1961. She met her husband in Ontario, they farmed in BC, sailed extensively and raised two children. They retired to Alberta and returned to BC shortly before the sudden death of her husband in 2001. During most of her working life she was employed in clerical/ secretarial positions with private firms, Consumer and Corporate Affairs of BC (operations and legal services) and DSS Canada (Purchasing) in Victoria. Her late husband's enthusiastic support of the FSNA made Christine familiar with the goals and achievements of this organization and she decided to volunteer with the Duncan branch when she moved there three years ago.

Val Cretney was born in Nelson where he commenced his schooling, completing it in both Courtenay and Victoria. In 1955 he enrolled in the RCAF training as a navigator and then served in the RCAF and CAF Air Defense Command. He flew CF100 and CF101 interceptor aircraft and served on airbases across Canada from Comox to St Hubert, Quebec as well as staff officer at Air Defense Command HQ, North Bay. Val retired from the RCAF in December 1976 and following retirement was employed with the Bank of Montreal. He retired for a second time in July 1991 from his post as manager of the Duncan branch.

Margaret Baker has been attending FSNA meetings for the past 20 years. She retired from AECL/WNRE (a Crown Corporation) in Pinawa, Man., and moved to Salt Spring Island in 1986 and joined FSNA, Duncan branch in 1988. She started her work on the board in 1999 as Secretary in '03, and passed it to Christine in 2006. She has remained on Executive Committee as director (membership rep for S.S.I.) up to the present date.

Irene Hawkins, as the wife of a military man in Europe, took the opportunity of training as a volunteer broadcaster with the Canadian Forces Network (CFN) and found her niche. After her return to Canada she joined the staff of Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley Radio in a dual role, both on-air and as their Director of Women's Broadcasting (political correctness was not yet a factor!). Moving to Ottawa she worked for 20 years for the treasury board, providing internal communication, covering areas as

diverse as Flexible Work Schedules, Job-Sharing, Affirmative Action and, inevitably, down-sizing. She retired and eventually reached the Promised Land, arriving in Chemainus almost three years ago, and loving it.

Sonja Hinks was born in Rotterdam but emigrated with her family to Duncan in 1965. Her schooling was completed in Duncan and after qualifying as a book-keeper she worked for some 16 years with Beaver lumber, acquiring office administrative skills. In 1983 she married her husband Frank who had spent a career in the RCAF and they settled in Duncan. She attended a few meetings of the FSNA Duncan branch, liked what she saw and then her interest deepened into active participation.

Karin Laurie became a member of the FSNA on the coattails of her husband Brian who, at the time of his passing, was the acting director of the Surrey Tax Center. Upon retirement she moved to the Duncan area and was "coerced" into attending a FSNA meeting by her sister, and kept attending faithfully since 2001.

She volunteers at the local Visitor Info Center and recently for both the Olympics and the Para Olympics. She writes, "My most vivid memory of the games was the sight of an athlete approaching my checkpoint station carrying his skis held down with his chin on his shoulder. He had no arms. After watching him I decided there is really nothing to complain about, compared to what *he* achieved."



Front row (left to right):
Dianne Ham, Frank Hinks, Christine Van Ham, Margaret Baker, Nick Meijer Drees, Karin Laurie, Val Cretney, Gino Wessan, Irene Hawkins, Sonja Hinks.

Second row:
Frank Statham, John Flannagan

More about the board

Some aspects of the board work may need some clarification:

- The program coordinator makes arrangements for the luncheon meeting, including food and speakers.
- The telephone committee is headed by the coordinator of the volunteers who phone the members in the 6 districts. A special thanks is warranted to all the phone volunteers in these districts: Leslie Robinson, Verna McDuff, Mary Blanchard, Ruth Bumphrey, Margaret McBride, Pam Sheppard, Jeanne Corselli, Bob Ferguson, Frank Hinks, Janet Kueber, Alma Markwart, Betty Panzer, Nell Wright, Kay Walls, Margaret Gudjonson, June Thicket, Margaret Baker and Walter Mort. Their gentle reminders make our lunches a success.
- Member services is responsible for sending condolence messages and 'Get Well' cards to members. Irene would appreciate it if our members would let her know, quite informally by e-mail or telephone, if they become aware when such occasions arise. At stressful times, it's important for our members to know we are thinking of them.

Irene's telephone number is (250) 246-9427; e-mail: iphawkins@yahoo.ca.

Executive Committee - May 2010

President: Karin Laurie.....	748-3749
1st Vice President: Dianne Ham	743-5700
Secretary: Christine Van Ham.....	746-6018
Treasurer: Val Cretney.....	746-8020
<i>Health Benefits Officers:</i>	
Karin Laurie	748-3749
John Flannagan	653-2344
<i>Program Coordinator/Member Services:</i>	
Dianne Ham.....	743-5700
<i>Member Services:</i>	
Marg Baker	537-5339
Irene Hawkins.....	246-9427
<i>Membership :</i>	
Sonja Hinks.....	748-8716
<i>Website:</i>	
Frank Statham.....	743-3665
<i>Directors at large:</i>	
Frank Hinks.....	748-8716
John Flannagan	653-2344
Past President: Myrna Roy.....	246-3329
<i>Telephone Committee:</i>	
Chair: Irene Hawkins	246-9427
Rod Milroy - Ladysmith	245-4974
Flo Ganderton - SSI	537-1345
Una Statham - Duncan/C. Bay.....	743-3665
Irene Hawkins- all others	746-6018
<i>Non-Elected members:</i>	
Editor: Nick Meijer Drees.....	245-0138
<i>editor's e-mail address: ncmd@shaw.ca</i>	
Past Editor: Ken Strike.....	537-4743

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Feel creative? Take a pen and write a piece for this Report. It is *your* report!

2010 SUMMER PICNIC

On SaltSpring Island, Thursday, July 22nd.

Pick up by bus in the Parking lot at the Crofton ferry terminal for **11.10 am ferry** to Vesuvius (bring your gold card for free travel), proceed to **Saltspring Cheese** at 285 Reynolds Road (off Beaver Point Road) for **lunch** (salads, his cheeses, local bread and fruit), followed by a **short talk** on cheese-making by David Wood, owner and operator of the factory.

Cost: \$12. Option of "brown bagging" if you prefer.

After lunch we will proceed by bus to the **Sacred Mountain Lavender Farm** where we can find out about the growing, extraction and uses of lavender. Return to Vesuvius for **4.00 pm** ferry.

More details will be available when the telephone committee contacts you about your attendance. As a special treat two tickets to a matinee at the Chemainus Theatre will be given away at the picnic.

Please remember: if you fail to cancel your lunch after you have been phoned, you will have to pay for the meal.

