

THE BELL PENSIONERS' GROUP, (BPG), INC.
The Toronto & Area Chapter
NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN #20
September 25th, 2002

Item #1.....October 24th.....2002 Annual Fall Meeting & Reunion

We urge everyone to attend our Annual Fall Meeting & Reunion. The location of the hall on Dixie Road can be found on the t attached to this newsletter. We are inviting you to bring your spouse, better half, companion, what ever and enjoy the best pen available. We also urge you to call a friend who you haven't seen for a while and offer them a ride. Let's really put a lot of eff together! Carol Ann Cole promises to be in vintage form when she delivers her address on "Getting The Most Out Of Your Retirement".

Item #2.....Out Of Country Health Insurance

It has recently come to our attention that at least two Bell Pensioners have had problems collecting on Out Of Country Health Insurance. In both cases the problems seem to arise from pensioners answering questions on their questionnaire **incorrectly**. The moral is....be very careful how you answer all questions on questionnaires associated with any Out Of Country Health Insurance app Insurance Company can find a loophole to avoid paying off on a claim, their going to find it. It may even be advisable to seek your doctors' assistance to ensure you are a answ questions correctly.....You have been warned....

Item #3.....A Phone Scam To Be Aware Of

This scam is resurfacing again. One of your fellow BPG members passed this story on and we thought it was worth sharing wi received a telephone call last night from an individual identifying himself as a telephone service technician who was conducti telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should push nine (9), zero (0), the pound sign (#), and then hang up. Luck suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which ena place long distance calls and have them billed to your home phone number. Please beware. DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE (9), zero (0), the pound sign (#) and hang up for anyone."

Item #4.....A Founding Member of BPG

Rheal Proulx died in his sleep Aug 1 2002 of heart failure. Rheal was a founding member of BPG having organized the Quebec Region. He served as Quebec's Chairman during the Confederation Life Liquidation struggle. He also represented Quebec Chapters on the Board. He served briefly as VP and as the third President of BPG before he resigned due to his heart condition. Rheal's contribution was important in the signing of the Agreement that benefited Bell Pensioners with the "Bell Top Up" amounting to \$22 million in the liquidation of Confederation Life. We will remember Rheal for his generous contribution of time and energy and his perseverance in carrying on despite the obstacles and setbacks. We will miss him as a former colleague, pensioner and loyal friend.

Dan Braniff - Founding President BPG Inc.

Item #5..... Employee Discount Plan

The following is the text of a letter that Bell plans to send to surviving spouses of pensioners re The Employee Discount Plan. We provide this to you for informational purposes only:

We are pleased to inform you that Bell Canada has revised its policy regarding the Employee Discount Plan for survivor spouses. The Employee Discount Plan enables eligible employees and pensioners to benefit from a 35% discount on a range of Bell residential products and services AFTER all other discounts offered by a Bell Canada savings plan. This benefit has now been extended to survivor spouses for life provided that you are not a Bell Canada pensioner yourself, benefiting from the 35% cash compensation.

If your spouse passed away on or after November 1, 2000, you, as a survivor spouse will benefit from the 35% discount for life, provided that your spouse met the following 3 criteria. Your spouse was:

- already enrolled in the 35% Employee Discount Plan;
- residing in Bell Canada's operating territory (Ontario and Québec); and,
- receiving telecommunications services from Bell Canada.

Should you move, and/or change telephone number, it is YOUR responsibility to contact Enterprise Services / Employee Services at 1 (888) 391-0005 and immediately inform them of the changes. No discounts will be applied retroactively should you delay in reporting your change of address and/or telephone number. In order for you to continue benefiting from the Employee Discount Plan you must continue to reside in Bell Canada's operating territory (Ontario and Québec) and receive your telecommunications services from Bell Canada.

Also, please ensure at all times that:

1. your telephone bill is established in your name;
2. the name on your telephone bill strictly matches the survivor's name that your spouse had provided on his/her employee record (including initials);
3. the telephone number you are billed for matches the telephone number on your deceased spouse's employee record.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact an Enterprise Services / Employee Services representative at 1 (888) 391-0005.

Item #6... Rate Changes to Bell Sympatico Winning Connections Offers

Effective June 25th, 2002, the monthly rate for new subscribers to the Winning Connections Bell Sympatico Unlimited Dial Up Internet service will increase from \$9.95 to \$14.95 and the monthly rate for Winning Connections Bell Sympatico High Speed Internet service will increase from \$19.95 to \$29.95. For all employees who already have these Sympatico services through Winning Connections, these rate changes will take place in September or October 2002. These Winning Connections offers still provide employees with a discount of 30%+.

You should also be aware that Bell has very quietly ceased publication of their quarterly Sympatico Magazine, "Netlife"

Important: Item #6 is under review by Bell. Stay tuned for future announcements.

Item #7.....An ATM Scam To Be Aware Of

Beware when using an ATM. Criminals are inventing ever more ingenious methods of relieving us of our cash. The latest scam involves thieves putting a thin, clear, rigid plastic 'sleeve' into the ATM card slot. When you insert your card, the machine can't read the strip, so it keeps asking you to re-enter your PIN number. Meanwhile, someone behind you watches as you tap in your number.

Eventually you give up, thinking the machine has swallowed your card and you walk away. The thieves then remove the plastic sleeve, complete with card, and empties your account.

The way to avoid this is to run your finger along the card slot before you put your card in. The sleeve has a couple of tiny prongs that the thieves need to get the sleeve out of the slot, and you'll be able to feel them.

Item #8.....Bell Changes "SimplyOne" Service to "JustOne" Service

We received the following Email from one of our BPG members and we thought it might be of interest to you:

I received a letter in the mail this past week from Michael P. McGrath, VP - Consumer & Business Markets, Bell Ontario, regarding a change to SimplyOne service. A few months ago I, as a subscriber, discovered that Bell had grandfathered this service and the word was that as long as you didn't have a phone problem, it would continue.

This letter states that Bell has applied to the CRTC to permanently replace SimplyOne with a new service called "**JustOne**". Here is what the letter states and I quote:

- Your cell phone number remains the same.
- The combined price for JustOne and Bell Mobility wireless service will be the same as the current SimplyOne rate. Bell Employees will continue to receive their employee discount when they are converted to JustOne.
- You will continue to enjoy the same key benefits such as convenience of one bill and one voice mailbox for all of your messages, along with the same airtime allowance
- With the Bell Mobility wireless service, you will also get additional features such as: the ability to use your phone throughout North America and access to new data features

Because this letter mentions employee discounts, it seems to me that it is a special one to Bell employees/pensioners with the service but I'm not sure of this.

The good news is that the discount will continue and the rate will remain the same and the service has been expanded beyond Bell's borders. The current rate is \$25 month (before the discount) which includes the call answer feature and 100 free minutes of use. It also ties in with First Rate so long distance calls appear on your bill like any call from home.

The letter plays it up as a combined Bell JustOne service and Bell Mobility wireless service. Maybe this is the first step in getting Bell Mobility services eligible for the 35% discount.

I thought this might be of interest to our members.

FREE OFFER TO JOIN CARP

WHAT IS CARP?

CARP is Canada's Association for the fifty-plus, a national, non-profit organization working to improve and maintain the quality of life of all Canadians 50 plus. CARP takes important issues to all levels of government such as pension and health care concerns.

BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER?

You will receive a subscription to Fifty Plus magazine and great savings on travel, financial products and more.

BPG OFFER

As a BPG member you can join CARP free for 1 year by filling out the form below and mailing it in or by calling 1-866-800-2277. **If you are already a member you can extend your membership for an additional year for free.** Please quote the BPG number 001935 if you call to join.

MAIL IN FORM (cut out and mail to CARP, 27 Queen St E suite 1304, PO Box 20253 STN BRM B, Toronto ON M7Y 3R1)

 ---- NEW CARP MEMBER

---- CARP RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

BPG NUMBER 001935

--MR ---MRS ---MISS --MS

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

SPOUSE'S NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE

DATE OF BIRTH -----/-----/-----

MO DAY YR PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS -----