

BELL PENSIONERS' GROUP (BPG) INC.
Toronto & Area Chapter NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN #29
September 30th, 2004

www3.sympatico.ca/b.p.g

Item # 1.....The Annual Fall Meeting.....Russ Donaldson

The BPG Annual Fall Meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 28th. We are anticipating a very large turnout and we encourage all BPG members....non members...spouses and significant others to attend. Not only is this going to be a dynamite meeting, it is going to be the reunion social event of the year.

Our keynote speaker for this meeting will be Ellen Malcolmson, Senior Vice-President, Operations for Bell, to talk to us about:

“The Changing Face Of Bell”.....or..... “Whatever Happened To Ma Bell?”

Date: Thursday October 28th, 2004

Location: Pavillion Royale
5165 Dixie Road
Mississauga, Ontario.

Time: Registration & Reunion starts at 12 Noon

Annual Meeting starts at 1PM.

Item #2.....2005 Annual BPG Dues \$20.....Titus Ramkhalawansingh

If you are planning to attend the Annual Fall Meeting, please come prepared to pay your 2005 Annual BPG Dues of \$20. We will have a team on hand to quickly process the paperwork and to provide you with your 2005 membership card. This allows us to make significant savings in postage etc. We will accept either cash or cheque, however **we do prefer cheque**. Please make your cheque payable to BPG Inc. We will be making our call to the balance of the membership for their 2005 Annual BPG Dues in our next newsletter scheduled for November 25th 2004.

Item #3...The Changing Faces Of Your ChapterExecutive...RussDonaldson

One of my goals before stepping down as your chapter chairman next May 2005 was to oversee an orderly change of the key positions in the Toronto & Area Chapter. I am pleased to report that this has been successfully completed.

Treasurer: TitusRamkhalawansingh

tkramkha@sympatico.ca

416-461-1788

Replacing Gerry Moss

Membership: Jim McColl

jamccoll@sympatico.ca

905-897-2187

Replacing Dave Grieve

Budgets: Sheila Ylipelkola

sheila.noble@sympatico.ca

416-439-2815

Replacing Barbara Price-Wallace

Contacts: Dorothy Dunbar

ddunbar@sympatico.ca

416-766-1999

Replacing Sandra Vella

On behalf of all BPG members we wish to thank Gerry, Dave, Barbara & Sandra for the many years of service they have dedicated to these key BPG roles. You are all fine people and we again thank you very much. Also, we would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to thank Titus, Jim, Sheila & Dorothy for stepping up to the plate to ensure that our BPG chapter steers the course.

Item # 4.....Bell Introduces \$5 Canada/US Long Distance Plan

Before you convert to this new plan, please call the Business Office FIRST, there are certain parameters that must be met in order to qualify.

If you are a Long Distance junkie, you can't afford not to subscribe to Bell's new 1000 minutes a month, (16.5 hours), \$5.00 Canada/US Long Distance Plan. To qualify you must be a Bell Canada customer and subscribe to two of the following three services; Bell ExpressVu, Sympatico, or Bell Cellular. It's a great deal! You get all of your LD calling 24-7 for \$5 and **that is further discounted 35% by your Employee Discount Plan, so your LD calling costs you only \$3.25 a month.** In our house last month we made \$270 worth of calls for \$3.25. And if all that isn't enough, you can provide your relatives with a **family contact card** that permits them to call you for **free** at home by accessing your 1000 minutes. It a great way to stay in contact with children & grandchildren The various articles and information on bundling do not make it crystal clear that employees & **pensioners** receive their EDP (Employee Discount) on top of any savings available via bundling. If you have Wireline, ExpressVu, & Sympatico, you get a \$5.00 discount for each service by bundling **plus a 35% EDP (Employee Discount)** on top of that. These discounts will also apply to Wireless when it is added to One Bill later this year. Bell is still not able to give us a date for implementation.

Item #5.....PIC Update.....Jim Murray

Your PIC representative Jim Murray reports that he and his fellow PIC Committee members from Quebec Region along with the BPG Pension Fund Committee have reviewed the **"Bell Canada Pension Fund – Annual Results for 2003"** and they have submitted a two page document to Bell entitled "Questions and Topics for Discussion". Without BPG, Bell would never be questioned like this on topics related to our pension fund. It is imperative that the company knows we are watching them carefully when it comes to monitoring pension fund activity. We are doing our very best to keep Bell accountable to you the pensioner. More on this when Bell responds.

Item #6..... Changes Coming to Enterprise Services

In an effort to improve service, (to you the pensioners), at Bell Canada's "Enterprise Services", which is probably better known to you as "Benefits", they are making changes to their telephone system at 1-888-391-0005. Your BPG executive has been given the opportunity to input to these changes on your behalf and it is our sincere hope that it is going to speed your calls to a **real live person** to answer your questions. Bell will be advising you shortly in an upcoming issue of "In Touch"

Item #7Thanks Comtech Credit Union.....Russ Donaldson

BPG thanks Comtech Credit Union for their financial support in bringing this newsletter to you.

When it comes to term deposits, your Credit Union outshines other financial institutions with rates that are hard to beat.

	Min \$2,500*	Min \$15,000*
INSTITUTIONS	1 Year	1 Year
COMTECH C.U.	1.75%	2.60%

Bank of Nova Scotia	1.10%	1.10%
CIBC	1.10%	1.10%
Royal Bank	1.10%	1.10%
Bank of Montreal	1.10%	1.10%
TD Canada Trust	1.25%	1.25%

*Rates as of September 9th, 2004 Rates are subject to change without notice

Comtech vs. the Banks	COMTECH C.U.	Other Institutions
	at 2.6%	at 1.10%
Minimum \$15,000	\$ 390.00	\$165.00

Item #8...Returning To A Level Pension Following Divorce...

We are pleased to report that we have successfully completed negotiations with Bell clearing affected pensioners to return to a full level pension on a going forward basis. Details will appear in a feature story in the next "In Touch". If you feel you qualify please contact Russ Donaldson at 905-372-7044. We still have some work to do on retroactivity.

Item #9.....Can You Help?.....Jim McColl

Our BPG/Bell Pensioners have become a very mobile group. The following is a list of BPG members who have moved and we are having problems contacting them. If you can shed any light at all on the whereabouts of these people, please contact our membership coordinator Jim McColl at 905-897-2187 or jamccoll@sympatico.ca. Thank you for your assistance.

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|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Paul Lucas | Nick Maxheleau | Bob Nelson | Margaret Jefferson |
| Caroline Middleton | Larry Watson | Doris Babington | Beth Spark |
| Joan Cox | Maureen Farrar | Doreen Forbes | Evelyn Horniblow |
| Margaret Jefferson | Gertrude Riddell | Ingeborg Jaeschke | Jean Shaw |
| Margaret Callaghan | Pauline Brown | Arminta Thomas | Lisette Daigle |
| William Rushworth | Ouida Ford | Anthony Mistelbacker | |

We realize that BPG is not paramount in your mind when you are moving, however, please try to remember to send us a notice of your new address at:

BPG Inc.
P.O. Box #5, Station "D"
Etobicoke ON M9A 4X1

Or contact Jim McColl at: jamccoll@sympatico.ca

Your cooperation is very much appreciated!

Item #10.....Membership Update.....Jim McColl

Our membership coordinator Jim McColl reports that our Chapter membership numbers have leveled off as follows:

Chapter Membership = 2543

Paid Active Members = 2004

Fees paid for 2005 – 45

Fees paid for 2006 - 1

The above numbers are continuing to change but you can see the latest totals on the front page of this site.

This still leaves 143 members unpaid for 2004.

It is very difficult to fully understand why 143 of our members have yet to pay their 2004 membership dues. Dorothy Paulder has put herculean effort into contacting these folks to request they pay....but to no avail. We are aware that some have moved and have forgotten to let us know where they are now living. It certainly appears that Bell Pensions are a mobile group. Unfortunately, some of our members have sadly passed away. For some strange reason there is a very small hard core of our membership who refuse to send in their membership dues so that we can continue our work of monitoring the pension fund and benefits plus helping pensioners who need assistance in solving problems with Bell. Happily we don't have a crisis on our hands today, however, should one arise in the future we are all going to be glad that BPG is in place and is prepared to face the issue head on. Sadly we are going to write 143 members off our membership roles. Hopefully they will decide to return to the association soon.