

**General Meeting Minutes
Stoke's Inland Bar & Grill
Sarnia, ON
February 22, 2023**

Branch Web site <http://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Branches/Ontario/Bluewater>

Present -

President - Lawrie Lachapelle
Vice President / Advocacy - Gloria Cayea
Treasurer - Diane Kerr
Director of Membership - Bill Mason
Outreach Coordinator - Pat Mason
IT and Web Site Coordinator - Doug Kerr
Secretary - Bob Jackson

Regrets -

Past President - Chris Hawksworth
Member at Large - Murray Lester

Gloria opened the meeting at 12 pm by introducing new members Veronica and Brian McDonald; Anne and Tyrone Watts; and Jessie and Ron Hillier followed by a moment of silence for departed members.

Gloria introduced the guest speaker, Kelly Haggerty, who is a pharmacist and co-owner of Remedy's Bright's Grove Family Pharmacy. Ms. Haggerty gave an interesting overview of the issues and challenges associated with the provision of national health care including dental and Pharma care. Ms. Haggerty emphasized the need for national plans including flexibility to address provincial/territorial/municipal needs. Ms. Haggerty concluded with an overview of the thirteen minor ailment prescription services currently available in Ontario.

Bill thanked Ms. Haggerty for sharing her time and expertise with the meeting and provided her with a token of our esteem.

Lawrie thanked attendees and gave special mention to the work done by our meeting's organizers. Lawrie also thanked the Board for their work over the past year and pointed out the Board is always in need of more volunteers. Anyone interested is welcome to contact **Lawrie** or any Board member for further information.

Lawrie noted the upcoming March 23 Bluewater Branch Fun Bowling Event, and our Annual General Meeting will be held on March 29. Details may be found on our website.

Diane gave the Treasurer's report, noting we are on budget. Also, the Treasurer's position will soon be vacant. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to contact **Diane** or any member of the Board for more information.

Bill gave the membership report. **Bill** noted membership numbers are just over 500, and if we drop below that number our Branch spending authority could be reduced. **Bill** reminded members our medical insurance provider will change on July first from Sun Life to Canada Life. Members are reminded to ensure their contact information on the Sun Life site is up-to-date since this data will be transferred to Canada Life during the changeover.

Pat informed the group she is working with Dave Martin in the hopes of holding a Blue Water Branch lawn bowling event in June. Details to follow.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.