

Loyalist Life Member Club Greater Saint John & Area Retirees

February, 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Loyalist Club History	2
Event Schedule	3
Unsung Heroes	4
Reporting volunteer hours	6
Hug -a-Bears Program	7
Membership Survey	8

Your Executive team:

President:

Bill Hawco (634-1230)

VP/Treasurer:

Lesley Lord (849-2433)

Administrator:

Lyle Wiggins (672-4006)

Senior Advisors:

Gerry McRae (633-8300)

John Dunklee (832-7060)

Gary Cornfield (849-1527)

Chair-Social Committee

Carolyn Brown (696-2678)

Co-Chairs: Heart Pillow

Jackie Gilliland (847-5089)

Sandra Winchester (696-7475)

Computers for Schools

Director: Mike Koval (696-2537)

Assistant: Blair Atkinson (696-2637)

Co-ordinator Liquid Indicators

Bob Hooper (633-4106)

Chair: Hug -a-Bear Program

Dave Tweedie (832-4105)

Fellowship:

Holly Hawkes (696-3112)

President's Message

As we look out to the piling mounds of snow we know that with the longer days and hotter sun, spring is just around the corner. 2007 was a very successful year for your Loyalist Club with a lot of new faces at our socials and new helping hands with our volunteer projects.

To gain a better understanding of what you want from your club and also ensure that we have your accurate contact information we have included a membership survey. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey enclosed.

We are looking forward to the many social events we have planned for this year so why not take the time to come out and enjoy the comradeship, meet old friends and use the opportunity to invite fellow retirees.

I really want to take this opportunity to thank all our members that participated in and help organize our activities throughout the year. I think the challenge for all of us this year is to see more of our retired members involved in the Pioneering movement. "It's a time to give of ourselves, help others & revel in the affect that volunteering through the Pioneer movement is having on our lives, the people in our community and our fellow Pioneers."

Business Meeting & PotLuck

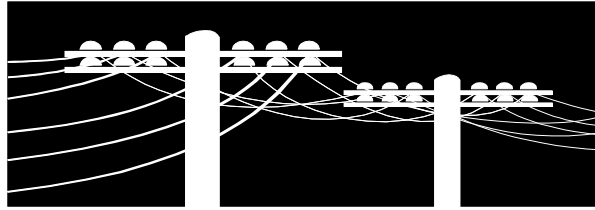
Wednesday, February 27

Location: Silver Falls Church Hall, starting at 3pm

Guest Speaker: Wendy Baird former NBTEL & now a Financial Adviser

Come with your list of questions as Wendy will give timely tips for **seniors** on the following:

- Income tax planning
- Pros/Cons of reverse mortgages
- Financial Planning



*WE ONCE WERE CALLED THE "LIVE WIRES"
---- AH BUT THAT WAS 23 YEARS AGO!*

Saint John Area Loyalist Retiree Club History

by Bill Hawco

This year marks the 23rd year for the Club's existence. The club first started with informal gatherings of ~ 30-40 pioneers for afternoon card games and socials at the old Peel Street building. In the fall of 1984, the Chapter 51 Executive requested Saint John Council to consider the feasibility of establishing a "Life Member Club". A survey was conducted of ~ 200 participants with an overwhelming response to form a club. The first meeting was held on January 23/85 with Lloyd Marshall presiding as our first president. The

Club's original name was "Live Wires Life Member Club". After a year of operation, the membership felt that the name should be more substantial and reflect both the location and historical aspect of the Pioneer organization. So on March/86 the name was officially changed to "Loyalist Life Member Club". Today, of the 779 pioneer life members in the Saint John area 379 belong to the Club. Besides meeting for a number of social outings throughout the year the Club's volunteers are heavily involved with con-

tributing their time to the following core programs: Heart Pillows, Hug-a-Bear, Computer for Schools and Liquid Indicators for the Blind. Oh yes we are part of the Saint John Council and work with Council to complete many of the worthwhile projects in our community. To gain a better insight as to what the Club can do for you and our community we will be conducting a survey of all life members in the Saint John area. Check out the Page 8 for details.

Where does the Loyalist Club fit into the Pioneer organization?

For clarification purposes, there is one umbrella New Brunswick Chapter of Telephone Pioneers: that is Chapter 51. There are the eight individual councils of Pioneers in the province – Saint John, Moncton, Fredericton, Chaleur Region, Miramichi, Acadian Peninsula, Woodstock and Edmundston – which include both working and retired Pioneers. There is also a Life Member Club which includes retirees only – although there are several in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick has only one Life Member Club which is located in Saint John and of course that is the **Loyalist Life Member Club**. Altogether there are over 1500 retired Pioneers in New Brunswick.



**Loyalist Life Member Club
2008 Event Schedule**

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jan 09 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop - Jan 30 Pancake Supper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feb 13 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop - Feb 27 Business meeting & Potluck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mar 12 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop - Mar 13 Pig 'n Whistle
<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apr 09 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop - April 27- May 03 National Volunteer week - Late April - Bowling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 14 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop - May 21 Tour of LNG Terminal - Chapter Annual General meeting (late May in Bathurst) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jun 11 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop - Jun 25 Summer kick off Barb-a-que - Mid June Aliant Golf Classic (Assistance)
<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - August 27 Annual Corn Boil - Possible Kingsbrae Tour in St. Andrews (early August) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sep 10 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop - Sep 25 Annual Business Meeting/Pot Luck - Aliant Golf Sussex (Assistance) - Chapter Bowling (late Sep)
<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oct 08 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nov 12 Heart Pillow/Hug-a-Bear workshop - Nov 7 ?? Council Lobster Dinner - Nov 2-8 Pioneer Week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas Social ?? - Christmas at Kings Landing Dec 04 - Christmas visitation

Note: This is a tentative schedule that will fine tuned as we get closer to a specific event. Notices will be sent on specific times and location for each activity.

UNSUNG HEROES



We are devoting this section of the newsletter to our unsung heroes. These are the folks that do a lot for our community and the Pioneering movement without much fanfare. Let's use this opportunity to bring their volunteer efforts to the forefront. If you have an "**unsung hero**" that you would like noted please contact Gerry McRae at 633-8300.

Vince LeBlanc - The special services guy

by Martha Edwards

It used to be that whenever anyone at NBTel had a customer request for something special – something extra that didn't fit the mold of regular service whether it was a line, a circuit or a system – we went to search out Special Services Design Guy Vince LeBlanc. He would quietly listen to whatever we needed and then he would scribble a drawing, ask a few questions and in a very short time would get back to us with a design and due date as to when he could deliver it.

That is the pattern of Vince LeBlanc – he quietly delivers what is needed and then moves on to do the same for someone else.

Vince, originally from Dorchester, went to work for NBTel in the plant department switch room in Saint John in 1956. Soon after, Bell Canada landed a contract to do maintenance on the Mid-Canada Line – a radar defense line across Canada which checked for incoming enemy aircraft from Russia. Vince was hired by Bell to work on this line and he trained in Montreal for three months and then spent about a year in Manitoba returning to Saint John in 1959. "I remember the year I returned because I bought a 1959 meteor car when I got here," says Vince. "I then joined the central office installation crew and traveled around the province until about 1962." He married his wife Phyllis in 1963 – they have a son, Jason, who works for Aeroplan in Montreal and a daughter, Lisa, who works for Aliant in Saint John.

Vince then transferred to the Engineering Department and after a year joined the Special Services Design Group. He remembers his first design as a special circuit to join the NBTel PBX in Saint John to the PBX in Millidgeville so the long-distance special switches in Saint John would transfer long-distance capability to Millidgeville.

Vince has lived the history of telecommunications. "We went through a lot of changes -- SXS, #5X-Bar, magneto phones through to digital switches. I remember one special assembly involved building a device to enable an analogue switch to work with a digital switch to provide one of the first telephone features -- call forwarding," says Vince. "Recently I got a call from Aliant to do some work on a special circuit I had been involved in. That happens every once in a while."

Vince retired in 1987 and he first got involved in the Telephone Pioneers about 10 years before that. "I remember asking people for money for the Pioneer Walkathon Relay for Life – that was the type of thing I normally wouldn't do but I thought it was a worthwhile project," he says. He has also been involved in some special assembly pioneer projects. "We put together a smoke detection light for a deaf person that would switch on if a smoke detector went off." He was also involved in the liquid level inductor for the blind which included a buzzer which went off when water gets to the top of a container.

Shortly after he retired, Vince says Brenda Allen got him involved in the Pioneer Trans-Canada Trail Relay Project in which people carried bottles of water from the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic Ocean to Ottawa. "I helped call up people and coordinate the run in New Brunswick."

Since 1987, Vince has collected money from the guide dogs in stores around the community. "All of the local Atlantic SuperStores, Canadian Tires and Wal-Mart are involved. Every three months I empty the dogs, clean them up and send the money to Ottawa. This is a Pioneer Project and all of the money is used to train seeing-eye dogs nationally," says Vince. He also

Vince LeBlanc—The special services guy Cont'd

volunteers regularly at the New Brunswick Museum as both a gallery host for visitors/tourists and a history tour conductor for groups of school children.

Vince also began doing Meals on Wheels two or three years before he retired. He serves on the Board of Directors. "I'm currently involved in computer work for meals on wheels administration. I'm helping to design programs to track volunteer hours and envelope distribution." He is also involved in various activities in his church, Saint Ann's, and serves on the parish council.

Vince has been involved in Pioneer meetings and administration since he retired. The AliantPioneers.com site, which covers information on all Pioneers in the Maritime Provinces, is administered in Halifax and Vince coordinates and updates the New Brunswick Council membership information some of which is flagged whenever there is a change on the Aliant list. "I would encourage all members to read the latest Pioneer information on the site and update their personal information on line, if required. They can also contact a Pioneer rep to do it for them," Vince offers. Vince also distributes e-mails and voice mails to the Saint John Region Pioneer Council (covering St. Stephen to Sussex) which keep people informed of social events, illnesses, deaths and any information of interest to Pioneers.

Also, Vince has recently been appointed as the Junior Life Member for New Brunswick Chapter Pioneers and will be involved in information coordination within the provincial chapter. Vince plans on attending the North American Pioneer Conference in Austin, Texas, later in February.

In their spare time, Vince and Phyllis are currently enjoying their three-year old granddaughter, Ashley, and their twin, two-year old grandsons, Tyler and Liam, who live locally.

Anyone with questions or who would like to add their names to the Pioneer distribution lists, may contact Vince at vince@nbnet.nb.ca or 506-633-8399.



Vince Leblanc— a true **“UNSUNG HERO”**



Reserve **Thursday, March 13** to come help us celebrate St. Patrick's day at our annual Pig & Whistle to be held at the Loch Lomond Villa. We'll be entertained by Jim McCaron and his merry minstrels with lots of opportunity for everyone to join in the festivities. More details to follow.

Time reporting by Bill Hawco

When we talk to our fellow Pioneers we typically get the common response that “I am busier now in my retirement years than I ever was at work”. I am sure we can all attest to that! Through our retiree volunteer core programs of Heart Pillows, Hug-a-Bear, Liquid Indicators and Computer for Schools we have a pretty simple and accurate way of capturing the amount of volunteer effort. But a lot of us are involved with volunteering our time outside of these programs to community services that could be constituted as volunteer effort for the Pioneer movement.

When we collect the volunteer hours we document the influence Pioneers have on our communities by “giving back” and “answering the call”. The Aliant Pioneers are recognized as the leading volunteer organization & that we impact the quality of life in our communities. The Aliant Pioneers are recognized at a National & International level as leaders in Pioneering. Volunteer hours are submitted to the National & International offices and this enables an assessment of how our efforts impact our communities. The information provided to Aliant Executives also impacts on how far or how much our sponsor company is willing to support Pioneers effort & our projects. We are proud of the work we do & try very hard to keep our sponsor proud of us & willing to provide the support they do give us. By accumulating the type of projects & the hours we are able to provide the Aliant Executive team with the necessary information to demonstrate Aliant’s volunteer effectiveness in the community as they speak at various venues.

What constitutes pioneer volunteer work/volunteer hours?

To answer this question there should be a positive response to the following questions. Does the project get to the heart of our Pioneer thrust of “Answering the call of those in need”? Does the project assist those in the community who truly need your help? Can you rationalize that you are doing the community service work on behalf of the Pioneers versus the prospective organization. Some sample volunteer services that we know many of our members are involved in are: Meals on Wheels, Knitting blankets for Hospitals, Soup Kitchen, CNIB, Food Bank, Red Cross, Hospital Volunteering just to name a few. We are sure that there are many other community services that are being volunteered so don’t hesitate to call in and identify your volunteer service and hours. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of your volunteer service do not hesitate to contact any of the Executive.

How do you report hours?

We are trying to make it as simple as possible to report your time outside of the core projects. All you have to do is call 1-800-255-9951 stating your name, identify the community service you are volunteering your time, number of hours volunteered over the month and your contact telephone number.

Who takes the volunteer hours & inputs to the time reporting system (PALS)?

Vince LeBlanc has volunteered to take the hours reported and input to the Pioneer time reporting system. So don’t hesitate to contact Vince at 1-800-255-9951 or if you are keyboard friendly you can reach him at vince@nbnet.nb.ca

Just cut and save this handy reminder

To report your volunteer hours: Just give your name, tel #, the community service you are volunteering your time & the number of hours over the month **and**

CALL: 1-800-255-9951

OR

e-mail: vince@nbnet.nb.ca

Hug-a-Bears Program by Dave Tweedie

This program was introduced here in Atlantic Canada over fifteen years ago. Since then thousands of these cuddly toys have been distributed. Our Hug-a-Bears have traveled all around the world! The objective of this program is to give comfort to youngsters who are in traumatic or unfamiliar situations.

The bears are primarily for use by police, fire and emergency relief units in comforting children and older adults in traumatic situations. The bears are carried in the cars & trucks of these agencies so that they are readily available to be given to a child in need.

The Hug-a-Bears program began as a Telephone Pioneers of America project and was started by the NBTel Telephone (now Aliant) Pioneers in Saint John area in the early 90's. The Hug-a-Bears are now being made entirely by Pioneers and Partners of the Loyalist Life Member Club.

The Saint John Council area Hug-a-Bears have been distributed to Emergency Departments at The Saint John Regional, Saint Joseph's and Sussex Hospitals, also Ambulances at Saint John Regional, Westfield, Grand Manan, Fundy (St George), Simonds, St. Martins, Kingston, Hampton & Sussex and the Rothesay Regional Police.

From these locations Hug-a-Bears are given to children in traumatic experi-

ences. Over the years there have been a number of letters received and comments made about how much the bears were appreciated after calming children in traumatic experiences. A number of years ago a letter was received from B.C. thanking the Pioneers for the million dollar bear. The family was involved in a car accident while there on vacation and their young child was traumatized when family members were injured and were given a bear by the ambulance attendant, immediately calming the child.

Material is purchased, cut into squares, outline marked for sewing, eyes & nose put in place, outline sewn with space for stuffing, stuffed, space on bottom sewn and scarves fastened on then packaged. This program could not have been continued if it had not been for the many pioneers and partners who help in various ways at home and at the workshops. The workshops are combined Heart Pillow and Hug-a-Bear workshops, held the sec-

ond Wednesday of each month.

Well over 3000 bears have been assembled over the years by the Saint John Pioneers. Typically there are between 15-17 volunteers that assist at various points in the assembly process. In 2007 there were over 600 hours contributed by the volunteers with over 230 Hug-a-Bears completed. The Hug-a-Bears program would not have been a success over the years without the coordinating efforts of Dave & Cathy Tweedie, Joey McMillan, Shirley McCluskey, Glen & Clair Mawhinney. If you would like to help us out just give Dave Tweedie a call at 832-4105.



Cutting material for the bears from left to right are: Lyle Wiggins, Dave Tweedie, Joanne Wiggins, Mike & Frances Jones

Life Member Survey

by Lyle Wiggins

Page 8

If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to complete the following survey and return it to the address given below by March 7. This information will:

- Help us better design our social and volunteer activities to fit the interests of our members and
- Do you have a personal e-mail address? If yes – would you help us reduce costs by receiving Aliant Pioneer information such as newsletters, announcements etc via that e-mail address? If yes please print your e-mail address below.

Saint John Area Life Member Pioneer Survey

1. Name:
2. Partner:
3. Mailing Address: Postal Code :
4. Telephone number :
5. Do you have Voicemail?
6. Do you have a personal e-mail address? If yes – would you help us reduce costs by receiving Aliant Pioneer information such as newsletters, announcements etc via that e-mail address? If yes please print your e-mail address below.
7. Are you an active or non-active member? (yes/no) What would enable you to be a more active member?
8. What Aliant Pioneer activities have you participated in during this past year? What are they?
9. If you need to contact the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers in your area, do you know who to contact?
10. What other service clubs, councils or volunteer organizations are you a member of?
11. Are there any activities that you are interested in doing, that are not currently, but could be done by the Aliant Pioneers?
12. Being a member of the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers, does this have any special meaning to you?
13. What social functions or activities would you like the Life member Club to conduct that would encourage your participation?
14. Would you like to be kept informed of activities the Loyalist Club sponsors?

Mail response to: **Lyle Wiggins**
459 Dwyer Road
Saint John, NB E2M 4T6