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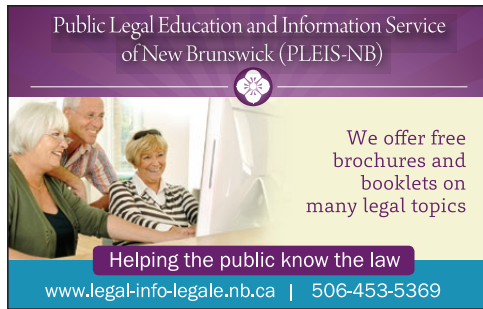
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50+ Newsletter



March 2024 • Issue 3

New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation

www.nbscf.ca



News from the Federation

The Board meeting of February 1st should have taken place on January 25th, but had to be postponed because



Percy Huntington's brother passed away and the celebration of life was taking place on the same day. Our president has been quite busy since the October 17th 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors. On October 26th, Percy Huntington was invited to participate in the Saint John River meeting by zone president Vivian White. On November 7th, he and the Government Relations Committee met with Minister of Health Bruce Fitch. On November 18th, he and Robéa Cormier went to the Miramichi zone meeting to swear in new zone president, Laureena Black. After discussions with Doug Rowlands, he has accepted to become president of the Loyalist (Saint John area) zone. On November 25th, Percy was invited to the Kent zone meeting in Sainte-Marie-de-Kent.

Our office manager Lise Guignard had applied for a New Horizons for Seniors

project and the money has to be spent by March 31st 2024, so the sessions need to be offered by then. This program offers about \$2000 per zone. Gerard Breau, chair of the Programs and Services Committee, mentioned that the Kent zone has already offered 2 sessions, and they are planning more about moving into seniors' homes, lawyers/wills/powers of attorney, fraud, etc. All zones need to have sessions before the end of March to use up that grant. The project is called **Gatherings to learn and socialize**, so as long as there is an educational part to your activity, the rest can be a dinner, a dance or a social evening.



Financially, the NBSCF is doing well. We repaid the Covid loan of \$60,000 in December which allowed us to keep \$20,000 of it; Lise had applied for the Community Services Recovery Fund for \$42,000 to update the office documents and electronics and \$29,541.12 of that was given in 2023 and the balance will

be sent this spring; and we also received \$25,000 from the New Horizons for Seniors program.

A reminder that the 2024 AGM will take place on Tuesday May 7th in Moncton.

Registration forms are in the mail. You still have 2 weeks (until

March 15th) to send in your resolutions. Because we have an election for President this year, Vivian White accepted to chair the nominating committee and Murray Doherty also accepted to join her on the committee. They will have to find another person to join them.



In the Kent zone, 4 clubs are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year:

- Sainte-Anne-de-Kent
- Bouctouche
- Saint-Charles
- Sainte-Marie-de-Kent.



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Beltone Better Hearing Aid Clinics

Celia Hayes (registered audiologist/owner) and Caleb Bustin (equipment specialist) were at the Board meeting to present on behalf of Beltone Hearing Centres. They offer home visits, wax removal, and complimentary hearing tests. Hearing tests are now recommended for anyone over 50. One in five Canadians suffer from hearing loss and there are different types of hearing losses: temporary, job related, hereditary, age related... 78% of people aged 60-79 have hearing loss, and only 5% of these people get help for it. Beltone works with nursing homes and gets family members involved in the proper care of the hearing aids of their loved ones. Beltone visits the nursing homes every few months to assure continued service. They can do the testing on site at a seniors' complex as long as there is a quiet area. Of course, the quality is much better in the sound proof booth of their centres. Beltone in Riverview, Sussex, Saint John and PEI are independently

owned and operated, although they use the Beltone name. Beltone covers all of Canada and the United States. There were lots of questions from the Board about the difficulty of setting the hearing aids in different sound situations. Everyone's situation is different, and Beltone tries to match everyone to the best possible option for them, but sometimes budget can be a big thing. Celia's mother owns the Beltone centre in Saint John and always tries the new hearing aids that come out to test what gives the best sound because she is a musician. Hearing aids can now be connected to your phone for better control. Blue Tooth access will be available soon where you will be able to connect directly to the microphone or sound system in conferences or sports events. They gave a look at current price ranges (per ear, so for one hearing aid): \$1395 (basic, battery operated), \$2000 (rechargeable), \$2500 (mid-range), and \$3000 (high-end). The



life span of the rechargeable hearing aid is approximately 4-5 years and the charge is usually good for 24+ hours. Protection of hearing aids can actually be added to your home insurance.

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