

OBITUARIES

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NEWTON, Gary Seward — 80, Economy, passed away on the morning of Thursday, January 5, 2023, at his home in Economy. Gary will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 52 years, Colleen (Garrison) Newton; his son, Geoffrey (Sarah) Newton and grandchildren, Alexander, Abigail, Brett and Zachary; daughter, Elizabeth (Tina Gallant) Newton and grandchildren, Connor and Henry. Gary leaves behind several nieces, nephews and cousins who he loved and who loved him. Gary was predeceased by his parents, Churchill and Lila (Spence) Newton and siblings, Violet Perkins, Denzil Newton and Arthur Newton. Funeral service was held Friday, January 13, 2023, at Economy United Church, 3360 Highway 2, Economy, Reverend Marty Clark-Ettinger officiated. Interment was in Economy Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall — Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro. Full obituary and condolences at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

Huggard, Dr. Richard James "Dick" — Age 87, Truro, passed peacefully on January 8, 2023, in Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Dick was born on a farm in Norton, NB to the late Russell and Lillian (Gillies) Huggard. He was a loving husband to Marjorie (MacRae); father to Richard (Heather) and Lesley (Shawn Evans); brother to Bob Huggard and the late Marian Lines and a caring grandfather to James (Junghye), Ian, Willa, and Lucy. He is fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Dick graduated from the NSAC in 1956 and in 1958, he received his BSc from MacDonald College of McGill University. In 1965, he completed his MSc from the University of Illinois. He joined the Nova Scotia Dept of Agriculture and Marketing in 1958 and ended his career as Deputy Minister of Agriculture from 1991 -1994. Dick played hockey at the collegiate level at NSAC and MacDonald College, and also played in the Truro District Hockey League. In 1996, he was awarded the Erland Lee Award for his work and contribution with the Women's Institute of Canada. He also travelled to Beijing, Hong Kong, and Taiwan in 1999 as chair of the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council. Dick was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Dalhousie University (NSAC) in 2006 and was inducted into the Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2015 along with many other awards. Many children were significantly impacted by his many years of involvement in 4-H. Dick volunteered countless hours with many different organizations, most notably the Farm Equipment Museum in Truro and the Cobequid Salmon Association. He also served two terms as Warden at St. John's Anglican Church. His hobbies included fly fishing, fly tying, woodworking and he painted beautiful detailed wooden birds that are treasured by many around the world. A loving grandfather, "Bockiey" always had a sparkle in his eye when he talked about his grandchildren's talents and accomplishments. He enjoyed summers at the family cottage in Marshville, NS and trips to the camp in Liscombe. Most of all, he enjoyed meeting as many new people as possible and learning all about them. We're sure that in heaven, as on earth, he will know and enjoy a chat with everyone he sees. He often spoke about all the "good people" he had encountered in his life. Dick was a very kind gentleman who always found goodness in everyone. The family wishes to thank RN Rebecca (D3) and Dr. Dave Henderson in the Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Memorial donations may be made to the Farm Equipment Museum, 4-H Nova Scotia or CEHHC Palliative Care. A father is supposed to be proud of his kids, but in our case, we couldn't be more proud of him. We will love you forever, Dad. Visitation was held January 20th in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. A Funeral service was held January 21st in St. John's Anglican Church, 23 Church St., Truro, NS with the Rev. Lori Ramsey officiating. Reception followed. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.ColchesterCommunity.com

The Deadline for the March issue of **Shoreline Journal** is February 21

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What is NAFR?

By Allan Wellwood

NAFR is National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) I'm writing on behalf of the National Association of Federal Retirees and we are a not-for-profit nationwide organization who's aim is to provide support and advocacy for retirees from the Canadian Public Service (Public Servants, Military, RCMP and Federal Judges who receive a federally earned pension).

What NAFR is trying to do is to boost the activity level of our group's seniors (we're all seniors), by putting on a regular meeting agenda featuring some sort of social activity that allows conversation and interactions. In the past we've failed miserably at getting attendance to our meetings and mostly it was because we were 'business oriented', i.e., touting the work of the national organization and not promoting the 'fun' stuff - so people stopped coming to our meetings.

Our Branch Executive changed just over 5 years ago but COVID cut out 3 of those years activities and even now as we re-build, our membership is running shy of getting together in a large group. I can't blame them as most of us are frail in some way or another and if you look at the trade-off: one night of 'fun' for 3 weeks of misery, then commonsense indicates we should be careful.

Going forward, we want to offer social outings and we are having difficulties reaching the broad-base of our potential membership, i.e., the people who have retired from the public service and who are sitting at home and not knowing that we exist.

Our membership across Canada is about 175,000 people but the portion I represent today is our Branch 72 in Truro. We service our NAFR membership in Colchester and East Hants Counties and we number at about 600 members. Of course there are many more federal retirees in our area who are not members of our organization and I will address that below.

Being retirees, you can imagine, the membership in our organization has an average age well above 65 years. It is difficult for many of them to attend our meetings due to health issues and many more are hard of hearing. Many do not use computers. In short, by contacting you, I'm addressing a problem of how to inform all local federal retirees of our activities in a timely and cost effective way. Our aim is socially oriented: We know that seniors in general often cannot 'get out' to social events and so the more events that are offered, the greater is

the possibility that they will 'feel like it' on any particular occasion that is available. For our group, we hope to entice those who are not members to come and enjoy social outing with folks they may already know from their prior career(s). We are providing access to our events 'at cost' or less - just to maintain reasonable control of our expenses.

Yes, nationally, we do have a publication (Sage magazine) that each subscribed member receives to their household, but that is only quarterly per year. We also use email as a medium, but, as stated, not all of them use it. Telephone is very volunteer time intensive method and we do that too, but: Print copy comes to mind as the medium with which most older people are best acquainted and would reach both our members and the federal retirees who are not members. So, as you offer this medium, I'm asking if we may use your community service section to publicize our activities?

This usage is likely to occur about 6 times per year and would be about 50 words per advertisement. If there is a cost for your service, I'd appreciate knowing your fee schedule so we may consider if we can afford your services.

You will be hearing more about us soon, as Maurice, the publisher, has offered the services of the Shoreline Journal to assist.

Allan Wellwood is Vice-President, Colchester-East Hants Branch 72, National Association of Federal Retirees (N.A.F.R.)

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