



**October 31, 2017**  
**Volume II Issue I**



# *News and Muse*

**Editor: Mario Tirelli**  
mtirelli@hotmail.ca

## **Message from the President**



You know you're in a good place when children are flocking back to your community schools and you are so glad not to be going back. For someone who loved her work as much as I did, I didn't believe I would reach this point but I am SO happy to be part of an association of **Retirees!**

On page 3 of this year's first issue of our newsletter, you'll find a summary of our AGM that took place on September 21. It was brought to our attention by a member that if one is unable to attend the AGM, information isn't provided to the membership because minutes are only ratified the following year at the next AGM. We're plugging a hole in our communications by providing the information here. (Thank you, Owen.)

I have received registration forms from almost all our members and am in the process of revising the directory. Directories will be distributed at the Christmas Lunch on December 7 and mailed afterward to those who aren't in attendance. The electronic version on ACRA's website, however, will be revised by the beginning of November. I will email the new password to members once this is done.

Enjoy reading *News and Muse*. The next issue will be published at the end of December. Keep warm in the weeks to come!

Maria

## **An Interview with Bob Forget: "The Commish" to ACRA golfers and "Twinkle Toes" to all dance enthusiasts!**

Q: *Bob, tell us about your time on the ACRA Board of Directors.*

"After my retirement, I was asked to join the ACRA Board of Directors and served for the maximum six years. I really enjoyed my experience. I started as Social Activities Director and later served as Treasurer. What I found most remarkable is the commitment of all those involved; and that continues today."

Q: *Bob, I know you're the ACRA Golf Commish. How did that come about?*

"Upon my retirement in 2006, I took up golf and was invited to join the ACRA Golf Group. A couple of years later, John Fiorito, the Commissioner at the time, approached me to take on the Commish responsibilities for the group. While many think that it is a tough job, I really only make it look like that so no one challenges me for the position. The most difficult part of the job is dealing with Mother Nature and making the call to play or not play. However, I am not alone to execute



*(continued on page 7)*

*Values are like fingerprints. Nobody's are the same but you leave them all over everything you do.* Elvis Presley

## *Mario's Musings*

***"Trust is a beautiful thing. It feels good to give it and it feels good when others give it to us."***

***"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."***

***"Without passion life is nothing."***



### **ACRA Annual Golf Tournament 2017**

On a fabulous summer day at Bellevue Golf Course in Lery, Quebec, 128 golfers revelled in the sunshine and scenic surroundings of the Bellevue course.

The tournament co-chairs, Kevin Marciniak and Peter Yaworski, were masterful in making sure that all was prepared for the shotgun start at 12:30!

The many volunteers were on site very early to put up the signs, organize the registration table, and be ready to greet the participants.

The golf was followed by cocktails and a scrumptious supper served by a very pleasant staff. During the course of the evening, our President, Maria Di Perna, our MC, Andy Nardoza, and our co-chair, Peter Yaworski, informed, entertained and ensured that the door prizes, raffle prizes and appropriate acknowledgements were all carried out in fine fashion!

Congratulations and thank you to all those involved in making this tournament another huge success! With the entire profits going to St. Gabriel's Food Bank, we can all feel proud of our involvement in this annual event.

(A list of all sponsors and donors can be found at <http://acracan.org/tournament.html>)

# ACRA AGM

## Thursday, September 21, 2017

There were 42 members in attendance. Al Fitzgerald, our Past President, chaired the meeting.

Maria Di Perna presented the *President's Report*.

- Two members who have passed away in the last year – Leo Fernandes and James Hanlin - are in our prayers along with members' loved ones who have passed away. They will be remembered at ACRA's Memorial Mass on November 12.
- This year, aside from ACRA's support of the St. Gabriel food bank, a donation of \$1000 was made to each of the following: Camp Caritas, to provide camping opportunities to children who don't have the financial means, Holy Cross' food bank, and Dans la Rue.
- ACRA's *News and Muse* was born this past year. It will continue to be published on a regular basis. Members are encouraged to provide items of interest for the newsletter to Mario Tirelli, the editor.
- Thank you to the directors who served on the Board. Special recognition was made of Art Galardo's efficient and reliable work as the Secretary for the past six years. A job so very well done!

Tony Di Lallo addressed the Association's finances.

- The *Financial Report* for the year ending July 31, 2017 was presented and approved unanimously.
- The *Auditor's Report* stated that the financial statement of the association, as well as its operations, were in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.
- The *Proposed Budget* for 2017-2018 was presented and approved.
- Points of discussion:
  - o ACRA is carrying a surplus of slightly more than \$17 000. While several members voiced that we should not be amassing a surplus, other members indicated that part of the surplus is a result of donations made by ACPM and ADES when ACRA was created and not funds that have been generated by membership fees. The Board will research how much was donated to ACRA to have a clearer idea of what amount has been actually generated by members over the years.
  - o Several suggestions were made regarding how the surplus could be used. Maria stated it is the Board's orientation that any use of surplus funds should benefit all members equally. In the past year, ACRA's charitable donations for special projects were increased from \$2000 to \$3000. The Board will continue to discuss other ways to best use the surplus.
  - o Several members stated that associate membership fees for the spouses of members should be at a discounted rate. The Board will discuss this suggestion at one of its upcoming meetings.
- *The Nominating Committee* consisting of Al Fitzgerald, Arthur Galardo and Jerry Dunn proposed the addition of Joe Jaroslowski to the Board of Directors. Not having received any other names from the membership, Joe was acclaimed and joins the following who are continuing as directors: Tony Di Lallo, Maria Di Perna, Pat Moffa, Andy Nardozza, Norma Passaretti, Mario Tirelli, and Peter Yaworski.







## Board of Directors

2017 - 2018



President	Maria Di Perna
Vice-President	Mario Tirelli
Treasurer	Antonio Di Lallo
Secretary	Pat Moffa/Andy Nardoza
Social Convener	Joe Jaroslowski
Member Welfare	Peter Yaworski
Director	Norma Passaretti
Past President	Al Fitzgerald



### **Briefs from the Board**

- ◆ The new Board met on October 19, 2017.
- ◆ All details of the ACRA Memorial Mass were finalized. Information was sent to members after the Halloween lunch.
- ◆ Arrangements are being finalized for the Christmas luncheon.
- ◆ Several members have indicated they have documents and memorabilia from ACPM and early ACRA days. The board will take possession of these and look into how best to preserve/donate/store these items.
- ◆ The board nominated Sr. Dianna Liefers for honorary membership. She very enthusiastically accepted.
- ◆ Subsequent to the topic being raised at the AGM, the Board discussed the present membership fee structure. There was general consensus that the members' rate of \$60 is very reasonable. Given that associate members receive the exact same benefits (other than to be able to serve on the Board of Directors), it is equally reasonable that this rate also be maintained at \$60.
- ◆ A number of Board members were mandated to research the subject of donations made to ACRA by ACPM and ADES in order to clarify the origins of the present ACRA surplus fund. Once the information is obtained, it will be shared with members.
- ◆ It has been asked, why does ACRA continue to raise funds for St. Gabriel's food bank? ACRA has made donations to numerous charitable organizations. Our continued support of St. Gabriel's food bank was reconfirmed by the Board. *Adoption comes with responsibility.* After years of consistent support, it is understood that the food bank would suffer greatly if ACRA were to lessen its efforts in continuing to provide the same level of funding. ACRA intends to continue honouring its responsibility.

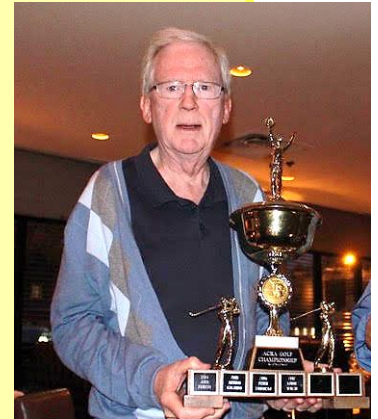
# ACRA Golf 2017



## Wednesday Golf

The 2017 season of Wednesday golf officially came to a close with the end-of-year lunch on October 25th.

After 25 weeks of golf, camaraderie, and friendly competition, Kevin Lukian was declared the Commish Cup winner. On September 27th at Vallée des Forts, Lorne Walsh captured the ACRA Championship. Congratulations to Kevin and Lorne!

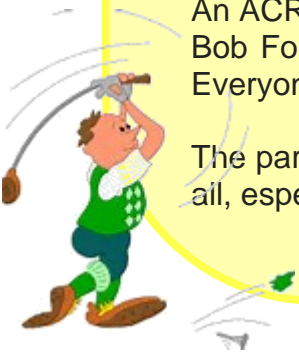


The season started with a lunch on April 26th at Casa Grecque in Lasalle where the Commish, Bob Forget, welcomed this year's golfers and reviewed the "tour" schedule for the year. At the end-of-year lunch, the golfers thanked the Commish for all his hard work. Special thanks were also extended to Kevin Marciniak, Peter Yaworski, and Tony Di Lallo, as well as Art Galardo, Eric Martin, Kevin Banks, Charlie Jeannotte, and Mike Miller for all their efforts in making this year's ACRA golf season so successful!

## Monday Golf

An ACRA mini tour was also held on Monday's from May to September. Bob Forget once again flawlessly organized and coordinated the 16 outings. Everyone was most grateful for Bob's efforts!

The participants were numerous and the post-golf gatherings were enjoyed by all, especially the BBQ at Maria and Richard's!



## ACRA Calendar of Events

- Sunday, November 12, 2017, 11:00 am - Memorial Mass
- Thursday, December 7, 2017, 11:30 am - Christmas Luncheon
- Thursday, December 21, 2017 - Distribution of Xmas baskets at St. Gabriel
- Thursday, February 8, 2018, 11:30 am – St. Valentine Lunch
- Thursday, March 15, 2018, 11:30 am - St Patrick Lunch
- Late April/Early May (TBD) - Spring Activity
- Thursday, June 7, 2018, 6:00 pm – ACRA Annual Dinner
- Wednesday, July 4, 2018 - ACRA Golf Tournament

# ACRA Halloween Lunch



On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 50 members and friends gathered for a wonderful Halloween lunch at La Meridiana in Laval. Some members were in full costumes and others sported the appropriate orange and black colours. After the informal greetings, Mario Tirelli, on behalf of our President, Maria Di Perna, who was unable to attend, welcomed everyone and thanked them for continuing to support our activities. A new member, Marysa Barassi, was introduced and warmly welcomed to ACRA.

Carol Tynan then said grace and expressed gratitude for all our blessings and the good times that ACRA members and friends share.

After a bountiful meal, two couples in costumes were rewarded with a bottle of fine wine. First prize for best costume was presented to Carol and Len Tynan (our own Dale Evans and Roy Rogers)! Second prize went to Maryann and Walter Karwatsky (Pocohontas and John Smith)!

To close out the luncheon, the members sang a joyous rendition of "Happy Birthday" to Gerry Carroll on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

What a beautiful way to end another enjoyable and successful ACRA luncheon event!





## Interview with Bob Forget

*(continued from page 1)*

this task: Peter Yaworski, the overseer, Kevin Marciniak, the statistician, Tony Di Lallo the treasurer, Art Galardo, Eric Martin and Kevin Banks, the 19<sup>th</sup> hole team, Charlie Jeannotte and Mike Miller, the libation team. I really appreciate all the members who love golf and the camaraderie generated by who we are. The “Commish Cup” and the “ACRA Golf Championship” are two innovations that have brought some friendly competition to our Wednesday “tour”.

*Q: I also know that you were the founder of the Monday Golf. How did that start?*

“From the onset of my experience with golf, my concern was that the ladies did not join the ACRA Golf Wednesday tour. I suspect they were intimidated by the longstanding tradition of men only. So, I ventured to start another Mixed Golf group to play on Mondays. This group has evolved into Monday Golf and welcomes both gentlemen and ladies. Our numbers have grown from an average of 16 players in the first years to 28 this past year. It is open to all, members and non-members”.

*Q: Bob, not only are you known as “The Commish,” but I hear you’re affectionately referred to by some as “Twinkle Toes”.*

“Yes, well my wife, Dany, and I started dance sessions over five years ago. A qualified ballroom dance instructor has offered autumn and winter sessions on Sunday afternoons. Although my dancing prowess is renowned, Dany is the talented dancer and makes me look good on the dance floor. Over the years, we all have learned quite a bit and have really enjoyed ourselves. The autumn session is currently underway. Due to many other commitments, no winter session is planned.”

*Q: Bob, please tell us about your family.*

“Well, I was so privileged to have met a wonderful girl at the age of nine, in the school yard of the original Edward Murphy School (where now stands Place Radio Canada). Although she was ten at the time, I held her hand and smiled a lot and it seemed to work. We met again at D’Arcy McGee High School. Although the boys and girls in the school were kept separate, they shared a common library and Dany was a volunteer there. So I spent all my spare time in the library, pretending to read and smiling a lot! After high school we were at St. Joseph Teachers’ College together and our story continued. Yes, I was really smiling a lot!

Since then we have been blessed with a wonderful family, three beautiful children, Karl, Eric, and Tanya, and seven grandchildren from the ages of 2 to 16.

*Q: Bob, could you share some thoughts about your educational career?*

“Professionally, I have always been very active representing or organizing activities for my colleagues. In college, I served on numerous committees and was president of the Student Association at St. Joseph Teachers’ College in 1969-70

As a teacher, I was an FESCT representative in Montreal for many years and, later on, a CETA teacher representative on the South Shore. When I was named principal, I became involved with SSECSAA which, after the fusion, became RAA (Riverside Administrators Association) and, later on, with AAESQ where I served on the Board of Directors. I represented AAESQ on CPD (the professional development committee) for many years.

My career spanned 36 years. I started teaching at St. Dorothy’s in St. Michel in 1970. In 1983, I began teaching on the South Shore in two schools, Mary Queen of the World and Lester B. Pearson Elementary, which merged the following year into Terry Fox Elementary. In 1993, I was named principal of Terry Fox. I was also principal of Good Shepherd School and retired as principal of Mountainview School in 2006.

As a teacher, I prided myself for having tried every job in a school, even secretary or janitor whenever the need arose. I believe that if you walk in a person’s shoes you better understand their views. As principal, I would motivate students and staff by focusing first on short-term goals and then year-long projects. My priority was always serving student needs by making sure the teachers had the necessary resources to accomplish their task.

An interesting and memorable moment occurred when I was principal of Mountainview School. One morning the janitor was absent and I called the board for a replacement. They said there was no one available. It was mid-winter with snow and slush all over the corridors and stairs, so I took a mop and started mopping the stairwells. As I was doing this, the janitors’ union VP showed up as the replacement. The next day, I received a phone call from the board telling me that the janitors’ union had filed a grievance because I was doing the janitor’s job. The good ending to this story is that the settlement of the grievance was a \$100 donation to our school’s library.”

*Q: Bob, I know that you have been travelling quite a bit. Where have your travels taken you?*

“Yes, Dany and I love to travel and we especially adore cruises. Along with our great friends, Anna and Tony Di Lallo, we have visited China, Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii. We have visited many parts of Europe. Our bucket list is long and may outlive us!”

*Q: I know you’re very busy. Do you have other hobbies or interests?*

“I have many interests, some of which I share with Dany, such as dance, theatre, ping pong, and movies. I am also a stamp collector with mint stamps going back to my year of birth, 1949. I enjoy golf in the warm months and curling in the cold ones. As a retiree, I have embarked on two main interests: one is golf and dance, the other operating a business with my son, Karl (we operate a Ben & Florentine’s in downtown Montreal).”

*(continued)*

Q: Bob, do you have any special closing comments?

“My favourite moments are sharing family accomplishments by the grandchildren and the children. I also enjoy sharing good times and standing by friends when times are tough. When your efforts are recognized by others with a good word and a handshake, it’s very gratifying. I’m thankful for a wonderful life. You don’t have to have millions to enjoy life. I enjoy all that I do, that’s why I do it!”



## ACRA Memorial Mass

**Sunday, November 12, 2017, at Holy Cross Church, at 11:00 AM.**

1960 Jolicoeur Street, Montréal, Québec H1E 1X5

A light brunch/lunch will be held immediately after the mass at the **Holy Cross Residence**, next door to the church. The cost of the lunch is \$10 per person.

In order to plan for the printing of material for the mass and for the caterer, we are asking that you respond no later than **Friday, November 3** to Joe Jaroslowski at [acrajoe@gmail.com](mailto:acrajoe@gmail.com).

Please indicate:

- if you are attending the mass, the lunch, or both
- your name along with the name of any guests who may be accompanying you

Should you not have access to email, please call Joe at (450) 653-2865.

**It’s important to have priorities in life.....**

