



Founded by George Bell in 1974 - celebrating 50 years.

To entertain, educate, build a sense of friendship among Canadians, and foster goodwill with the American people.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The club is celebrating its 50th birthday this year. Twenty-four presidents and over one hundred vice presidents and directors have guided the Club. In its grand days, it had over two hundred members. Wonderful activities, such as charitable activities and balls, were held.

Since then, the number of members has dwindled, with COVID almost hitting the Club with a fatal blow. Thanks to the then President Dann Oliver, the Club survived, albeit with a much-reduced membership.

Standing at the threshold of a new era, we embark on a crucial rebuilding process. Starting in late summer 2024, we will kick off a recruitment, communications, and marketing campaign. This will include a revamped website, a testament to our commitment to thriving in the digital age.

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PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS

George Bell 1974-76
Mac Forsythe 1977-78
Reg Martin 1978-80
Howard Chandler 1981-82
Reed Logie 1983-84
Cecil MacManus 1985-87
Bill Lagallais 1988
Jim Tiller 1989
Raymond Dupre 1990
Robert Knop 1991
Bill Goodyear 1992
Owen Osborn 1993
Doug Beaman 1994
Don Walker 1995
Jim McAuley 1996
Ian Cuthbertson 1997-98
Bob Weedmark 1999
Len Wade 2000
Bev Timmins 2001
Don Corker 2002 –2003
Fred Demers 2004 – 2005
Gord Bennett 2006 - 2007
Ernie Sharpe 2008- 2010
Dann Oliver 2010 - 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Réjean Gravel

gravel.rejean@videotron.ca

1st Vice-President: Georges Bourdeau

gbourdeau468@gmail.com

2nd Vice-president: Dann Oliver

dannoliver@galt.biz

Secretary: Louise Dufour Gravel

louised.gravel@videotron.ca

Treasurer: Louise Dufour-Gravel

Communications Director: Réjean Gravel

Activity Director: Linda Rioux

l.rioux62@gmail.com

WORDS OF WISDOM

Never force someone to make a space in their life for you because if they know your worth, they will create one for you.

Nature soothes the mind and cures the body. Wisdom is the power to put our time and our knowledge to the proper use.

Everything comes in time to him who knows how to wait.

HURRICANE SEASON

2024 Hurricane Season for the Tampa Bay Area

Summary of an article written by Eric Burriss – Meteorologist, edited and supplemented by R. Gravel

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane has begun. Eric Burriss's 2023 hurricane forecast accurately predicted where every named storm went and when it landed. So, how do we look for 2024? What areas are most likely to see a landfalling tropical system in 2024?



First and foremost, the forecast for the 2024 hurricane season is not to be taken lightly. It predicts a higher-than-normal number of hurricanes and named storms, focusing on the potential for major hurricanes. This is a significant concern that we should all be aware of. (ed: WESH Channel 2 weather news)

Further, ALL forecasts point to the eastern Florida Gulf Coast as having a higher-than-average chance of being directly impacted this hurricane season. This is the most significant threat forecast for many years. **However, the situation differs for the Tampa Bay area and its surroundings.** According to Mr. Burriss's model, the highest risks are projected for Florida's north, the panhandle, and the South. This doesn't mean there's no risk for our area; it simply means that our risk level remains consistent with previous years.

HURRICANE SEASON (CONT'D)



So, why is the forecast different for the Tampa Bay area? Many elements play a role in the forecast puzzle. From the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico surface temperatures to La Niña and fancy weather terms like 'AO' and 'NAO', you get pieces to the puzzle. However, the main thing that helps us understand which areas are more likely to be hit is the LRC.

The LRC (Lezak's Recurring Cycle—named for the meteorologist who discovered it) is a technique that uses the past to predict the future. The term "what goes around comes around" isn't just for life; Lezak discovered that this could also be applied to weather. The weather cycles and features repeat more or less unchanged from year to year. Clear high-activity LRC patterns exist for the panhandle, the north, and the south. The LRC pattern for the Tampa Bay area does not call for frequent hurricane landfalls. We sort of live in the Goldilocks area of Florida!

This does not mean we should dismiss the risk and disregard hurricane prevention measures for our properties. We should at all times follow the Pinellas County hurricane prevention and safety guidelines and plans. By doing so we can ensure our safety and protection during the hurricane season.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

We are becoming increasingly vulnerable as we conduct more and more of our business online and exchange information daily. Whether through emails, social media posts, gaming apps, online marketplaces, or even just chatting with friends and family on various platforms, we are at a higher risk of inadvertently sharing our financial and identity information with fraudsters. Below are some examples of email phishing attempts. NEVER FOLLOW-UP!

- PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ABCD SUBSCRIPTION
- YOUR ABCD SUBSCRIPTION IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE – CLICK HERE TO RENEW IT
- YOU HAVE A PACKAGE WAITING FOR YOU
- CRA OWNS YOU MONEY – CLICK HERE TO CLAIM IT
- PLEASE CONFIRM 353956 (OR A SIMILAR NUMBER)
- YOUR CREDIT CARD WAS BLOCKED – CLICK HERE TO REACTIVATE
- YOUR ABCD ACCOUNT WAS SUSPENDED – CLICK HERE TO REACTIVATE
- SECURITY ALERT – PLEASE CONFIRM
- 36 PIECE TUPPERWARE MODULAR SET – CLICK HERE TO GET YOURS

Some of these phishing attempts can be incredibly convincing. I received one that looked 100% real, but it was 100% fake. They wanted me to call them so that they could get credit card information for reimbursement. It's a reminder that we all need to stay alert and cautious.

Thanks for your recent buy



Invoice <noelzane531@gmail.com>
To gravel.rejean@videotron.ca

PayPal

June 20, 2024 06:10:12 AM EST
E-Order Receipt : 838-9819-64140

Dear user,

You Paid \$659.96 CAD to Samsung Inc.

We're honored to be your partner for your needs. Get ready for a collaborative relationship focused on achieving your objectives with precision and dedication.

Questions ? Let's talk on +1(888) 264-2927

Merchant

Samsung Inc.

Item Code

29A5F7I6H

Buyer

gravel.rejean@videotron.ca

Payment Mode

Auto Debit

Product Description

Samsung Galaxy M30s: 6GB RAM,
128GB storage, 48+8+5MP

Unit price

\$659.96

Qty

1

Amount

\$659.96

Subtotal:

\$659.96

Shipping:

Free

Total:

\$659.96

Issues with this transaction?

Dont worry about the time our 24/7 support team is always available to assist you at
+1(888) 264-2927

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HUMOUR – THE GREAT GENERATION GAP

WRITING AND IMAGE BY REJEAN GRAVEL AND HIS AI BUDDY...

Setting: A cozy coffee shop. The aroma of freshly brewed coffee fills the air. A young barista named Alex is wiping down the counter. An elderly customer, Edna, sits at the bar, sipping her latte.



Alex: (leaning over the counter) Hey, Edna! How's your day going?

Edna: Oh, you know, same old, same old. Back then, we didn't have fancy coffee shops like this. We just had instant coffee and a prayer.

Alex: (smiling) Yeah, things have changed. But you have to admit, our lattes are pretty magical. Like one sip, you're suddenly ready to conquer the world.

Edna: Conquer the world? Honey, we didn't need caffeine for that. We had rotary phones. None of this texting nonsense. You had to dial each number like you were cracking a safe.

Alex: (laughs) True. But now we've got smartphones. They're like Swiss Army knives—a camera, flashlight, and a portal to the entire universe.

Edna: Universe? Back then, our universe was the local library. We'd read actual books, not scroll through cat memes. And don't get me started on vinyl records. Music was an event, not a playlist.

Alex: Speaking of music, Edna, what's your favorite band?

HUMOUR – THE GREAT GENERATION GAP (CONT'D)

Edna: (leaning in) The Beatles, of course! Those mop-topped lads were the soundtrack to my youth. But you kids? You've got DJs who press buttons and call it music. Where's the soul?

Alex: Fair point. But our generation invented memes. Ever seen a cat playing piano? It's like Beethoven meets Grumpy Cat.

Edna: (raises an eyebrow) Beethoven? That man composed symphonies! You, kids, compose tweets. And don't even get me started on selfies. Back then, we took one photo a year, which was blurry. Now, you snap a hundred to find the right angle.

Alex: (grinning) Okay, Edna, let's talk fashion. Bell bottoms or skinny jeans?

Edna: Bell-bottoms, darling! We swirled into rooms like psychedelic tornadoes. And our hair? Teased to the heavens. Your skinny jeans? Well, they're like denim sausage casings.

Alex: (pretending to adjust invisible skinny jeans) Hey, they're comfy! But you're right. Our fashion choices are... interesting. And don't forget about avocado toast. It's our national dish.

Edna: Avocado toast? We had Spam and Jell-O salads. You kids are food snobs. But I'll admit, your kale smoothies are growing on me.

Alex: (leaning closer) Edna, what's the secret to a long, happy life?

Edna: (wistful) Love, laughter, and a dash of rebellion. Oh, and never trust a microwave. They zap your soul.

Alex: (chuckles) Got it. No soul-zapping microwaves. Thanks, Edna.

Edna: Anytime, kiddo. Now, go conquer the world—with your lattes and your memes. Just promise me one thing: keep the spirit alive, even if it's in 280 characters or less.

(As Edna takes another sip of her latte, Alex nods, realizing that maybe—just maybe—the generations aren't so different after all.)

OTHER WORDS OF WISDOM

We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us. *Marcel Proust*

We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing. *George Bernard Shaw*

TRAVEL NOTES – AMTRAK AUTO TRAIN

My wife and I have taken the Amtrak Auto Train services four times over the last four years. Here's our experience with the Amtrak Auto Train in April 2024.

Costly Journey: It can be quite expensive if you take a roomette - \$2,600 Canadian in 2024. In addition to this cost, you should add at least \$350 Canadian for one motel night, food, and fuel to get to Lorton and from Stanford to Pinellas. The total is almost \$3,000 Canadian **Subpar Food:** Unfortunately, the Auto Train dining experience doesn't meet expectations. We and other passengers have reported that the food quality falls short, which is disappointing.

Lengthy Wait Times: Amtrak begins loading vehicles at noon. We arrived around 1:00 pm to be on the safe side. Our car was loaded on the train, and we waited in the terminal for almost three hours as they did not board the train before 4:00 pm. The seats in the terminal are very uncomfortable. When we arrived the morning after, we waited two and a half hours for our car to be unloaded. Waiting at the train station to get on the train and to retrieve our car took five hours. This is especially inconvenient for older people, who are most of the Auto Train clients.

Old Train Cars: We take the train regularly, and we can spot old cars. There is no doubt in my mind that the cars need replacement. In addition to being old, cleanliness is not one of their forte! Our luggage and some clothes had red stains that proved challenging to remove.

Rough Tracks and Uncomfortable Ride: The tracks used by the Auto Train are also used by freight trains and are known to be rough, leading to an uncomfortable ride. I fell from the lower bed while sleeping, resulting in a very painful, strained intercostal muscle injury. This highlights the need for real improvements in ride quality.

Challenges for Older Passengers: The overhead bunk bed design challenges older passengers. It's practically unusable for them, making alternative accommodations essential. Imagine what would have happened if I had fallen from the top bunk bed: broken ribs or a more severe injury.

The Amtrak Auto Train might be a safer way to travel, but in my opinion, the high price is unjustified. You can, of course, sit in the club car all night and save a bundle, but you will be exhausted upon arrival at either the Lorton or the Stanford terminal.

SNOWBIRDS THAT BRING THEIR DOG TO THE U.S. MUST READ THIS!

In July 2024, the U.S. government issued new strict rules for Canadian dogs entering the US Territory. The Canadian federal government was taken aback by the new rules and successfully negotiated with the U.S. to ease the new rules. Please stay informed of the latest developments, as the saga might not be over yet. (Ed)

New strict border rules for dogs entering the U.S. come into effect on Aug. 1 (we expect a grace period - *Ed*). If owners do not comply, they must leave their canine companion home before crossing into the U.S. The new rules are being implemented to help control the spread of rabies.

Starting Aug. 1, dogs must be at least six months old. Those who meet that requirement must also have a valid microchip and have been vaccinated against the rabies virus. The owner must also complete the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Import Dog Form for each dog they own before their planned visit and must either have a completed paper copy of the form or have it on a cell phone when crossing the border. The form will prove that the dog is healthy. The dog must also appear healthy when it crosses the border. The form will be valid for six months.

Other forms might be required depending on where the dog was vaccinated for rabies and the countries it traveled to during the six months before traveling to the United States.

PINELLAS FACES A CRITICAL SITUATION WITH BEACH RESTORATION

As a case in point, Redington Shores. Its beach is rapidly disappearing due to erosion caused by storms, including Hurricane Idalia.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers has offered \$42 million for beach restoration, but with a condition: 461 waterfront homeowners must grant public access to the beaches behind their properties. Unfortunately, half of the homeowners have refused. This conflict highlights the tension between federal assistance and homeowners' concerns.

The Corps won't spend public money to restore private beaches, and homeowners refuse to grant public access to the beaches behind their homes in return for federal assistance. Local and federal officials worry that Redington Shores and areas like it, where homeowners are more concerned about views and privacy than their homes being decimated, are "sitting ducks for the next climate-fueled storm." But for now, neither the Corps nor the coastal homeowners will budge.

DEBATE OVER SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTAL BILL

A measure passed in the Florida Legislature (State Bill 280) will significantly impact the regulation of short-term vacation rental properties. This has sparked a heated debate, with Redington Beach Mayor David Will challenging the bill sponsor, Pinellas County Republican Sen. Nick DiCeglie, over the proposal's merits.

The involvement of organized groups and local officials, including Mayor Will, in opposing the legislation reflects the importance of this issue. Senator DiCeglie, on the other hand, defends the bill as a fair and balanced approach. This ongoing debate is one to watch closely in the coming months.

CITIZEN PROPERTY INSURANCE RATE WILL INCREASE

The Citizens Property Insurance Corporation's Board of Governors voted to approve a new rate package for 2025, which could result in up to a 14% increase for customers. Citizens Insurance, initially a last-resort option, has become the largest insurance company in Florida due to other companies leaving the state and rising prices. The rate increase aims to bring Citizens' rates closer to the private market, encouraging consumers to explore other options.

Property owners point out that without competition, higher prices are inevitable. On the other hand, many believe that paradise comes with a cost.

Below are some interesting Pinellas County live beach webcams. Press Ctrl and then enter to access the chosen webcam.

St-Pete's Beach

<https://www.outdooractive.com/en/webcam/st.-pete-beach-west-tradewinds-island-grand-resort/801900821/>

Sunset Beach

<https://sunsetbeachflsurfcam.com/>

Indian Shores

<https://www.outdooractive.com/en/webcam/indian-shores-west/803553248/>

Indian Shores West

<https://webcams.windy.com/webcams/stream/1649868005>

Clearwater Beach

<https://www.iplivecams.com/live-cams/wyndham-grand-clearwater-beach-florida-united-states/>

Frenchy's Rockaway Grill

<https://www.livebeaches.com/webcams/frenchys-rockaway-grill-live-beach-bam/>

HUMOUR

Millenials, when they finally save enough to buy a house



Source: sureasyourebornyourenevergoingtoseenounicorn

COME TO CANADA
THEY SAID ...

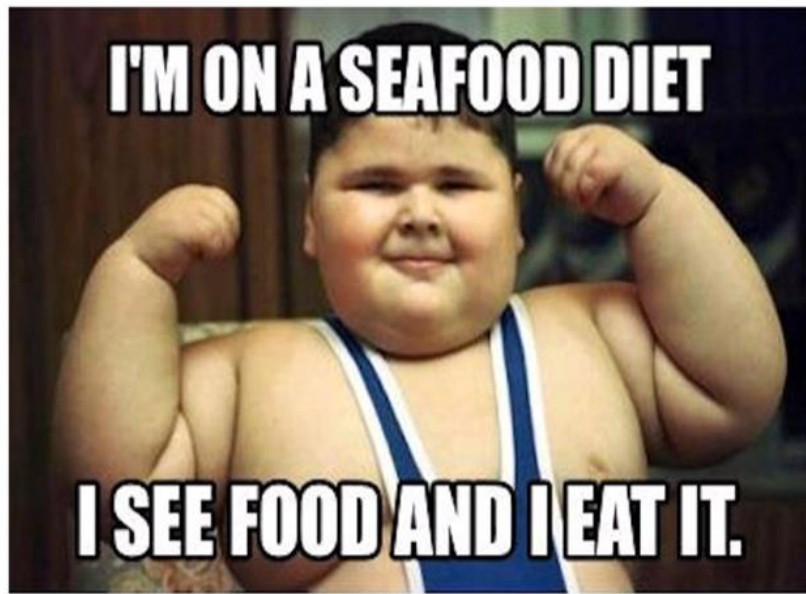
WINTER IS FUN
THEY SAID ...



I'M ON A SEAFOOD DIET

I SEE FOOD AND I EAT IT.

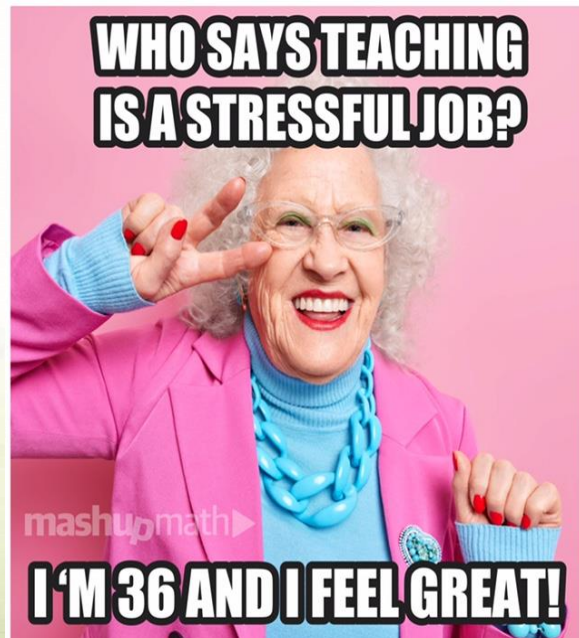
WeKnowMemes



WHO SAYS TEACHING
IS A STRESSFUL JOB?

mashupmath▶

I'M 36 AND I FEEL GREAT!



CLUB'S ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

THIS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE IS **SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED AS IT EVOLVES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.**



Canadian Club Canadien Gulf Coast Florida



Activity Schedule – 2024/25 season

- **November 20th**: luncheon with speaker – Understanding Flags and National Anthems
- **December 11th**: luncheon - Xmas activities and speaker – Social Media and Grandkids!
- **January 15th**: luncheon with speaker – The Blue Jays – a national baseball league team
- **January 29th**: Sunset Dinner Cruise
- **February 12th**: luncheon with speaker – The story of a chocolate maker + BOD Elections
- **February 28th**: Baseball Blue Jays vs Tampa Bay - Dunedin TB Ballpark
- **March 7th**: Ed Fletcher's early bird dinner theatre – Banquet
- **March 12th**: luncheon with speaker – The life of a Fireman/woman
- **March 19th**: Deep Sea Fishing Trip
- **March 26th**: an afternoon at the Downs
- **April 2nd**: Luncheon – speaker - preparing for the hurricane season
- **GOLF**: Every week from November to April at the (to be confirmed) Golf Club

Canadian Club Canadien Gulf Coast Florida

- ▶ The Club is a happy group of folks who meet monthly over the snowbird season (November – April) to enjoy Canadian camaraderie, wonderful meals, interesting speakers and exciting activities.
- ▶ We have weekly golf times at various courses in the area and a newsletter.
- ▶ Annual Membership is \$20 (needed to play golf).
- ▶ **IMPORTANT** - Each NEW member's FIRST lunch is complimentary.
- ▶ We meet at Banquet Masters, 13355 49th Street North, Clearwater, FL. Follow the Canadian flag to get to our lunch room. Viewing the building location on Google Map or MapQuest is advised.
- ▶ Doors open at 11:00 a.m. The refreshments bar opens about 11:05 a.m. Lunch begins at approximately 12:15 p.m. and is only \$20 per person. Your lunch ticket could net you a bottle of wine. We also have a Share-the-Wealth Draw. You could win your lunch, and the remaining funds go toward supporting our Club.

BECOME A MEMBER

You can become a member by:

- sending an email to the Newsletter editor;
- sending an email to a member of the Club's Board of Directors – see page 2 for email addresses; and by
- Telling a member that you will come to the next Club's luncheons and registering as a member (\$20 US per season).

