



Founded by George Bell in 1974 to entertain, educate, build a sense of friendship among Canadians, and foster goodwill with the American people.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I reflect on the past season, I am delighted to say that it has been one filled with fun, entertainment, and great camaraderie. Our membership has grown, bringing fresh energy and new faces to our community—thank you for being part of it!

Looking ahead, we have an exciting program lined up for the upcoming season, featuring events and activities that we know you'll enjoy. While the political winds between Canada and the U.S. may feel a bit tense these days, let's not forget: the sun still shines brightly in Florida, and so does the spirit of our club.

To keep that spirit thriving, we're always looking for new people to join and support our Board of Directors—your ideas and enthusiasm can make a real difference.

We hope to see you all again soon—until then, stay well and stay connected.

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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

- Look for something positive in each day, even if you have to look a little harder on some days.
- I've learned that two people can look at the same thing and see something totally different.
- Anyone can say they care, but watch their actions, not their words.
- Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.

Hurricane season warning signs pile up.

Extracted and adapted from an article published in USA TODAY, July 27, 2025.

The hurricane map in the Atlantic Ocean may be nearly blank now, but forecasters say that may not last much longer, as several signs point to an uptick in activity across the basin. The tropical environment should become more conducive for Atlantic hurricane activity in the next few weeks.

Has it been a slow start to the season?

With three named tropical storms (Andrea, Barry, and Chantal) so far, the number of storms is above average for this time of year but below normal for all other measures.

One of these measures is the severity of a hurricane season. It's called the *Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE)*. ACE measures the total wind energy produced by a season of tropical storms and hurricanes. The ACE measure indicates the slowest start to an Atlantic season since 2009, as the three storms that formed were relatively weak.

'Approaching a pivot point'

The season is about to heat up as August is the month when activity usually ramps up. Despite the slow start, we're approaching a pivot point in the Atlantic. Hurricanes aren't common in June and July. They happen, of course, but there are usually many obstacles in the development process. However, that's not the case from August through October.

Will the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) be strong?

Something to watch over August is the passage of the MJO. The MJO is an eastward-moving disturbance of clouds, rainfall, winds, and pressure that traverses the planet in the tropics and returns to its initial starting point in 30 to 60 days, on average.

HURRICANE SEASON (CONT'D)

The MJO influences tropical cyclone activity in both the eastern Pacific and Atlantic oceans during the summer. A stronger-than-usual MJO might result in more tropical activity for Florida.

Are the waters warm enough for hurricanes to develop?

Hurricanes need warm water to form, preferably 79 degrees or above, and water temperatures in a key section of the Atlantic are starting to warm up. Over the past few weeks, water temperatures have surged to the 7th warmest in the record (dating back to 1981), running only slightly cooler than those of 2017 and 2005 at this point in the season.

Will the Saharan Desert Dust be strong this year?

Another factor influencing the formation and intensity of Atlantic hurricanes is the dust originating from the Sahara Desert in Africa. The dust layer forms over the Sahara Desert during late spring, summer, and early fall, and it moves over the tropical North Atlantic Ocean. Strong dust clouds can suppress the formation of tropical hurricanes. The Saharan dust cloud has been at its weakest on record so far this hurricane season - this could mean more or stronger hurricanes.

Rough hurricane season expected?

The 2025 season is still expected to have 13 to 19 named storms, and six to 10 of those are forecasted to become hurricanes, according to preseason forecasts. The hurricane numbers and severity will depend on water temperature, the MJO, and the Sahara Dust.

How about Pinellas County?

While historically the county has been spared, as hurricane history tends to repeat itself (refer to the Club's 2024 Newsletter), times are changing. In 2024, however, Pinellas suffered from both Hurricane Helen and Hurricane Milton. Helen did not hit the county, but the storm was so intense that it caused severe damage in Pinellas and was felt throughout the Gulf of Mexico and further inland. Milton was a "strange" hurricane, as it did not originate in the Atlantic but instead developed on the coasts of Central America and moved across the Gulf of Mexico toward Pinellas. Once again, the damages were severe. Will Pinellas be spared during the 2025 hurricane season? We hope so.

We all know Murphy's Law, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.", but do you know about these other laws?

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
7. The line you're in always moves the slowest.
8. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
9. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.
10. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
11. The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first.
12. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
13. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
14. God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.
15. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

ABOUT THE I-94 FORM

Introduction

This section summarizes essential information for Canadian travelers regarding the US I-94 form. It uses information from the Canadian Snowbird Association magazine (July 2025), edited for clarity and conciseness.

The United States government requires all international visitors—including Canadians who have never before entered the US and who intend to stay for 30 days or more—to register with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by completing the G325R form through my.uscis.gov.

Once registered, you will receive an I-94 form, which serves as your official proof of lawful entry into the United States. Always keep this form with you while you are in the US.

Note: Canadian snowbirds who have never been issued an I-94 must first complete the G-325R registration to obtain one.

Obtaining the I-94 Form

For Canadians with a previous or expired I-94 and arriving by vehicle:

- Apply online at i94.cbp.dhs.gov up to seven days before your planned arrival at a land border. The fee is \$6 US per person. After approval, print the electronic I-94 and have it ready for validation at the border.
- Alternatively, request an I-94 at the land border crossing. This may slow your entry and result in additional scrutiny. After entering the US, check your I-94 status at i94.cbp.dhs.gov by selecting “Get most recent I-94.” Print a copy and always carry it with you.

ABOUT THE I-94 FORM (CONT'D)

- For Canadians arriving by air. An electronic I-94 will be issued automatically upon arrival. No further registration is required, but you should print and carry a copy of the most recent I-94 for your records.

Questions and Answers

Q: My spouse and I have Nexus cards. Do we follow different border crossing rules?

A: The I-94 requirements remain the same for Canadian visitors staying 30 days or longer, regardless of Nexus card status.

Q: The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website states that Canadian tourists entering on a B1 (business) or B2

(pleasure/medical) visa do not need a provisional I-94. Is this true?

A: No. All Canadian snowbirds require an I-94. If you do not already have a valid I-94, apply for a provisional I-94 up to seven days before crossing by land, or request one from a border officer upon arrival. Flying into the US automatically generates an I-94 for you.

Q: When I enter my passport number on the I-94 site, I find no information, but my spouse—who travels with me—does have an I-94 and travel history. My passport was renewed in August 2024.

What should I do?

Editor's note: Make sure you enter your name, date of birth, document number, and citizenship exactly as listed on your passport. If your passport contains multiple first or last names, include them all. If you still can't retrieve your I-94 or travel history, or if there are errors, visit the nearest CBP deferred inspection site upon arrival in the US. If needed, you may complete the G325-R registration with USCIS to ensure you are properly registered and compliant.

PINELLAS WEB CAMS

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

Indian Shores

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

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/>

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 Pinellas County



Activity Schedule – 2025/26 season

- **November 12th**: luncheon with a speaker – Pinellas County on hurricane and floods.
- **December 10th**: luncheon - Xmas activities – Round Table on Best Xmas moments.
- **January 14th**: luncheon with a speaker from AFC Health Care - Annual Report – Elections.
- **January 28th**: Bowling night.
- **February 11th**: luncheon with a speaker – Daniel Perry – lawyer to discuss CDA/US laws.
- **February 20th**: Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theatre – Banquet Masters.
- **March 11th**: luncheon with a speaker – Empath Health – understanding Alzheimer.
- **March ??th**: Baseball Blue Jays vs Tampa Bay Rays - Dunedin TD Ballpark.
- **March 21st**: Sunset Dinner Cruise.
- **March 24th**: Deep Sea Fishing Trip.
- **April 8th**: luncheon with speaker – to be confirmed.
- **GOLF**: Every Thursday at the East Bay Golf Club from November to April.

Canadian CLUB Canadien Pinellas County

- ▶ The Club is a happy group of folks who meet monthly over the snowbird season (November – April) to enjoy Canadian camaraderie, beautiful meals, engaging speakers, and exciting activities.
- ▶ We also have a weekly golf time and a summer newsletter.
- ▶ The annual membership fee is \$20 US (required 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 our lunchroom. Viewing the building location on Google Maps or MapQuest is advised.
- ▶ Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the refreshments bar opens shortly after. Lunch begins at approximately noon and is only \$20 US per person. Your lunch ticket could get you a bottle of wine. We also have a Share-the-Wealth draw.

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).

