



## President's Message – April 2014

**Bernard Jordaan**

This winter has been one of the more severe ones in decades. Although we were away for some part, we realize we live in a part of Canada that can deliver a tremendous punch this time of year. As an example, to-day we woke up, having no water. We had a water main burst opposite our home. Fortunately we did not have any damage, but our neighbors had. This is a situation across Ontario this time of year.

We thank those men and woman who are on duty seven days a week, to restore these basic services, whether it's Hydro, Gas, or Water. Thank you, to all our clubs and zones for keeping senior activities going in spite of the severe weather.

For many years, The United Senior Citizens of Ontario has advocated for a Minister for Seniors. Early in 2013, the Premier appointed Mario Sergio, as Minister for Senior Affairs. Since this appointment, we have worked to forge good communication and personal contact with this Ministry.

We informed the minister's office, that for years, we received a grant (\$10,000) towards our annual convention, and we were not happy that this grant had ceased in 2012.

I was honored to be present and participate, when in Kitchener, November 13, 2013, the proposed new funding for Senior clubs and groups was made. The implementation of this new funding was announced at a press conference, February 22, 2014.

The minister gave me an opportunity to comment at this event, where I thanked him for all his efforts, to get this "new" funding for senior activities up and running in rather short order. This new "grant" can be applied for, from \$500.00 to \$10,000.00. We have placed an application form in this issue of The Voice.

We could add this as another success, in our efforts, in "what we do for seniors."

***Make Time To Enjoy The Simple Things In Life***

**Bernard**

On Friday, February 20, 2014, Minister Mario Sergio, at a press conference, announced the implementation of new monies available to clubs and groups in Ontario. This, barely three months after the initial announcement, is quite an effort. We thank the Minister, Seniors Secretariat and all of his staff for expediting this new financial program, which we were told will be available annually.



**The Hon. Mario Sergio, Lois and Bernard at new funding announcement.**