

President's Message, April 2026

by Peggy Hawthorn

March came grinding to a close with another month of weather that often confused us in not knowing if it was still winter or if we were into spring for good. I have heard that robins have been seen, but so far, I have not seen one. It will be nice to see the spring flowers start to pop up and see the leaves start to bud. I think everyone will be happy to see the end of the snow.

April features a considerable number of designated days and weeks to recognize various causes or celebrate specific holidays. Notable observances include April Fool's Day, Passover, Easter, National Laundry Day on the 15th, Earth Day on the 22nd, World Immunization Week starting the 24th, and International Guide Dog Day on the 29th. In fact, most days on the calendar have some type of theme connected to them, and it is often worth the effort to look into these days a little more. Simply check online or listen for announcements on the radio or television.

Do you ever wonder who first conceived of ideas like National Cheez Whiz Day, Pickle Day, International Talk Like a Pirate Day, or National Donut Day? These whimsical observations are certainly good for a laugh and a moment of light-hearted appreciation. This month The Voice has the theme of "Pets". So many seniors have pets and if they don't, then they often live vicariously through a pet owned by a family member or neighbour. The majority of pets are either dogs or cats, but a wide range of other pets also find a good home, such as birds, fish, ferrets, pigs, snakes, and so on. A large number of seniors that I know have transitioned to owning smaller dogs or cats. For a large number of seniors, these animals are a huge benefit in providing companionship and being a tremendous source of purpose.

Canada can be very proud of its participants in both the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games. There were many performances that excelled and resulted in a medal, and there were so many that came so close to placing! The most interesting competition from my perspective were the hockey games where it was down to the wire for both the men's and women's teams, but the competition was keen and could have gone either way. It was also fascinating to watch the para ice hockey (formerly sledge hockey) in the Paralympics. I can't wait for the 2028 Summer Games coming up next.

Save the date! The 2026 USCO Convention being held over Zoom again this year on September 21st. Information will be coming out in connection to this over the next couple of months. Remember that the Convention is only as good as the input from our members so start thinking about Resolutions and any suggestions about amending our Constitution. We also encourage Clubs and Individual/Couple Members to register delegates since you can participate at a very low cost.

(an excerpt from) All the World's Alive Again

The rabbit hops its gentle step
The lark sings lyric songs
All the world's alive again
Spring rights the winter wrongs
—Jennifer Gunner

