

Ageing Matters

By Laila Pera, CSA

## **JAM BUTTY REPLACES ROAST BEEF!**

*This month I am pleased to hand over the pen to Alan May. Alan is very involved in the BC Branch of the Alliance of British Pensioners and active in the fight to balance the books when it comes to British Pensions paid to those living outside of that country. Thank you, Alan for this article and for all your hard work and dedication to this task.*

The Eleven to six Negative Judgment from the European Court of Human Rights on the 16th of March allowing the U.K. Government to continue stripping 50 percent of the Expatriate British Pensioners of their right to a fully indexed pension.

This will cause a great deal of financial belt tightening in Canada and around the world for the half million British Overseas Pensioners in the mainly Commonwealth Countries worldwide.

I am painfully aware of the traumatic effect this will have on many of the New Canadians like me. We joined our families in these countries to enjoy the company of our offspring and grandchildren during the "Golden Years" with an ever diminishing income from the compulsory pension deductions paid during our working life in the Mother Country. **SOME MOTHER!**

By and large, the worldwide membership of the Consortium of frozen Countries wish us to continue the fight and one of the major hurdles is the average Britons vision of an expatriate pensioner is someone lolling about on the beach in Spain or the Canaries swilling champagne paid for by the Heating allowance or Christmas bonus they really do receive! Some do, but pity the poor folks in Prince George on a frozen pension.

If you retired in the early eighties your pension was around **30 pound a week** after a lifetime of work and that is what you are getting now. Pretty frosty! Move to Bosnia, The Philippines, Israel, USA or the Common Market Countries and **this week you would receive 95.25 Pounds.** How unfair!

Now we frozen lot are suffering the decline of the British Pound to the \$1.50 exchange rate! That took the jam off the butty\* over the last few months didn't it?

As a 21 year volunteer as Vice President B.C. Branch of the Canadian Alliance of British pensioners and recent five year stint as a National Director. I have handed over my representation of the area north of the Capital Regional District to Geoffrey Vale of Mill Bay Phone (250) 743-9656 [high\\_flyer\\_787@hotmail.com](mailto:high_flyer_787@hotmail.com) Geoff also has salt Water in his veins and knows his way round the Island very well.

Finally, Dame Joan Bakewell the British Governments champion of older people puts it well in Her Telegraph.co.uk article of 19<sup>th</sup> of March "Social justice loses out to legal niceties." Look it up it's a good read! \*Explanation! A butty (staple diet of the 1920's worker) is one or two slices of bread filled with jam, chips, beef dripping, or any leftovers in the pantry. In my youth only the wealthy had a fridge.

We will never surrender!

Alan .S .May

V.P.B.C. Branch

Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners

A British Merchant Navy Veteran