



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Of the McMaster University Retirees Association Tuesday June 3, 2015, Celebration Hall, Kenneth Taylor Hall

The meeting was preceded by a light lunch starting at noon.

MARK WEINGARTNER, a senior policy analyst with the City of Hamilton's Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division, spoke about Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City, which was developed by the City of Hamilton in partnership with the Hamilton Council on Aging and the City of Hamilton's Seniors Advisory Committee. The Plan was informed by the World Health Organization's Age-friendly Cities and Communities framework and is organized around seven themes or goals:

1. HOUSING

Everyone should have a place to live. People are supported in ways that make sense for their unique circumstances with a full range of housing options in their neighbourhoods.

2. GETTING AROUND GREATER HAMILTON

The City's transportation systems, urban design and physical infrastructure enable people to participate in community life as they choose, as well as age in their community.

3. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Older adults have access to information and systems that are better connected, and are able to influence and design the type of information systems they need; customer service and way-finding are intentional and responsive to individual needs and capacities.

4. HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Older adults have access to a wide range of supports and services that allow them to remain in their homes and attend to their health and personal needs. Aging in community is eased by good urban design, appropriate housing, and the support of family and community.

5. SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Social engagement opportunities are welcoming and reflect the diverse interests and preferences of older adults in the community, and are available in a variety of formats.

6. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, VOLUNTEERISM AND EMPLOYMENT

Hamilton's vibrant civic life includes meaningful roles for older people as leaders, influencers, employees and Volunteers.

7. AGE-FRIENDLY PUBLIC SERVICE

Leaders in all City of Hamilton departments will champion age-friendly strategies in their scope of authority and practice, and in partnership with the community.

BUSINESS MEETING

A head count established that we met the requirement for a quorum as specified in article 4.06 of MURA's constitution: "At any meeting of members thirty regular members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business."

1. Approval of minutes

Moved by Marianne Van der Wel, **seconded** by Joan Parker

"that the 2014 AGM minutes be approved as distributed"

Carried.

2. President's Report (Mary Johnston)

Thank you to:

- VP Betty Ann Levy
- Secretary Kathy Overholt
- Treasurer Beth Csordas
- Michele Leroux (HR)
- Council and Committee Chairs

A few key advances made by MURA Council and committees over the past year:

Membership

- 66 new retirees have joined MURA since last June. This brings us to a total membership of 2265. We are still the largest University retirees association in Canada.
- In March, Council conferred honorary MURA membership on Helen Barton. As a long-time regular member, Helen has served on Council, as Vice-president, as President, as newsletter editor and on almost every MURA committee. Helen is a font of knowledge about MURA's history and constitution. This honour recognizes her hard work on behalf of Mac retirees. She joins Jack Evans, Mel and Marilyn Hawkrigg and Averil Thompson as an honorary member of MURA.

MURAnews

Thank you to News Editor Wayne Rouse, Production Editor Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting and the rest of the newsletter committee for four great issues of *MURAnews*. We encourage all MURA members to contribute articles, book reviews, news and jokes to the newsletter.

Volunteering

Betty Ann Levy and the newly formed Volunteering Committee have made good progress with the challenging task of opening up a wider array of opportunities for MURA members to volunteer on campus. The aim is to help retirees who wish to stay connected to the university after retirement. The committee's efforts included a survey of MURA members to identify their interest in various types of volunteer roles at Mac. The Volunteering Committee has also developed a partnership with the Discovery Program, a community outreach program that offers special classes to adults who have an interest in learning but who are not able for various reasons to attend regular University courses. This is a new activity for MURA and one that holds a lot of promise for engagement with McMaster and the wider community. Betty Ann has also been investigating opportunities for retired faculty and staff to become involved in mentoring and supporting regular students at the University.

Academic Awards Endowment

The MURA endowment fund, which provides two annual awards to Gerontology students at McMaster, is now over \$69,000. Thanks to donations by Mac retirees and others, we have surpassed our most recent goal, which will allow us to further increase support for Gerontology students.

Committee to Recommend a President

MURA was asked this past summer to send a representative to appear before the Committee to Recommend a President - to comment on the role of McMaster's President and Vice-Chancellor and to relay MURA's experiences with Patrick Deane in that role.

Trips & Special Events

This committee has faced several challenges over the past year, due in part to health problems faced by several members, as well as uncertainty about the types of events that may be of interest to MURA members.

3. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

Treasurer Beth Csordas outlined the MURA financial statements for the year ending April 2015, as circulated to attendees. She pointed out that the excess of Income over Expenses for the 2014/2015 fiscal year was \$1,139.75 and Total Members' Equity at April 30, 2015 was \$52,856.43. Questions on the financial statement were solicited but there were none.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Cliff Andrews

"that the MURA Financial report be accepted as circulated"

Carried.

4. Auditor's Report (Bob West's written report)

The Auditor's Report was circulated in the package given to the AGM attendees. For the year ending April 30, 2015, Bob West reports that he has examined MURA's financial statements and all supporting documents that he deemed necessary. He finds everything gives a fair representation of our finances and is in order.

Mary Johnson requested a motion to accept the MURA Auditor's report.

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Wayne Rouse

"that the MURA Auditor's report be accepted as circulated"

Carried.

5. Reports on Pensions

5.1 Salaried Plan (Bob West)

As Bob was unable to join us today, no report was presented. Look for an update in a future issue of *MURAnews*.

5.2 Hourly Plan (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff reminded us that the hourly pensioners received a small increase in January. Investment results were very good last year. This year began well but returns have slowed down, so we'll have to wait and see how things go.

6. Nominating Report (Marianne Walters)

6.1 Tribute to Arthur Bourns: the full text of an address by Marianne Walters

Likely many of you already know the sad news that Arthur Bourns, a President Emeritus of McMaster died last week. Art was the President of the University from 1972 until 1980. He was also the Honorary President of MURA. He didn't attend our Christmas lunches and AGMs over the past few years because of ill health. Actually he made a real attempt to come to the Xmas lunch this last year, and had arranged to join us along with someone who could assist him should he need help. Unfortunately, he had to cancel, again because of his health problems. A very informative obituary appeared this morning in the Hamilton Spectator which concludes with an announcement of a remembrance service and celebration of his life to be held in the McMaster Divinity College Chapel on this Sunday, June 7th at 2 PM. It will be followed by a reception in the University Club.

Mary, knowing that I had some knowledge of Art over the years, thoughtfully asked me if I would say a few words about him. I appreciate this opportunity. (I'm sure that many of you have your own memories of Art, but I can only relate to you some of mine.) I thought highly of Art as a President, as a gentleman, and as a man of integrity.

My first contact with him was when I was concerned about the process which was being followed in determining whether I would receive tenure. I wrote to him about my concerns, and though I didn't have personal contact with him about the matter, it was clear that he saw to it that the appropriate process was followed.

Some years later when I was President of the Faculty Association I had numerous contacts with him. We got along well and while we didn't always agree, he was always respectful and courteous, and I hope I was also. I appreciated his vision for the University and how effectively he worked to realize it. It was the time of the Hooker endowment. And it was during that time that the Joint Committee – that established the working relationship between the Administration and the Faculty Association – came into existence. That was Art's doing. I believe it was a major factor in determining that McMaster would remain one of the few Universities in Canada that does not have a unionized faculty. He asked me to Chair it the first year, and I believe he was a little taken aback when I told him I would, but that I had never chaired a committee before. The Joint Committee evolved further over subsequent years, but that was the beginning.

When Art stepped down from the Presidency, all of us who had been Presidents of the Faculty Association each prepared a page in a scrapbook which was presented to him. My contribution was two photographs – one of a large white sculpture of a seated nude which he had had a role in selecting for placement on the campus a number of years before, and the other of a small bronze sculpture of a seated nude made by a McMaster student which he had recently purchased. The caption above the photographs read:

“The Perplexing Puzzle of the President's Persisting Passion for the Seated Nude”.

Then, at the bottom of my page I wrote something like

“Thank you for treating me with almost as much consideration and respect as President of the Faculty Association as you did when I was a young faculty member concerned about whether I would receive tenure”.

In later years when we occasionally saw each other in social situations, rather than the formal ones of before, I discovered a new dimension to Art: his great warmth.

I am grateful to have known him and am sorry that he is no longer with us.

6.2 Nominating Report

Marianne Walters, chair of the 2015 Nominating Committee, presented the Nominating Report for 2015-2016 which was circulated to the members present. The members of the Nominating Committee were Helen Barton, Eleanor Frank, David Hitchcock, Kathy Overholt and Marianne Walters (chair). Marianne explained that the Nominating Committee report as included in the agenda package was approved by Council in April and published in the Spring *MURAnews*.

Our constitution permits new nominations to be made up to 7 days before the AGM. No further nominations were received. The nomination list as circulated is:

President:	Leslie King (One year term)
Vice-President:	Heather Grigg (One year term)
Councillors (until 2017):	Gail Britton Dianne Coventry Nora Gaskin

Marianne Walters asked if there were additional nominees from the floor. There were none.

Moved by Cliff Andrews, **seconded** by Alvin Lee

"that nominations be closed"

Carried without discussion

7. Election of Executive and Council (Marianne Walters)

Marianne said that the slate stands and so all are elected.

8. Incoming President's Address (Les King)

Les said that he hadn't expected to be asked to serve as President but was pleased to assume the role.

He thanked Mary Johnston for her service as President over the past year. He added he is looking forward to working with everyone on the MURA Council.

9. Other Business

None.

Moved by Brian Beckberger

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried at 2:26 pm