

**MINUTES for ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of McMaster University Retirees Association -  
Wednesday May 30, 2007, Convocation Hall in University Hall at 2:15PM**

These are the minutes (approved by Council provisionally on June 13th, 2007 and approved by the membership at the May 28, 2008 Annual General Meeting) of the twenty second Annual General Meeting.

The meeting was preceded by a light lunch and an interesting and informative presentation on the "McMaster Campus Landscape" given by Terry Sullivan, Barb Rabicki, Bob Dunn and Mark Haley. Brian Ives then gave a brief history of MURA's Presidents and Founding Members and presented Stuart Winn with an honorary MURA membership for his significant role in starting our association. Stuart then gave a short talk about the early days of MURA and wound up with an interest volunteer activity for MURA to consider: "Go into our schools and interact with our young people so they can understand the 'aging' process better".

There were 115 people present for the luncheon and presentation. Approximately 90-95 people stayed for the business meeting whose minutes follow.

**1. Approval of the minutes of the 21st AGM, May 23rd, 2006**

**MOTION:**

Kathy Overholt **motioned** that the 2006 AGM minutes be approved as circulated to those present.

**Seconded** by John McCutcheon.

**Carried** with no objections.

**2. President's Report (Brian Ives)**

**MURA Membership:** Total membership in May 2007 was 1738. A detailed breakdown is provided in the attached Appendix.

**2006-2007 MURA Highlights:** Dinner & talk by Dr. Adrian Upton; Christmas Lunch; Visit with Menno DeGroot, our most senior member in his 99<sup>th</sup> year. Many great trips were organized this year, including a cruise to Bermuda. Brian also introduced Lois Tupper, who was in attendance. Lois was a member of the Divinity College from 1947-1971, and is possibly our longest retiree

**WEB Site:** Thanks to the founders of our web page: Nick Solntseff, Marju Drynan and Helen Barton. The site was updated this year and plans are to change the front page with new photos and stories every 10 days or so.

**Awards and Endowment Fund:** Since 1991, MURA has funded an annual \$1000 scholarship to a full time student and a \$250 prize to a part time student, both in gerontology.

In May 2007, MURA has signed an gift agreement with the university to raise \$32,000 by 2011 to endow these two awards. If the fund exceeds that goal, the awards can be improved. Until the endowment fund is large enough to support the awards, the annual expense will continue to come from the MURA operating budget.

A fundraising campaign will start in the fall. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Final Thoughts:**

- MURA tries to provide “One Big Tent” to include ALL our members from our diverse backgrounds.
- We have a proactive, volunteer, working council and anyone who wishes is encouraged to become involved
- Involvement with CURAC (Colleges and Universities Retiree Associations of Canada) gives MURA greater scope, useful comparisons and information. In comparison to many CURAC organizations, MURA members have very good post-retirement benefits and a good relationship with our University..

**THANK YOU:** Brian expressed his THANKS to council and all MURA members for giving him this opportunity to lead our volunteer organization. He particularly congratulated Marianne for her sterling work as secretary, a position she volunteered for last summer, and into which she has grown to provide support for Council in many ways. Brian also noted that Mildred McLaren was retiring from the Council and thanked her for her service over the past six years. Mildred was presented a bouquet of flowers by Helen Barton.

**3. Trips Report (Anne Sinclair)**

Anne Sinclair gave a brief overview of trips past and trips to come, including the Queen Mary II cruise for April of 2008 and a December trip to the Hummingbird Centre. The financial Statement of Activity for the Trips Program was included in the handout circulated to those present.

**4. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)**

Beth Csordas presented her financial statements for the year ending April 2007 along with explanatory notes. Beth noted that the year’s Excess of income over expenditures was largely due to income from Member dues that had been paid in advance, for 2006 and beyond. Such income will not occur in subsequent years.

**MOTION:**

Mildred McLaren **motioned** that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as circulated to those present.

**Seconded** by Dora Haisell.

**Carried** with no objections.

**5. Auditor’s Report (Bob West)**

Bob West presented his Auditor's Report. He commented that he had found last year that Beth Csordas and Anne Sinclair did a perfect job of recording and reporting the finances of the Association and that, if it was possible, they had done it even "perfecter" this year.

**MOTION:**

Geoff Evans **motioned** that the Auditor's Report be accepted as circulated to those present.

Joan Parker **seconded** the motion

**Carried** with no objections

**6. Reports on Pensions**

(A) Salaried Plan (Les Robb: Voting Member of Salaried Pension Trust Committee)

Les Robb talked about the nature of the PTC. He explained that while the Pension Trust Committee (PTC) has power only to recommend, it is first in line in the process and hence has influence. This year the PTC recommended changes in investment strategies resulting from changes in the law that allow a higher percentage of foreign investments. The committee also helped make textual amendments to pension plan wording. Les reported that, unless there's a major market downturn, the increase for January 2008 should be good.

(B) Hourly Plan (Cliff Andrews: Observer Member of Hourly Pension Committee)

Cliff reported that the hourly bargaining units with the University are discussing ways to find more favourable terms for indexing, and working to find a more common plan amongst the various hourly groups.

**7. Nominating Committee Report (Mildred McLaren)**

Mildred presented the Nominating Committee's Report and asked if there were additional nominees from the floor. There were none.

**MOTION:**

Geoff Evans **motioned** that nominations be closed.

Beth Csordas **seconded** the motion

**Carried** with no objections

**8. Election of Executive and Council**

**MOTION:**

Cliff Andrews **motioned** that the those nominated for MURA positions in the Nominating Report be approved.

Geoff Evans **seconded** the motion

**Carried** with no objections

## **9. Incoming President's Address**

Helen Barton thanked Brian Ives for his years of service as Vice-President and President and promised to do her best to keep MURA continuing to meet its objectives, with the continued help of an excellent Council and Joan Parker as incoming Vice-President. Helen took Brian up on his stated offer to continue as web master and also looks forward to working with Brian as the immediate Past President.

Helen stated that the particular goals taken from the objectives in the Constitution that she will try to focus on are:

- a) Continuing to represent and help MURA's entire membership
- b) Strengthening the connections among retirees and between the retirees and the University community, by working on communication and increased personal connections, and by finding opportunities for members to fill new and vital volunteer roles that will keep MURA connected to McMaster and the local community.

## **10. Other Business**

Gary Warner spoke to the assembly of the vital role the United Way plays in our community and asked that MURA members consider continuing their pre-retirement contributions.

## **11. Adjournment**

Cliff Andrews motioned to adjourn at 3:10PM. Carried.

Approximately 35 of those who attended the AGM took a tour of the David Braley Athletic Centre after the meeting adjourned. The tour was conducted by Therese Quigley, Director of Athletics and Recreation.

Appendix: Membership breakdown as of May 2007

Affiliates	31
CAW (formerly MUSA)	544
Clinical Faculty	103
Faculty (MUFA)	478
Hourly employees	229
Management Group	123
Research Associates	8
Survivors	219
Honorary	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1738</b>