

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of McMaster University Retirees Association -
Wednesday May 28, 2008, Convocation Hall in University Hall starting at noon**

The meeting was preceded by a light lunch starting at noon followed by an interesting and informative presentation by Brian Henley, local historian and author. His topic was “McMaster, Westdale and Churchill Park in the 20's and 30's”.

University Technical Services (UTS) was on hand to make new photo ID cards for our members as well as explain their other services such as e-mail and virus protection software. Sixty-six retirees got new photo ID cards made.

In the background, a slide show of MURA members and events were displayed on a big screen at the front of the hall.

There were approximately 150 people present for the luncheon and presentation. Most stayed for the business meeting which started at 2:00PM. The minutes of the business meeting follow.

**MINUTES for ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of McMaster University Retirees Association -
Wednesday May 28, 2008, Convocation Hall in University Hall at 2:00PM**

These are the minutes (to be approved by Council provisionally on June 11th, 2008) of the twenty third Annual General Meeting.

Helen Barton opened the meeting and thanked Brian Henley remarking that she was glad that Cootes Paradise is not today's Hamilton Airport, one of the proposed plans for the “wet lands” in the 1920's..

1. Approval of the minutes of the 22nd AGM, held May 30th, 2007

MOTION:

John McCutcheon **motioned** that the 2007 AGM minutes be approved as circulated to those present.

Seconded by Les Robb.

Carried with no objections.

2. **President's Report (Helen Barton)**

Passing of Brian Ives: Brian Ives died April 16, 2008. He was MURA's Vice-president from 2003-2005, then President from 2005-2007 and Past President this year. Brian worked tirelessly to include all MURA members in the organization, and to bringing MURA more fully into the electronic age. He was a strong proponent of MURA and worked hard to raise our image whenever he could.

Veronica Morrison's 2nd Retirement: Veronica Morrison has been our MURAnews Editor "extraordinaire" for over 10 years! Veronica has decided that it's time for her to follow new endeavors and has thus retired as our editor. We very much thank Veronica for her many years of excellent service. Joan Parker presented her with flowers as a token of our thanks.

MURA Membership: Total membership in May 2008 was 1808, including about 200 spousal survivors of retirees. There have been 112 new members since last year's AGM ; 45 retirees passed on during the same period. A detailed breakdown is provided in the attached Appendix.

2007-2008 MURA Highlights:

Service to Retirees: MURA Council has continued to worked to improve communication with our members by making our web page, e-mail list and MURAnews interesting and informative, and by providing information and promoting retiree "perks". Our newly designed web page outlining "Pensions, Benefits and Perks" is one such example. We have successfully interacted with "Athletics & Recreation" and "Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation" to make members aware of their programs and costs, and arranged an Open House of their facilities in January 2008.

To keep our postal costs down, we initiated a campaign to have our members with computer access switch to the web version of MURAnews. 250 retirees have switched, 130 of them as a result of our January campaign. The postage savings helps keep our budget under control.

Trips: Anne Sinclair continues to arrange great trips for our members such as the April 2008 Caribbean cruise on the Queen Mary II and the show "White Christmas" in Toronto. Future events include the fall 2009 River Boat cruise in Provence & Burgundy, France and the January 2009 production of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang".

Special Events: Margaret Jenkins arranged two successful events: a Fall Dinner, with Ellen Ryan speaking on "Choosing to Age Creatively", and a Spring Musical Concert with lunch at the University Club.

Christmas Luncheon: The 2007 Christmas lunch was held at Eastside Mario's in Dundas; the highlight was the presentation of honorary membership to Mel and Marilyn Hawkrigg. The event was so successful that Eastside Mario's has offered us the use of the entire restaurant for 2008.

Volunteer Network: This project came from a desire to find a way for retirees to connect and be involved in campus life. Pam Penny, Joan Parker, Ellen Ryan and Helen Barton met with the university president, Peter George, who gave his support. Subsequently staff from the Alumni Advancement Office (under the direction of Karen McQuigge) has worked with the MURA group to get this project up and running, and will continue to be a major partner. The various campus departments will be contacted starting in June 2008 to determine the level of interest and volunteer opportunities on campus. Opportunities will be advertised to retirees after that, depending on interest and availability.

MURA Note Cards: Thanks to Kathy Overholt for arranging for the cards to be designed and printed and to Stephanie Lisak, whose painting of McMaster graces the front page of the card. The cards (for sale at this meeting) will sell for \$1.50 each, and are designed to appeal to McMaster retirees and non-retirees. They are blank inside. The proceeds from these cards will be tracked separately and will be used for a MURA special project yet to be determined.

Academic Awards Endowment Campaign: This campaign has a goal to raise \$32,000 by year 2010. We are already at 40% with approximately \$13,000 raised. This endowment will eliminate the need to spend \$1250 per year from our operating budget for a \$1000 scholarship and a \$250 prize to McMaster gerontology students. The fund will also guarantee the awards will always exist, and if we exceed our goal financially the value of the awards can be increased.

No Membership Fees for the next 3 years: MUFA (McMaster University Faculty Association), the CAW Local 555 and the President's Office have agreed to extend their financial support of MURA for the next three years. Hence MURA will not be collecting fees from members until at least 2011.

Thank You To MURA Council: Helen Barton thanked all council members for their hard work and team spirit. She also thanked Les Robb, our representative on the Salaried Pension Trust Committee and Cliff Andrews, our representative on the Hourly Pension Committee. She also thanked Ellen Ryan who has participated in both the awards endowment and the volunteer network projects this year, and who presented the special seminar series "Finding Meaning in Retirement" for retirees.

Thank You to UTS: Helen Barton thanked the staff from UTS for setting up the Photo ID service at the AGM and for the other services they offer retirees, such as e-mail and anti-virus software. UTS is currently working to find a way for retirees to add their contact information to the online campus directory if they so wish.

MURA Council Members Leaving Council: Roman March and Joan Morris have reached the end of their 3 year term and decided not to run for another. Roman, thank you for your special contributions to the MURANews and Pension/Benefits Committees. Joan, thank you for organizing our AGMs. Thank you too for your work on our constitution and for offering to continue to work on MURA membership definition issues after your term ends. Margaret Jenkins' 3 year term is also up but she will stand for nomination for another term. Margaret has been very active in organizing special events. Thank you.

3. Trips Report (Anne Sinclair)

Anne Sinclair gave a brief overview of trips past and trips to come, including the April 2008 Queen Mary II cruise, an August 2008 two night, three day trip to the Orillia area, and the September 2009 river boat cruise in Provence & Burgundy.

The financial statement of activity for the Trips Program was included in the handout circulated to those present. Anne commented that the objective of the trips committee is to not gain large surpluses as that would tie up members money, and that the financial statement shows that we are staying within that goal.

4. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth Csordas presented the MURA financial statements for the year ending April 2008 along with explanatory notes. Beth noted this year we have a small deficit because of the fact that we no longer collect dues hence our donations are much lower than the previous year. (Any dues sent in and not requested to be returned are allocated as donations) Also we spent almost \$1500 on "Other Communications" such as a special invitation to the 2007 AGM, Thank You cards and a card requesting members switch to the web version of MURAnews.

MOTION to accept the Financial Reports: Helen requested a motion to accept both the "MURA Trips Financial" and "MURA Financial" reports.

MOTION:

John McCutcheon **motioned** that the Trips' Financial Report and the MURA Financial Reports be accepted as circulated to those present.

Seconded by Cliff Andrews.

Carried with no objections.

5. Auditor's Report (Eleanor Gow)

Since Eleanor Gow is away in Venice Helen Barton presented the Auditor's Report which was circulated in the package given to the AGM attendees. Eleanor is a McMaster retiree from Investment Services who did the MURA audit this year since Bob West, who has done the audit for the past few years, is away this spring.

MOTION:

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

Caroline Bayard **seconded** the motion

Carried with no objections

6. Reports on Pensions

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

- Despite this year's general poor performance of the pension fund, Les Robb is optimistic that we may still get full indexing this January because our indexing formula is averaged over the past five years. Les is also optimistic that there will be enough earnings for a "catchup" increase as well.

- The university has chosen to file its actuary evaluation, required once every three year period, this year. This evaluation will be based on the 2007 pension fund performance, which was good. This will mean the university may be able to make smaller contributions to the salaried pension fund. This may or may not hurt the plan.

- Human Resources will publish a fully updated pension text on July 1 and will ensure that the information is easily accessible. Keeping this text current can be difficult when amendments are made on a continuous basis. We don't expect amendments in the near future so the text should be current for a while.

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

- Since the Hourly Pension Plan is smaller and the indexing formula differs from the salaried one and since the plan has currently increased in value by about 1.25%, Cliff Andrews is not optimistic about an increase in pensions this year. On the bright side, since the actuary evaluation has been done, the university is currently contributing more, making the plan more stable.

7. Nominating Committee Report (Pam Penny)

Pam Penny, a member of the 2008 Nominating Committee, presented the Nominating Committee's Report for 2008-2009 which had been circulated to the members present. Three times, she asked if there were additional nominees from the floor. There were none.

MOTION:

Pam Penny **motioned** that nominations be closed.

Helen Dietsche **seconded** the motion

Carried with no objections

8. Election of Executive and Council

Since there were no nominations from the floor, the slate of nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee for 2008-2009 stands.

9. Other Business

- Helen Barton drew names for the flower pots that graced our luncheon tables.

11. Adjournment

We adjourned at 2:40PM

Appendix: Membership as of May 2008

Affiliates	36
Clinical Faculty	117
Faculty	573
Hourly staff	265
Research Associates	8
CAW 555 staff	655
The Management Group (TMG)	149
Honorary	5
GRAND TOTAL:	1808