

Meeting with Dr. Ken Rae, at the Academic Retiree Center, University of Toronto.

By Marianne Van der Wel

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On Dec 1, 2009 I had the privilege of visiting the University of Toronto's (U of T) Academic Retiree Centre, located on the fourth floor of a renovated, refurbished warehouse on McCaul St which is now part of U of T's St. George campus. The centre shares the fourth floor with the graduate pharmaceutical department. This gives the centre access to some great lecture halls. This centre itself consists of a reception/lounge area complete with a kitchenette, two offices and a good sized room with study carrels and lockers. The Academic Retirees Centre houses 3 organizations for U of T retired faculty, librarians and senior administrators. They are:

- *Academic Retiree Centre*: Provides a base so that U of T retired faculty, librarians and senior administrators can continue their connection with and service to U of T and carry on their scholarly and professional activities. This centre was provided and is maintained by U of T as a result of negotiations between their faculty association and their administration. As part of this agreement, U of T provides a half time administrative coordinator who occupies one of the offices in the centre.

See: <http://www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc.htm>

- *Retired Academics and Librarians of the University of Toronto (RALUT)* advocates on behalf of members as well as provides social functions. Membership is voluntary and is funded through membership fees. See: <http://www.ralut.utoronto.ca>

- *Senior College*: A group of `fellows` dedicated to the support and fostering of the scholarly, professional and creative activities of all retired U of T faculty, librarians and senior administrators who may also be members of RALUT (or not). Senior College will also build and administer a talent pool of members willing to perform academic services for U of T and the Toronto community at large. Funding is through member fellowships. See:

<http://www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc/college.htm>

<http://sites.google.com/site/seniorcollegecommunications/Home> and

<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/ssc/>

I was invited Dr. Ken Rea, Communications Coordinator of Senior College, Professor Emeritus (Economics) from U of T and CURAC Communications Committee Member and Past Chair. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and came away with the following impressions:

While MURA encompasses all McMaster retirees and we have done an excellent job of providing social functions and information for our wide range of members, we have not provided much activity, support or encouragement for the retirees who wish to continue their work life after retirement or continue to `work` but in a different field. Given the current financial climate a facility like that of U of T's may be out of reach but MURA could do better to find ways to support the academic, creative and scholarly life of its members who would be interested using existing resources.