



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

As this is my last *MURAnews* report as your President, I wish to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to all of you, and especially our Council members for the unstinting support I have received during my term as President. Special thanks go to our departing Council members; *Jessie Dunlop, Frank Drieman, Erica Giese and Helen Otrosina*. You will be pleased to know that *Anne Sinclair* has agreed to continue in the role of planning our many trips. She has been doing such a fantastic job! On your behalf, I want to extend our best wishes to *Gerry Keech* for improved health and a serene retirement. Gerry has served on Council for many years in many capacities. We will miss your quiet sense of humour, Gerry!



AND NOW - I HAVE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



It gives me great pleasure to remind you of our upcoming **Annual General Meeting**, because this year we have arranged something **very special** for you, our members. Please make careful note of the following details:

We will get together on **Wednesday May 25, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in Convocation Hall, 2nd floor of University Hall**. We will start with a buffet luncheon providing time for you to socialize and renew acquaintances with old friends and colleagues.

Helen Otrosina has worked most effectively to secure the services of **Mr. Eric Vengroff, a Vice President with CARP**, who will talk to us for about 30 minutes, outlining the advantages that CARP has to offer to retirees. I am sure you will find this very informative, especially in areas where there are discounts for "50 Plus". **See page 3 for further details.**

At 3:00 p.m. there will be a brief Business Meeting with reports from the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, and the President.

We are anticipating a large turnout of our members within travelling distance for this event, and are confident you will be among them if at all possible to demonstrate support for your Retirees Association and the efforts made by your Council to promote your interests.

Mildred (Cihocki) McLaren



2005 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Honorary President*

Dr. Arthur Bourns

Executive

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Past President | (ex officio) | Mrs Mildred McLaren |
| President | (one year term) | Dr. Brian Ives |
| Vice President | (one year term) | Ms Helen Barton |
| Treasurer* | | Mrs Beth Csordas †† |
| Secretary* | | Mrs Averil Thompson |

Councillors

Nominated for a three year term of office to 2008:

Mrs Margaret Jenkins
Dr. Roland March
Ms Joan Morris

Nominated for a two year term of office to 2007:

Mrs Joan Parker

Continuing in office until 2007:

Mrs Mariana Brown
Mr Rod Phillips

Nominated for a one year term of office to 2006:

Dr. Geoffrey Evans

Continuing in office until 2006:

Dr. Gabriele Erasmi
Mrs Bonnie White

* Appointed _____ †† Subject to the approval of Council

Nominating Committee

Representing Council:

Dr. Gabriele Erasmi
Mr. Rod Phillips

Representing Membership:

Mrs. Dora Haisell
Mrs. Margaret Maggs

Chair:

Mr. Frank Drieman

Please note: In accordance with Article 8.01(c) of the MURA Constitution:

"Nominations for these positions will be received by the Secretary of the Association up to seven(7) days prior to the date set for the annual general meeting from nominators who are regular active members of the Association together with the verbal or written acceptance of the nominee. Nominations will also be received from regular active members at the annual general meeting."



HUMAN RESOURCES RETIREMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Any of our members who have been able to access the MURA web-site have no doubt been intrigued by our Vice President's "vault-like" introduction to the very competent staff team at McMaster who are taking care of our interests and benefits. (He is really becoming quite a challenge to my creativity as editor of your newsletter!)

They are:

Michele Leroux, Manager, Ext. 27253
Jeff Chuchman, Administrator, Ext. 24570
Beata Dycha, Administrator, Ext. 23692

Jeff will serve as Manager from April 2005 to March 2006 while Michele takes a leave of absence to enjoy the challenges of motherhood. She has played a very active role on our Council and we will miss her presence. However, Jeff has already displayed an avid interest in our concerns, so we won't feel abandoned.

As a MURA member, please feel free to contact one of them if you have any questions regarding your benefits and pensions, or explore our web-site www.macra.ca for further details.

Retirees and their spouses are also reminded to carry with them at all times their Sun Life Benefits Card which shows the McMaster policy number (25018) and the ID number of the retiree. If the retiree or spouse does not have a card, a note of this information should be carried. Please be aware of the plan you have chosen from the option package.

RECENT RETIREES

Mrs. Ida Beltrano–Hospitality Services
Mrs. Viorika Carina–Building Operations
Mr. Doug Fraser–Human Resources
E. Hewitt–Obstetrics & Gynecology
Ms. J. Johnson–Medicine
Dr. Y. Li–Pathology
Miss Marilyn Morris–Medicine
Ms. Teresa Venittelli–Modern Languages
Dr. Chris Woodward–Clinical Epid. & Bio Stats.



PASSINGS



Erina Gerontzos–Dec. 27, Hospitality Services
Dorothy Clark–Jan.12, Library
Dr. Richard Slobodin–Jan. 22, Anthropology
Dr. Gilbert Harrop–Jan. 23, Divinity College
Sharon Taylor–Jan. 26, Library
Ormand Levely–Jan. 28–Library
Irene Leigh–Feb. 16, Board Secretariat
Dr. Ivan Morgan–Feb. 22, Divinity College
Dorothy Patterson–Feb. 25, Hospitality Services
Dr. Jean Jones–Mar. 7, School of Social Work
Charles Baxter–March 21, Library

CURAC NEWS UPDATE

As mentioned in our January newsletter, the Conference and Annual General Meeting of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) takes place May 11-13 at UBC (Robson Square) and Simon Fraser (Harbour Centre). Several important sessions are planned including "extending the professional life of retired faculty", "the role of Senior Scholars Centres in universities", and "campus retirement housing for retirees". Any of our MURA members who are living or visiting in the area of UBC or SFU would be most welcome to attend the Conference.

Helen Barton, who serves as our representative with CURAC, has recently been appointed to their Executive Council.

Further details plus registration forms and information regarding accommodations and travel are available at the CURAC/ARUCC web-site www.curac.ca, or by writing to CURAC/ARUCC, 7-B Pleasant Blvd, Suite 997, Toronto, ON, M4T 1K2. It should be noted that travel assistance is available for those coming from a distance.

According to a recent survey of CURAC member organizations conducted by Ken Rea and Ralph Winter, it appears that we, as McMaster retirees, are more fortunate than some of our counterparts at other academic institutions. While most have some form of health or non pension benefits with a great deal of variation, a number have little or none, with minimal representation on university decision making bodies. These issues are of major concern to CURAC. Read their web-site item "*CURAC Benefits Initiative Bearing Fruit*". Their conclusion is that the appropriate body to implement their proposals is the CAUT, whose Executive Director says that "CAUT is actively encouraging its members associations...to negotiate post-retirement health, drug, dental, and other benefits for all retirees..."

Members with Internet access might be interested in checking out the following web-site of the *Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC)*: www.curc.clc.ca, set up to provide information of interest to seniors and retirees. Two items of particular interest are one pertaining to the Fair Drug Patent Regulation which criticizes the system whereby brand name drug companies can, apparently, easily block approval of generic drugs, with the implication this has for drug prices. CURC also argues against the proposal for mass media advertising of prescription drugs. The second item concerns pension reform. It is suggested that the public system needs improving in light of the perceived weakening in private systems. Assured benefits are not delivered because of the uncertainties of investment returns and the uncertainty about the level of interest rates at the time accumulated funds are used to purchase annuities.



Mr. Eric Vengroff
Vice President of Marketing, CARP
(Canadian Association of Retired Persons)



Our Selected Speaker for the
MURA Annual General Meeting



Mr. Vengroff comes to us not as an advocate for CARP, but in answer to our request, when we discovered that many seniors were unaware of the benefits and privileges available to them through the unceasing efforts of this organization. Their mission statement is:

- ▶ To preserve and protect 50-plus rights as the advocacy voice for the 10.3 million Canadians over 50. Our goal is to express the views of 50-plus Canadians and, in every case, to provide practical recommendations rather than merely raising concerns.
- ▶ To provide meaningful, useful information of 50-plus lifestyle choices and key political and economic issues.
- ▶ To negotiate group benefits and special savings for our 400,000 members.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

CARP arranges for travel discounts as well as hotels, and provides a list of the hotel chains that have programs available for members.

COME OUT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 2005 AT 1:00 P.M.
IN CONVOCATION HALL

Mr. Vengroff will speak at 2:00 p.m. following the buffet lunch.

Bring your questions and find out how CARP can help enhance your
RETIREMENT YEARS!!

2005 Stratford Theatre Seminars

July 11 - 16

The McMaster University Stratford Theatre Seminars have enjoyed 46 years of theatre, discovery and fellowship. Join fellow theatre lovers in a full and varied programme of stage productions complemented by academic lectures about the plays, symposia with the actors and directors, talks from the festival's designers and craftspeople, informal discussions with other seminarians and fine dining at the Stratford Country Club.

There are two different seminar packages available. The weeklong package includes all seminar activities Monday evening - Saturday evening, five lunches, four evening meals, a welcome reception and theatre tickets for 8 performances. New for 2005, a weekend option includes all seminar activities Thursday evening - Saturday evening, two lunches, two evening meals and theatre tickets for 4 performances.

This year's seminar performances are: The Brothers Karamozov; The Tempest; Hello Dolly; Orpheus Descending; Fallen Angels; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof; Into the Woods and As You Like It.

For more information or to register please contact Todd Rich, Program Director at 905.525.9140 x23128 or richt@mcmaster.ca or visit www.mcmaster.ca/conted/stratford.

**Another item of interest you will
find
on the  web...**

Log on to the University of Toronto web-site at:

<http://www.news.utoronto.ca/bin6/050314-116.asp> to read the March 14th release by Jessica Whiteside with the intriguing title, **“End to mandatory retirement in sight for faculty, librarians: University and faculty association reach tentative agreement”**

We'll have all of you “surfing” yet!



Did you know that McMaster University was founded by a charitable bequest? Yes, it was Susan Moulton McMaster who made the suggestion to her husband William McMaster:

“One afternoon when we were sitting out under the pines on some garden seats, I asked the Senator if he knew what I would like him to do with (our home) eventually. He said he was sure he did not. So I told him I wanted him to build a theological seminary there and have the house for the professors to live in... ‘Oh’ he said, ‘that would be most impracticable.’ However, I was not discouraged. I went over the same ground the next evening and the next and kept at it until my sister told me I would surely bore him to death. I felt the need of such a thing too much and was determined that it be done.”

Taken from Susan Moulton McMaster’s journal.

If you would like to follow in William McMaster’s footsteps and include McMaster University in your estate planning, please contact the **Office of Gift Planning at 905-525-9140 ext. 23447**

Right before the AGM, MURA members are invited to attend



On Wednesday May 25th from 12 noon to 12:30 p.m., in CIBC Hall, the Office of Gift Planning, as part of the Susan Moulton McMaster and William McMaster Society, will host an “Estate Seminar”. Featured speaker David Hannaford, CFP, Faculty of Social Science ‘64 will talk about planned gifts, techniques, including tax and other financial implications as well as general personal financial planning guidelines. All MURA members are invited to attend.. To RSVP, please contact Wendy Battram at 905-525-9140 ext. 24918

You may like to know that the web link for the **Office of Gift Planning** is:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni/giving/>