



**EXCERPTS FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
May 31, 2004**

This year has been a busy one in various areas and a few members of Council will be reporting on some of them. However, I would like to mention several.

This year *MURA* became a member of the recently formed **College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC)**. At the end of May, Helen Barton and I attended the Annual Meeting of this Association held at the University of Winnipeg. You will find a detailed report in this newsletter. Another area we are working on is involving more retirees in events of interest to McMaster. For example, we had four members of *MURA* involved in the **Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair** involving high school students from the surrounding area. It was a well attended event and the volunteers worked for two long days at Mohawk College. We are open to suggestions where we can be of service, but not in places where staff or students would be paid workers.

Please let me take this opportunity to thank **Gerry Keech, John McCutcheon, Jack Evans and Nick Soltseff** for their assistance during the year. I would also like to thank **Dr. Peter George** for his continuing support.

I am happy to report that we now have a nominated representative of the hourly paid retirees in the person of **Rod Phillips**. As you can see, we are not "just a social club" but a very active retiree organization. However, I must stress that the social part is very important as you will find out if you join one of the activities that **Anne Sinclair** plans for our benefit.

Finally, I urge you to get involved in *MURA* activities. We need your input and welcome your suggestions. Our office is at Gilmour Hall, room B108. **Bonnie White** is there on Thursdays, but messages can be left at 905-525-9140, extension 23171 on any day.

Mildred (Cihocki) McLaren

**2004 NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
REPORT**



- Honorary President*: Dr. Arthur Bourns
- Executive:
 Past President: Mr. Frank Drieman
 President: Mrs. Mildred McLaren
 Vice President: Dr. Brian Ives
 Treasurer:* Mrs. Jessie Dunlop
 Secretary:* Mrs. Averil Thompson
- Councillors:
 Nominated for a three year term to 2007:
 Ms. Helen Barton
 Mrs. Mariana Brown
 Mr. Rod Phillips
- Nominated for a two year term to 2006:
 Dr. Gabriele Erasmi
- Continuing in Office until 2006:
 Mrs. Bonnie White
 Dr. Gerry Keech
- Continuing in Office until 2005:
 Ms. Erica Giese
 Miss Helen Otrosina
 Miss Anne Sinclair
- Auditor:* Mr. John McCutcheon
 *Appointed
- Nominating Committee:
 Representing Council: Mr. Helen Barton
 Ms. Marju Drynan
 Representing Membership: Mrs. Dora Haisell
 Mr. Jack Evans
- Chair of Nominating Committee: _____ Dr. Gerry Keech





MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Annual Meeting May 31, 2004

COMPARISON

		2004	2003
Regular:	Active	696	699
	Inactive	651	614
Associate*		123	124
TOTAL		1470	1437
Total change		+33	+72
Regular Active		47.3%	53.2%
Regular Inactive		52.7%	46.8%

*Includes one member from another university

MEMBERS

Group	Regular	Associate	Total	Percent
Faculty	513	49	562	38.2%
Hourly	216	16	232	15.8%
Staff	618	57	675	46.0%
	1347	122	1469	100%

Bonnie White

RECENT PASSINGS

Ms. Sue Flight–September 28, 2003
 Mr. Hugo Koval–March 21, 2004
 Mr. Bruce Clarke–March 22nd
 Mrs. Davina Wilson–April 1st
 Mr. Ronald A. Crichton–April 2nd
 Mr. K. Nuprejczyk–April 6th
 Dr. David Robert Offord–April 10th
 Dr. E. J. Moran Campbell–April 12th
 Ms. Jeanne McLellan–April 25th
 Dr. Derek J. Kenworthy–May 4th
 Ms. Elsa Baltag–May 27th
 Mrs. Peggy Johnstone–June 4th

RECENT RETIREES

Mrs. M. Aitchison–HSC Library
 Dr. V. Ananthanarayanan–Biochemistry
 Dr. M. Basadur–HR & Mgmt
 Mrs. D. Bouchard–Printing Services
 Dr. L. Brooks–Psychology
 Mrs. E. Brown–Hospitality Services
 Mrs. T. Bunganich–Department of Surgery
 Mrs. G. Cadete–Building Operations
 Mrs. D. Cairns–Chemistry
 Mr. J. E. Cairns–Physics & Astronomy
 Mr. R. Crawford–Bookstore
 Mrs. S. Crawford–Bookstore
 Dr. T. Davison–Math & Stats
 Dr. R. Findlay–Electrical & Comp. Engineering
 Mrs. T. Gordon-Smith–Mills Library
 Dr. P. Granoff–Religious Studies
 Dr. F. Hargreave–Medicine
 Mrs. C. Kaiser-Farrell–Risk Management
 Miss G. Kish–Pathology
 Mrs. S. Kotecha–Library, Reference
 Ms. B. Leachman–Off. Res. Cont. & Intell. Prop.
 Dr. W-H. Li–Chemistry
 Mr. R. Loree–Engineering
 Mrs. P. Mascioli–Building Operations
 Rev. K. Morgan–Divinity College
 Mrs. M. Naylor–Registrar’s Office
 Mrs. B. Neil–Divinity College
 Dr. I. Ockenden–Biology
 Dr. S. Porter–Divinity College
 Mrs. M. Poudrier–V.P. Academic
 Mrs. R. Priljeva–Printing Services
 Dr. A. W. Richardson–Accounting & Financial Mgmt.
 Dr. L. Robb–Economics
 Dr. L. Roberts–Psychology
 Dr. C. Rosenthal–Gerontological Studies
 Dr. S. Saigal–Pediatrics
 Dr. S. Shannon–Education Services
 Dr. K. Shinohara–Religious Studies
 Dr. B. Steele–Pediatrics
 Dr. S. Subramanian–Mat. Science & Engineering
 Mr. W. Tansley–Building Operations
 Dr. D. Taylor–Physics & Astronomy
 Mr. R. Thorn–Security
 Dr. A. Turpie–Medicine
 Dr. E. Werstiuk–Medicine
 Dr. J-H. Xin–Biochemistry



Seniors Canada On-line is the Canadian government’s response to seniors’ request for easy electronic access to senior-related services.

Go to: www.seniors.gc.ca

This web site is designed for older adults, their families, caregivers, and supporting service organizations. It offers well-organized links to seniors-related information from Government of Canada, Provincial and Territorial Web sites.



Letters to the editor

We would love to hear from you





THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT...

McMaster retirees are considered lucky and among the “fat cats”, according to their peers at other universities and colleges in Canada.

This is because Mac retirees enjoy very good benefits—at no cost.

Retirees at many places have very poor benefits compared to Mac. Many have to pay - or partially pay - for benefits. Only a few other Canadian universities are in the highest ranking “fat cat” group with Mac.

MURA’s good relationship with the University also draws envy from its peers.

These findings came out of the 2nd Annual Conference of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) in Winnipeg. McMaster retirees Mildred McLaren and Helen Barton attended the meetings in May.

MURA joined the fledgling national retirees’ organization last year. So far 28 out of 93 institutions across Canada make up the national body.

Warnings were raised at the national conference about some Canadian university retirees experiencing a whittling away of benefits. It was stressed that all retiree groups maintain active representation with their universities to make sure that pension investment strategies are good, and that retirees are fully represented in all pension and benefits decisions.

CURAC is embarked on many projects. They include gathering and sharing the various ways retirees are represented on university bodies that deal with their interests, and researching the emerging law on retirees’ rights to representation. The national body hopes to develop a few good models to share with member institutions.

Another initiative will focus on how universities and retiree organizations should treat and interact with retirees. As well, successful models for supporting staff and faculty who wish to continue professional, academic and service activities at their universities in retirement are being sought.

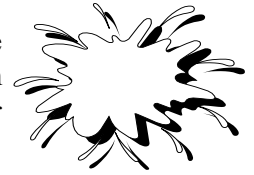
CURAC also believes that strong links should be made with other seniors groups such as the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) to promote services and policies for seniors, and to lobby governments regarding policies, legislation and programmes for seniors. Another area being watched is possible changes to rules and caps on pension surpluses.

Look for more on CURAC in future editions of MURAnews.

Helen Barton & Mildred McLaren

Some statistics that make you go hmm-m-m-m

- By 2011 seniors 55+ will be 27 per cent of the population in Canada, and over 30 per cent by 2016.
- Only about 30 per cent of seniors have computer access. Many seniors depend on care providers to get information from the internet.



NEWS ITEM FROM CURAC Retired Academic Database (RAD)

Spreading the Word

RAD (Retired Academic Database) has been devised by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to utilize the large numbers of retiring academic and administrative staff to help fill vacancies at universities in the developing world. The scheme is thus aimed at helping universities and staff in developed and developing countries alike.

The RAD scheme was initially launched in September 2002, when the RAD web site went live. The RAD web site can be found at:

<http://www.acu.uk/adverts/rad>

RAD was formally launched at the ACU’s General Conference in Belfast in September 2003. Universities from such countries as Botswana, Nigeria, Swaziland and the West Indies have now started using RAD for recruiting academic and administrative staff.

So far over 600 academic and administrative staff have registered to take part in the RAD scheme.

If you know of an organization or individuals who would benefit from knowing about RAD’s work, please suggest they contact the RAD web site which is given above.

Any help or assistance will be much appreciated as the ACU is a charitable organization, and helping promote RAD helps many universities around the world.

Jocelyn Law is the Project Leader of the Retired Academic Database. RAD is supported by The Nuffield Foundation.

Mailing address is:

Association of Commonwealth Universities
36 Gordon Square, London WC1H, 0PF, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7380 6707
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7380 6776



REPORT FROM ANNE SINCLAIR

54 of us enjoyed our “*Taste of Niagara*” trip on June 8th. It was a hot and humid day, but judging by the response, a good time was had by all.

Regarding the **Alaska Cruise**, which I mentioned in the April newsletter and on our recent trips, 15 people have already made their bookings and placed their deposits! A selection of cabins is available and prices vary according to your choice, so please do not delay in contacting me so we can calculate the cost of your deposit for your preferred accommodation.

Please mark the forthcoming events in your calendar:

1. **Wednesday October 20, 2004:**
“*Hairspray*”, *Princess of Wales Theatre*
See flyer.
2. “*Christmas in November*”—Watch for announcement giving details of the upcoming Christmas trip in the next newsletter.
3. **May 2005:**
Alaska Cruise. See flyer and call Anne for details.

It is important for you to understand that the coach trips are filled on a “first come first served basis”, so please call Anne as soon as possible to ensure a seat.

***** Remember, cheques can be post-dated*****

If we do not meet the minimum number of bookings by the deadline date for any of our activities, events have to be cancelled and the members who have already booked are disappointed. We so look forward to sharing these excursions with you and urge you to support our efforts by joining us.

Trips: We encourage and welcome all members who are able, and so wish, to attend any and all of our planned outings. However, please keep in mind that with our limited means, we are not able to provide special care beyond “courtesy assistance”. We will provide, to the best of our knowledge, an assessment of the accommodations and physical difficulty associated with each outing. We ask that you realistically judge whether you should have a companion accompanying you to ensure your health, safety and personal needs. A contact will be given with each notice, where appropriate, for those with any doubts or concerns.

MESSAGE FROM MICHELE LEROUX

Manager of Retirement Support Services



Don't forget! As the new benefit year has started July 1st, you will have until September 30, 2004 to submit your Sun Life claims for the 2003/2004 benefit year.

For details on your benefit plans, please contact the Retirement Support Services Administrators at 905-525-9140, extensions 23692 or 24570, or visit us at www.workingatmcmaster.ca.



YOUR MURA COUNCIL MEMBERS



Front Row: Averil, Mildred, Brian, Jessie
Second Row: Helen B, Marju, Erica, Anne, Michele*,
Third Row: Gabriele, Helen O, Frank, Bonnie, Mariana,
**Veronica

*The bus driver on a recent coach trip hopes he looks as good as Michele when he reaches retirement age!!

**Just the copyist!!