

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER
with Brian Ives**



I am delighted to report that the revised MURA funding mechanism which was approved in principle at our AGM in 2004 has now been formally agreed to by all the parties involved. Starting in 2006, the McMaster Staff Association (MUSA), the Faculty Association (MUFA) and the University will provide funding in proportion to the number of MURA members who were associated with each organization when actively employed. (The University's share is related to the staff retirees from 'The Management Group'.) Since this does not account for all our members – and particularly retired hourly staff – we have struck a budget which assumes a continuing, but reduced, income from annual voluntary contributions.

In a related move, the MURA Council has recently resolved that all retirees will enjoy full MURA membership rights – to vote at meetings, stand for office, and receive all issues of *MURA News**, regardless of their financial contribution.

I believe that through these changes, MURA will be better placed to pro-actively pursue all issues of relevance to McMaster retirees. I anticipate that we can implement many of these changes quite soon, and bring appropriate constitutional amendments to the 2006 AGM. On your behalf, I thank sincerely MUSA, MUFA and the University President for their cooperation and foresight in bringing about these significant changes to the financing of MURA operations. I know they will benefit us all.

Now that the *hazy lazy days* are done, I am pleased to report that the MURA Council and other dedicated members are working hard to achieve our reaffirmed goal of doing everything we can to serve all McMaster retirees in a pro-active manner. Check out our expanded website at www.macra.ca and you will see what I mean.

Of course, as always, YOUR views and input are welcome. It would be really nice to have proof that there are 1600 of you out there! For lack of input, the "Letters to the Editor" section of *MURA News* has been discontinued in recent issues, but can readily be reinstated at your command!

I wish you a happy and productive Fall season.

Brian

* *Starting with this issue!*

***** ATTENTION ALL RETIREES *****

WE ALL KNOW WHAT A NUISANCE IT IS WHEN WE RECEIVE UNWANTED MAIL.

MAKE YOUR LIFE SIMPLER!

NOW THAT *MURAnews* IS ALSO ON OUR WEBSITE, IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE MAILED COPIES OF FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER, JUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE TEAR-OFF PORTION OF THE "MONEY MATTERS" PAGE, OR USE THE "FEEDBACK" FORM ON THE *MURA* WEBSITE.

THAT WAY WE WILL HELP YOU, AND YOU WILL HELP US SAVE MONEY ON UNWANTED POSTAGE

***** OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO SERVE YOUR NEEDS *****



RECENT PASSINGS



Mrs. Hilda Powell, Physical Plant–June 5th
Mr. Donald Thomson, Bldg. Ops.–June 17th
Dr. Herman Kleerekoper, Biology–July 12th
Mrs. Beatrice Ostrander, Telecom–July 12th
Mrs. Sylvia Bell, Sec. Services–July 19th
Mrs. Ruth Seekings, Parking–July 20th
Mrs. Joan Hallewell, Staff Nurse–August 9th
Dr. Jayne Synge, Sociology–August 28th
Ms. Mary Foster, Soc.Sci. Studies–September 11th
Mr. N.T.D. (Terry) Shrive, Sch. of Arts–September 23rd
Mr. Wayne Tonkin, Physical Plant–September 26th
Mrs. Sheila Scott, Dean of Women–September 30th
Mr. Stanley Teckatch, Parking–October 5th

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Mrs. Imperia Arfuso–Hospitality Services
Miss Frances Beatty–School of Nursing
Dr. Jen-Shid Chang–Engin. Physics
Mrs. Marjorie Coit–HR Library
Mrs. Doreen Dixon–Epidemiology & Bio. Stats
Mrs. Ann Downie–University Advancement
Dr. Graham Hill–Library
Dr. David Jackson–Engineering Physics
Mrs. Joanne Johnson–UTS - Client Services
Ms. Ann Lawton-Barry–Medicine
Mr. Robert Leishman–Maintenance
Mrs. Daphne Lott–Health Sciences Library
Mrs. Sheila Lynott–UTS - Enterprise Systems
Mr. Harvey Nelson–Epidemiology & Bio. Stats.
Mrs. Carol Paulino–Accounts Payable
Kata Smith–Buildings Operations
Mrs. Wendy Thomas–Faculty of Business
Mr. Dennis Whitehorn–Building Operations
Mr. Ken Williams–Maintenance
Mrs. Stavroula Zafiridis–Hospitality Services
Mrs. Dianne Goodwin–Athletics & Recreation
Dr. Sheila Mason–Campus Health Centre
Mrs. Marie Henriquez–Hospitality Services
Dr. Thomas Lewis–Political Sciences
Mrs. M. Giovannangeli–Hospitality Services

REPORT FROM ANNE SINCLAIR

On June 30th, 54 of our retirees enjoyed a lively performance of *“Hello Dolly”* in Stratford following a delightful lunch at *“The Elmhurst Inn”*. There was a much humming and toe-tapping as the coach returned us to Hamilton.

We had perfect weather for the *“Grand River Cruise”* on September 13th. Prior to the cruise we were highly entertained by the *“Blazing Fiddles”*, while we relished a lovely roast beef lunch.

Please mark the forthcoming events in your calendar:

1. Wednesday December 7, 2005:
Christmas Luncheon, Schwaben Inn
2. Friday December 9, 2005:
The Living, Singing Christmas Tree
The Chapel at Cross Point, Buffalo
3. Wednesday March 15, 2006:
Forever Plaid, Stage West
4. May 15, 16 & 17, 2006:
“The Ottawa Tulip Festival.”

See flyers 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 or Mavis 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 so support our efforts by joining us.**

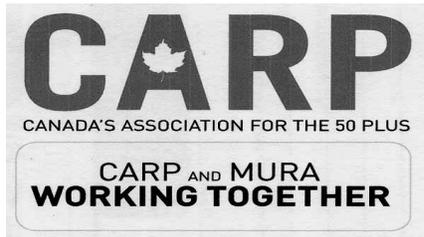
Trips: We encourage and welcome all members who are able, and so wish, to attend any and all of our planned outings. However, please keep in mind that with our limited means, we are not able to provide special care beyond “courtesy assistance”. We will provide, to the best of our knowledge, an assessment 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.



One of the many inspiring views on our recent Alaska trip.
(Don't miss the next one!)

**RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE TO
SERVE ON THE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN**

Emeritus Professor Dr. Richard Rempel has graciously agreed to serve as our representative on the United Way Campaign. In addition to being a very productive scholar in the Department of History prior to his retirement, Dr. Rempel played an active role on numerous university and faculty committees.



MURA is pleased to announce its new agreement with CARP, whereby MURA members may join CARP at 20% off the regular membership fee. If you are interested in becoming a member, copies of an application brochure were sent with mailed copies of this issue of *MURA News*. Instructions for making a membership application and quoting the promotion code "MURA05" can be found on the MURA website.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

by including McMaster in your will you can establish a scholarship or bursary in honour of a friend or loved one? To discuss a gift to McMaster through your will, please call the Office of Gift Planning at 905-525-9140, ext. 23447



BENEFITS REMINDER

Retirees and their spouses are 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.

If you have any problems in this area, call Human Resources at 905-525-9140, ext.23692.



Sun Life Access

To access personal information on your Sun Life medical and dental claims history and status,

1. Have ready the following:
 - Sun Life policy number for the relevant plan
 - Your University ID number
 - Your valid email address
 - Two challenge/response questions and answers (which are used to validate your identity).
2. Call 1-800-361-6212, then press option 2.
3. After asking the relevant questions, the Sun Life representative will assign a 14 digit access ID number and an 8 digit temporary pin; you must change the latter to a PIN of your own choosing within 7 days.
4. The web site for access is www.sunlife.ca.
5. Choose Member Services.

Your Access ID number is the important factor in this procedure.

Please note



If you are planning to relocate, please be sure to provide us with your new home address and e-mail address.

