



PRESIDENT'S CORNER
with Brian Ives

"The Way We Were"

The meeting which formed our Association took place in August 1985 (*that's me at about that same time*). This I learned while thumbing through some of the early MURA Council minutes. I also found some revealing insights into the first years of our Association. Does anyone recall how the Fyfe Room of Divinity College was the site of many MURA functions, as well as a "drop in" centre? (I presume this facility pre-dated the present-day University Club *Members' Lounge* Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes...) Anyway, I had been feeling quite good about what we are achieving in MURA services to members right now - which I thought were quite original. Now it seems we are mostly reinventing the wheel! MURA events of 1985/86 included a corn roast, fun golf day, a keep fit class, Geritol Follies outing, Christmas Party and Canon Ralph Spence's Flag Lecture... wow! But history is said to do a good job of repeating itself, so we should not be afraid to exploit it. In this issue, you will find plenty of evidence of our varied current activities, which we hope includes something for everyone.... be it Trips, Discussion Groups, the Colleges and Universities Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC) annual conference in Guelph. No corn roast on the horizon as yet. But there is our special session *"Protecting Your Identity"*, which will incorporate the 21st MURA Annual General Meeting, scheduled for May 23. One important business item for the AGM this year is membership approval of a set of Constitution amendments aimed at better recognising and serving all McMaster retirees. A summary of these changes can be found in this issue. See you at the AGM... and don't forget to bring your identity!

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2006 NOMINATING
COMMITTEE REPORT



Honorary President :*

Dr. Arthur Bourns

MURA Council 2006-2007

Executive

Past President (ex officio)

Mrs. Mildred McLaren

President (one year term)

Dr. Brian Ives

Vice President (one year term)

Mrs. Helen Barton

Treasurer*

Mrs. Beth Csordas

Secretary*

to be appointed

Councillors

Nominated for a three year term of office to 2009:

Dr. Geoffrey Evans

Ms. Kathy Overholt

Mrs. Pamela Penny

Continuing in office until 2008:

Mrs. Margaret Jenkins

Dr. Roman March

Ms. Joan Morris

Continuing in office until 2007:

Mr. John McCutcheon

Mrs. Joan Parker

Mr. Rod Phillips

Mr. Bob West

Auditor*

*Appointed

Nominating Committee

Representing Council

Helen Barton

Roman March

Representing Membership

Murlis Cooper

Helen Otrosina

Chair

Mildred McLaren

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 (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."



SOMETHIING YOU WILL
NOT WANT TO MISS !!



“PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY”

is the theme of this year's talk at the AGM

Det. Sgt. Doug Cousens, Forgery Investigations Team, OPP, will present an illustrated talk, “Protecting Your Identity”. He will speak for about 30 minutes, followed by 10 minutes discussion, before we proceed with our business meeting. Details of the AGM programme are given below, and also on the website.

WE ARE IN NEED OF A SECRETARY

Our current secretary is leaving at the end of May and we are looking for a diligent person with good listening, word processing and e-mail skills, who would be available to attend regular monthly meetings of the Council from September to June inclusive. The main thrust of the job is to provide secretarial support to the President and the Council. Duties include working closely with the President regarding agendas, minutes and correspondence. This is a one year renewable (unpaid) appointment. For further information please contact President Brian ives@mcmaster.ca or Vice President Helen barton@mcmaster.ca.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: Tuesday May 23, 2006
Time:
1:00 p.m. Refreshments and Social Interaction
1:45 p.m. Invited Speaker: Det. Sgt. Doug Cousens,
“Protecting Your Identity”
2:30 p.m. Business Meeting, including
Reports of Officers and Committees
Council Elections
Approval of Constitutional Amendments

Place: Convocation Hall, 2nd floor in
University Hall

Fully amended copies of the MURA Constitution will be available at the AGM, and also on the website:
<http://mse.mcmaster.ca/MURA/pages/ConstitutionRev06.pdf>.



SANDWICHES AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED AT THE BACK OF
CONVOCAATION HALL



UPDATE ON
CURAC ANNUAL
CONVENTION AND AGM
MAY 24-26, 2006
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
CAMPUS

The program for the annual CURAC conference which we told you about in the January issue of *MURAnews* has now been finalized. Program information, registration instructions, and full details are posted on the CURAC website at http://www.curac.ca/guelph_b.htm.

Our MURA Council is providing financial support for this meeting, along with other regional universities, since we believe it is an organization and event worth supporting. Quite a number of council members will be attending, and if you didn't already know, our Vice President Helen Barton is on the organizing committee. This year's conference is about as close to us at McMaster as we can expect it to be in the foreseeable future. The agenda is stimulating, thought-provoking, and will probably elicit many questions from attendees. Find out: how do we measure up compared with other Canadian universities ?, etc.

If you would like to attend and do not have access to the internet, please call Helen Barton at 905-528-8951 to have a registration form mailed to you. Deadline for early registration is May 3rd.

We're sure you will find your attendance well worth while.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO MURA CONSTITUTION

(Additions highlighted; deletions struck out)

PURPOSE OF CHANGES-GENERAL

To revise membership definitions, for the purpose of clarification and ease of interpretation

To revise membership services and eliminate fees (as a result of the new funding agreements with MUFA, MUSA and the University)

To revise certain other clauses, for the purpose of clarification

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Article 2.01 – Objectives _____

The objectives of the Association are:

1. To contribute in as many ways as possible to the welfare, prestige, and excellence of the University;
2. to promote interest in, cooperation with, and support of the University;
3. to encourage and promote a spirit of fraternity and unity among the members of the Association, and to provide means for continuing the associations which retirees enjoyed as employees of the University;
4. to represent the interests of the ~~Retirees of the University~~ members of the Association in all matters relating to the benefits accruing to ~~Retirees~~ the members; and
5. to foster an understanding of the functions of the Association among employees of the University who are nearing retirement age.

The term “Retirees of the University” has been changed to “members of the Association” because MURA aims to represent the interests of those who have retired from McMaster, those who receive a McMaster pension but are not McMaster retirees, and the spouses of McMaster employees and retirees who receive McMaster pensions due to the death of the latter.

Article 3.02 – Regular Members _____

~~Any person who has retired from McMaster University, who, while in the employ of the University, was eligible to become a member of a University pension plan, and whose date of retirement from the University would have qualified that person to receive a pension from that plan.~~

This is just a change for clarification. The wording being deleted obscures the intended meaning, which is that all McMaster retirees are deemed to be regular members of MURA whether or not they receive a McMaster pension. Thus, retirees who transfer their pensions out of the McMaster plan at or after retirement would still be

represented by MURA, as would employees who retire without a pension.

Article 3.03 – Associate Members _____

- (a) Any person who is the spouse of a regular member.
- (b) Any person who is the surviving spouse of a former Regular Member.
- (c) Any person who is the surviving spouse of an active employee, when that survivor receives a McMaster pension.
- (d) Any person who leaves the employ of the University before retirement, when that person receives a McMaster pension.
- (e) The holder of a pension from another University on whom Council has bestowed Associate membership.

Two new sections have been added to clarify intent and also to bring the definition in line with the current interpretation. MURA not only represents the interests of retirees, but also the interests of all those who receive a pension and other retirement benefits from the University. Not to include all McMaster pensioners in our organization might weaken the position of the Association in discussions or negotiations on pension and benefit matters.

Article 3.05 – Membership Status

~~Any member who pays the annual Active Fee shall be designated as Active for that year~~

- ~~1. Non fee-paying Members shall be designated as Inactive.~~
- ~~2. New regular members shall be designated as Active without payment of the annual fee until the end of the calendar year following the calendar year of their retirement~~

These categories of membership status are not required. MUSA members no longer pay membership dues because of the Association’s new funding arrangements with the University, the Faculty Association and MUSA. Membership services and privileges will now be defined according to membership type – Regular, Associate and Honorary.

In addition, because of these new financial arrangements, the term “regular active members” has been replaced with “regular members” throughout the Constitution.

Article 5.12 – Committees _____

~~The Council may establish such committees and shall appoint the chair and members thereof as it deems necessary to carry out the affairs of the Association. Such committees shall be responsible to the Council and the Council shall establish their terms of reference, duties, powers and duration, by resolution or by by-law. The Council in each year shall establish those standing committees set forth in Article 7 of this Constitution.~~

This article is being deleted because its content has been included in Article 7.02.

Article 6.02 - Other Officers

~~From time to time the Council may appoint such other officers as it determines. The Council shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer annually, not necessarily from among the elected members of Council, and may appoint such other officers as it deems necessary for the proper functioning of the Council.~~

This article has been revised to be somewhat more specific about the appointment of officers and to reflect what has been the practice for some years.

Article 7 - Committees

7.01 Standing Committees The Nominating Committee

~~The Council shall establish a Nominating Committee each year, consisting of the Past President of the Association, who shall act as chair, and four other regular members of the Association appointed by Council, two of whom shall not be members of the Council. The terms of reference of the Nominating Committee are described in Article 8 below.~~

~~Subject to Article 8 hereof, the Council shall establish at its first meeting in each year the following standing committees and shall appoint a chair thereof upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee~~

- 1 Services
- 2 Social
- 3 Nominating, subject to Article 8 hereof
- 4 Membership

~~The terms of reference, duties and powers of these committees shall be established from time to time by resolution or by by-laws of the Council.~~

7.02 Special Committees Other Standing and Special Committees

~~The Council may appoint such other committees and assign such duties and powers to such committees as the Council or Executive Committee deems advisable.~~

~~The Council may establish such other standing and special committees as it deems necessary to carry out the business of the Association. Such committees shall be responsible to the Council and their composition and terms of reference shall be approved by resolution of the Council. The Council shall appoint the members of all standing committees normally at either the September or October meeting of Council following the Annual General Meeting~~

Article 7 has been revised to include the Nominating Committee in the Committees section of the Constitution (rather than the Elections section) and to leave the Council with total flexibility to establish other committees, either standing or special. In this way, committees can be set up from time to time to meet specific needs, without requiring

changes to the Constitution.

Article 8.02 - Nominating Committee

~~The nominating committee shall consist of the Past President of the Association, who shall act as chair, and four (4) other regular active members of the Association appointed by Council, two of whom shall not be members of the Council.~~

This article has been deleted because its content has been included in Article 7.01.

Article 9.01 - Official Publication

9.01 The MURAL* MURANews (The McMaster University Retirees Association Letter News)

The MURAL MURANews shall be the official publication of the Association. It shall be published ~~from time to time~~ periodically and a copy of each issue shall be ~~mailed~~ made available to each regular active member of the Association whose address is on file at the time of publication. all members of the Association whose address is on file, except those who have requested not to receive a copy. The Council may by resolution change the name or mode of publication of the official publication.

~~The issue of the newsletter announcing the AGM and the one reporting the outcomes of the AGM shall be sent to all Members of the Association whose address is on file, except those who have requested "no mailings". The Council may approve a general mailing of issues with information critical to all members and of overall benefit~~

~~* This name was changed to "MURA news" by resolution of Council on March 13th, 2002.~~

In the past, the Association's newsletter has been sent only to those Association members who had paid their dues, i.e., "regular active" members. Now that that distinction no longer exists, the article is being revised to state that the publication will be mailed to all members of the Association whose address is on file, except for those who have requested not to receive a copy.

Article 13.01 - Procedural Authority

~~The Chair of a meeting shall conduct the proceedings in conformity with the rules of procedure contained in the Constitution and, in all cases not so provided, the following reference shall be used: M. K. Kerr and H. W. King. Procedures for Meetings and Organizations. Carswell Legal Publications, 1984~~

This article has been added to correct an omission. Every constitution should specify a procedural authority to which committee chairs can refer when a procedural problem or question arises that is not covered in that constitution.



REFUND DEADLINE



Our Treasurer Beth Csordas would like you to know that “As a result of the new funding arrangement which came into effect in January 2006, MURA members are not required to pay fees for this year.

Some members have paid in advance for periods beyond 2005. Others have recently submitted fees for 2006. MURA Council is respectfully requesting that these members consider donating their payments to MURA.

If you would like your payment to be accepted as a donation, no further action is required on your part. If you would like a refund of your payment, please inform the Treasurer by e-mail at csordase@mcmaster.ca or by regular mail to the McMaster University Retirees Association, Gilmour Hall B108, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L8. *Deadline to request a refund is May 31, 2006*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Dr. Ralph Brown-Graduate Studies
- Mr. John Cave-Accelerator Lab
- Mrs. Caroline Frayne-Hospitality Services
- Mrs. Gudrun Goettsche-Pathology
- Mrs. Kvetoslava Holfeuer-Building Ops.
- Mrs. Dorrett James-HSC Human Resources
- Mr. Robert James-Biochemistry & Biomedical Sc.
- Ms. Sharon Muir-Director of Financial Services
- Mrs. Angela Opperman-Faculty of Science
- Dr. David Parnas-Computing & Software
- Mrs. Bharati Purohit-Epidemiology & Biostats
- Mrs. Sandra Richard-Humanities Studies
- Dr. William Seidelman-Family Medicine
- Mrs. Trudy Sykes-Registrar, Admissions & Records
- Mrs. Effi Thersidis-Hospitality Services
- Mr. Brian Verrall-Occupational Health Programme
- Mrs. Barbara Williams-Graduate Studies



RECENT PASSINGS

- Dr. Bernice Ann Oaks, Biology, Jan 13th
- Dr. Wm. Wason Buchanan, Medicine, Jan 28th
- Mrs. Doreen Sims, Scientific Devel., Feb.3rd
- Dr. Nahum Spinner, Psychiatry, Feb 20th
- Mrs. Diane M. Waterfield, Registrar’s Off., Feb 26th
- Mrs. Zorka Soskic, Bldg Operations, March 22nd



DISCUSSION GROUPS ON INVESTMENT STRATEGIES



MURA is planning to hold a series of discussion groups on investment instruments and strategies in early June 2006. These discussions will be led by MURA members, supplemented by appropriate McMaster faculty. All participants will be encouraged to share their experiences and knowledge. No vendors of investment products will participate.

If you would like to attend please contact Roman March at e-mail: romanmarch@yahoo.ca, or phone him at 905-524-2364.

We will use the Newsletter, website <http://www.macra.ca>, and e-mail to inform you of the specific dates and locations.

Roman March
Margaret Jenkins

McMASTER CENTRE FOR GERONTOLOGICAL STUDIES

is conducting a study about family inheritance.

Participants needed for this university research study are:

People 60 years of age or older who have received an inheritance from parents and who have two or more children. Please contact Dr. Lori Campbell at 905-525-9140 ext. 2494.

YOU ARE INVITED BY THE CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION TO EXPERIENCE STRATFORD THEATRE

Join fellow theatre lovers at McMaster’s Stratford Theatre Seminar for a retreat at North America’s largest classical repertory company. The seminar has enjoyed 47 years of theatre, discovery and fellowship.

Dates for 2006 are July 10 - July 15.

Seminar includes:

- ★ 7 Festival productions
- ★ top-priced tickets
- ★ lectures by theatre scholars
- ★ symposia with Festival actors, directors and staff
- ★ fine dining at the Stratford Country Club
- ★ weekday/weekend packages available (includes 4 shows)



For more information or to register, please contact Todd Rich Program Manager at 905-525-9140 ext 23128 or richt@mcmaster.ca.



TRIPS UPDATE FROM
ANNE SINCLAIR

I have decided to cancel plans for a *Panama Canal Cruise in 2007*. The cruise line wanted a deposit of \$1,003.00 per person *immediately* in order to hold a cabin. No way!!

I am delighted to say that plans are well under way for our 7 day *May, 2007 cruise to beautiful Bermuda*. *Celebrity Cruise Lines* will be confirming their 2007 prices shortly. Price expected to be around \$1500-\$1600CAN pp cruise only, including taxes. There will be the option to "Fly & Cruise" or "Drive & Cruise" if you wish to extend the time in the U.S.

We fly into Newark, New Jersey, and sail from Cape Liberty Cruise Port, which is 3 miles from the airport. The ship which is *The Zenith* sails weekly to and from Bermuda. It docks in Hamilton, Bermuda for 3 days, St. George, Bermuda for 2 days, with a day sailing each way from and to Cape Liberty Cruise Port.

I have selected a block of cabins, and once the May 2007 cabins are released for booking, a deposit of \$500.US will be required, with 30 days allowed from time of cabin selection to time of payment. The deposit secures the specific cabin, otherwise you won't have as good a selection--so start saving!!

Having lived and worked in Bermuda for four years in the seventies, along with my cousin Pam Penny, I can assure you it is a little Paradise which I am looking forward to revisiting. Pam, and Shari Mercer are taking this cruise this May. They will research shore trips, etc. and we will arrange a get-together when they return with lots of info.

Our Alaska Cruise was such a success that there are already 6 cabins booked for Bermuda and I don't even have the final details yet, so call me at 905-627-0968 or e-mail me at sincla@mcmaster.ca.

Cabins will be on a first come first served basis. I will be manning a table at the AGM on May 23rd with brochures and trips information.

*Perhaps our more venturesome members
would like to try...*

EAST AFRICAN SAFARI AND
ZANZIBAR

DATE: JUNE 11 - 28, 2006

COST: \$7195 CAN



George Thomas, Professor Emeritus in Modern Languages, and his wife Maggie are leading a trip to the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Olduvai Gorge and the spice island of Zanzibar. This is a wonderful opportunity to get unimpeded, close-up viewing of the world's best game sights, to see first-hand the cradle of human evolution and to experience the blending of African and Arabic cultures in the fabled Stone Town on Zanzibar.

Maggie and George previously led highly successful trips to East Africa in 1990 and South Africa in 2004. Maggie spent her early childhood in Zanzibar and returned to East Africa in her 20's as a nurse. She speaks Swahili and considers Africa her spiritual home. George has accompanied Maggie on four trips to the African Continent in the last decade and a half.

Travel arrangements have been made by Goway Travel Ltd. & Jackie's Travel Inc. in Ancaster.

Price Includes:

- Airfares from Toronto
- All Transfers
- All excursions with maximum of 6 persons per vehicle guaranteed
- Comprehensive Insurance
- Accommodation and Most Meals

For a descriptive brochure and further information, contact: George & Maggie Thomas, Tel. 905-546-1509 or 905-537-2799; e-mail:thomasg@mcmaster.ca, OR magnum80@hotmail.com, OR Jackie's Travel Inc. 73 Wilson Street W, Ancaster ON L9G 1N1, 905-648-8747, e-mail: jackiegl@jackiestravel.com

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CARP MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

You may like to know that..

Our 2005 CARP Campaign has produced 33 new memberships from MURA members. CARP is currently offering free membership just for requesting a quotation for CARP Auto and Home Insurance.

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.

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU



Wednesday June 28, 2006

WENONAH II LUNCHEON CRUISE AND RAGTIME PERFORMANCE

Today will be a simply marvelous day to be aboard the Wenonah II. Built in 2002, with all the style and grace of a 1907 Muskoka vessel, Wenonah II has joined the R.M.S. Segwun, offering a variety of cruises on all three Muskoka lakes. Accommodating up to 200 passengers, Wenonah II combines turn-of-the-century charm with modern conveniences including air-conditioning and an on-board elevator.

Come along and enjoy a 3 hour luncheon cruise, combined with a visit to the new Heritage Centre followed by a toe tapping Ragtime Performance, presented by Jack Hutton. Sounds like a fun time!

Tour includes:

- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- 3 hours luncheon cruise
- Visit to the new Heritage Centre
- Jack Hutton Ragtime Performance
- All taxes, service charges & driver's tip

Price: \$79.00 per person

Coach departs 8:00 a.m. Fortino's at 1579 Main Street West (east end of parking lot) with estimated return of 6:00 p.m.

Monday October 2, 2006

BIG CHUTE/TRENT SEVERN WATERWAY FALL LEAF LUNCHEON CRUISE

It's that time of year when one of nature's greatest spectacles takes place. The summer green of the trees will be replaced with a symphony of colours, ranging from yellows, rusty browns, reds and purples.

Today you'll travel up into Ontario's North and Port Severn, where you will board the Serendipity Princess for their fall leaf cruise on the Trent-Severn Waterway to the Big Chute.

Relax as you cruise along part of The Trent-Severn's 386 kilometers waterway. You will sail along the rivers, channels and lakes that span Central Ontario enjoying her autumn splendor. During your cruise a hot luncheon including chicken breast, potatoes, vegetables, salad, rolls/butter, tea, coffee and assorted desserts will be offered.

After your cruise you will travel to the Simcoe County Museum, where a rich collection of exhibits illustrating the history of Simcoe County are displayed. You can even explore some of the sixteen outdoor heritage and display buildings on the property.

Departing the museum we will be stopping at the Cookstown Outlet Mall for a little bit of shopping en route home.

Tour includes:

- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- Luncheon Cruise on The Trent-Severn Waterway to The Big Chute
- Admission to the Simcoe County Museum
- Shopping at Cookstown Outlet Malls
- All taxes, service charges & driver's tip

Price: \$75.00 per person

Coach departs 8:00 a.m. Fortino's at 1579 Main Street West (east end of parking lot) with estimated return of 6:00 p.m.



MONEY MATTERS



To book now for any of the following events, please complete the relevant section of this form and mail along with cheque and the appropriate "cut-off" strip (below) to Anne Sinclair, 207 - 104 Osler Drive, Dundas, Ontario L9H 4B7. Cheques may be post-dated one month ahead of trip date, made payable to McMaster University Retirees Association.

<u>Date</u>		<u># of persons</u>	<u>Amount \$</u>
May 15,16 & 17 (3 days/2 nights)	The Ottawa Tulip Festival \$439.00 per person (double)

Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:

Wed. June 28/06	Wenonah II Luncheon Cruise \$79.00 per person
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Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:

Mon. Oct 2/06	Fall Leaf Luncheon Cruise Big Chute/Trent-Severn Waterway \$75.00 per person
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Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:

Wed Oct 25/06	"South Pacific", Avon Theatre , Stratford \$106.00 per person
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Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:

ATTENTION TO ALL RETIREES WITH E-MAIL ACCESS

We are endeavouring to update our membership base, streamline our service to you and, not incidentally, cut down on our operating costs. If you have an e-mail account, please send a note to "mura@mcmaster.ca" and your e-mail information will be added to the membership base.

NEWSLETTER MAILING

MURAnews is now available on the website. If you do not wish to receive hard copies please indicate

Name:
 Address:
 Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:

Please complete and return this strip to Mrs. Bonnie White, Membership, McMaster University Retirees Association, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8. Alternatively, a message through the website feedback form at <http://www.cas.mcmaster.ca/~nsadmin/MURA/Pages/FeedbackForm.html> can be used for this purpose.