



PRESIDENT'S CORNER
with Brian Ives

Mewling and puking again

Those of you new to this organization may find it surprising to observe its elected leader still in the first

Age of Man . But if you have been following the current MURA presidency, you expected the progressive retrogression. And it all started because one of our Council colleagues commented early on that my picture looked "too old".

It is on the matter of age that I have been ruminating lately. For example, just what is the age distribution of the MURA membership? Not a simple question when human rights legislation seemingly makes knowledge of a personal birth date a felony. (Surely a concept anathema to *Hallmark...*) But to serve the whole membership effectively it helps to understand its makeup. By artful sleuthing we did discover that our oldest member is in his 100th year, and you will find more on that in this issue. We also learned that we have 28 members more than 90 years old. Of course, age is but one variable in our membership: McMaster employment function is another.

How can MURA serve you all – now and in the future? To help us answer that question, I ask you to seriously consider coming out to the AGM this year. Yes, I realise business meetings are boring, but necessary. Again this year we have arranged a program outside the formal business, which includes recognizing Stuart Winn, MURA's "founder".

And that's about it for me as my term as President winds down. You do not need to be concerned about any *in-vivo* images in the next newsletter. The association should by then have elected Helen Barton as your President. I am confident that Helen and the Council will continue to serve you well, and I take this opportunity of thanking the whole MURA leadership for their unstinting cooperation over the past two years. They have kept me focussed on the main goal – serving all our members to the best of our ability. Of course, Shakespeare's Jacques was not to know that in this 21st Century, the 'seventh age' has been assisted by modern medicine and the like so that we are really "sans anything"- and actually making the most of our MURA years!

MBI

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Re-acquaint yourself with the campus, your McMaster friends and **your** retiree association.

Date: Wednesday May 30, 2007

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Convocation Hall, 2nd floor of University Hall

Events

12 noon: A light sandwich luncheon will be served while you socialize with friends.

12:45 ***"The McMaster Campus Landscape"***

A presentation highlighting recent and future campus development by the Campus Development Team.

1:30 Presentation of Honorary *MURA* Membership to Stuart Winn.

1:45 Business Meeting including Reports of Officers and Committees Council Elections.

2:30 (Optional)
Guided tour of the new David Braley Athletic Centre

Transportation:

Retirees requiring transportation to the meeting who live in the Hamilton area, please contact Joan Parker at 905-648-2244, parkerj@mcmaster.ca, or Helen Barton at 905-528-8951, barton@mcmaster.ca.

This issue is being mailed to all members without an e-mail contact, to ensure they receive the Notice of the AGM and the Nominating Committee's report, as required by the Constitution.

"THE McMASTER CAMPUS LANDSCAPE"

is the presentation topic for this year's AGM

- *Have you seen the McMaster campus recently?*
- *Do you know about the many new buildings and other campus features?*
- *About the plans that are "on the books" for the upcoming years?*

COME TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- *See a presentation of the major changes that have been happening on campus.*
- *Find out about the **Campus Master Plan** and the exciting vision for the university landscape.*

The presentation will feature many of the major developments of the past ten years. The Student Centre; the Mohawk/McMaster Institute for Applied Health Sciences; two new residences (named to honour Les Prince and Mary Keyes); an athletic centre; restaurants and campus entrances are just a start.

Building projects are ongoing, and there are many more changes planned that will continue to alter the campus you once knew.

A member of the **Campus Development Team** will present the illustrated talk and answer your questions.

MURA Founder Will Be At The AGM!

A **Special Highlight** of this year's AGM will be the presentation of **Honorary Membership** to **Stuart Winn**. Stuart was a prime mover in the establishment of MURA, and he has maintained a continuous interest in association activities (see, for example, the January *MURAnews*). If you remember Stuart and his sterling efforts in our early days more than 20 years ago, why not consider coming to the

Annual General Meeting

and reinforce the recognition opportunity?

2007 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



Honorary President*

Arthur Bourns

MURA Council 2007/2008

Executive

Past President (ex officio)
President (Nominated)

Brian Ives
Helen Barton

(One year term)
Vice President (Nominated)
(One year term)

Joan Parker

Treasurer*
Secretary*

Beth Csordas
Marianne Van der Wel

Councillors

Nominated for office until 2010

Rod Phillips
John McCutcheon
Helen Dietsche

Continuing in office until 2009

Geoffrey Evans
Kathy Overholt
Pam Penny

Continuing in office until 2008

Margaret Jenkins
Roman March
Joan Morris

Auditor:*

Mr. Bob West

**appointed*

In accordance with Article 8.01 Section 3 of the MURA Constitution: "Further nominations for the nominated 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 members of the Association together with the verbal or written acceptance of the nominee. Nominations will also be received from regular members at the annual general meeting."

Nominating Committee:

Representing Council:

Kathy Overholt,
Geoffrey Evans

Representing MURA membership:

Shirley Lucken
Sheila Pepper

Chair:

Mildred McLaren

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Ann Annas, Psychiatry
Mrs. Maureen Bentley, Mills Library
Mrs. Soo Choe, Mills Library
Mrs. Sawn Cousins, HSC Grad Studies
Mrs. Greta Culley, Mills Library
Mrs. Ingrid Ellis, HSC, V-P's Office
Dr. Katryn Kaufman, Family Medicine
Ms. Doreen Murphy, Mills Library
Dr. Bosco Paes, Pediatrics
Mrs. Giuliana Picini, Hospitality Services
Mr. Russell Powers, Education Services
Ms. Patricia Prokopetz, Physical Plant
Mr. Gordon Slater, Chemical Engineering
Dr. Janet Starkes, Kinesiology
Mrs. Marilyn Thom, Mills Library
Mrs. Maria Voloudakis, Hospitality Services
Mrs. Diane Wales, Mills Library
Mrs. Joy Waun, Accelerator Lab
Dr. Jean Wessel, Rehabilitation Science
Mr. John Winch, Mills Library
Mrs. Grazyna Ziolkowski, Mills Library



and **Dec. 7th: The Geritol Follies**, at Hamilton Place

For further information or booking, please contact Anne at 905-627-0968

Details of the Christmas Trip will be published in the July issue of *MURAnews*.

Our fully-booked Bermuda Cruise starts by coach to Newark on May 18th, boarding "**The Journey**" on May 19th, returning May 26th. There will be photos and a report in the next newsletter.

Hot off the Press !!

★ Late breaking news from anne ★

How many of us have dreamed of a cruise aboard the "**Queen Mary 2**"? Anne is about to make your dream come true! After just attending a presentation by Cunard, she has booked a number of cabins on the "**Queen Mary 2**" for a 10 day Caribbean cruise in the Spring of 2008. Best of all, we drive down by coach to New York Harbour to board, thus avoiding airport line-ups.

Call or e-mail Anne as quickly as possible at **905-627-0968**, e-mail: sincla@mcmaster.ca
These cabins are sure to go fast!!

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SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT FROM MARGARET JENKINS

Professor of Psychiatry, Dr. Ellen Ryan, who is with the Programme for Gerontological Studies is calling for submissions of caregiving stories for

"This Little Light of Mine"

which is a collection of stories and poems for an anthology on family caregiving and lessons learned while managing the care of a loved one. This is part of the "**Writing Down Our Years Series**" published by the McMaster Centre for Gerontological Studies.

Send your submissions by June 30, 2007

Contact: Ellen Ryan, ryaneb@mcmaster.ca for further details.

The Fall dinner with Dr. Adrian Upton as guest speaker was such a great success, we have again booked the **Hamilton Chamber of Commerce for October 30th**.

Guest speaker: **Dr. Ellen Ryan** (mentioned above)
Topic: "**Choosing to Age Creatively**".

Watch for full details in the next newsletter.

RECENT PASSINGS



Dr. Brian Latto, Mechanical Engin., Dec.14/06
Dr. John N. Marlow, Family Medicine, Dec.27/06
Mrs. Anna Bliszcuk, Bldg. Ops., Dec.31/06
Mr. Fred Bradley, Assoc. Registrar, HSC, Jan.8/07
Mr. Joseph Hurley, Hospitality Services, Feb. 15/07
Mr. Carl E Larsen, Maintenance, Feb.20/07
**Dr. Robert L. Van Dusen, German, Feb.25/07
Mrs. Milica Pijanovich, Building Operations, Mar. 13/07
Mrs. Marleen Brown, Hospitality Services, Mar.15/07
Mr. Lloyd Hewer, Service Operations, Mar.20/07
Mr. Colin Ikeson, Biomedical Sciences, Mar. 30/07

***Friends and colleagues are invited to honour Bob and share memories on Thursday May 17th from 4:00-6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the University Club.*

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TRIPS UPDATE FROM ANNE SINCLAIR

The trip to Welland Canal and Sugarbush Farms was really appreciated, with a 15 minute video presentation about the canal. This was followed by a satisfying pancake lunch with all the trimmings., while we listened to toe-tapping music. We headed home well armed with copious bottles of wine after a visit to Kittling Ridge winery. A good time was had by all!!



Limited seating is still available for the two Stratford trips:

- **Sept. 13th: "Oklahoma"**
 - **Oct. 4th: "My One and Only"**
- (Flyer in January newsletter or page 6)

**McMaster Stratford Theatre Seminars
...not your ordinary theatre experience**

- King Lear ❖ Oklahoma!
- ❖ The Merchant of Venice
- ❖ To Kill a Mockingbird
- ❖ My One and Only
- ❖ The Comedy of Errors
- ❖ Othello
- ❖ Of Mice and Men
- ❖ The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead



Bottom, from left: David Snelgrove as Antipholus of Syracuse and Bruce Dow as Dromio of Syracuse. Photo by David Hou

July 9 -14, 2007

Go behind the scenes where you will enjoy:

- top-priced tickets to seven Festival productions
- lectures by theatre scholars
- symposia with Festival actors, directors and craftspeople
- fine dining at the Avoca Restaurant
- weekday and weekend packages available (4 shows included)

To find out more visit:

www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni/stratford/ or call: 1-888-217-6003



McMASTER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



If you are interested in some additional adventures, the Alumni Association may have just what you are looking for.

How about **River Cruising, July 30-August 11, 2007: St. Petersburg & Moscow** or

September 26-October 4: Alumni Campus Abroad in Tuscany.

For further details or booking please contact **Anne-Marie Middel '90** at 905-525-9140 ext.27255, or Toll free at 1-888-217-6003. Her e-mail address is middel@mcmaster.ca, or visit their website www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni. Anne-Marie mails out her brochures 6-8 months in advance of a trip.

Here's something we realize will be of interest to local retirees only...

DOORS OPEN HAMILTON 2007

Saturday May 5 and Sunday May 6, 2007

One weekend - only once a year - see Hamilton like you've never seen it before. Over 55 buildings of architectural, historic and cultural significance open their doors for this citywide celebration. And it's **FREE!** Many will feature tours, exhibits, entertainment and behind the scenes glimpses. Some of these buildings are not normally open to the public or normally charge an entrance fee.

Look for *The Doors Open Hamilton 2007 Guide Book* in the **Saturday April 28th** edition of the **HAMILTON SPECTATOR**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Doors Open Hamilton is an event run completely by volunteers. Why not join the fun - volunteer one day and tour the next. We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers of all ages. An interest in architecture, heritage, design and/or art is an asset. Full orientation provided April 29. To apply please contact **Heather** at **905-523-4004**

...who knows, if you are too late for this occasion, there may be similar events in the future.



Australia's funniest joke...

"We all went clubbing, returned to my apartment, talked until dawn and then crashed until late the next morning. When we asked the guys if they'd like some breakfast, they went and got their until-then-unmentioned girlfriends out of the back of the camper van to help to cook it."

Germany's funniest joke...

A general notices one of his soldiers obsessively picking up pieces of paper and saying: "That's not it.", "That's not it". Eventually he's seen by a psychologist, who concludes that he's deranged and issues him with a discharge notice. The soldier picks it up, smiles, and says: "That's it."

Did you know that by including McMaster in your will, you can achieve your philanthropic goals, while at the same time reducing your taxes? If you would like to talk to someone about giving options, please call the **Office of Gift Planning** at **905-525-9140, ext. 23447**.



The Annual Meeting of College and University Retirees Associations of Canada (CURAC) will take place this year at

**University of Windsor and St. Clair College
May 23-25**

The theme of the meeting is:

“Securing The Future: Pensions and Health Benefits”

Registration is available to all MURA members. For full details of the programme and reservations please visit <http://www.curac.ca/>

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The following is an article submitted by our President Brian Ives for publication in the CURAC newsletter.

“ONE LARGE TENT”

When perusing the membership statistics of CURAC member organizations, one is struck by the inconsistency of the numbers. McMaster and Guelph have more than twice the membership of Toronto, and the other large Canadian institutions all report memberships under 500. It has been properly noted that membership qualifications are quite varied, generally related to whether retirees pay dues and which employee groups are included in the organization.

I would like to make a case for the current “McMaster Model”. Here the retiree association, MURA, which was founded in 1984, has always viewed that all retirees should be members. However, to make the organization work, income was required. Consequently, very early on a fee was instituted and only members who paid it were deemed “regular”. But in order to keep all members informed of those matters required by the MURA constitution, the fee paying members subsidized the cost of printing and mailing 2 newsletters per year to the non-paying members.

When I took office as Vice President, there was something about this two-class system which did not sit well with me. It was clear that our Association was representing all retirees, for example through voting membership on the Salaried Pension Trust Committee, and was attempting to serve all members in every way. Like all colleges and universities, our retiree population is quite diverse, in terms of the original employment “status” of our members. Specifically at McMaster, we have—listing our convenient abbreviations in alphabetical order and without explanation--Affiliates, Clinical Faculty, Hourly, Faculty, Research Associates, Staff and The Management Group. Furthermore, the Hourly group is as diverse as the whole comprising, among others, cleaning staff, food services, security and trades. MURA also considers pensioned survivors of retirees as Associate Members.

On investigating whether we might find funding support from those organizations which represented the various groups while employed, we hit “paydirt” right away! The president of the (unionized) staff association immediately liked the idea of doing something to support the retired staff members and immediately pledged to fund their involvement in the retiree organization. That helped us sell the idea to the Faculty Association. To support The Management Group (basically union “exempt” staff), we approached the University President, who quickly agreed. It was not so easy to find a funding source for the other groups of retirees, but since they did not represent a significant source of voluntary revenue we were confident we could operate MURA with the income from the three major sources.

Consequently, MURA is now on a sound financial basis without relying on member financial contribution and without some members paying for services enjoyed by others. Furthermore, we feel we can serve all McMaster retirees to the extent they wish to participate. A few years ago, MURA was instrumental in contacting the necessary large percentage of its membership to agree to a retirement pension surplus redistribution, and being able to serve everyone was an important feature of that activity. We believe we can assist with any similar initiative which might arise in the future.

MURA enjoys an excellent operating “arms length” relationship with the university administration, and we have every reason to believe this close collaboration serves all McMaster retirees well. And it sure helps when the whole retiree population is in the same big tent!

M. Brian Ives, President, MURA
March 2007

A Visit with Menno DeGroot

Menno DeGroot ? Wow, there's a name from the past! But if you had a research grant in the 1960's, you will certainly have dealt with Mr. DeGroot! He with the meticulously maintained handwritten ledgers which could tell you just how much money you had, or had not, in your account. Before computers, Menno DeGroot kept all the books that were needed.



We were delighted to discover that Menno is still with us, and is in fact our senior member, being now in his 100th year! A visit by Joan Parker and me to meet Menno was arranged

by his daughter, Yoka and son-in-law, John. Sadly, he has recently developed some dementia, and when he speaks it is generally in his native Dutch. But nevertheless, our visit seemed to energize him and it was a truly happy occasion.

Menno brought his family to Canada in 1953 after a significant career in Holland, which included the curatorship of a museum. After a few years in various pursuits in Canada, our Prof. Kleerekoper (Biology) suggested he come to McMaster and in 1959 he was appointed by Dr. Thode to the position of Research Grants Officer. He retired from McMaster in 1974.

We congratulate our senior member, and wish him the continuation of a long life. We are particularly pleased to have been able to locate Menno at this time and are looking forward to contributing to his centenary celebrations. We'll let you know!

MBI

McMASTER RETIREES TRIPS

STRATFORD FESTIVAL THEATRE PRESENTS

OKLAHOMA !
Thursday September 13, 2007



Price of \$105.00 per person includes:
 * Deluxe Motor coach transportation
 * Shopping in downtown Stratford
 * Lunch at Henry's at the Queen's Inn
 * Performance of Oklahoma
 * All taxes, service charges, driver's tip
Coach departs Fortino's, 1579 Main St. West at 8:30 a.m. Estimated time of return at 6:30 p.m.

STRATFORD'S AVON THEATRE PRESENTS

*****MY ONE AND ONLY *****

Thursday October 4, 2007



Price of \$105.00 per person includes:
 * Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
 * Shopping in downtown Stratford
 * Lunch at Henry's at the Queen's Inn
 * Performance of My One and Only
 * All taxes, service charges, driver's tip
Coach departs Fortino's, 1579 Main St. West at 8:30 a.m. Estimated time of return at 6:30 p.m.

Your deluxe coach carries you to Stratford and the renowned Stratford Festival. Your meal will be at the historic **Queen's Inn** which has been a landmark for warm hospitality and excellent meals for over 150 years. Following lunch you will cross the street to the **Avon Theatre** for the performance of **"MY ONE AND ONLY"**. Daredevil pilot Billy Buck Chandler is determined to woo bathing beauty Edythe Herbert, star of a 1920's Hollywood style swimming/dancing extravaganza. But Edythe's boss, the evil Prince Nikki, has other plans. Crammed with exotic locations, outrageous plot twists and heart-stopping dance numbers, this zany comedy features beloved Gershwin tunes like **"S Wonderful"**, and **"Nice Work If You Can Get It"**.

For further information please contact Anne at 905 627 0968

TRIPS BOOKING FORM

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**.



Date		# of persons	Amount \$
Thurs. Sept.13/07	Oklahoma at Stratford \$105.00 per person	
Name:			
Address:			
Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:.....			

Thurs. Oct.4/07	My One and Only at Avon \$105.00 per person	
Name:			
Address:			
Postal Code: Telephone #: e-mail address:			

Fri. Dec.7/07	Geritol Follies, Hamilton Place \$25.00 per person	
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 Penny@mcmaster.ca, and your e-mail information will be added to the membership base.

NEWSLETTER MAILING

MURAnews is now available on the website at http://mse.mcmaster.ca/MURA/pages/MURA_Activities/Newsletter.html. If you do NOT wish to receive hard copies (by snail mail), please e-mail our Membership Chair, Pam Penny at: penny@mcmaster.ca OR mail the form below to: Pam Penny, 3-60 Dundas Street, Dundas, ON L9H 7M6.

I do NOT wish to receive copies of the Newsletter . I will access through the website:

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Please return this strip to: **Pam Penny, 3 - 60 Dundas Street, Dundas, Ontario L9H 7M6**