

President's Corner



After the Spring issue of *MURAnews* had gone to press, our then-incumbent MURA President Joan Parker informed MURA Council that she would not be able to continue in office, for medical reasons. As a result, new nominations were received for MURA President and Vice-President, and at the May

Annual General Meeting (AGM) I became the new MURA President. Also, Treasurer Beth Csordas was elected to the position of Vice-President. All of us in MURA thank Joan for her dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work on behalf of retirees.

Attendees at the May AGM were pleased to hear that MURA's Academic Awards Endowment Fund for Gerontology students had surpassed the goal of \$40,000. I want to thank all MURA members for their generosity in contributing to this endeavour. We are continuing to accept donations to the fund, with the aim of increasing the value of the annual scholarship and prize.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to newly-elected MURA Council members Mary Johnston and Shari Mercer, and to offer my thanks to Margaret Jenkins and Kathy Ryan, who are leaving Council. The composition of MURA Executive and Council for 2010 – 2011 appear elsewhere in this issue.

You may have heard about McMaster's proposal to eliminate free tuition for all community seniors aged 65 and over. MURA and others expressed their concerns to several of the committees involved in the original discussion of the proposal. As a result, the Board of Governors sent the proposal back for reconsideration. At the present time, the proposal has been withdrawn. MURA will be invited to attend future discussions on the issue.

MURA is run entirely by volunteers, for all McMaster retirees. If we can be of assistance to you, or if you have suggestions for new initiatives or programmes, contact me or any other member of Council. We are always eager to hear from you.

- Joe Laposa, MURA President
ijklaposa@cogeco.ca or 905 648 6610

MURA's 25th Anniversary & 2010 AGM

Celebration Hall came alive at noon on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, when almost 100 retirees gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the McMaster University Retirees Association. The Hall was decorated with twinkling table-centre candles and pairs of swaying silver balloons set on tables throughout, along with a huge cake, compliments of University Advancement, to mark the occasion.



The lunch also celebrated the fact that Mac retirees had achieved their goal of raising over \$40,000 to ensure that the MURA academic awards in Gerontology will continue to be presented annually to two very deserving students. The interest from the \$40,000 fund will be used to pay the awards, possibly increasing them. This will free up those monies, which are currently paid from MURA's annual



operating budget, to be put toward other endeavours.

President Peter George praised MURA for its fund raising initiative to assist students in this important field of study and cut the first slice of the anniversary cake. After this 'photo op', Council members took over cutting and distributing the cake for everyone to enjoy.



(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

McMaster President Emeritus Alvin Lee addressed the members with a well-received talk entitled "Reminiscences about McMaster Employees before and after the Creation of MURA in 1985".

Following Dr. Lee's presentation, two draws were held for prizes handcrafted by MURA Councillor Al Fraser: a teak and oak picture frame won by Brian Beckburger; and a cedar tray won by Ken Redish.

MURA members then turned their attention to the business of the Annual General Meeting and the election of the 2010/11 Council members.

- Pamela Penny, MURA Membership Chair
penny@mcmaster.ca

Alvin Lee Speaks to Fellow McMaster Retirees: Reminiscences

As guest speaker at the 2010 MURA AGM, Alvin Lee shared memories of his life and how it has been interwoven with the history of McMaster. At the same time, he invited the audience to recall their own time as students and employees at the university, from the 1950s through to recent times.



Alvin Lee was born in September 1930, just two days before the first lectures were given at McMaster's new Hamilton campus. He grew up on a farm near Woodville, Ontario. His education at a one-room school was followed by high school in Lindsay and then ten years of study at the University of Toronto. In 1960, Alvin, his wife Hope and their three-month-old daughter Joanna arrived in Hamilton, where he joined the English Department at McMaster. By the 1970s, Alvin was Dean of Graduate Studies. In 1980, still only 50 years old, he became the University's President. When he left the Presidency at 60, an age when many of us are thinking of retirement, Alvin "was full of energy and of long-deferred desires to return to full-time scholarship and teaching". He has used the intervening years to teach, supervise graduate students, write, and act as general editor for the Collected Works of Northrop Frye.

Although he took early retirement in 1992, Alvin confessed that 2009/10 was the first year of his actual retirement in the sense of not working full-time. He spoke warmly of his family (five daughters, five sons-in-law, and nine grandchildren ranging in age from

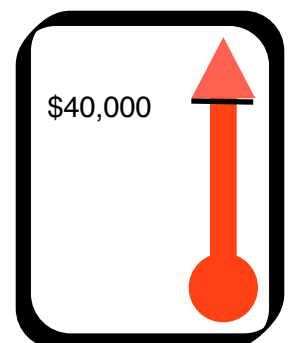
9 to 18) and the important role they continue to play in his life, saying "They are marvelous stimuli and a reason for living as long as possible." Alvin is a self-confessed traveler having visited 47 countries. Italy and France are his favourites. He has treated each of his grandchildren, one by one, to a trip with him. Descriptions of the itineraries had audience members asking if they could please become part of Alvin's family: Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, hiking on the west coast of Ireland, visits to art galleries in the US, trekking in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco plus camping in the Sahara Desert, a McMaster Alumni outdoors education expedition into five canyons in the US Southwest, and last summer, Paris and on to a cooking school in the south of France. The remaining three grandchildren are lined up, with their choices of destination changing wildly as they approach the age of 11 or 12, when they too will join their grandfather on a trip.

Alvin urged us to consider the role that our time at McMaster and the people we worked and socialized with had in making us who we are now. As MURA members, we can continue to participate in and contribute to the McMaster community. He praised MURA's "proud record of achievement in its 25 years", which he attributed to "the same imagination and organizational skill that held McMaster together for decades." For his part, Alvin concluded "Whatever I am doing or thinking, and wherever I am, I know daily that I am still a McMaster man, privileged to have been one of you for the last fifty years and to have worked hard with you, and played sometimes. It has been great. Let's keep at it."

MURA Endowment Fund Campaign

The MURA Endowment Fund, to fund academic awards for Gerontology students, has exceeded our goal of \$40,000 and is still on it's way up.

To contribute, contact:
Jenny Thomson,
Development Officer,
Office of Alumni Advancement,
McMaster University,
The President's Residence,
1280 Main St. W., 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8S 4K1
E-mail: jthoms@mcmaster.ca
Phone: 905-525-9140
extension 23071



Salaried Pension Plan Report

by Les Robb, your Representative to the Pension Trust Committee for the Salaried Pension Plan

Notes from the presentation to the 2010 AGM

Today I thought I would talk about some big picture items concerning our Plan. However, I know a number of you are most interested in the finances of the Plan and, in particular, whether the earnings are such that we can look forward to indexing next January. I wrote in an earlier article that the earnings would need to be more than 18% to give rise to indexing next January. The first three quarters of the year (to the end of March) have earned about 12%. Given the turmoil recently in the markets, I think we can agree it is highly unlikely we will make the 18% and so I think we will have our pensions held constant next year. I suspect those of you who had read my earlier estimate of 18% had already reached this conclusion.

Now to the big picture items!

First, things are changing in our salaried pension plan more rapidly than ever.

Not many years ago we all (in the salaried Plan) had the same benefits and because the University wanted to keep it that way it was hard to make changes by any one group. Groups were told – if we did that for you we would have to get agreement from all the others. The status quo consequently prevailed.

More recently, we are in the mode of 'different strokes for different folks'. This may be associated with the unionization of staff but I can say from my past life that MUFA at times wanted to go its own way. In any case, we now have some folks with rule of 80 and some transitioning to the rule of 85. We have some folks paying one set of contribution rates and some with another set. We have some salaried employees now excluded from joining the plan upon being hired. We have some new salaried employees paying the same as longer serving employees and getting a fraction of the benefits. In short, our Plan is becoming more and more fragmented.

In addition to contribution and benefit differences, there are also different agreements between the Administration and various groups about what will happen should a surplus ever arise again (though don't hold your breath!). The CAW has an agreement that if a surplus arises, that portion of the surplus attributable to their members would be the subject of negotiations as to how it would be used. MUFA also has an agreement about surplus: if the University takes certain sized pension holidays due to a surplus, MUFA members would also get specified holidays. It is unlikely we will ever run up a big surplus in the future.



If the Administration and the employees divvy up any surplus as soon as it arises, it is pretty obvious that there won't be much room for retirees. The kind of dealing that has been going on is not a bad thing in itself but it is important for us to remind the players not to forget about retirees.

I also hear talk in some circles that perhaps it is time to set up separate plans for different employee groups with a common investment pool. I don't see this idea as having much traction at the moment, but it might have more traction if more fragmentation of benefits and costs continues. This might not be a bad thing – with the separate deals already in place it is almost the case that we have quite different plans informally in any event. Formalizing the structure would force the parties to keep track of the benefits and contributions of the various groups separately. One group might be in surplus while another was in deficit, for example.

The other big picture item is the state of the deficit in the Plan. The market collapse following 2008 put our plan into a serious deficit position and this has been requiring a larger part of the University budget to be devoted to the Pension Plan. This is a very serious concern for the budget committee and is a major focus of the Administration in its thinking about pensions. While this serious deficit state continues, there can be no hope of improvements in our indexing formula, in my view.

Related to this deficit position is the investment strategy for the pension plan. The Administration has indicated that once the deficit in the plan is eliminated they may want to go to a more conservative investment strategy – more bonds, fewer stocks, less variance and lower returns. The thinking is that it would be better to pay a bit more over time from the operating budget in order to avoid being 'whipsawed' as we are at the moment when the stock market goes awry.

The implications are not pleasant for our indexing. Lower average returns that would be associated with a conservative investment strategy would lead to us more frequently failing to get any indexing (let alone full indexing). So this is another issue for us in the future. Perhaps when the Administration becomes aware of the increased average cost of this strategy in the long run, they may reconsider.

These are two big picture issues that I thought it useful to bring to you today.



MURA Christmas Lunch

Mark Monday, December 6th, 2010 on your calendar for MURA's annual Christmas Lunch.

The lunch will be held in Celebration Hall on the McMaster campus.

Look for more details and a reservation form in the Fall issue of *MURAnews*.

MURA Executive and Council for 2010-11

Honorary President Arthur Bourns

Executive

President: Joe Laposa
Vice President: Beth Csordas
Past President: Helen Barton
Treasurer: Beth Csordas
Secretary: Wayne Rouse

Councillors

Serving until 2011: Mike Hedden
Stefania Miller
Serving until 2012: Kathy Overholt
Pamela Penny
Marianne Walters
Serving until 2013: Helen Dietsche
Alan Fraser
Mary Johnston
Shari Mercer

Consultants and Delegates

Salaried Pension Trust Cttee: Leslie Robb
Hourly Pension Plan Cttee: Cliff Andrews
Trips & Tours Organizer: Anne Sinclair
University Board of Governors: Lorraine Allan
Web Site: Marianne Van der Wel
Patricia Chan

MURA is looking for a Treasurer

MURA Council is looking for a retiree volunteer with a strong financial background to look after the finances of the Association. The Treasurer's duties include handling funds, paying bills, preparing and presenting financial statements, and drafting budgets.

Please contact Joe Laposa, MURA's President by email at jklaposa@cogeco.ca, or at 905-648-6610 if you are interested.

Computer Tips and Tricks

by Marianne Van der Wel

Passwords

Passwords are crucial to protecting your computer data, your money and your identity. Trying to remember your passwords is also a challenge, particularly since rules for forming passwords differ depending on the application.



Creating secure passwords

In the case of banking, credit cards and cell phone accounts, you are generally allowed exactly four numbers. On the other hand, for computer applications the rules vary tremendously. Most online computer applications such as insurance accounts, e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, blogs, meetup groups, news feeds, and sites to promote causes allow at least 6-8 character passwords. Some allow only letters of the alphabet and numbers, while others let you add some or all special characters. While nothing is 100% secure, here are some tips to help.

For computer applications, in addition to changing your password periodically and not using previous passwords, choose a password that is hard to guess. Using random characters is best since they are difficult to crack by computer software. Never write your passwords down or store them in easily recognizable files. Avoid birth dates, or family and pet names. Instead choose variations of a single password that is as random as possible and at least 6-8 characters long.

For example the Carnegie Mellon School of Computer Science site at <http://tinyurl.com/n9uguy> suggests generating "reasonably secure" passwords by

- choosing two unrelated words such as "**unix fun**"; "**book goat**" or "**august brick**"
- joining the words with a non-alphabetic character or two and then
- making at least one change (for example, uppercase a letter or add another character to one of the words, preferably not just at the very beginning or end of the password). Using this method, the above could generate these passwords:

unix+fUn bo!ok29goat august,=bRICK

For an even more secure method, make up a phrase or sentence with punctuation that is easy to remember. Then choose the first letter of each word and the punctuation (if allowed) as your password. For example the sentence

Disturbing, confusing Life of it's own!

would generate the password

D,cLoi'o!

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

For the four digit numeric passwords required for banking, credit and cell phones follow similar guidelines. One possibility is to choose a four letter word and use the numeric position of the letters in the alphabet as the password (e.g. "face" gives the password 6135, "hide" gives 8945).

For more information on password security there are many more web sites such as:

<http://psynch.com/docs/choosing-good-passwords.html>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Choose-a-Secure-Password>

<http://security.yahoo.com/article.html?aid=2006102509>

<http://www.comptechdoc.org/docs/ctdp/howtopass/>

Aids for remembering passwords

There are programs with specially encrypted data bases that will help you keep track of passwords.

For example the web page at

<http://tinyurl.com/38orsak> describes Mozilla's password manager which is available if you use Mozilla's browser, Firefox. (This free, Open Source software is discussed on page 4 of the 2010 Spring MURAnews, online at: <http://tinyurl.com/266yv86>)

Similar password managers are available in most browsers you might use.

Other Open Source and Commercial password managers are also available. If choosing a free one, it's often better to choose one that also provides a commercial upgrade to not invite viruses etc.

If using a Password Manager is not for you and you need a record, create a computer file with a name that has nothing to do with protection (i.e. avoid words such as pass, password, protect, secure). Put the file on a memory stick and store the memory stick in a location that is not near your computer.

Computer Forms Can Keep Credit Card Info On Your Computer

One of my favourite web sites is "Canada Helps" (<http://www.canadahelps.org/>) which allows me to make online donations or send electronic gift cards for over 83,000 registered charities. For this I use my credit card (with a small monetary maximum limit). To my dismay, I noticed that when I was using another form requiring a credit card for another or the same site, my credit card number was already stored on my computer, including the security code from the back of the card. This is a convenience I don't want, preferring to retype my credit information each time. (To ensure that a web site is using a secure connection when you are entering sensitive information, check the link address for an 's' after the "http" as in <https://...>)

To remove information from your computer after you use an interactive form, clear your web browser's history. Note that other stored information such as user names, in addition to credit card information, will be deleted by this process.

- For Firefox, look under "Tools", then select "Clear Recent History". Choose "Everything" from the list for "Time Range" as the other settings do not seem to work, then choose "Form & Search History" from the menu below and finally press "Clear Now".
- For MS Explorer, go to "Safety" and then "Delete Browsing History".
- For Apple's Safari, use "Help" (F1). Under the "Index" tab, search for ":history"
- For Google's Chrome, use the "settings" icon, then "tools", "options" and "under the hood"

Human Resources Services Office Has Moved and Reorganized

The Human Resources (HR) office that serves retirees is now located on the second floor of the Campus Services Building on West Campus. Staff moved from their old offices in the Downtown Centre a few months ago.

The new address is "Campus Services Building, Room 202, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton ON, L8S 4M3".

The new phone number for all inquiries is 905-525-9140, extension 222HR (22247). This line is active Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Option #3 in the answering menu is designated for retiree services.

The email address for both employees and retirees is working@mcmaster.ca.

The Campus Services HR office is now organized as a "service centre", with about 15 staff members organized as teams to provide both Human Resource and payroll services to both retirees and active staff. Their smiling faces appear below.



RETIREE BENEFITS REMINDER

The benefit year end is June 30th. Please ensure all benefit claims dated from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 are submitted to Sun Life prior to September 30, 2010.

Late claim submissions will not be reimbursed.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind retirees to review all Sun Life claim responses. Human Resources Services works with Sun Life to continually increase the accuracy of the claims approval process. However, we recommend that all retirees review the claim responses and follow up with Sun Life if there is any question regarding accuracy (i.e. denial of a claim due to excess of maximum limit).

Please contact Sun Life at **1-800-361-6212**.

Besides contacting Sun Life, you can also contact Human Resources Services:

Phone: 905-525-9140. Ext. 22247. Web Site:
<http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/retirees/index.php>



College and University Retiree Associations of Canada

Marianne Walters and Helen Barton attended the 2010 CURAC Conference and AGM which was held at York University on May 18 – 20.

One of the sessions was set up to discuss ageism – specifically discrimination or prejudice against older university staff and faculty. The discussion, however, focused mostly on what might best be named “retiree-ism” at universities. It is not uncommon for faculty members to continue their academic work at the university after they retire, due in part to opportunities for early retirement. Retired faculty often find they have less “status” and access to services, teaching and research opportunities than a same aged, academically equal colleague who has not yet retired.

One potential safeguard against these problems is for individuals to lay out a personal business plan and make a contract with their department or faculty before they retire. It’s also important for post-retirement arrangements, such as guaranteed teaching load minimums and commitments for university support and services, to be built into faculty collective agreements. Retiree groups must be very active at promoting retirees as

one of the institution’s best resources and stress the benefit to the university of providing a climate where retirees can continue to contribute on an equal footing.

A session titled “How Retiree Associations Do and Can Influence Decisions that Affect Their Members” presented many useful ideas for how retiree associations can increase their value to, and thus their popularity, position and influence at, their university. The associations can facilitate opportunities for retirees to volunteer on campus and in the community, participate in and provide leadership for campus events, act as mentors, and participate in projects that are of value to the institution (e.g. history projects). Retirees can make valuable contributions to intergenerational forums, for example with high school and university students.

Retiree associations are ideally situated to protect and even improve retiree benefits and the environment at universities for retirees. In order to become a stronger and more effective organization it’s important for a retiree association to be constantly vigilant and, when necessary, to take action in an effective forum to challenge any change that will negatively affect retirees.

Our fellow retiree organizations in CURAC are a rich source of information and useful ideas, tips and tactics to help MURA provide good service to McMaster retirees. Participation in the annual CURAC conference is an excellent opportunity for MURA to learn and grow.

To find out more about CURAC, visit their web site at:
<http://www.curac.ca/>

MURA Membership as of May 1, 2010

Regular Members

Affiliates	35
Clinical Faculty	105
Faculty	520
Hourly staff	242
Research Associates	8
CAW 555 staff	625
The Management Group (TMG)	156

Associate Members

Survivors	264
Honorary	3

GRAND TOTAL: 1958

My Travels – Stories of Trips to Exotic Lands by One McMaster Retiree

by Maureen Halsall

At the 2010 MURA Annual General Meeting, I was chatting with Helen Barton about some of the trips that I have taken in the years since I retired from McMaster and about the web site that I developed to document my travels. Suggesting that other McMaster retirees might be interested in my trip accounts, Helen asked me to submit this brief note to MURAnews.

I have taken at least one trip almost every year since my retirement in 1989, starting with Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Greece and Turkey in 1990. Since then I have visited India, Nepal, China, Bangkok, Singapore, Bali, Mexico, Tibet, Morocco, Guatemala, Uzbekistan, Syria, Spain, Italy, Romania, Yemen, Ethiopia, France, Crete, Belize and England. I have travelled the Silk Road, and taken cruises to Alaska, Panama, the Baltic states and North Africa. A 54-day World Voyage in 2003 took me south from Florida to Tahiti, via Antarctica.

At the request of my family, in 2000 I taught myself how to create a website and began posting illustrated accounts of my more interesting trips. To find out more about my travels, please visit my website at

<http://maureenhalsall.net>



Maureen is pictured here in a candid shot taken at the 2010 MURA AGM. After graduating from McMaster in 1957, Maureen obtained a PhD in English from Harvard in 1962, then taught for three years at Wellesley, finally returning to Canada to join the McMaster English Department in 1965. Before

retiring in 1989, she served as Associate Dean of Humanities 1974-1982, then as Acting Dean of Humanities 1986-87 and as Acting Chair of the Department of English 1988-1989.

SWITCH TO THE ON-LINE VERSION OF **MURAnews**

■ Help keep our budget in check! If you receive MURAnews via the post, you can save MURA postage and printing costs by reading it online instead. To switch to the on-line version of MURAnews, please phone Pam Penny at 905-627-0463 or email her at penny@mcmaster.ca



Your Money - TFSA Beneficiary Rules

by Mary Johnston



Do you have a tax free savings account (TFSA)? A TFSA is a registered savings plan that allows you to put up to \$5000 a year into eligible investments and not pay tax on the investment income that you earn. If you have one, it's important to know the difference between a "successor holder" and a "beneficiary", and whether you designated a successor holder or beneficiary when you set up your TFSA.

If you are looking for information about passing on the assets in your TFSA when you die, you may be interested in an article by Gordon Pape, titled Pass It On, in the Winter 2009 issue of Zoomer magazine. Pape discusses changes made to TFSA regulations by the Ontario government in June 2009 and gives examples of various inheritance scenarios. He emphasizes the importance of naming a successor holder or beneficiary for your TFSA.

You may need to go back to your bank or plan administrator to complete the appropriate forms, especially if your TFSA was opened before June 16th, 2009. Before completing the forms, you will need to understand what is meant by the terms successor holder and beneficiary. Your financial advisor or bank can help you with this, but you may find it helpful to read Pape's article before consulting them.

There are differences between a successor holder and a beneficiary in terms of how the assets in your TFSA are handled when you die.

According to Pape, a successor holder must be your spouse or common-law partner. No one else qualifies. The TFSA is transferred to the named successor holder when you die. The successor holder can manage assets in the TFSA, may make further contributions, or may cash out the account at any time without paying taxes.

A beneficiary is a person or organization named to inherit the TFSA's assets on the account holder's death. This may be a child, sibling, friend or charity, but Pape advises against naming your spouse as sole or joint beneficiary. When you die, the beneficiary receives the assets in your TFSA and the account is terminated. No taxes are paid on the assets at the time of your death, but the beneficiary will be taxed on any profit made during the period between your death and the date when the account is wound up. This might apply, for example, to interest generated while your estate is being settled.

If you would like to read Gordon Pape's article on this topic, see the Winter 2009 issue of Zoomer magazine, go to <http://www.zoomermag.com/tag/tfsa> or contact the MURA office at 905-525-9140 Extension 23171 (we will send you a copy of the article by post).

Volunteering at Convocation (a volunteer opportunity available through the McMaster Retiree Volunteer Network)

by Pam Penny

For over 30 years, I worked in the Math & Stats Department and never once attended a Convocation.



So when I followed the link on MURA's website to the McMaster Retirees Volunteer Network and saw Convocation Volunteers among the positions listed there, I thought 'that might be something interesting to do' -- and I was right.

I e-mailed my request to Laura Escalante, Special Projects Administrator in Alumni Advancement, and filled out the information on the letter she sent to me outlining all the pertinent information for 'Volunteering @ McMaster'.

Shortly thereafter, I was contacted by Brad Coburn, Calendar & Convocation Coordinator in the Registrar's Office. As requested, I sent him a list of my free times over the five Convocation days in June and he sent back a schedule of what they wanted me to do and when. After an Orientation session with everyone involved, I was given parking passes for the underground parking facility at Hamilton Place and a daily schedule.

Convocation is a major event for the University and is constantly being fine-tuned and improved on an annual basis. Both the Registrar's Office and Titles Bookstore are front & centre for five days so that every Faculty can process all their graduating students. And, of course, there are all the invited dignitaries and special awards to be handed out. It's a massive production and very well run from what I could see.

My job, under the direction of Lorraine Park, from the Registrar's Office, was to greet all the graduates as they came in through the Studio Theatre Entrance. Racks & racks of gowns and hoods were lined up inside the Studio Theatre and the grads must file through and pick up theirs before being directed to another room in the Conference Centre to be lined up in presentation order ready to be ushered to their seats in Hamilton Place Theatre to start the ceremonies in motion.

Convocation pomp & ceremony is taken very seriously, and the stage party is resplendent in colourful robes and hoods. I didn't get to see much of the actual ceremony as I was stationed in the lobby waiting for late graduates. Traffic from Toronto held up families for two hours, construction slowdowns hindered those trying to park their cars, and one student had her sister go into labour just as she was about to leave her house. However, we managed to

get them all gowned, hooded and on stage for their big day, even if it was at a hectic pace and they had to wait backstage in the dark for their turn to 'cross the stage'.

It's an education just to watch all the students as they excitedly enter the doors. Some are dressed to the nines – formal attire and all the trimmings – and some come in shorts and a T-shirt. I still don't know how some of the girls navigated across the stage in those 5 inch heels! Proud parents, friends & colleagues were everywhere in the main lobby with cameras and flowers galore.

Apart from having to get up at 5 am one morning to be on duty by 7:30, I had a great time with this volunteer experience and recommend it to anyone who wasn't ever able to attend a Convocation Ceremony throughout their working career at McMaster. You even get a nice card and a gift of appreciation for your efforts. All in all, a very pleasant and fun experience that I'm considering doing again for the Fall convocations and next year!

To find out more about
the McMaster Retiree Volunteer Network, visit
http://www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni/networking_volunteer.html
or contact Laura Escalante
by email at volunteers@mcmaster.ca or
by phone at 905-525-9140, extension 21314.

Tribute to Dora Haisell



MURA Council members, past and present, were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Dora Haisell, a valued colleague and friend who served on Council as a very competent Treasurer from 1995 until 2000.

Dora was McMaster's Information Coordinator prior to her retirement, following an earlier career as a Kindergarten and Grade One teacher. Dora's pleasantly helpful and engaging manner, as well as her positive, sympathetic and playful nature suited her career choices. These same attributes made it a pleasure to work alongside her on MURA Council.

During the past decade Dora and her husband Larry, also a Mac retiree, assisted regularly with the "stuffing" and mailing of the MURA newsletter.

Dora will be missed by her many MURA friends and colleagues.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Jacques Barbier, Chemistry & Chemical Biology

Dr. Alexander Berezin, Engineering Physics

Dr. Kathleen Clark, School of Nursing

Mrs. Charlotte Daniels, Human Resources

Mrs. Barbara B. Duff, UTS – Enterprise Systems

Mrs. Cheryl A. Gainfort, McMaster Children's Centre

Dr. Robert L. Goodacre, Medicine

Mrs. Joanne Gunby, Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Mrs. Patricia Haslett, Pediatrics

Ms. Ellen Jamieson, Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences

Mr. Yoshio Kitamura, Engineering Machine Shop

Dr. Peter Macdonald, Mathematics & Statistics

Mrs. Carol Nelson, Human Resources Services

Ms. Shelley Omand, Arts & Science Program

Ms. Janet Pinelli, School of Nursing

Mrs. Suzanne M.R. Southward, Pediatrics

Mr. Steve P. Staniek, Health Physics

Mrs. Diane E. Zsepeczky, Hospitality Services

RECENT PASSINGS

Mrs. Evelyn Arnold, Building Operations, May 16/10

Dr. Lee Richard Brooks, Psychology, June 2/10

Mr. Terrance (Terry) Cleland, Telecommunications, May 3/10

Dr. David Damas, Anthropology, Apr. 14/10

Dr. Donald A. Dawson, Economics, July 9/10

Dr. Arthur Gladwin, Electrical & Computer Engineering, June 6/10

Mrs. Dora Haisell, Registrar - Liaison, July 9/10

Mrs. Elaine Hewitt, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Apr. 9/10

Dr. E. Blakely Macfarlane, Surgery, Apr. 16/10

Mrs. Jessie A. Mackie, Building Operations, Apr. 11/10

Ms. Frances McCrone, University Library, Apr. 13/10

Mr. John L. Myers, Applied Dynamics Lab (Civil Engineering), May 12/10

Miss Beatrice Pickett, University Library, June 28/10

Miss Lois A. Tupper, Divinity College, July 5/10



Anne's Trips

For more information about the trips described below and on the next page, contact Anne Sinclair at 905-627-0968 or sincla@mcmaster.ca



CAPE COD & NEW ENGLAND

September 5 - 11, 2010

There are a few seats left for this "GREAT CANADIAN COACH" trip. Please call or email me for details.

PLEASE NOTE: DRAYTON

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

The "overnighter" has been replaced with a repeat of last year's popular "Drayton Day Trip".

We will, once again, have lunch at WINDFIELDS - which was a big success last year. Then, on to the lovely DRAYTON FESTIVAL THEATRE, for their production of "**Guys & Dolls**".

Those of you who came on this trip last year will enjoy another nice "day in the country".

PRICE PER PERSON: **\$97.00**

POST DATE CHEQUES TO August 15th, PAYABLE TO MURA. Send to Anne Sinclair, 207-104 Osler Drive, Dundas, ON L9H 4B7

Depart 10:15 am from Fortino's, 1579 Main Street West, Hamilton.

Arrive home at approximately 6:30 pm.



ENCHANTING DANUBE RIVER BOAT CRUISE

August 20-27, 2011

I now have 3 cabins left. Please call or email me for details. 39 of us have already booked on this great cruise.

GREAT NEWS!

WE'RE GOING BACK TO **BERMUDA**

ON HOLLAND AMERICA'S "VEENDAM" IN 2011

NO AIRPORTS OR PLANES - JUST A COACH!



I have had requests to put together another Bermuda Cruise/Coach trip and I am very happy to do so because I love that beautiful island. I already have 21 cruisers signed up for this trip from the "partial" information that I put out on the MURA website. Now I have everything in place, so here are the details.

May 27, 2011 - We depart from Hamilton early morning, by coach, for New York. We will stay 2 nights at the Hampton Inn Hotel in New Jersey (the same idea as in 2007), and on May 29th, our coach will take us to the cruise terminal where we board the **VEENDAM**. Our cruise itinerary is as follows:

		Arrive	Depart
May	29		
	30		4:45 pm
	31		
		8:00 am	
June	1		2:00 pm
	1		
		4:00 pm	
	2		
			2:00 pm
	3		
	4		
	5	7:00 am	

Our coach will be at the cruise terminal to bring us home.

Holland America Cruises are first class, and the **VEENDAM** is a perfect size to sail into Bermuda as she is not one of the "mega" ships. The "No Planes and Airports" is always very popular - just relax on the coach and enjoy the ride!

The prices are in Canadian dollars (\$), per person, based on double occupancy, and include: COACH, 2 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION AND CRUISE. I have also included the Coach Driver's tip and the Cruise Taxes.

ALL INCLUSIVE PRICES

Inside Cabin	\$1,690.24
Ocean View Cabin	1,871.81
Lanai Cabin	2,117.70
Balcony Cabin	2,650.70

A deposit of \$373.00 per person secures your specific cabin and is refundable until January 15, 2011. The cabins are going very quickly, so please contact me as soon as possible and I can give you further information and answer your questions.

You can reach Anne Sinclair at 905-627-0968 or at sincla@mcmaster.ca