

YURA NEWSLETTER

A newsletter for members of the York University Retirees Association No. 14 Sept. 2010

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Message from the YURA Co-Presidents

Since the publication of the last *YURA Newsletter* in February 2010, the Association has been actively involved in the organization and implementation of the 8th annual conference of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC), held May 18, 19 and 20 on the York campus. We are grateful to members of the local organizing committee that included several members of the Executive – Albert Tucker, Paula Freeman, and Alex Murray, along with the two YURA Co-Presidents. A full report on the conference appears later in this newsletter but from all accounts, it was a resounding success.

The Association once again supported the York Youth Connection Summer Day Camp now in its 35th year. YURA's donation subsidized the fees of six low-income children and youth from the Black Creek community so they could attend the camp. Included in camp activities were swimming and water safety lessons at the Tait pool – a

welcome respite from the heat and humidity this summer.

On September 2, YURA members enjoyed the outstanding performance of Christopher Plummer in *The Tempest* at Stratford.. Included in the trip was a delicious meal at the Queen's Inn. On October 19, members are going to the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake to see Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. This trip includes a delightful luncheon at The Prince of Wales Hotel. Thanks to Pearl Darlington and the rest of the theatre group for their efforts in organizing these events.

A revision of the YURA brochure was undertaken by Ken Thomson. Last revised in June 2007, the updated version in April this year contained some colorful photos including a shot of the bake sale from the 2009 Showcase. Plans are already underway for the YURA Showcase event, scheduled for November 25. This year's organizers are Marilyn Cartmill and Noel Corbett.

Message (cont'd)

Once again, there will be a bake sale, a number of exciting items from vendors and attic treasures.

An intriguing item on the agenda for our Annual General Meeting, planned for October 29, is a revision of the Constitution undertaken by Ken Thomson, Paula Freeman, Mildred Theobalds and Albert Tucker. These changes are intended to provide the membership with a larger role in the governance of our organization. Still under investigation are the following: entitlement of retirees to York email addresses; complementary athletic membership; access to a York identification card.

We have to bid farewell to Susan Lanoue who has resigned as the treasurer of YURA. Susan has been a very dedicated and meticulous treasurer filing reports from British Columbia while wintering there. Back in Collingwood now, she is taking time to enjoy her family. Thank you again for all your work Susan.

As always, we want to thank the volunteers who will be working in the YURA office for another year. We also want to acknowledge the support of Catherine Frederico and How Chee Un of the Retirement Planning Centre.

-Sandra Pyke & Janet Rowe

Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday, October 29, 2010

Place: the Underground Restaurant in the Student Centre

YURA members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting will be held Friday, October 29 at 1:15 p.m., preceded by a buffet luncheon. (Reservations are required for lunch.)

The lunch (served at noon) will be a hot and cold buffet including coffee/tea and dessert. Wine and beer will be available at the cash bar. The subsidized cost to members is \$15; guests and friends pay \$25.

Parking passes will be issued at the Registration Desk in the restaurant to those members who require them. The full agenda together with registration information for the luncheon is enclosed with this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you on October 29.

Welcome to New Members

YURA is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Gisela Argyle, Jean Baron, Sterling Beckwith, MacDonald Bourne, Karen Bowes-Sewell, William Bruce, John Crozier, Myriam De Bie Waller, Barbara Dodge, Helmar Drost, Elizabeth Fry, Margo Gewurtz, Joan Gibson, Femida Handy, Svatava Hermanek, Neye Jainudeen, Judith Katz, David Leedes, Robert McKendry, Pamela Montoute, Patricia Murray, Germaine Quintas, Hollis Rinehart, Elizabeth Sabiston, David Shugarman, Meena Singh, Wakabayashi Tadashi, Eric Willis, Margarete Wolfram, Harold Zaplacinski, Hannah Zasada, Fred Zemans, Joyce Zemans.

CURAC at York

As you know YURA hosted the CURAC annual conference in May. This conference invited representatives from across Canada to discuss the needs of retired members of the university and colleges community. Our conference committee was comprised of members from YURA, ARFL (Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians) and OCRA (Ontario Colleges Retirees Association).

Nancy Accinelli initially envisioned York as a host for the conference, and pressed us all into service once CURAC accepted our offer. After her tragic passing we worked especially hard to ensure that York was showcased at its best. This wouldn't have been possible without Sandra Pyke who was a pillar and as chair of the committee kept us focused and organized. We met regularly and were able to put together a very impressive three-day program.

Arranging a conference was new to most of us. But each time we reached what seemed to be an impasse, someone on the committee knew just the right contact or possessed the right skill set to keep us moving ahead. Paula Freeman enlisted William Found to play the keyboard for our opening reception, and Free Play Duo, Suba Sankaran and Dylan Bel to play for the banquet. Our former president, Albert Tucker arranged translation of the program (many thanks to Jane Couchman) and went to a great deal of trouble to secure simultaneous translation for all the sessions.

Joan Cunnington, a Seneca retiree from ORCA and an officer of CURAC served

on our committee and was able to orchestrate a Seneca-sponsored luncheon, followed by a tour of Seneca. Then Steven Quinlan, retired Seneca president, gave a presentation entitled: "How [Seneca@York](#) was developed and built." It gave delegates a peek at the college community within York.

The York community was wonderful! Every office we contacted was cooperative; we received the best of service. Sandra and I met with President Shouki and he agreed to tape an opening welcome. When we asked for financial support the president graciously directed us to Gary Brewer, the Vice President, Finance. Gary generously provided funding and free parking for the delegates as well as an official welcome.

By May 18, sixty-eight delegates had registered from across Canada, the largest CURAC conference yet. The majority of the conference was held in the TEL building which has session rooms equipped with all the technical paraphernalia one could wish for. We used the foyer for registration, and both the opening and closing receptions. Without Gene Denzel's knowledge of the technical equipment in TEL, we would not have been able to understand or meet the needs of our presenters.

The YURA volunteers were terrific; they manned the registration desk, directed the delegates around the campus and helped fill all the gaps. Thank you to Ken Thomson, Pearl Darlington, Marilyn Cartmill, Charlene Denzel, Ulla Purdye, Catherine Ng, Mildred Theobalds, Ellen Maclean and Iryna Ostapchuk.

CURAC (cont'd)

Catherine Frederico and How Chee Un of the Retirement Planning Centre supported us from the beginning of the process.

The program committee led by Alex Murray produced an impressive line-up of informative sessions that included Harry Arthurs, retired York President and Steve Quinlan. When our first presenter failed to show, Alex took to the podium and prompted an open discussion on the topic of ageism. In the end the delegates felt an open discussion during the first session was very useful. Well done Alex!

Harry Arthurs our keynote speaker addressed the recommendations in his report "A Fine Balance: Safe Pensions, Affordable Plans, Fair Rules." He filled our session room beyond its maximum capacity.

The weather was wonderful, clear and sunny but not too hot. This allowed the delegates to enjoy the outdoor patio at Michelangelo's (the basement of Atkinson) for the pre-banquet reception. The committee wondered if this was the best venue for our banquet but it proved to be perfect. Roger Heeler, a committee member and our financial watchdog, chose a quality wine for our banquet that went perfectly with the prime rib dinner.

Although it was an incredible amount of work, the conference was highly successful and brought Nancy's dream to fruition. She would have been both pleased and proud.

The University of Regina will host the conference next year; we wish them every success.

-Janet Rowe

Decision of Financial Services Tribunal

The Financial Services Tribunal heard an appeal by YUFA regarding the concept of a "shadow pension" in the way yearly increments to pensions from the York Pension Plan were being calculated by the university. The tribunal has now handed down its decision.

It found that there was a difference between "pension payable" and "pension paid." As a result, the University was entitled to continue to calculate the pension payable (even though it was not being paid) and only increasing the pension paid when the pension payable exceeded the previous year's pension paid.

This means that the shadow pension will continue and York pensioners are unlikely to get an increase to their existing pensions in the foreseeable future.

There are still a couple of items in dispute:

(i) Mid-Year Retirees. There is a dispute between the parties as to the adjustment mechanism for the initial pension for mid-year retirees in the year after retirement. This is important when the Pension Fund returns are positive in the year of retirement but the four-year average adjustment factor is negative.

Decision (cont'd)

(ii) Misrepresentation. YUFA asserts that even if the University interpreted the plan correctly, it misrepresented the terms of the plan to members considering early retirement in 2002.

These would only affect a small number of current retirees. At this point it is not clear if or when these items will be dealt with.

-Al Stauffer

11th Annual Showcase and Sale

Date: Thursday, November 25, 2010
Place: East Beat Pit and Central Square Corridor in the Ross Building

The 2010 YURA Showcase and Sale returns to York University's Keele Campus for another great year on November 25th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This annual event will include the ever-popular bake table.



You are encouraged to dust off your oven mitts and get out your treasured recipes. All offerings of home-baked pies, pastries, cookies, cakes, squares, muffins and preserves are very welcome. Be sure to include your name and the list of ingredients with your creation (required by York Food Services Office). Please note that items requiring refrigeration (whipped cream and cheesecakes, for example) and those containing raw eggs, meats and sausages **cannot be included** in the sale, in keeping with the guidelines for bake sales held on campus. Kindly bring all contributions to the YURA Office on the morning of the sale.



Do you have too many things in too small a space? Or gifts you received but have never used? Our Attic Treasures table will welcome your "re-giftable" items. Of particular interest are: jewellery, trinket and jewellery boxes, pictures, picture frames, pottery, china, candle sticks, lamps, linens, knick-knacks and antiques. Toys are always a hit as are dolls, stuffed animals, games, unopened puzzles and books for children and adults. All items can be brought to the YURA Office from Monday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 24 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Showcase (cont'd)

Would you like to be involved in Showcase? Helpers are needed to sort and price attic treasure donations prior to Showcase and to work at the tables on the day of the Sale. Any questions, contact me at: cartmim@yorku.ca or (905) 727-3337.

YURA thanks you for your support.

-Marilyn Cartmill

Appeal for the Mature Student Bursary and William W. Small Award

YURA endows two awards for York undergraduates: the Mature Student Bursary and the William W. Small Award. Unfortunately, diminishing incomes from these funds means that now YURA cannot award deserving students.

Therefore we are asking YURA members to contribute whatever they can in order to increase both these endowments. Donations to both the Mature Student Bursary and the William W. Small Award can be made through the York University Foundation in the West Office Building.

-Iryna Ostapchuk

The YURA Team

I would like to applaud the YURA volunteers who work behind the scenes to ensure that our members' queries are responded to, that activities take place as planned and that retirees are informed about YURA and university events.

Pearl Darlington is in the YURA office one day a week and additionally puts in many hours at home arranging the theatre trips to Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake. She is the friendly voice reminding theatregoers to book and pay for their tickets, and where and when to meet the bus.

Without the involvement of Rosemarie Neilson, we would miss out on delicious meals at new restaurants and fun events at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club. Guided by experts David Homer and Gene Denzel, we have had the opportunity to observe, up close and personal, some of Ontario's birdlife.

Marilyn Cartmill and Noel Corbett continue to expand and improve the YURA Showcase which has become a money-making proposition. We are grateful to Noel who encourages the participation of more vendors, adding to the attractions offered at this event. In addition, Marilyn is also the new YURA treasurer.

The YURA secretary, Mildred Theobalds, (a position she has held for nine years) manages the YURA office two days a week and also functions as our informal YURA archivist. Another multi-tasker Ulla Purdye turns her hand to whatever the association needs from stuffing envelopes, to updating the website to initiating a tribute for Nancy Accinelli.

Michele Young posts the latest news on our website while our newsletter editor, Iryna Ostapchuk has the responsibility of collecting and editing articles for the *YURA Newsletter*. Barbara Rowe, now recovered from two broken wrists, is on call when we need her.

YURA team (cont'd)

And, of course, How Chee Un and Catherine Federico are on site to give us a helpful hand as needed. Members of the executive also provide other services for YURA from representing us on other agencies and boards to redrafting the constitution. YURA is the beneficiary of the generous commitment of your talents and time.

-Sandra Pyke

New Program from the York Circle

On September 26, the York Circle launches its 2000/11 Prestigious Performances Series. It features the world's most prestigious performing arts companies on screen at the University's state-of-art Price Family Cinema. The performances will be enlivened by commentary by York's leading faculty

The first performance features: Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, on September 26 at 2 p.m. Join Professor Mark Wilson, Faculty of Fine Arts before the screening as he explores how actors bring a Shakespearean character to life onstage. You can do some homework in advance, by visiting the website <http://globe-education.org/discovery-space/plays/as-you-like-it-2009> to read four blogs by actors in the production.

The series continues with: The Music of Ray Charles - November 21, 2010 at 2 p.m. Willie Nelson and Wynton Marsalis play the music of Ray Charles, with a special appearance by Norah Jones. The concert was recorded before a live audience at Lincoln Centre

(New York). Commentary by Professor Ron Westray, Faculty of Fine Arts.

Romeo and Juliet - February 6, 2011 at 2 p.m. This play was performed before a live audience at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (London). Commentary by Professor Deanne Williams, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies.

La Bohème - April 10, 2011 at 2 p.m. The Puccini opera was performed before a live audience at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (London). Under the guidance of Professor Catherine Robbin, commentary by Diana Di Mauro and Vanessa Lanch.

York Circle Members - \$15.95 plus HST (you can become a Member when purchasing tickets). General Admission - \$21.95 plus HST. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.theyorkcircle.ca or Mihaela at 416-736-5020.

In Memoriam

The Department of Human Resources has received word of the passing of the following York retirees.



Nancy Accinelli, November 1, 2009

In Memoriam cont'd

Mary Baker, February 15, 2010
Ruth Blackhall, April 30, 2010
Helen Brown, May 20, 2010
Hilda Busch, January 20, 2010
Anne Cannon, January 22, 2010
Eli Comay, August 2, 2010
Jacques Cotnam, June 5, 2010
Magdalene Davey, May 20, 2010
Michael Dillon, October 7, 2009
Jerome Durlak, May 21, 2010
Anthony Flew, April 8, 2010
Howard Flock, October 3, 2009
Filippo Giancola, April 14, 2010
Barbara Godard, June 24, 2010
Rudolph Grant, June 14, 2010
Bernard Gutsell, March 4, 2010
James Hopson, March 3, 2010
Lorna Irwin, October 30, 2009
Harold Kaplan, July 30, 2010
Pearl Kroll, October 26, 2009
Christian Lenhardt, February 9, 2010
Hector Massey, January 24, 2010
Frederick Read, June 25, 2010
Marian Regan, April 17, 2010
Albert Robinson, March 26, 2010
Rosa Scarcelli, June 15, 2010
Arthur Siegel, April 7, 2010
Florence Smith, August 13, 2010
Frank Spearing, April 12, 2010
Robin Wood, December 18, 2009
Dorothea Wright, July 31, 2010
Lois Yallop, February 25, 2010
Frank Zingrone, December 13, 2010

YURA Executive

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YURA Office Hours

Monday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The *YURA Newsletter* is published by the York University Retirees Association. Iryna Ostapchuk, editor.

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