



A newsletter for members of the York University Retirees Association No. 17 May 2011

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Message from the YURA Co-Presidents

The last issue of the *Newsletter* (September, 2010) involved the introduction of a new feature – colour photographs. In this issue, we have taken the upgrading one step further with a new masthead. Suggestions for enhancing the attractiveness of the *Newsletter* are welcome especially if accompanied with an offer to work on the publication.

Since October, the organization has been active with a trip to the Shaw Festival to see Oscar Wilde’s *An Ideal Husband* - an outing thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. On May 5 this year we returned to Niagara-on-the-Lake for a performance of *My Fair Lady* along with a shopping spree and lunch at the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Many thanks to Pearl Darlington and the theatre group for their work in organizing these events and welcome to Anne-Marie who will be taking over from Pearl in the future.

In October YURA held its annual general meeting. A number of new officers joined the Executive: Janet Rowe as Co-President, Marilyn Cartmill as Treasurer, and Gwyn Buck as Secretary. We gratefully acknowledged the outstanding contributions of Susan Lanoue (past Treasurer) and Mildred Theobalds (past Secretary) at this time. The revised constitution passed – much to Ken Thomson’s relief. Members were very pleased to hear from York student Michael Kenny who received the William W. Small award.

Message (Cont'd)

President Emerita Lorna Marsden also attended the meeting and described the York Circle program.

In November we mounted the successful 2010 Showcase which included the attic treasures sale, the sale of items produced by artisans and artists as well as home-made baked goods. We also had an information table with a display of YURA artifacts. Approximately 50 individuals participated in Showcase and proceeds amounted to almost \$1,500. The money was donated to the two student bursaries which were initiated and continue to be supported by YURA and its members.

The annual CURAC conference was held in Regina this year from May 11-13 and attended by both co-presidents. A fascinating program was prepared on the theme of "Keeping Up". Presentations covered topics such as the aging brain, brain gymnastics, saving medicare, revisiting pensions, first nations education, threats to democracy and the sharing of association best practices. Senator Pamela Wallin was invited to be the distinguished speaker at the banquet.

A new YURA pilot project, Person-To Person has been initiated by Anne-Marie Ambert. It has already proven to be quite popular and is described elsewhere in the *Newsletter*.

As always, thanks to Catherine Federico and How Chee Un at the Retirement Planning Centre and all those who continue to make significant contributions to the success of YURA.

-Sandra Pyke & Janet Rowe

Jack Saywell

Jack Saywell died on April 20. No one played a more important role in shaping York in its formative years. His primary concern at the outset, as Dean of Arts and Science, was to build a faculty that could create an outstanding undergraduate program that would permit the creation of innovative interdisciplinary programs. He saw graduate studies as a natural outgrowth.

What was striking in the Saywell era was the air of excitement, and the feeling that anything was possible. Both staff and faculty members sensed this and saw themselves as part of a new kind of institution with a remarkably gifted leader in Jack Saywell. It was a period when funding was generous; there was even an occasion when a senior member of the administration complained that Saywell had failed to spend his whole budget!

Jack played a key role in the development of the Faculty of Fine Arts and in shaping the program for a new Faculty of Education. He was a friend of Atkinson College and supported the establishment of Osgoode Law School. His role as academic leader made him a natural choice to succeed Murray Ross as President. But a Board-Senate split made that outcome impossible. Upon completion of his term as Dean of Arts, Jack became Director of York's Kenya project (1974 to 1980). He was also a Visiting Professor in Japan from 1979-81. His last assignment at York – a time of great satisfaction for him – was as Director of the Graduate Program in History from 1987 to 1998.

His publications in Canadian history were numerous and included high school texts. Scholarly works included a biography of Mitchell Hepburn, and a constitutional study, *The Lawmakers: Judicial Power and the Shaping of Canadian Federalism* (2002). This work won the John Dafoe Prize for distinguished writing on Canada. He was also editor of *The Canadian Historical Review* (1957-63) and *The Canadian Annual Review* (1960-79). In 2008 he published *Someone to Teach Them: York and the Great University Explosion 1960-73*.

Jack's contribution to York deserves full recognition. There is no question of that for the graduate students that he supervised, nor for the staff and faculty who were his close friends when York was an exciting new project, open to many students who were the first members of their families to have the opportunity of a university education.

-**Michael Creal**

Upcoming YURA Events

September 20 - Theatre trip to Stratford for Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming* starring Brian Dennehy

October 28 - Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

November 22 - Showcase and Sale (Contributions are needed for the attic treasures table so start looking around for items you no longer have a use for.)

2010 Scotiabank Run

On September 26, 2010, it was a privilege to be able to walk on a

glorious, sunny early fall day amongst colleagues, friends and thousands of others raising money for a variety of charities. Our York University team was raising money for students in distress who are registered with Counselling & Disability Services (CDS). All donations received matched funding which was put into a perpetual annual bursary.

The larger this grows, the more money CDS will be able to award annually to students in need. This is why we want you to join us for the Scotiabank Charity Event on October 16, 2011. Get out those running shoes and participate in a fun-filled day for a great cause! October may seem like a long way off but it will be here sooner than you think. You don't need to run or even walk fast to participate. Just come out with the intention of having fun and enjoying the experience of exercising with friends with the added bonus of contributing to a worthwhile cause. We hope you will join us for this event on October 16, 2011.

-**Jayne Greene-Black**

Counselling and Disability Services

YURA introduces a new service: Person-to-Person

Person-to-Person (PTP) is a new YURA service. Its purpose is to allow members to obtain and offer useful and practical information. For instance, a member looking for a service such as home care or a home renovation contractor may post a note to PTP to ask other members for recommendations or suggestions. Or a YURA member may know of something very useful and want to share it with others.

PTP (cont'd)

To communicate a request or information, send a brief note to ambert@yorku.ca I send these notes to the YURA Office at the end of the month and they will be posted on the YURA listserv. Members may answer the message directly (with a copy to me) or if the request is anonymous, the response should be sent to me and I will pass it along to the person who initiated the inquiry. YURA's Executive has agreed to implement this service for one year as a pilot project. If this project is useful, it will be extended to members who are not online. Please do not send me urgent requests because I am frequently away.

Let's start with two examples. Can anyone recommend a house cleaning service or person to clean my place every third week? It has to be someone who works in North York. I would prefer one person at a time. Please answer me directly: ambert@yorku.ca I also want to share with you the best and most useful book I have ever read about caregivers. Published last year it is called *Passages in Caregiving* by Gail Sheehy.

-Anne-Marie Ambert

YURA Executive

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

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