



A newsletter for members of the York University Retirees Association

Winter 2012

No. 19

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Message from the YURA Co-Presidents

We’d like to begin by wishing a Happy New Year to all our members. 2011 was a good year for YURA and we hope that 2012 will bring more of the same. It is a pleasure to welcome new members to

the Executive Committee: Clifford Jansen, Billie Mullick, Noli Swatman, Michele Young, and your newest co-president. Former members of the Executive Committee whose terms have concluded and who deserve our sincere

thanks are: Albert Tucker (Past-President) and Ken Thomson who have played crucial roles in the development and consolidation of YURA over many years, Susan Lanoue and Cathy Ng, both former treasurers, and Iryna Ostapchuk who edited the newsletter. YURA has been the beneficiary of the care and attention of these individuals and we salute them for their dedication.

We have a new newsletter editor, Anne-Marie Ambert, and a new co-ordinator of theatre outings, Ulla Purdye. We're most fortunate to have them assume these positions. Although Sandra Pyke remains on the Executive Committee in her new role as Past President, we want to acknowledge the excellent work she did as co-president.

Our annual general meeting was held on October 28, 2011. New executive committee members were elected, a new co-president acclaimed, reports were made on various activities, among them: relations with ARFL (Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians), the Monahan Committee's discussion of possible post-retirement volunteer involvement in ongoing university functions, and YURA's continuing support of two student bursaries. There were reports on the Pension Board of Trustees and the Retirement Planning Centre. Motions were passed to enhance relations with ARFL and to make quorum at the annual meeting 10% of the current membership but not fewer than 40 members.

Our annual Showcase fund-raiser was held on November 22 and it was, as usual, a success thanks to the organizing expertise of Noel Corbett and Marilyn Cartmill. Business was brisk at the bake

and "Attic Treasures" tables, and the other vendors attracted a great deal of interest. A total of \$1,462.82 was raised which will go toward support of two student bursaries. Great thanks to Noel and Marilyn and all their volunteers for the hours spent in preparing for this day.

On an administrative note, we apologize for the delay in processing memberships. The issue of parking vouchers for YURA members was the reason for the delay and it has been resolved.

We continue to work on several initiatives: retirees' e-mail access, the York card, and communications.

If you have any concerns, questions, suggestions, please send them to us at: yura@yorku.ca

- **John Lennox & Janet Rowe**

A Note from the New Editor

I want to thank the outgoing editor, Iryna Ostapchuk, who has done such an excellent job with this newsletter for the past three years. She has spent some time with me, as has Sandra Pyke, to teach me the ropes.

I must say that this job has been a bit of a surprise. I had thought that this would be something I might like to do in the future. So I sent a letter to Sandra Pyke and Janet Rowe to this effect—and the next day, they wrote "you are on." As I thought it was a joke, I replied, "Not so fast, ladies." And, of course, they were not amused... Unknown to me was the fact that Iryna was retiring from the job and an opening had therefore occurred... right now!

I want to thank all of those who have contributed to this issue to make it so informative.

-Anne-Marie Ambert

Welcome to New YURA Members

YURA is pleased to extend a hearty welcome to our most recent new members:

Hava Aharoni, Paul Antze, Robert Bain, Peter Costabir, Maureen Boyce, Leslie Greenberg, Monique Hochong Chan, Roger King-Choy Chan, Jamie Ferguson, Leslie Greenberg, Lynda Hurley, Paula Ironi, Marika Kemeny, Bonnie Kettel, Jennifer Lavigne, Anita Lee, Jean Levy, Albert Lotito, Lawrence Lyons, Ed Lee-Ruff, Kathleen Macdonald, Philippa Marchetti, Adele Minoli, Raymond Mougeon, Claire Newton, Donald Pelletier, Rebecca Peterson, Elsie Ramkhelawan, Harriet Rosenberg, Rudolph Ross, Roseelaine Shemtov, Linda Smith, Gerald Swanson, and Anita Valencia.

-Janet Rowe

A Report on the Retirement Planning Centre (“RPC”)

At meeting of the RPC Advisory Board on September 26, the Chair, Maura Matesic, introduced the new CUPE and CPM representatives, Dale Dahl and David Sweet, respectively.

A new item to be added to the format of the board meetings was discussed. Catherine would like to add talks about news and happenings from all groups and unions on campus regarding retirement instead of only her report of the RPC activities. This would make for a more interesting meeting. All agreed to the format change and Catherine will arrange to implement it at subsequent meetings.

The attendance at the seminars is going up. The total at the September “Choosing the right financial advisors” was 58. The joint lecture with YURA had more than 60 registrations, including a waiting list of at least half that number. There are more than a dozen workshops and seminars coming. After a discussion with the Service Canada representative, two sessions were added: CPP benefits on November 8 and OAS benefits on November 15.

Monthly hits on the RPC website are also up, and there were 91 consultations from January to August 2011. Catherine has to arrange extra days at Glendon to accommodate the number of consultation requests.

The Board also reviewed the RPC Newsletter format. Financial News will be added with an invitation to an expert to write on this subject. Catherine will also consider the topic of “Lifestyle.” Events and seminars given by the RPC will be posted and marked on the calendar section of the newsletter.

-Paula Freeman

CURAC Update

This update is abstracted from a report sent by CURAC, November 2011.

CURAC stands for College and University Retiree Associations of Canada.

The Board has received membership applications from retiree associations at two Quebec francophone universities, Laval and Université du Québec à Montréal, as well as from the University of Calgary and Montreal's Marianopolis College.

AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education), CURAC's counterpart in the U.S., joined as an Associate Member.

CURAC's Annual Conference will take place this year (2012) in Victoria from April 18 to 20, at the University of Victoria, UBC, and SFU.

"We are working with CARP and CAUT to strengthen the relationships. CARP will be continuing to engage in advocacy on behalf of seniors generally, and we may provide input for their position papers if we so desire, and if we can engage retirees with expertise in areas such as health care or pensions to assist us in formulating our position. We will be formulating ways to make it easier for retirees with the appropriate backgrounds to assist us with specific projects for limited time periods if they so desire, and we hope your Association will assist us in recruiting them."

Interested readers are referred to the CURAC website – www.curac.ca – for more detailed information on the April

18 conference. Our co-presidents and past president will be attending. Other YURA members are invited.

In Memoriam

Grace Heggie

February 12, 1933 – October 9, 2011

Grace Heggie, one of the early librarians at York University, died on October 9, 2011, at the age of 78. Grace was the original bibliographer for history, political science and geography for the York University Libraries, and was instrumental in building the collection in these areas from the inception of York University. She continued as the history bibliographer for Scott Library until her retirement.

Grace's scholarly publications included the ground breaking "Canadian Political Parties, 1867-1968: A Historical Bibliography", and, with Gordon Adshead, "An Index to Saturday night: The First Fifty Years". She co-authored several indexes to early Canadian magazines, including "Canadian Periodical Index, 1920-1937: An Author and Subject Index"; "Index to Canadian Bookman"; "The University Magazine, 1901-1920: An Annotated Index"; and "Massey's Magazine, 1896-1897: An Annotated Index". For the past number of years Grace worked with Anne McGaughey to produce an online annotated index to the Canadian Magazine (1893-1915). This index may be found in the database, "Libris Canadiana", available from the York libraries website.

Grace served for a number of years on the board of directors for the Women's Musical Club of Toronto in the position of archivist. She was responsible for preserving many valuable materials for the club, which were deposited at the Toronto Reference Library, where they are available for public access. Grace had a keen appreciation for music, both classical and jazz, and was a contributing member to the Duke Ellington Society in Toronto.

Grace had an extensive knowledge of Canadian and local history which she shared in her writings, in the classroom, and in her invaluable contribution to the York library system. She will be missed by her friends and colleagues not only because of her intellect, but also for her warm personality and enthusiasm for learning. A memorial reception for Grace was held on November 12, 2011, at which many people, including a large number from the libraries and History department of York, shared fond recollections. The flags at the Keele and Glendon campuses were lowered at half-mast on November 8th and 9th, in honour of Grace.

-Vivienne Monty & Anne McGaughey

John Priestly
1936 - October 23, 2011

John Edward Priestley, a retired professor of French literature and humanities at York who taught for more than 40 years, died Oct. 23 of cancer. He was 75.

Born in Toronto in 1936, the young Priestley earned a BA in Latin and

French, and an MA in romance languages from the University of Toronto, then a PhD in romance languages from the University of Chicago. He joined York's faculty in 1966 as a professor of French studies and humanities.

Prof. Priestley specialized in 15th-century French literature, 18th-century French philosophy and 19th-century French novels from Balzac to Proust. Over the years, the fellow of Founders College served as a senior tutor, academic adviser and program coordinator, developed undergraduate courses and served on departmental, Faculty and University committees, including Senate.

A devout Catholic, Prof. Priestley was chapel organist, lector and Eucharistic minister for the York Catholic Community and an active member of St. Wilfrid's Catholic Church.

He was father to Kevin and Jan, papa to Shane, Luke and Taylor Flynn, uncle and great uncle to many others, and leaves his sister Mary Hann and brother Dennis.

York's YFile

Sheilagh Wilkinson
1927 - November 2011

A scholar and an activist, York Professor Emerita Shelagh Wilkinson (BA '68) Professor Wilkinson was the first editor and a tireless supporter of *Canadian Woman Studies*, a journal that raised the profile of women's issues in an inclusive way, incorporating research other than scholarly or government studies as well as poetry and life-writing.

A professor of English literature at York University, Wilkinson was the founding director of York's Centre for Feminist Research and was instrumental in the creation of the [Women's Studies Bridging Program](#) at York, which has brought many women across the divide between their lives in the community and the world of academia, an example of her academic outreach and quest for social justice.

In 2009 during Fall Convocation ceremonies, York University honoured her many accomplishments with an honorary doctor of laws degree. During her convocation address, she told graduands that the most vital question for her was: How is it possible to create a more equitable world in the future?

"It's an overwhelming problem, I know, and one blanches in front of it," she said. "Each one of us, whether we're in a classroom as a teacher or in an office or a hospital, a lawyer, a counsellor, wherever it is that we find ourselves – is each one of us willing to challenge injustice and not back off? I know you are starting your professional lives in troubling and difficult times, but it is all the more reason, I believe, each one of us must be a catalyst for change."

In 1992, Prof. Wilkinson was awarded a Governor General of Canada Persons Award. Recipients of the Persons Award continue the tradition of courage, integrity and hard work which the [Famous Five of the Persons Case](#) inspired. Their effectiveness and courage has advanced the cause of equality for girls and women in significant and substantial ways that have enriched their communities.

Prof. Wilkinson was in her 84th year. She leaves her husband David, daughters

Jane and Lesley and granddaughters Emilie, Caroline, Fabienne and Gabrielle and was predeceased by son David.

A funeral service for Prof. Wilkinson was held at the Church of the Redeemer, located at 162 Bloor St. W. at Avenue Rd., on Saturday, Nov. 19. In lieu of flowers, donations to the [David Gardner Wilkinson Bursary](#) at York University would be appreciated.

-York's YFile

YURA's Person-to-Person

The online "PTP" began a year ago on a trial basis. It is a mini-newsletter that allows YURA members to obtain and offer useful and practical information from and to other members.

It is sent online to the listserv and, in 2011, had 8 issues. These covered a wide range of topics, from referrals for various services to wills, powers of attorney, adult children who help and do not help, chronic pain, travel insurance, etc., etc.

The PTP will continue to be published so long as our members offer suggestions that are helpful, kindly divulge pages of their lives that are informative and timely for us in our age brackets, or ask for information and suggestions as well as offer opinions. The PTP is yours!

-Anne-Marie Ambert

Humour Department

The Importance of Walking

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

Every time I hear the dirty word “exercise,” I wash my mouth with chocolate.

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you, at 88 years old, to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$3,000 per month.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years... just getting over the hill.

You could run this over to your friends, but just e-mail it to them...it will save you the walk!

Unknown Online Source

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