

# YURA Newsletter

No. 9, March 2006

*A newsletter for members of the York University Retirees Association*

## ***A Few Words from the YURA Office***

### **With thanks . . .**

The YURA campus office has benefited for the greater part of a decade from the warmth, dedication and hard work of two volunteer staff members, both of whom have now resigned: Pearl Kroll and Frances Bukovec.

*Frances Bukovec* retired from Glendon College and joined the volunteer office staff at YURA about 6 years ago; she worked to ensure that many programs were well supported and mailings were out on time. She joined Pearl Kroll, who early on assumed a leadership role in YURA, serving as Communications Coordinator for more than eight years after retiring from York International. To Pearl, even greater thanks are due.

*Pearl Kroll* was one of the two founders of Showcase and followed through in each of the ensuing years with spirit and hard work to bring that important activity to the campus community. She organized and supervised activities and mailings, working at least 4 days a week, year-round. Pearl's was also probably one of the first faces you saw when you joined the ranks of YURA members, and her warmth and smile have made the day for those of us who dropped by the office.

The YURA Executive wants to acknowledge both of our dedicated, long-service volunteer staff members for helping to consolidate the communications and administration of our Association.

*Many thanks, Frances.*

*Many, many thanks, Pearl!*

## **Changes in the YURA office**

Staffing arrangements for the YURA office have changed since the beginning of January, in part due to the resignations of Pearl Kroll and Frances Bukovec. Office hours when staff are available in person to respond to your calls or visits are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

New volunteers staffing the office are Pearl Darlington (Mondays) and Barbara Rowe (Tuesdays); Mildred Theobalds continues to work in the office on Mondays and Thursdays. Mildred and Nancy Accinelli are responsible for general office organization and oversight. The office voicemail is monitored daily, with responses to your questions within 24 hours during the normal work week.

## **Volunteers welcome**

Volunteers to work on special events or assist in mailings are still required; please feel free to let us know if you have a program idea and/or would like to help out in the office or on activities. And don't be surprised if you receive a call from the office management asking for your help – please say yes!

*Nancy Accinelli,  
Co-President*

## **YURA Announces Theatre Trips: *Arms and the Man, Oliver!***

YURA has announced two theatre trips for the 2006 season, with thanks to Virginia Rock, who has undertaken organization of theatre trips this year. The first will be to *Arms and the Man* at the Shaw Festival on Tuesday, April 25, and the second to the Stratford Festival production of *Oliver!* on Tuesday, October 10.

The visit to Niagara-on-the Lake will begin with browsing the attractions on the main street, followed by lunch at noon at the Prince of Wales Hotel. Lunch will be followed by George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man*, the story of a heroic young woman and her "chocolate cream soldier" – Shaw at his most appealing! Lunch will

consist of baby lettuce with herb and shallot dressing, roast chicken with garlic mashed potatoes, and seasonal vegetables, followed by cappuccino cheese-cake with orange sorbet, coffee and tea.

The price of \$97.00 per person includes deluxe motor coach transportation, browsing in Niagara-on-the-Lake, lunch at the Prince of Wales Hotel, the Shaw performance of *Arms and the Man*, all taxes, service charges, and driver's gratuity. The coach will depart from the Keele Street campus at 8:30 a.m. with estimated return at 6:30 p.m.

The deadline for reservations for *Arms and the Man* is April 3. This promises to be a popular trip, and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. For reservations, contact the YURA office by telephone at (416) 736 2100, ext. 70664, or by e-mail at [yura@yorku.ca](mailto:yura@yorku.ca).

The second theatre trip will be on Tuesday, October 10, 2006, for the Stratford Festival production of *Oliver!* based on Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. The price of \$102.00 per person will include deluxe motor coach transportation, performance of *Oliver!* at the Stratford Festival Theatre, lunch at the Elm Hurst Inn, all taxes, service charges and driver's gratuity. Additional information will follow.

## **YURA Executive**

For information about YURA, contact any of the members of the Executive Committee, or the YURA office.

### *Officers:*

Albert Tucker, Co-President

(416) 921-1887; [atucker@gl.yorku.ca](mailto:atucker@gl.yorku.ca)

Nancy Accinelli, Co-President

(416) 491-3024; [nacc@yorku.ca](mailto:nacc@yorku.ca)

Ken Thomson, Past President

(416) 241-6331; [kthomson@yorku.ca](mailto:kthomson@yorku.ca)

Mildred Theobalds, Secretary

(905) 669-0664; theobald@yorku.ca

Susan Lanoue, Treasurer

(705) 445-8135; slanou@yorku.ca

*Members at Large:*

Cynthia Dent

(416) 488-7087; cdent@yorku.ca

Michael Lanphier

(416) 961-7236; lanphier@yorku.ca

Alex Murray

(416) 924-1588; amurray@yorku.ca

Ulla Purdye

(416) 222-7384; upurdye@yorku.ca

Janet Rowe

(416) 747-7791; janet-R@rogers.com

Barbara Tryfos (newsletter editor)

(416) 494-1709; bjtryfos@yorku.ca

*Ex-Officio members:*

Catherine Ng

(416) 638-0737; ngc@yorku.ca

Mort Abramson, Pension Board of Trustees

(905) 764-7674; abramson@mathstat.yorku.ca

Al Stauffer, All University Committee on Pensions

(905) 707-7179; [stauffer@yorku.ca](mailto:stauffer@yorku.ca)

*The Executive welcomes help in carrying on the work of the Association. To volunteer, phone or e-mail the office or any of the members listed above.*

## **Report on the All University Committee on Pensions**

On February 23 the All University Committee on Pensions (AUCP) met for the first time this academic year. There were a number of important issues discussed.

The gross return on the Pension Fund was reported as 12.1 per cent for 2005. Expenses still have to be deducted from this figure which will result in a net return in the neighbourhood of 11.7 per cent. This means that the four year average return for the fund will be positive this year (about 1.5 per cent) for the first time in four years. Normally this would mean an increase to our pensions of that amount. However, if the shadow pension is taken into account then most retirees will still see no increase to their pensions.

Barry Miller, Director of Academic Employee Relations and Vice-Chair of AUCP, stated that the administration will be meeting with the various employee groups over the next few weeks to try to resolve the issue of the shadow pension in the absence of a decision by the Financial Services Commission of Ontario. YURA's position, which we communicated to the administration, is that there can be no negotiated changes to the terms of the pensions received by retirees unless agreed to by each individual retiree. We will be monitoring these discussions closely for their impact on our pensions.

There is another issue that has arisen in terms of the calculation of our pensions. Those of you who retired in 2002, 2003 or 2004 when the four year average was negative and who are not on the minimum guarantee are probably receiving a smaller pension than you should be. This is because during the recalculation of your pension that occurs in the year following your retirement, the negative four year average rate of return was applied to the amount you should be receiving. In our opinion, this is contrary to the explicit wording of the plan and should be corrected. This matter is being actively pursued with the pension office.

There was also a report on the confidentiality of personal

information held in relation to the pension plan. It does appear that some of this information resides in the United States though there seems to be little concern that this information would be used by US authorities.

*Al Stauffer*  
*YURA representative on AUCP*

## **YURA Welcomes 44 New Members**

Forty-four new retirees have joined the ranks of YURA since August 2005. YURA is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Robert Allan, Boris Bajin, Ted Bieler, Elizabeth Brendel, Heiderose Butscher, Susan Callum, Carol Capone, Elio Costa, Barrie Coukell, Jurij Darewych, Gordon Darroch, Gene Denzel, Bruce Dugelby, Jerome Durlak, Glenn Emond, Raymond Fancher, Pilar Ford, Carl Garry, John Harries, Elias Hawa, Deborah Heller, Ian Howard, Ishtiaq Khan, Clifford Leznoff, Stephen Longstaff; Norman MacMillan, Vito Mariani, Theresa McClean, Dorothy Miller, Sherma Mitchell, Christopher Nichols, Holly Pittman, Marianne Rogers, Judy Rowles, Rachel Schlesinger, Kumud Sharma, Marie-France Silver, Meena Singh, Michelle Srebrelow, Paul Stager, Paula Thomson, Shake Toukmanian, Betty Witmer, and Joyce Zemans.

## **CURAC to Review Retiree Benefits at Annual Convention**

YURA and the Association of Retired Faculty (ARF) are putting the final touches on a joint submission to CURAC, the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada, about York's non-medical retiree benefits. CURAC is surveying benefits across all its member organizations as it prepares for its annual convention.

This year's CURAC convention and Annual General Meeting will be held on the Guelph University campus, May 25-26, 2006.

CURAC has a broad mandate to help its member organizations serve the interests of their members. More than thirty college and university retiree associations across Canada belong to this national

association. Annual conventions provide an important forum for retirees from across the country to exchange information and learn from one another's experience.

This year's program will explore the theme "Retirees and Their College/University: A Positive Synergy." Some of the topics to be addressed are:

*Retirement Benefits: Non-Medical Benefits Survey Results.* Institutional services and opportunities for retirees may include services (parking, library, computing, recreation, and social); financial opportunities (earning opportunities, discount programs); education, academic and research opportunities; retiree housing; formal recognition of faculty and staff when they retire; and institutional support for retiree associations.

*Retirees as an Institutional Resource.* Although the major concerns of CURAC revolve around the welfare of retirees, retirees and retiree associations often contribute significantly to their former employer. Discussion will include examples of formal mechanisms to promote and support retirees' continuing interaction with educational institutions, and activities that involve retirees at various colleges and universities.

*Pre-retirement Preparation Programs.* Colleges and universities differ in the ways they prepare employees for retirement. Some of the best pre-retirement programs in Canadian post-secondary institutions will be discussed.

## **Gourmet Club Enthusiasts Enjoy Russian Lunch**

Nineteen YURA members enjoyed Russian food to the accompaniment of live music on Sunday, February 26. The third gathering of the YURA Gourmet Club was a lunch at the National Restaurant and Banquet Hall on Finch Avenue West.

Rosemarie Nielsen initiated the Gourmet Club and has organized all three of the events. Rosemarie thanks everyone who has turned out for them, saying their enthusiastic participation has been the magic

ingredient in making each meal a success, by adding the comradeship of colleagues to the enjoyment of good food.

While some YURA members have come to all three events, the afternoon Russian lunch also attracted some members who joined the group for the first time.

The Gourmet Club was inaugurated in June 2005 with a Chinese dinner at the Eating Garden on Baldwin Street in June. The second dinner, at the Greek restaurant Penelope's on Front Street, was held in November 2005.

The *YURA Newsletter* is published by:

York University Retirees Association

101 Central Square

York University

4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON Canada M3J 1P3

Telephone: 416-736-2100, ext. 70664

E-mail: [yura@yorku.ca](mailto:yura@yorku.ca)

Web site: <http://www.yorku.ca/yura>

## **In Memoriam**

Beatrice P. Ambarian, September 26, 2005

Gerald O. Aspinall, September 12, 2005

Michel Chevalier, January 15, 2006

Leonard Chiaromonte, October 7, 2005

Harold Clayton, May 28, 2005

Michele Colavito, July 21, 2005

Roberta Gilks, December 2, 2005

Richard Handscombe, December 24, 2005

Yameen B. Khan, October 23, 2005

Ruth Koretsky, June 17, 2005

William McGrath, May 7, 2005

Paul Medow, May 20, 2005

Nellie Minnema, May 21, 2005  
John Mole, February 5, 2005  
Jack Parish, June 16, 2005  
Audrey Robinson, August 1, 2005  
Etta Rutherford, October 3, 2005  
Ronald A. Schaufele, September 24, 2005  
Vello Sermat, September 16, 2005  
Shirley M. Sharek, March 14, 2005  
Margaret Shaw, August 3, 2005  
Allen P. Smith, March 15, 2005  
Pietro Stellato, July 25, 2005  
Arthur Taylor, July 23, 2005  
Bruna Vacchiano, April 12, 2005  
Grace Witty, June 4, 2005  
Phyllis M. Wood, August 22, 2005  
John Yolton, November 3, 2005

*YURA thanks the Department of Human Resources for assistance in providing this information.*

## **Bits & Bytes from Barbara**

This is the time of year when we think about preparing our tax returns, with all the accompanying T4s and other bits of paper.

In case you are not aware, you can access your Old Age Security (OAS) and Canada Pension Plan (CPP) tax information slips online at any time without having to wait for the April T4s to arrive in the mail. However, you will need to apply for a Personal Access Code (PAC) to log in to this online service. (Please note this code has changed and the access code printed on previous years' T4s will no longer allow you to access your CPP and OAS T4s.)

You can apply for a PAC online at the foll