

ARF Newsletter

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University

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1. The President's Column *by Peter Harries-Jones*

As we all know, this has been a lousy summer, one that is easy to forget. Yet your President, in one of those lucky quirks, took his canoeing holidays at the beginning of June and at the end of August and thus savoured every week of sunshine the summer had to offer. My hideaway, is a recently designated United Nations biosphere reserve in Ontario and on September 4th, the *Toronto Star* featured in its "National Report" a hauntingly lovely picture of two canoeists in one of my favourite spots, "The Crank" on the Ganonoque River.

Between the bliss of canoeing trips I, together with your Executive, spent considerable time on questions raised in our Spring meeting. Four members of our executive, Sylvie Arend, Alex Murray, Chester Sadowski and Bill Whitla, surveyed various departments and units of the university to see what policies were in place for e-mail services for retirees, and for listing of retirees in the appropriate York directories. They discovered that my own department, for example, had no appropriate listing of retirees and apparently has never heard of the title, Professor Emeritus! Other departments have been more meticulous, even exemplary. The

executive task force is trying to establish a policy which will correct this jumble of current arrangements. The question here is not so much lack of willingness on the part of administrators, or department heads, as one of retirees slipping through the proverbial cracks that seem to open up at retirement time.

Another task force on the Executive pursued a comparison of insurance coverage of Health and Benefits among Ontario universities. ARF members will recall that your President presented a preliminary report on this matter to members [that appeared in the *ARF Newsletter* in January, 2004 (vol. 10:2)]. This re-constructed a CAUT survey, and in so doing showed that there were distinct differences in insurance benefits among universities in Ontario. They ranged from a virtual 100% Health and Benefit coverage at a couple of Ontario universities to no retiree coverage at several others. York fell into a middle category, similar to the University of Toronto, though was less expensive. Subsequently, a more detailed comparison of these categories appeared. Cynthia Dent's meticulous work, sponsored by YURA, enabled our own executive to re-examine insurance issues university- by- university and benefit- by- benefit in order to see where we stand. We thought this was the most positive way to prepare for the next round of contract talks which YUFA will begin preparing for in the near future. Executive task force members included Arthur Haberman, Margaret Knittl, Fred Morgan, and, once again Chester Sadowski. We will publish our findings on the YUFA website about the time that you receive this *Newsletter*. The purpose of reading these findings before our next AGM is to generate a concerted response from the membership to carry forward.

The final task force has been a one-person affair. Barry Loughton has conducted a second survey of the ARF membership, this time on the academic and other administrative activities undertaken by retirees at York University. His results, included in this *Newsletter*, are amazing.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20
12-2 p.m

Founders Senior Common Room
305 Founders College

On the Agenda:

- Report on the recent survey of members on retirees' continuing work
- Annual Reports and Election of Officers: presentation of slate and nominations from the floor

Lunch provided

Retirees at York as a group, undertake a great deal of academic work; in fact they publish more frequently than almost any single university department might expect over a similar period of time. In fact, our output could be made with the academic output of some of the smaller colleges and universities in Canada, since our survey by no means covered all retirees.

Finally, as anticipated, the ending of mandatory retirement has now reached government committee stage. YUFA will not present a brief to the Ontario government; nor will ARF. As of this moment, there is much confusion among YUFA membership as to the likely effect on pensions and benefits of an end to mandatory retirement. YUFA will let the Ontario Confederation of Faculty Associations take the lead in responding to government, but consider participating in one of the OCUFA presentations. The OCUFA brief can be read on its website. CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada) to which ARF belongs also has a brief that can be found on the CURAC website. Its position is broadly in line with OCUFA and—as reported in the last Newsletter—stresses the human rights implications of an end to mandatory retirement. You can send your comments on the CURAC brief to me if you wish or save them for discussion at the AGM.

CURAC's three main points are first, that CURAC appreciates that ending mandatory retirement could erode existing rights in collective agreements. Therefore it endorses the Government's commitment to give Ontario workers the right to choose when to retire in a manner that will not undermine existing retirement entitlements to benefits and pensions.

Second, CURAC points out retirement at Ontario universities currently is not mandatory for all, as university administrators make special arrangements that enable a select few to continue their appointment on a salaried basis past age 65. University administrators in Ontario also re-hire retired faculty, on a discretionary basis, paying a stipend that is only a small fraction of previous salaries. The abolition of mandatory retirement will put an end to these ad hoc and unfair practices. Third, CURAC urges greater recognition of those faculty and staff who actually have retired but who wish to carry on academic activities or to serve their institutions in other ways by developing and circulating a code of consistent best practices for their support. One practical move would be to define more clearly Senior Scholar status at all Ontario universities. Such a move may also foster a Senior Scholar or Emeritus College similar to those that have blossomed on American campuses since the abolition of mandatory retirement at United States universities ten years ago.

2. From the Executive: Elections are Looming

ELECTIONS will be coming up at the Autumn

Annual General Meeting of ARF, and this item is advance notice that there will be some vacancies on the Executive. While many members of the Executive will be continuing we will need some new assistance, including a new President (Peter Harries-Jones will be stepping down, but will continue as Past President). Margaret Knittl, after many years of service to ARF will no longer be past president, and has earned this second retirement, though she will still be available for special projects. We also need a new Treasurer (Ian Sowton is ending his second stint at looking after our finances), Mary Williamson has represented the librarians for many years, and Arthur Haberman will be retired and so will no longer be able to serve as a Pre-Retiree member. Perhaps you would be willing to nominate an interested colleague, or to volunteer yourself. Send the names of any candidates to Peter Harries-Jones, or be prepared at the AGM to make nominations of people willing to serve.

3. An Important Notice to Recent Retirees

ACCORDING to Article 14.04 of the Collective Agreement, recent retirees should declare to their Dean and to the Associate Vice-President of Research that they wish to have the title of "Senior Scholar." Such a designation has important financial implications, in that it makes available "Professional Expenses Reimbursement" or a research account, and "Senior Scholars are eligible to apply for conference travel funds on the same basis as full-time faculty."

4. A Reprised Treasurer's Message *by Ian Sowton*

ONCE again this issue of the *ARF Newsletter* includes our annual request (the second time of asking) for membership fees. And, as usual, there has been no increase. They remain at \$25.00 per year for Retirees, and \$10.00 for Pre-Retirees. That gets you three *Newsletters* per year with useful information about our benefits, pensions, and other information for retirees. If you live in the Toronto area, you are also able to attend the two or more general meetings a year. But above all, your memberships help us to continue with our work on your behalf. Donations also are always welcome, and we always receive a number in every mailing. A number of you will recall being notified that you are already paid up for 2004–05 and so are ahead of the game. Anyone else who is still wondering whether or not you are paid up for July 2003–June 2004, can always check with me at isowton@yorku.ca, or by mail c/o YUFA, 5024 TEL Bldg, or by telephone at 416-489-9120.

5. ARF Membership Fees and Your Income Tax

ANUMBER of members of ARF have reported that they have used their ARF Membership Fees receipt in filling out their income taxes as a "Professional Fees" expense, and it has been accepted. It's certainly worth including in your next return.



6. Life Memberships

from the Executive

IS there any interest amongst the membership about paying a one-shot amount for a life membership? We have given some consideration to what the cost might be, and hope to bring a proposal forward to the Annual General Meeting. □



7. Digest of the Recent Survey of the Membership on Retirees' Association with York University

by Barry Loughton

SOME 360 questionnaires were sent out to the Membership, and 77 people replied, a reasonable response according to people who conduct such surveys. Two respondents retired in the 'seventies, six in the eighties, 41 in the 'nineties, and 26 in the new century. About half visit York regularly, have taught undergraduates since retiring, and have continued to attend professional meetings and are active in professional societies, and are identified as associated with York. About ¼ taught graduate courses, supervised graduate students, and served on graduate committees. The group as a whole has been very active in scholarly and creative work, having published a total of 46 books, many chapters in books, and 250 articles. Others made films, or mounted exhibitions, and in all of these activities the "author" was identified as being from York University.

Retirees were also active in giving public lectures at meetings, workshops, seminars, TV interviews, poetry readings, performances, and presentations to government groups in Canada and internationally. Many also spoke to other institutions and gave lectures in High Schools.

Some 53 of the respondents have single or shared office space at York, and over ¾ use York e-mail. On the other hand, only 1/3 of these productive and professionally active members of York's extended community are listed on York's e-mail directory.

Retirees listed a number of factors that would encourage more participation in university affairs, including parking, funds for attending professional meetings (as an aside here, we note the provisions of Article 14.04 of the Collective Agreement), and extending PEA beyond 6 years after retirement. Retirees also suggested that they might be prepared to continue to work for the University through high-school liaison, by organizing exhibitions or events, offering advice on designing web pages, and serve as advisors on departmental or other committees.

It is clear from the survey, even acknowledging that the respondents represent a high proportion of those most involved with York, that Retirees continue to contribute in a significant way to the academic community at York by continued service to the Faculty of

Graduate Studies and by teaching undergraduates, providing proven academic quality either "pro bono" or at very much reduced cost and allowing departments and programmes to offer a wider variety of supervision and range of courses than they could afford without such help. But more generally retirees contribute to the scholarly, scientific, and creative life of Canada. As they do so, they enhance the image of the university and extend its recognition in all parts of the world by publishing in international and national journals, writing books, giving performances and exhibitions, and making presentations to Canadian and foreign government agencies and institutions. In all of these cases, York University appeared as the "home base" of the "author." Since many of these authors are international figures, the university's reputation is bruited abroad and enhanced every time they appear in print.

Many respondents commented that the Administration should recognize ARF and grant it official status as a responsible and active organization of long-service faculty and librarians, many continuing to represent York University in scholarly and creative presentations and publications. As well they suggested that York University, like some other universities in Ontario, should find ways to recognize the presence of and enhance the work of such a body of teachers and librarians. □



8. Some Web Sites that might be of Interest to Members

by Sylvie Arend

1. Centre for Aging at the University of Victoria
www.coag.uvic.ca

If you click on research, you will find some material on various aspects of health of interest to seniors.

2. National Advisory Council on Aging
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/seniors-aines/naca/index.htm

NACA is part of the Ministry of Health and states that it wants to hear from you and to listen to your concerns and issues. NACA reviews the needs of seniors and recommends remedial action. On its website, there are interesting publications and press releases (such as on home care for seniors).

3. Canadian Association of Retired Persons
www.fifty-plus.net

This website presents articles on health, being a grandparent, money matters, and government policies affecting seniors. You don't need to be a Fifty-Plus member to have access to this information.

4. American Association of Retired Persons
www.aarp.org

This webpage gives a wealth of information, among others about health issues and research, wellness, travel for seniors, even cooking for two seniors, and greeting cards. It even allows you to play online a jigsaw puzzle. Click on research and you have

access to news and publications about health that interesting to seniors.

- 5. BC Center of Excellence for Women's Health www.BCCEWH.bc.ca

The mission of this Centre is to improve the health of women who are marginalized and who face multiple disadvantages in health due to socio-economic status, race, culture, age, sexual orientation, etc.. Senior women does not seem to be the focus of most of their publications. However, some of the links provided by this website may be of interest to senior women.

- 6. For those looking for work, as noted in the Toronto Globe and Mail <http://Retiredworker.ca>

You have to register to get more information, therefore I limit my recommendation to the fact that it was featured in the Globe and Mail. □



9. OTIP and other Extended Health and Travel Benefits

MARSHA Morley, a representative of OTIP (Ontario Teachers' Insurance Plan) presented information about her company's plan which Retirees from York can join before their 70th birthday to obtain medical, dental, and travel coverage beyond York's Plan. For full information about the basic and other plans, see www.otip.com/content/retirees/rtip_en.asp

The Executive is preparing a document with further information on this plan and other plans of possible interest to York Retirees. It will be available before the Annual General Meeting on the YUFA/ARF website. □



10. CURAC Information Update by Ken Rea of CURAC

The US-based Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) has a redesigned and updated webpage you might be interested in looking at. It is found at www.arohe.org/ In the first issue of their online newsletter (you can access it on the website), Eugene Bianchi, President of AROHE, writes, with reference to the burgeoning of retiree organizations at post-secondary institutions, that, "Administrators are coming to understand that such organizations on campus help maintain a healthy spirit among faculty and staff who conclude that officials care about the wider span of their lives. This in turn stimulates an environment for giving back to the school both in services and in financial donations. For example, the very existence of an Emeritus College at Emory, my school, has directly and indirectly generated two sizeable gifts. University officials are increasingly coming to realize the truth of a motto at the University of California, Berkeley: Cal is a family; you don't retire from a family. In light of this, there is something excessively individualistic in older retirement procedures. After decades of collegial life, the retiree is turned out with few or no continuing options to stay involved with one's previous academic community. AROHE testifies that there are better ways to deal with retirement in higher education." □

The ARF Newsletter is published by the Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University (ARF). ARF is an independent organization of retired faculty and librarians of York University, and of pre-retirees who pay membership fees. Members of ARF are Associate members of YUFA and YUFA has recognized ARF as "the representative organization for retired members" of YUFA. ARF is a member of CURAC (College and University Retirees Association of Canada).



At the Annual General Meeting of October 2003, the following slate of officers was returned, including those subsequently nominated to the Executive to extend its base and representation, as the meeting agreed.



EXECUTIVE

<i>President</i>	
Peter Harries-Jones	peterhj@yorku.ca
<i>Vice-President</i>	
Alex Murray	amurray@yorku.ca
<i>Past-President</i>	
Margaret Knittl	knittl@yorku.ca
<i>Secretary</i>	
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<i>Treasurer</i>	
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William Whitla	wwhitla@yorku.ca
<i>Pre-Retiree Member</i>	
Arthur Haberman	arthurh@yorku.ca

<i>Members-at-Large</i>	
Sylvie Arend	sarend@gl.yorku.ca
Nicole Keating	nkeating@glendon.yorku.ca
Barry Loughton	loughton@yorku.ca
Chester Sadowski	chesters@yorku.ca
Mary Williamson	mfw@yorku.ca

The Editor of the Newsletter welcomes comment, letters, or items of interest to other ARF members, but reserves the right to edit any submissions. Please send them by e-mail (wwhitla@yorku.ca) or by post to ARF, c/o YUFA, 5024 TEL, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto ON M3J 1P3. Other members of the Executive may be reached by post at the same address or by e-mail.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY AND LIBRARIANS
OF YORK UNIVERSITY**

**DUES FOR 2004/05 ARE NOW RECEIVABLE.
SECOND NOTICE
PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ARF WITH YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

Please mail to:

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians, c/o YUFA
5024 TEL
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

- I wish to join ARF, to receive its mailings and support its activities
- I wish to renew my membership in ARF
- I am willing to undertake occasional work for ARF
- I am not yet a retiree, but I want to become an Associate Member of ARF

Enclosed is my cheque for the period 1 July, 2004 to 30 June, 2005.

- \$25 Regular Membership
- \$10 Associate Membership (available for pre-retirees)

Plus \$_____ as an additional contribution to help ARF
in its continuing work on behalf of York's retired Faculty and Librarians.

NAME (please print)_____

HOME ADDRESS

Street _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ Campus Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____

**ASSOCIATION DES PROFESSEURS ET BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES RETRAITÉS
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ YORK (APBR)**

**COTISATIONS 2004-2005
DEUXIÈME APPEL
DEVENEZ MEMBRE DE L'APBR OU RENOUVELEZ VOTRE ADHÉSION
VOTRE SOUTIEN EST INDISPENSABLE**

Veuil

lez envoyer votre cotisation à :

Association of retired Faculty and Librarians, a/s YUFA
5024 TEL Building
Université York
4700, avenue Keele
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

- Je désire devenir membre de l'APBR, recevoir ses bulletins et soutenir ses activités
- Je désire renouveler mon adhésion à l'APBR
- Je suis prêt(e) à participer à l'occasion aux travaux de l'APBR
- Je ne suis pas encore à la retraite, mais je veux devenir membre associé de l'APBR

Veillez trouver ci-joint mon chèque pour la période du 1er juillet 2004 au 30 juin 2005, au nom de ARF.

- 25 \$ membre titulaire
- 10 \$ membre associé

Plus _____\$ de contribution supplémentaire pour aider l'APBR à poursuivre ses travaux au nom des professeurs et bibliothécaires retraités de l'Université York.

NOM (en majuscules) _____

ADRESSE À LA MAISON

Rue _____

Ville _____ Province _____

Code postal _____ Pays _____

Téléphone (maison) _____

Téléphone (campus) _____

Courriel _____ Télécopieur _____