

YOUR VOICE

MUN PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER Vol. 5, No.1 January 2007

YOUR MUNPA NEWSLETTER

MUNPA members' interests always shape this newsletter. Last month we asked for your views about the typeface. The response was not huge but it was unanimous. Volume 5 will therefore be composed in the font you see here.

We also asked for your ideas about a distinctive and descriptive name for our pensioners' newsletter. Suggestions so far include *SENIOR MOMENTS*, *THE SCOOP*, *MUNPA NEWS* and continuing with *YOUR VOICE*. The contest remains open. Let's hear from more of you.

Finally, we asked you to help us remind the University that Memorial's pensioners are an important resource for MUN. A column called "The Resource" summarizes accomplishments of MUNPA members in retirement. We can only include them if we hear from MUNPA members at esimpson@mun.ca.

Several other ways to contact MUNPA:
Mail: MUN, Box 206, St. John's, A1C 5S7
E-mail: munpa@mun.ca
Phone: 709-737-6979

Please note that MUNPA volunteers staff these avenues of communications. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2007!**

MORE ON COMMUNICATIONS

In an effort to communicate more effectively with MUNPA members, some members of the Executive met with Kent Decker, Vice-President (Administration and Finance) on November 23 to request full access to the Association's membership list. In recent years the addresses and phone numbers of retirees have been withheld from MUNPA on grounds of privacy. We established that there are no legal impediments to sharing this information with MUNPA as long as members have a reasonable opportunity to request otherwise. We hope for an agreement with the Senior Executive Group in the near future.

BENEFITS ISSUES

LEGAL ADVICE FOR PRE-1993 RETIREES

The December newsletter noted that about 50 MUNPA members who retired prior to 1993 met with a lawyer about possible court action against the University's decision to cease their free health-care coverage. The steering group appointed in December has had further discussions with the lawyer in order to identify a lead representative. The aim was to have a statement of claim prepared by the end of 2006.

PRE-1997 SURVIVOR BENEFITS

The December newsletter also noted that MUNPA, MUNFA, CUPE and NAPE have independently sought to have benefits for pre-1997 survivor increased to the level enjoyed by later survivors. Members of MUNPA and MUNFA are discussing the possibility of a more effective common front on the issue.

THE RESOURCE

MUNPA members participate in booster clubs, lead volunteer associations, chair Senate committees, conduct Ph.D. oral examinations, publish books and contribute to the work and reputation of Memorial University in many other ways. To keep the University aware of these contributions, we often have to tell them, and you therefore have to tell us so that we can report them here.

○ Ian Mennie wrote the score for the six-hour production of *Nicholas Nickleby* at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. It occupies two CDs!

○ John Steffler, another retired Grenfell professor, has been named Parliamentary Poet Laureate.

○ Mark Schoenberg published *Thus Spake JimBog* (Charleston: Booksurge Publishing, 2006)

○ Don Steele appeared as Santa Claus during the annual Carol Sing in the Reid Theatre.

○ Roberta Buchanan published a memoir of her childhood in Africa in *A Charm against the Pain* (St. John's: Flanker Press 2006).

○ Christopher English published *Essays in the History of Canadian Law, vol. IX: Two Islands: Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006).

MEMOIR GROUP

The Memoir group meets Mondays between noon and 3:00 in Arts and Administration Rom A3014. Scheduled dates for the first few months of 2007 are January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2 and May 7. It is advisable to confirm details with Roberta Buchanan, rbuchana@mun.ca.

ADVICE FOR TRAVELLERS

One MUNPA member forwards the following advice: When traveling abroad you should beware of inconsistencies between the number of carry-on bags allowed by an airline and its airport of departure. Late last year Air Canada was allowing one bag and a second item, such as a briefcase or purse. At the same time Heathrow security was permitting only a single bag through their screening. It is also reported that the European Union will soon introduce tighter restrictions for carry-on baggage. Limits can change at short notice and considerable inconvenience can result.

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The MUNPA Executive has decided to create a sub-committee on pensions to keep expert eyes trained on the performance of the University's investment funds and other financial matters of interest to members. Volunteers with appropriate expertise are asked to contact Don Steele, who is developing the sub-committee's membership. Please call him at 687-4613.

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YOUR 2006-07 MUNPA EXECUTIVE

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