



Your Voice

MUN Pensioners Association (MUNPA) Newsletter --- Volume 9, No. 4; April, 2011; Daniel Stewart, Editor

Editorial

As can be seen in the box below, I am scheduled to give a presentation on communications technology at the next *Morning in the Garden* (April 21). I have no qualifications in this field other than experience and longevity (in 1980 a colleague and I bought what I believe was the first microcomputer in Corner Brook), so I would like to invite other MUNPA members who know something about computers and communications to come along and help me out when I get stuck.

Dan Stewart



Photo: Peter Harris

Don Cuff, left, a financial expert; and Joanne Myrick-Harris from the MUNPA Services to Members Committee.

Morning in the Garden – II

The second *Morning in the Garden*, organized by our Services to Members Committee, was very well attended. Don Cuff gave a presentation about taxes and finances for retired people. Don's *PowerPoint* slides for the presentation can be found on MUNPA's website.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
MUNPA's Annual General Meeting
will be held on June 14
at Lester Farms.
Details to follow

TWITTER-AGE?

(Hey, it's better than dotage!)

iPad? iPhone? Kindle? Blackberry? Netbook? What are the new communication technologies and what are the pros and cons of each? What device is best for your purposes? Get information on the Information Age at our next--

Morning in the Garden

Thursday, April 21st

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 am

**Location: MUN Botanical Garden
Mt. Scio Road**

Dan Stewart will walk us through the basics with information the layperson can understand. He'll speak for a few minutes around 10:30 or so and will try to answer all your questions. As usual, feel free to bring your hobbies and projects – and your latest electronic toy. Coffee and tea will be available (and cookies—thanks to your generosity last month).

MUN and MUNPA sign MOU

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed last month by MUNPA and Memorial University.

The preamble to the MOU states:

Memorial University advises its pensioners, "*Your relationship with Memorial*

does not end once you retire... Your interest, knowledge, expertise and energy are valued and there are many ways in which you can remain involved." The following memorandum of understanding between the University and the Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association (MUNPA) is designed in this spirit, intending to deepen this relationship and maximize its mutual advantages.

In general, the MOU describes how MUN will support MUNPA in our activities and how we will try to advance the mission of the University. The full text of the MOU is on the MUNPA website.

Letter from Jim Orr

I was encouraged to write to *Your Voice* after reading Abe Ross's interesting letter.

I retired in 1995. The Medical School was very patient, allowing me to keep the lab so that over the next year or so I could distribute my worldly lab goods to deserving scientists around MUN and DFO. I did two stints of about a month and a half each in universities in rather remote areas of Indonesia (Sulawesi and Irian Jaya), courtesy of CIDA and Simon Fraser University, teaching more organic chemistry all day, six days a week, to young Indonesian professors of chemistry. Quite an adventure! I kept a daily diary of it.

When Robin also retired, we moved to Ottawa. Robin was, and is, very involved in the Canadian Institute for Child Health (CICH), and had been frequently disappearing from St. John's to Ottawa to help run the organization. Ottawa was (and is) acceptable because, though it is the capital, it behaves like a small city. It may be bitterly cold in winter, but at least there's much bright winter sunshine (important to an Australian), and anyway our garage is under the house, and downtown has many underground garages, so we troglodyze. It's easy to get around; it has universities, and the natives are friendly. Going to visit our two children, Andrew in Halifax and Fiona in Toronto at least involves dry land all the way! Also it is closer to Ladyslipper, our "camp" in Maine.

In Ottawa, with the crucial help of Billie Anderson (also ex-MUN), we found a house that is close to downtown (15 min drive), to bike paths, the Rideau Canal, and very close to the Civic Hospital. The house is on three floors, which is our main form of exercise, though Robin does have a rather decorative treadmill!

So how do we spend our time? Robin is still heavily involved in the CICH, and we both go as CICH reps to relevant meetings, mostly in Toronto, sometimes Ottawa, recently Sarnia. The Archaeological Institute of America holds monthly talk/meetings; we go, and have just been on an AIA 2-week archaeological cruise around the Greek islands. We have been to Europe, the USA, and locally on trips organized by the Friends of the National Art Gallery. We go to the National Arts Centre and other more LSPU-like places for music and plays. (I know; there is NOTHING like the LSPU Hall, and nothing like the Crow's Nest!) We have joined the Dinner Dance Club of Ottawa and the Australian Wine Society.

I attend Chemistry and Linguistics seminars, mostly at the University of Ottawa. I've just stepped down as Pres. of the Ottawa Chapter of the *Sigma Xi* scientific society. We both go to the Bacon and Eggheads meetings of MPs and senior scientists in the West Block of Parliament. I go to the weekly "Friday Lunch Discussion Group" which has amazingly capable speakers such as Dallaire, Speaker Milliken of the House, Don Newman of CBC, Denis St-Onge the geologist, and many others. We did join the Harvard book club here, but after a year it ceased to function. Funny thing: we had joined a book club in Boston many years ago, and it too promptly folded. We've often wondered if it quietly re-formed and they avoided telling us! The trouble with all of this is that we hardly have time for much reading, though we always have time for *Your Voice*.

I miss our friends in St. John's, and I miss the excitement of actually DOING science, and having a lab and a group of colleagues, but it's great to have NO deadlines except those self-imposed, and no grant applications to create. There is something pleasant about looking out the window early on a snowy dark morning and watching the "below 65s" trudge to the bus stop.

Jim Orr

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