

# WAMUN Newsletter

Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland

Vol. 43, no. 2

April 2016



## ☆ OUR 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION ☆

Hello everyone!

I hope that the year has been going well for you all so far.

Can you believe that this year, 2015-2016, marks WAMUN's fiftieth anniversary? It is certainly something to celebrate. So much has changed at Memorial and in Canada since 1965. WAMUN has changed too, with new members, new interest groups and a great increase in the funding of our scholarships. Ten years ago we celebrated the fortieth anniversary with a special cake at the January Coffee Morning. This time the executive decided to celebrate with a special cake and a guest speaker at the AGM – all the more reason to attend the AGM on April 23<sup>rd</sup>!



By the time you read this, our Spring Talk with Rose Ricciardelli from MUN's Sociology department will have already taken place – I hope that you made it out and that you enjoyed it. Apart from the AGM, Rose's talk marks the end of this year's formal program, though the activities of some of the interest groups will continue into the summer, of course.

I want to extend my thanks to the other members of the executive who have worked so hard to pull everything together this past year. We are always looking for new members for the executive, so please contact any member of the current executive if you are interested or would like to nominate someone else.

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on April 23rd!

--- Kathy Simonsen

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

April 23, 2016

Junior Common Room in Gushue Hall

Doors open at 11:30. Food service starts at 12 noon.

The meeting will begin at 1:00 or shortly thereafter.

There will be a celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the meeting.

This will include a celebratory cake and reminiscences by the first president of WAMUN.

You may come just for the meeting portion of the day's events, if you prefer.

### Some Memories from 50 Years Ago



What an achievement it is for WAMUN to have lasted fifty years in a world that has seen such huge changes over the past half-century!

What was Memorial like fifty years ago when WAMUN was first established? The university had moved to the Elizabeth Avenue campus only five years before. The new campus initially consisted of four buildings: Physical Education, Science and Engineering, Arts and Administration, and the Henrietta Harvey Library.



Lord Thomson of Fleet was the Chancellor and Moses Morgan was serving as interim President between the departure of Raymond Gushue and the arrival of Lord Taylor. About 1,500 students were enrolled.

What was the world like in 1966? Joey Smallwood was the Premier of Newfoundland, Lester Pearson the Prime Minister of Canada, and Lyndon Johnson the President of the USA. The tensions of the Cold War and the Viet Nam War were in full swing. The scandal *du jour* in Ottawa was the Munsinger Affair.

Television stations had just begun to broadcast in colour. *The Sound of Music* won an Academy Award. Pop music featured the Beatles, the Supremes, the Mama's and the Papa's, Petula Clark and the Beach Boys among others. The *Star Trek* series was launched. Still in their first years were the soap operas *Coronation Street*, *General Hospital*, *Days of our Lives*, and *Another World*. The television series *Peyton Place* was scandalizing many.

We were still buying gasoline by the gallon, having not yet converted to metric. Most people were driving large, non-aerodynamic, gas guzzling cars because gasoline was cheap, about 32 cents a gallon, which was about the cost of four eggs. Though personal computers were in the development stage, we would not be able to buy an Apple or PET computer for another decade. The internet, e-mail, and cell phones were concepts, not yet realities. Could any of us have imagined how different our lives and ways of communicating would change over the next fifty years?

We can pat ourselves on the back that WAMUN has lasted this long and thrived. Today, we offer a range of lively programming and can be proud of our achievements in supporting our students through scholarships and charitable donations to the campus food bank.

--- Dorothy Milne

## Membership News

### Karin Khan and Eleanor Nesbitt-Friis

Karin and Eleanor are now both residing at the new St. John's Long Term Care Facility at 65 Newfoundland Drive. Many of you will remember them and may wish to visit them. Karin, who was a very active WAMUN member, had a brain aneurysm in 2007. Though she is now speaking again, she is confined to bed or a



wheelchair, and requires total assistance. Karin was born in Germany. She loves anything, such as conversation or music, that is related to the German language or country. Eleanor, who is a Past President of WAMUN, has had multiple sclerosis for many years. She moved from Tiffany Village to this new facility last year. Eleanor gets around in her electric wheelchair and is quite independent. She enjoys reading mysteries on her Kindle and likes going to the Cafe (open from 9 to 3 p.m. weekdays) for

coffee. Karin is on E South East, Room 621 and Eleanor is on 3 North East, Room 214. Please feel free to contact Karen Herzberg if you need any further information about visiting either Karin or Eleanor. Neither of them has any relatives in the province. They would both welcome seeing old friends again, or meeting new ones.

[Photo shows Karin on the left, Eleanor on the right. Photo taken in March 2016]

--- Karen Herzberg

## The Webpage

On the WAMUN Webpage's Home Page you can find the date and location of WAMUN events. The schedules for both special programmed events and the regular meetings of interest groups are shown there. For further details about the special events, the site's Program page provides fuller information about the topic, time and place.

Link to the Home Page: <http://www.mun.ca/wamun/index.php>

Link to the Program Page: <http://www.mun.ca/wamun/program.php>

There's a link on the Home Page to the current issue of the newsletter, and a link to the *Newsletter Archive* that allows you to view WAMUN newsletters as far back at September 2004.

Link to the Newsletter archive: <http://www.mun.ca/wamun/Newsletters.php>

Each interest group has its own webpage. On the book discussion groups' pages, the schedule of books for the year is shown, as well as lists of all the books that the group members have read. These lists go back to 1992 for fiction and to 2003 for nonfiction. The dates of visits by guest authors are also shown on these pages. The pages for the Arts Happenings, Music Interest, and Walking groups provide a record of their past activities. Photographs of the participants and places and topic visited, etc. are shown there too.

If you have not done so recently, why not explore the website and see what some of your friends and fellow members have been doing recently? -- Dorothy Milne

## Campus Food Bank

The need for contributions to the Campus Food Bank continues unabated. Donations of non-perishable food items are welcome at our social events and most interest group meetings.

While we continue to accept food items, many members now prefer to donate cash instead of food items. Thus, a money jar now appears at many of our meetings. Donations of a loonie or toonie are gratefully accepted. Grocery store gift cards are another way to donate, and all the easier if they can be obtained on points. Cash and cards are a really good way to donate, because it allows the food bank to purchase fresh staples such as bread and milk.



To date this year, approximately \$200 has been donated in the form of cash and gift card donations, in addition to the food items that continue to be gratefully received.

--- Tonya Bassler and Karen Herzberg



## New Year's Coffee Morning and Scholarship Awards

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, we gathered in the lounge of the Earth Sciences building for the annual New Year's coffee party. About thirty members turned out to enjoy a large variety of pastries, delicious coffee or tea, and pleasant conversation. The room was gaily decorated with two Christmas trees and a large Christmas wreath on the wall, as well as colored tinsel and stylized snowflakes and paper chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, put up by some previous party goers.



Three of the recipients of this year's WAMUN graduate scholarships accepted the invitation to join us. Karen Lippold carried out the formalities on our behalf. Each of the students received a certificate for their award, and gave us a brief description of the research project they are undertaking. Masters student Laura Fallon is conducting a critical review of the literature on forensic interviewing. Ph.D. student Lauranne Poharec is studying how women are portrayed in graphic novels, and Ph.D. student Elena Salogni is investigating the biology of elephant seals.



Elena Salogni



Karen Lippold and Laura Fallon



Lauranne Poharec

## FALL TALK

### Penny Gillies: *Spreading Smiles in Haiti, One Smile at a Time*

Penny Gillies spoke about the activities of the Canadian International Dental Foundation (CIDF), a charity that her husband Stewart initiated along with several other Newfoundland dentists. This charity sends teams of dentists and supporting dental health professionals to Haiti as often as several times a year. About a dozen health care workers travel together: dentists, dental assistants, hygienists, and technicians. The CIDF's first visit was in 2011, a year after the devastating earthquake. In planning to meet the needs of the Haitians, the CIDF dentists are careful to take their lead from the local people.

Penny works with her husband in a dental practice in St. John's. In January 2015, she traveled to Haiti with the CIDF team for the first time. She spoke about the great need for basic dental services in Haiti. When the team first went in 2011, there were fewer than 100 dentists working in



Haiti, serving a population greater than 10 million. She described the challenges and successes of the project to us, illustrating her presentation with photographs that showed the conditions under which the CIDF dentists work.

It was an eye opener! In some scenes, half a dozen dentists were packed into courtyards or small un-lit buildings with patients sitting tilted back on makeshift chairs. They often have to improvise to get adequate lighting and electrical supplies. Modern equipment was lacking; there were difficulties in sterilizing equipment. The hot, humid climate disables electronic equipment and even rusts stainless steel. Everywhere they went, long lines of people waited patiently in hopes of being treated by the dentists.

Part of the project involves teaching young children to brush their teeth. Many of the children have badly decayed baby teeth because they suck sugar cane as a treat. They teach the children how to brush their teeth using a large green puppet called Monsieur Caïman. As you can see from his picture, he is a lovely toy, but the children were frightened by it at first. Once over their fright, however, they learned how to brush their teeth by practising on the puppet.

The CDIF also assembles complete dental clinics with funds it raises, gifts in kind donated by dental supply companies, and cabinetry donated by local hardware stores. A carpenter in Marystown devised a



way to pack all the cabinetry and equipment into one crate, thus creating a 'clinic in a box'. The crate is flown to Haiti, where it is donated to a dentist, allowing him or her to set up a new practice. The airlines waive the cost of shipping the crates.



There was a lively discussion with several health care workers in the audience about their own similar experiences. Were any of us not surprised to learn that Ilse Hughes had once been a dentist serving in remote isolated communities in Labrador?

The CDIF is a tax-deductible charitable organization. They would welcome our support. Their work is admirable and almost every dollar raised goes directly to ease suffering in Haiti.

--- Deborah Rehner

## SPRING TALK

Dr. Rose Ricciardelli: *Serving time incrementally: experiences working with imprisoned women*

The difficulty with sharing one's experiences working with imprisoned women is that the speaker needs to be sure that her audience has an idea of what its like being in prison. Many of us have read *Orange is the New Black*, or have at least seen an episode or two of the TV show. However, the reality in Canada is both less and more horrific. Perhaps there is less violence and racism, less drama. However, as described by Dr. Rose Ricciardelli, it is at least as banal, at least as soul destroying.



She described the simple process of assigning spaces to prisoners, being careful to keep known enemies apart; spacing out gang members so they will not be harmed and will not harm others. It's like the worst sleepover ever. She described the living conditions: sharing cells, even in isolation; having a TV and Play Station One as your only entertainment; planning the short time you have out of your cell to include both exercise and phone calls home; the frustration when carefully laid plans go awry. She discussed the difference between low, medium and high security prisons and then pointed out the reality, for example in Newfoundland, where prisoners requiring all levels of security are housed in the same facility, so that all are actually living in a high security environment.



Finally, she talked a bit about training those who work in the system. She spoke of weaknesses in MUN's criminology program and the efforts currently underway to improve it.

We appreciated the way Dr. Ricciardelli structured her presentation around our questions and interests. It made for a most informative, spontaneous and enlightening talk.

--- Deborah Rehner



## INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

### Art Happenings

Our group of “visual art lovers” has seen some beautiful and intriguing works of art this year, thanks to the organizing skills of the convenors, Tonya Bassler and Olga Broomfield-Richards.

We started in October with an exciting and varied show of works by local painters at the Red Ochre Gallery. In November we were moved by an exhibit of Canadian World War I artists at The Rooms. We were surprised by the number of famous artists whose works were included. In December we were back at The Rooms for a nostalgic show of Julia Pickard’s warm and colorful paintings in an impressionistic style.



In January we got more than we bargained for. After viewing the exhibit of new art acquisitions at City Hall, we were joined by Mayor Dennis O’Keefe. You may be sure he got some questions about support of the arts from us.

In March, our outing was to The Plantation in Quidi Vidi – a little architectural gem in a gorgeous place on a gorgeous day. There we saw a number of craftsmen creating works in clay, fabrics, and prints.

On our latest outing, we saw two intriguing shows at the Craft Council at Devon House, one of pottery and the other of exquisitely fine needlework. From there we went to the Red Ochre Gallery to view an exhibit of figurative pieces.

We are always glad to welcome newcomers so do consider joining us on our excursions and for the lively tea breaks which follow. The time and place of the next monthly visit is shown on the group’s page on the WAMUN website. You can also ask to be put on our e-mail list to be notified of upcoming events.

--- Mary Chalker



<http://www.mun.ca/wamun/arts.php>

### Book Discussion Groups’ Christmas Party



On December 8<sup>th</sup>, all the members of the book groups met to enjoy their joint annual Christmas Party. It was held in the community room in Tiffany Towers, thanks to the hospitality of Julita Muzychka. There was, as usual, plenty of delicious food and pleasant conversation for all. More photos on the next page.



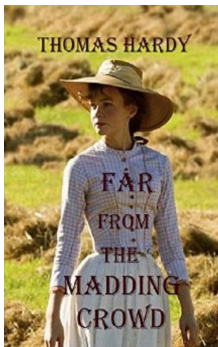




## Book Discussion -- Mostly Fiction

The Mostly Fiction Book Group has two sections. This divides a group that is a bit large for a vigorous discussion into congenial groups in which everyone has a chance to contribute. In these smaller groups, our penchant for straying from the topic is not a problem; in fact it leads to many interesting discussions. In addition, on the one occasion when weather prevented the second Tuesday section from meeting in February, they were able to join the discussion two weeks later.

Our reading has ranged widely, from *Far from the Madding Crowd* (Thomas Hardy) to *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* (Catharina Ingelman-Sunberg), both of which featured a heroine who was determined to break all the rules. We experienced the wartime lives of Marie-Laure LeBlanc in *All the Light We Cannot See* (Anthony Doerr) and Jacqueline in *The Headmasters Wager* (Vincent Lam). We also read two books by Newfoundland authors: *Sweetland* (Michael Crummey) and *Caught* (Lisa Moore) and will finish this year with *The Garden of Evening Mists* (Tan Twan Eng) and *The Girl on the Train* (Paula Hawkins).



Some of us loved the detailed view of rural life in Devon in the 1840's offered by Hardy while others found the lyrical descriptions for which this work is renowned overly long and a bit of a strain. Thus most of us indulged in a little skimming. By coincidence a wonderful film of this book was playing in the theatres at this time, which allowed us to enjoy additional rich visual details of the novel. Overall, we enjoyed reading Hardy's classic, noted for being the first major novel to have a fully rounded woman protagonist. *All the Light We Cannot See*, set during WW II, weaves together the lives of a young orphaned German radio operator and a blind French girl who is in possession of a priceless diamond. Our response to this novel was very positive. We wondered about the meanings of the various metaphors for 'light' and what was meant by 'light we cannot see'.

*The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* is a satirical romp, a tale about some seniors in present day Sweden who rebelled against life in a retirement home by embarking on a life of crime. It is an imaginative and fun read.

*The Headmaster's Wager*, set in 1960s Saigon, met a more mixed reception. The story is based, somewhat loosely, on the life of the author's grandfather. The protagonist amassed great wealth, confident that he could buy privileges and safety by paying off each set of political bosses as they came to power. For us this novel raised two key questions. Can you like a novel if the main character is someone you would dislike intensely in real life? How does one assess the morality of amassing a fortune corruptly in order to buy the safety of one's family?

We were most fortunate to discuss the novels *Sweetland* and *Caught* with their authors. What always strikes us when we meet with authors is how generous they are in taking the time to come and give us their insights. We enjoyed reading both books, and we enjoyed discussing them with Michael and Lisa tremendously.



Reading *Sweetland* was timely; resettlement continues to be a hot issue. Michael told us that the idea for the book came when he was invited to circumnavigate the island of Newfoundland with Adventure Canada; while introducing the island to tourists, he had the chance to visit outport Newfoundland, including places that had been resettled. He also shared how seeing how his father faced up to the cancer that killed him was a major influence on the book. We talked with

him about incidents in the novel that were either surreal or hallucinatory in nature and came away with an understanding of the novel that mere reading could not provide.



With Lisa we had a bit of fun talking about several drug smuggling cases that were in the news here in the late 1970's. These provided the



inspiration for *Caught*, but Lisa wrote it largely from her own imagination, taking the story in any direction she chose. She said that *Caught* is, above all, a novel about freedom and trust. Not just physical freedom, like escaping from jail, or financial freedom, which the hero thinks he'll attain after one big score, but the freedom simply to be. Since Lisa's previous novel, *February*, had been adapted for the stage and plans are underway to adapt *Caught* for TV, we had a lively discussion about how adaptation changes a work.

As we come to June 2016, we are looking forward to the books we will choose to read next year. We would love to have you join us!

--- Deborah Rehner

<http://www.mun.ca/wamun/BookGroups/fiction.php>

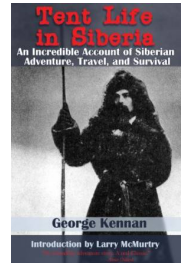
## Book Selection for 2016 - 2017

Both sections of the Mostly Fiction book discussion group will meet together to vote on the list of titles on May 10<sup>th</sup>

## Book Discussion -- Nonfiction

We often find, after voting for the books we want to read, and without any preplanning, a theme emerges. This year we have immersed ourselves in a wide variety of cultures, time periods and geography. The books have been engaging and the discussions lively. As always, as we added our own experiences to our reactions to the books, we came up with new insights and memorable journeys of our own!

In *The First Muslim* we visited the deserts and towns of 7<sup>th</sup> century Arabia and learned about Muhammad's astonishing life. In the memoir *Tent life in Siberia*, we met the people, dogs, reindeer herds, smoke-filled homes, landscapes, unspeakable cold and inescapable biting insects of Siberia as we followed the travels of George Kennan in what turned out to be a fools' errand in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.



We also explored daily life in 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain in *How to be a Victorian* by Ruth Goodman - a historical account that would make any woman thank her stars that she wasn't born in that era.

Shifting our attention to Africa, we read about life on a series of poor remote farms in Zimbabwe in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as vividly portrayed in *Let's Not go to the Dogs Tonight*, by Alexandra Fuller. Also in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the memoir *They Left Us Everything* by Canadian author Plum Johnson presented a lively portrait of an unusual family growing up in a huge house on the shore of Lake Ontario, and the struggle she later had clearing the home out after her mother's demise.

Returning to the present, we read *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters In The End* by Atul Gawande. Gawande considered the latter stages of life: where and how to live as one needs more and more help, and how to engage in crucial conversations with family members about illness and approaching death. This is a 'must read' not just for people in their fifties and older, but also for their children and grandchildren.

Also focused on the present was Steven Pinker's *A Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. This book was less a style guide than an unstuffy explanation of what works and doesn't work in today's English, with witty examples of the unintended results of grammar and punctuation mistakes.

On May 3, we will discuss *The Violinist's Thumb* and on June 7 *Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms*. On June 7, we will also vote on the books for next year's reading. Come join us!

<http://www.mun.ca/wamun/BookGroups/nonfiction.php>

--- Deborah Rehner

## Book Selection for 2016 - 2017

The Nonfiction Book Discussion Group will meet on June 7<sup>th</sup> to vote on the titles to be put on its reading list for next year.



## Coffee Mornings



What can be nicer in winter or a wet spring morning than getting together for coffee or tea and something to eat with good friends? The Coffee Morning group has gathered at a member's house for refreshments and conversation every second Tuesday morning since September. We have shared stories, offered opinions, asked each other for advice, and discussed whatever has been on our mind. Sometimes we have been serious, often we have laughed, and - most

importantly - we have supported each other. I can't think of a happier way we could have spent these mornings.

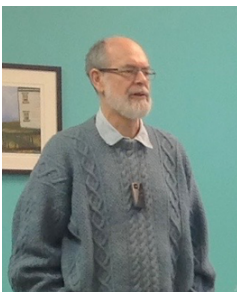
---- Ruth Noel

## E-Toys

The E Toys group has been meeting every other Thursday afternoon at the Marjorie Mews Library. Out of the forty people on the membership list, about a dozen have come fairly regularly to learn how to use Android Tablets, iPads, laptop computers, digital cameras, etc. The largest group among us is the (Apple) iPad group that explores the mysteries of the iPad and its close relatives, the iPhone and iPod. A smaller group has been interested in the capturing, e-mailing, editing and storing of photographs on iPads and laptops.



In January, E-Toys was mentioned in *The Telegram* in an article by Janice Wells. This bit of accidental publicity, plus word of mouth, has resulted in some new attendees and new members for WAMUN. We welcome new faces.



We enjoyed two special topic meetings. Both were very well attended. In November John Goold, Susan's husband, gave us a most informative talk on how to keep our electronic devices secure from being hacked and how to devise really secure passwords in a simple and easy way.

In January, Julia Mayo, the librarian at the Marjorie Mews Library, showed us all how to sign out e-books from the NL





Public Library System. Many of our members have also attended free technology classes offered at the AC Hunter Library.

No one is expected to attend every meeting; you can come when you wish and bring your current questions with you. No one is an expert and everyone has more to learn. We share an eagerness to learn by doing, and to keep learning. As technology grows and changes, we want to keep up with the new generation and not be left behind.

- - - Karen Herzberg

## Music Interest Group

This year, the Music Interest Group has been selecting the topics for its meetings month by month as the members' tastes and interests lead them. The results have been pleasantly serendipitous.

In September, we listened to a selection of the CDs that Deborah had picked out from Kjellrun Hestekin's collection. Given Kjellrun's career as a French horn player and music theory teacher, there was lots of wind music, 20<sup>th</sup> century music, and music from composers that we might never have otherwise known about. In other words there were lots of surprises.



October's topic was an exploration of music we like to work to. Since some of us like to do housework to up-tempo music, we listened to a pop song by Abba, a Scott Joplin rag, some Gypsy Jazz guitar music by the Romani-French guitarist, Django Reinhardt (who, despite his fame, was new to some of us), and to one of the lively movements of *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi. We listened to Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata as an example of music that helps to calm the mind when working in a stressful situation, and to a selection from one of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg concertos as an example of music that can help to focus and calm the mind when engaged in a difficult or complicated task.

January's topic was the composer, Jean Sibelius. We find that focusing on a composer can deepen our appreciation of the range and expressiveness of their music. We started with an impressive You Tube video of Finnish scenes accompanied by the tone poem *Finlandia* and then to other selections, many of which were meant to encourage a new national spirit among the Finnish people.



Having noted that all the composers we had considered so far had been male, we wondered what was known about music by female composers. Out came the iPads for Google searches, and a book about classical music. We discovered Ethel Smyth, a composer who was also a London suffragette. Pooling our search results, we soon compiled a list of more than sixty women composers, ranging from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thus the February meeting featured: a beautiful piece by the earliest known female composer, Kassia; compositions by Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann; and even

Maude Nugent at age 75 singing and high-stepping to her hit song "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" on the Milton Berle TV show.



In March, Krista Vincent came and spoke to us about her experiences as a musician. Before returning to Newfoundland, she spent several years composing and performing electronic music for avant-garde musical theatre and dance in the Netherlands, where her theatre group achieved considerable renown. Her type of music stretched the boundaries of our definitions of sound and patterns in music, and led to an interesting discussion.

We will continue to explore the topic of woman composers for a meeting or two more. Then, who knows? Join us and help us decide how to nourish our appreciation of music.

[http://www.mun.ca/wamun/music\\_interest.php](http://www.mun.ca/wamun/music_interest.php)

--- Deborah Rehner

## Scrabble

The WAMUN Scrabble group has had a busy year. We met at Starbucks at Chapter's every Wednesday all year with the exception of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. We regularly had 8 to 14 members come to play and so had enough places to accommodate newcomers, latecomers and early leavers. All you have to do is show up. While we take our game seriously, we play in a very relaxed atmosphere and nobody seems to remember who won at the end of the morning. Our sessions are a chance to have fun, stretch our brains and socialize.

This year we also had a good representation at the *Terra Nova Grannies* Scrabble fundraiser in early November. The Grannies hosted the Scrabble tournament in aid of women who are raising their orphaned grandchildren in Africa following the death of the children's parents from AIDS. This event raised about \$3,000, enough to help many families in Africa. Anthony Germain of CBC was the Master of Ceremonies. He pitted his luck against Lorraine Michael. They each won a game. Two of our members (P.C. and M.E.) won prizes for having the best individual scores and for having played a seven-letter word (worth 50 points on top of the letter score). On April 2, several of our members attended another Grannies Scrabble Tournament at the Lantern, and helped that charity to raise another \$1,000.



--- Susan Goold

## Walking -- Monday Group

Since last September, our walking group has met almost every Monday at 1:30 pm somewhere in the St. John's - Mount Pearl area. Usually three to eight of us met at the starting point and walked at a fairly brisk pace for one to two hours. We have walked on well-maintained trails of easy to moderate difficulty, though the trails have sometimes included a hill or two or a few rougher patches.

## Monday Walking Group, continued

We enjoyed good weather in the Fall. We enjoyed many beautiful walks.



This winter we had to cancel a couple of times due to dangerously icy conditions, but the bit of snow we got allowed us to go snowshoeing twice. Weather hasn't usually stopped us unless a blizzard was already in progress. It is surprising how often the rain or snow held off enough for us to get in at least a short walk despite the forecast. Once this year the rain was pelting down as we waited for the last person to come; as soon as she arrived, it stopped completely only to resume after we finished our walk. We are wondering which of us has the magic touch that allows this to happen so often!

If you would like to join us, ask to put your name on our members' list. An email with the details of the starting point for the following day's walk will be sent to you on Sunday afternoon or evening. Come join our merry band and enjoy the exercise and fresh air in good company. Dogs are welcome too, if they're on a leash.

--- Marjorie Evans



Photos of our weekly walks are at this URL: [http://www.mun.ca/wamun/walking\\_gp\\_photos2016A.php](http://www.mun.ca/wamun/walking_gp_photos2016A.php)

## Walking -- Saturday Group

On January 30th, the Saturday Walking group had a first -- we cancelled a walk! We looked at the weather forecast the night before and said, "The streets are icy and more rain is predicted; we won't know where it will be safe to put our feet, so we will not walk".

This may not surprise you until you realize that the Saturday Walking Group has walked almost every week since it began in 2003. For example, we walked on 30 of the past 31 weeks (since September 1 2015) including Boxing Day and January 2. We may not be the fastest walkers in town, but we are a tenacious lot.



## Saturday Walking Group, continued

Our ranks have sometimes thinned when the weather was unpleasant, but invariably at least some of our members came and walked, though heavy snow or rain sometimes drove us back to our cars and to the coffee shop before the usual hour was up.

Our walks this year have taken us as far east as the Geo Centre valley, as far west as Neil's Pond, as far north as Virginia Lake, and as far south as Bowring Park and Petty Harbour Long Pond. Other ponds we visited were Neil's Pond, Branscombe Pond, Mundy Pond, Long Pond, Kent's Pond, and Quidi Vidi Lake. We enjoyed St. John's trails and parks: Pippy Park, Bowring Park, the Mount Pearl Arboretum, Three Pond Barrens, the T'Railway, Rennie's River Trail, and the Virginia River Trail.



When the trails were icy, we walked on neighborhood streets: Canterbury Place to see the Christmas decorations; Pearson Street to 'do the Prime Ministers'; Mercers Drive to 'do the Capitals'; and London Road, with the hardiest souls taking in Kent's Pond as well. After WAMUN's New Year's Coffee Morning we went on our annual MUN campus walk, which included the traditional group photograph at the inukshuk.



We combined our walk with other Saturday events on four occasions: two Terre Neuve Grannies' Scrabble tournaments, the Climate Change walk on November 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Open House at Thimble Cottage on the O'Brien Heritage Farm property on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

We plan to go further afield once summer comes. As in past summers, we will look for some walks with ocean views and other walks that were too cold, windy or snow covered to walk in winter. The walks will soon offer views of spring flowers and ducklings. We would love to have you come and join us.

--- Deborah Rehner

Would you like to become a member or renew your membership? A Membership Form is on the next page. A Scholarship Donation Form is on page 18. Your donations to this fund at any time of year are greatly appreciated.



## Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland Membership

Do you wish your contact information to be displayed on the membership list. Personal information will not be used or disclosed for purposes other than the sharing of information between WAMUN members.

Y\_\_N\_\_

Do you wish to receive emails from WAMUN, such as notice of meetings and other items of interest.

Y\_\_N\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other contact information (optional)

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

MUN Department \_\_\_\_\_ c/o \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ \$15

Newsletter: to email address provided above (n/c) \_\_\_\_\_

to university address as above (n/c) \_\_\_\_\_

to home address (add \$5 for postage) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: (Cheques payable to **WAMUN**) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: WAMUN  
c/o Dept. Of Classics  
Memorial University  
St. John's, NL, A1C 5S7

Special Interest Groups: Indicate below any group you may be interested in attending. Visit our website at [www.mun.ca/wamun](http://www.mun.ca/wamun) for further information about our activities.

Book Discussion – Non Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

Book Discussion – Fiction (2<sup>nd</sup>. Tuesday) \_\_\_\_\_

Book Discussion – Fiction (4<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday) \_\_\_\_\_

Scrabble Group \_\_\_\_\_

Music Interest Group \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee Group \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Walking Group \_\_\_\_\_

Monday Walking Group \_\_\_\_\_

Electronic Toys \_\_\_\_\_

Arts Happenings \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for other special interest groups:

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**DONATION TO MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**  
(for the *WAMUN Scholarship Fund*)

Name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the completed form with your **CHEQUE PAYABLE TO MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**

to: Women's Association of Memorial University  
c/o Classics Department  
Memorial University  
St. John's, NL A1C 5S7

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**DO YOU CONSENT TO HAVING YOUR NAME PUBLISHED IN A LIST OF DONORS?**

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Signature:

Date:

NO, I prefer to remain anonymous. Initial here: