



Photo/Mark Graesser

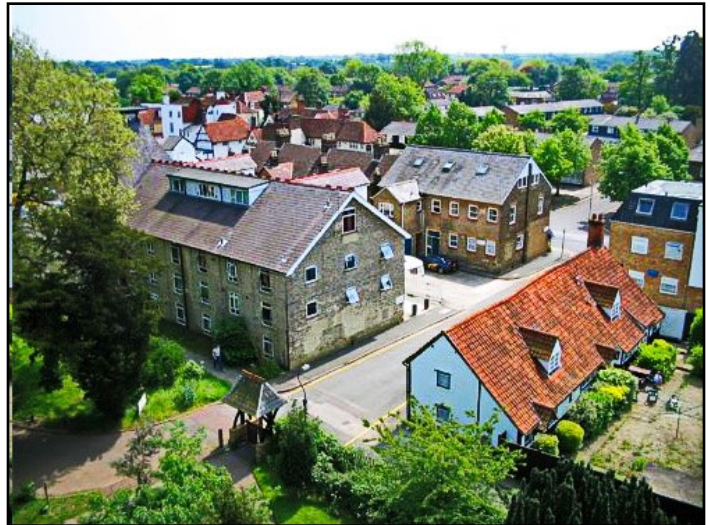
# Your Voice

MUN Pensioners' Association (MUNPA) Newsletter • Vol. 17, No. 4, Dec. 2019  
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## The Harlow Campus - Fiftieth Anniversary

By James Hiller

*In August 1969 Memorial University opened a small campus in the village of Harlow, Essex, to be housed in refurbished Victorian buildings. However, Memorial students did not arrive for several years, and then as a residential base for professional school internships. Finally, in 1978, a programme was initiated to offer credit courses for small groups within particular Arts Faculty disciplines. Professor James Hiller, History, recalls his extensive experience at Harlow over the years.*



In 1978 I was asked to take the first academic programme to the Harlow Campus in England. The campus was mainly used until that time by students from professional schools, so this was an experiment. I accepted gladly. Being English, this gave me a chance to see my family. But there was another significant factor.

I had been to boarding school at Bishop's Stortford, not far from Harlow, and had been taken to see Harlow New Town when it was first being built. I had also been a member of the school's architectural society, and I remembered well the afternoons and sometimes days that we had cycled around the surrounding countryside. So I knew the area well.

Whether this was a reason for my being asked I never found out. But that first summer, together with some 18 students, I hung on. It was all somewhat improvised. There were few books at the campus – which is in Old Harlow, as it is now called – but these were supplemented with a few more, and a more-or-less respectable programme was the result. We travelled by bus around the surrounding area and parts of London, and (I hope) enjoyed each other's company.

I was very much helped by the then manager of the campus, Mrs. Joan Lloyd, who had helped Lord Taylor develop the Harlow Industrial Health Service. It is to Taylor, of course, that Memorial owes its English campus; and because of its association with Taylor, neither of his successors as President – M.O. Morgan and L.G. Harris – took much interest in it. Indeed, they allowed a significant section of the original property to be taken back by the local council for senior citizens' housing.

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## President's Message

One of the duties of MUNPA's President is to attend Memorial's annual Celebration of Remembrance and lay a wreath of behalf of our members. The ceremony is a short but significant event that provides an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices that those who fought made on our behalf and the way in which Memorial was established.

This year's Celebration was no exception. Moderated by Dr. Gavan Watson, Director of the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, the ceremony paid tribute to thirty Memorial University College students who fought and died in World War II as well as three who served in World War I, Samuel J. Hefferton, Frances Cluett, and Tommy Ricketts and later attended Memorial University College. A teacher and educator, Samuel Hefferton was minister of education in Smallwood's first cabinet and introduced the Memorial University Act. A teacher, Frances Cluett was president of the Belloram branch of the Women's Patriotic Organization and from 1916, Volunteer Aid Detachment nurse who served in field hospitals on the front lines. Tommy Ricketts was the youngest recipient of the Victoria Cross, who went on to become a St. John's pharmacist.

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### Your Voice Editorial Team

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Memorial University College was established as a living memorial to those who died in World War I. It was a considerable effort for a poor society and one that has had a significant and, arguably, transformative, impact on it. I am proud to have been a part of that.

Space does not permit me to say what our board of directors has been up to, but I will report on that in future numbers.

**Steven Wolinetz**

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*Harlow Campus, continued*

But at least the campus was not got rid of. I went back to Harlow on at least nine further occasions, the last in 2003.

These were sometimes semester-length programmes, sometimes shorter, and often taught in conjunction with academics from other disciplines – Geography, Folklore, English, Political Science – all of whom had their own ideas about where we should go, what we should see. The architectural society was left far behind.

In 1990 I became acting coordinator for the Harlow Campus, renewed in 1993 for three years. It was not a satisfactory position in many ways, largely because administrators tended to ignore both myself and the advisory committee. Vice-President Tuinman abruptly abolished the structure (such as it was) at the end of 1995, without bothering to inform myself and the committee

This unfortunate episode did not end my connection with Harlow. I continued to teach there, and it was used by an increasing number of professional schools. The Harlow Campus Trust, which had existed from the campus's beginnings in 1968, was wound up in 2007 and replaced by a limited company with a board of directors, which runs the campus through a general manager. This structure seems to work well.

Memorial is lucky to have an English campus, and even luckier that it has continued to exist and expand.

## **Visit to Government House**

One of our fall events was a tour of Government House on October 22. The tour was conducted by senior tour guide Dianne O'Mara, and we found her to be most informative. She spoke to us of the history of the house and the people who had lived there. She talked about the building of the house almost 200 years ago, and also about numerous items currently housed there, including artwork and antique clocks. The tour included information appropriate to the Halloween period, as Dianne told us a few legends about ghosts in the house!

**Anne Sinnott**



**Back: Dianne O'Mara, Joan Hiller, Anne Sinnott, Dave Starkes, Donna Starkes, Ingrid Pardoe, Bob Helleur, Brenda Brown, Shirley Fraize, Ellen Foulkes, Sharon Rose. Front: Germaine Fisher, Peter Fisher**



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# **Memorial's Signal Hill Campus: Connecting Memorial and Community Partners in New Ways**

**By Rob Greenwood**

***We're just over a year since the grand opening of the Emera Innovation Exchange and Memorial's Signal Hill Campus. What a year it's been!***

**W**e all remember the amazing community response at our grand opening – over 4,000 people came through to see what Memorial had done with the old Battery Hotel. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Lots of time and effort went into consulting within Memorial and with community, industry and governments, and with residents in the Battery neighbourhood. This public engagement, to plan for a public engagement and innovation platform, paid dividends.

The Memorial units that moved in (the Gardiner, Genesis and Harris Centres and the Office of Public Engagement), the Strategic Operations group that runs the facility (and runs Conference Services and Events for the St. John's campus as well), MUNPA and our community partner, Business and the Arts, all love the facility. And, of course, we are into the fourth year of graduate students renting the 85 rooms – which are full and have a waiting list.

**T**he public engagement planning the development also paid dividends literally. Once Memorial moved forward with renovations, to be amortized and paid through the graduate student accommodation rentals, we were well positioned for federal funding from ACOA and the Post-secondary Strategic Infrastructure Fund, Johnson Insurance contributed funds for the atrium, and then Emera came to the table to support student innovation and entrepreneurship programming. Rather than invest their \$7 million contribution in an endowment, we invested it in our own building, in an innovative approach that generates interest for 12 years – growing the contribution – paying off the renovation “mortgage.” This freed up the graduate student accommodation rentals to generate a minimum of \$400,000 per year that is now going into student innovation and entrepreneurship programming. Every year!



**T**he whole planning, design, project management and innovative financing approach associated with Memorial's Signal Hill Campus, has been written up as a best practices case study by an Australian professor who studies innovative public engagement facility development world-wide.

The conference space and other public spaces in the Emera Innovation Exchange (which includes the offices, conference and public spaces, but does not include the student accommodations) has been a going concern since opening day. To date, there have been 32 conferences, 55 workshops and over 200 meetings and various other types of bookings including: public consultations, symposia, seminars, training and programming for the general public.

**T**o book well in advance, as conferences must, the facility requires a university partner. If there are openings in the schedule closer to the booking date, the public engagement criteria diminishes, but fees increase. We are still calibrating the business model, but the intent is

*Continued on next page.*

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## Know Your Benefits

### **MUNPA and The University Benefits Committee**

**By Bernadette Power**

Since many of you have shown interest in the “Know Your Benefits” piece that is currently a regular in **Your Voice**, I thought it a good idea to refer MUNPA members to the composition of the University Benefits Committee. The Terms of Reference are located [here](#). MUNPA has an important role on the Committee. Historically we have made significant input to benefit improvements.

[Sheila Singleton](#) is the current MUNPA representative and Anne Sinnott is the alternate. MUNPA’s interests are well represented at the committee table. MUNPA will often advocate for retirees and principal beneficiaries when it comes to health plan coverage in particular. It is so important that the concerns and what’s

important to retirees are voiced in the health plan. Retiree needs are not always obvious to those still employed (this represents many of the Committee members), therefore, the retiree representatives play a very important role on the Benefits Committee.

Presently the Benefits Committee is working on a benchmarking review that is expected to inform us on our competitiveness in our market. It will also inform our renewal recommendation next year. Whether this will mean a change in coverage remains to be seen. Stay tuned, we’ll keep you posted.

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*Signal Hill Campus, continued*

to enhance Memorial faculty, student and staff partnership activities with external stakeholders, while complementing - not competing - with the private sector. Destination St. John’s is very supportive, local hotels are benefitting from the conferences happening at the Emera Innovation Exchange, partnerships with local tourism and convention service providers are growing, bookings currently project to 2022, and we’re just getting started.

In the meantime, when the Johnson Family Foundation was looking to find a permanent steward for the Johnson Geo Centre, Memorial was the only institution they approached. Of course, we had to do our due diligence. With tight budgets and the requirement for the Signal Hill Campus development to pay for itself, we had to confirm we could operate the Geo Centre on a cost-neutral basis. There are great synergies with the Emera Innovation Exchange conference team, and we realized that the Botanical Garden, also under the Public Engagement Portfolio, has many synergies with the Geo Centre. The Garden Academic Advisory Committee is being expanded with addition-

al disciplines to include the Geo Centre. In addition, early planning has begun to realize the full potential of the Geo Centre as the anchor for a provincial science centre network, leveraging Memorial facilities, faculty, students and staff to benefit the entire province, and beyond!

It’s great having MUNPA in the building, and partnership opportunities are developing all the time. With our Signal Hill Campus, Memorial has put public engagement and innovation on a platform to encourage partnerships that advance our special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. As Dr. Kachanoski said from the outset when he articulated his vision for the facility - in one hundred years people will look up from the waterfront and say it was a great idea for Memorial to establish a location on Signal Hill. We’re well on our way to realizing that vision!

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**Dr. Rob Greenwood is Associate Vice President, Public Engagement and External Relations.**

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## Childhood in NDG

By Dorothy Milne

*Dorothy Milne, QE II Library, grew up in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood of Montreal ("NDG"). These are excerpts from a longer account of her childhood prepared for the Memoir Group.*

### The earth is round?

When I was first allowed to play outdoors, I was always in the company of my older sisters. In those early days, I tagged along as they played with their friends, who were also seven or eight years older than me. I remember none of this clearly except for an occasion when they were teasing me. Apparently, they liked to tell me whoppers to see what kind of ridiculous stories I would believe. When I swallowed one of them whole, they would laugh at me uproariously. I may not have minded this for a while, but at some point I got tired of being fooled. So, when one of them told me the earth was round, I was sure I had at last caught them at it. I accused them of lying to me. They were appalled. "Oh no," they said, "this time we're telling you the truth."



I didn't believe them. I marched indignantly into the house and told my mother that they had told me another whopper -- that the world was

round. Any fool could see it was flat. After a short pause, my mother explained to me that this time they weren't actually lying to me: the earth was round. She explained that if you had a ball, and it was very, very big, the curve would be so slight that it would look flat to someone standing on it. I am not sure that I got more of a glimmer of what she explained, but I knew one thing: if she said it was so, it had to be true. Glumly, I realized I had been fooled again, this time by the truth.

### Men wearing dresses

One day when I was tagging along with my sisters at the bottom of the lane, I saw a tall man striding down the street wearing a long black robe. I was so surprised that I called out to my sisters "Why is that man wearing a dress?" They immediately jumped on me, shushed me, and whispered, "He's a priest." I had no idea what that was, of course, but clearly it meant something you should not mention in public, or at least not at the top of your voice. He was, of course, wearing a soutane, the cassock worn by the French Catholic priests. It was quite common in other parts of Montreal in those days to see a priest wearing this attire in public. Nuns in full habit were also often seen, walking in pairs. However, they must have been a very rare sight in our Anglophone (and mostly Protestant) neighbourhood.



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## MUN Campus Food Bank Grateful for MUNPA Donations

Many MUNPA members graciously donate to the Campus Food Bank. It is sometimes inconvenient for members to hand deliver these donations due to varying circumstances. We've arranged to make it a little easier for cash donations through Human Resources (HR). Retirees of Memorial University receiving a pension through our HR department can give to the Campus Food Bank via payroll deductions. There is a paper form for this, which goes to Human Resources once completed. As the form notes, the amount given will show in the charitable donation box of your T4A. Our thanks go to those retirees who are able to support us, by donating this way or through food and cash donations through the year. If you have questions about the food bank, please contact us at [www.mun.ca/campusfoodbank/](http://www.mun.ca/campusfoodbank/)



## Food in the Fifties

by Sharon Buehler

I grew up in the midwestern U.S. in the forties and fifties. My mother had to leave nursing when she married so she was a stay at home mom. My dad was manager for a private psychiatric institution. It was one salary and not a great one; when I got my first teaching job out of college I was making more than he was.

So our meals were simple. We often had eggs for supper. Or spam (which I think gets a bad rap), tuna salad, creamed dried beef on toast, meatloaf, corn beef hash or, ick, beef liver. Sometimes just pancakes with sorghum or pancake syrup. Ham, fried chicken, beef and pork roasts were for Sunday and extended family dinners. Bacon was a given; we were in hog country. Lunch growing up was often oyster crackers and Campbell's tomato soup made with milk. Breakfast was almost always, summer and winter, oatmeal or Cream of Wheat.

Tossed salad was a late addition. Often just shredded lettuce with a store-bought thousand island or French dressing. Slaw with a cream or vinegar dressing was more usual. Mom made Waldorf salad and a salad of sliced bananas with crushed peanuts and mayonnaise. Well, not mayonnaise. I don't think we ever had mayonnaise in the house. It was Miracle Whip which was cheaper.

My dad baked bread occasionally but generally we had bought white bread. I remember when Wonder Bread came to the stores. It was soft and squishy and made wonderful peanut butter sandwiches. Toasted cheese sandwiches were



made with Velveeta. We often had cornbread — great with stewed Great Northern beans and leftover ham — made in a regular pan for us but in cast iron corncob molds for company. My grandmother made corn dodger with white corn meal, bacon fat and boiling water; it was as durable as Purity hard bread.

Side dishes were often some kind of potatoes — fried, roasted, mashed, boiled — or scalloped potatoes, tomatoes or corn. Occasionally we had rice - with canned chop suey or as a dessert in Eagle Brand milk. During the war we had a thriving victory garden but we mostly ate canned vegetables.

Nearly everything was fried in Crisco. Butter was not part of my life until graduate school when we met a couple from New England who had never had margarine. Or bacon fat; our refrigerator was never without a small can of bacon drippings. Food wasn't thrown away. There were always ways to use leftovers. Fried slices of sweet potato dipped in milk and saltine cracker crumbs were so good.



Desserts were mainly canned fruit, jello, tapioca or chocolate pudding. Cakes, pies and cobblers were special. Cookies were usually made for 4-H or scouts. At Christmas dad made peanut brittle on a marble slab bought at the monument store and my mother made divinity, fudge, and penuche.

You don't entirely leave your childhood behind; some of those foods are still with me.



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# Out and About

## Autumn hikes with the MUNPA Outing Club

### Torbay to Middle Cove Beach, November 5

Photos by Ingrid Pardoe



### Blackhead to Cape Spear, October 10

Photos by Nick Summers



**Ann Ryan, on Blackhead**



**Shirley Roberts, Cape Spear**