



Your Voice

MUN Pensioners' Association (MUNPA) Newsletter Vol. 14, No.3; May, 2016; Peter Fisher, Editor

MUNPA AGM, Thursday, June 9th Aging Well – Keeping Involved

MUNPA's 2016 Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 9th at the Holiday Inn in St. John's. Registration opens at 8:30 am. The AGM will conclude by 3:00 pm.

As usual, the AGM is more than just a business meeting. This year's theme is "*Aging Well – Keeping Involved.*" We've arranged talks by Dr. Gail Wideman, School of Social Work, an expert on gerontology, and Jill Whitaker, a former teacher who has been active with the Terra Nova Grannies, the local chapter of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Jill will talk about their efforts to combat AIDs in Africa. In between, you may browse displays on *Keeping Involved* and have coffee or tea with friends.

The morning sessions will be followed by lunch and the AGM.

Please pre-register for the event either by e-mailing munpaevents@mun.ca or by calling Gwyn Barrowman at the MUNPA Office (864-6979). **Please pre-register no later than Friday May 27th**. If you want to join us for lunch, please indicate whether you prefer 1) pan fried cod with scrunchions on the side, 2) roasted stuffed turkey with cranberry sauce or 3) a vegetarian dish (pasta primavera). The cost for lunch is \$25.00.

For those who prefer to attend only the AGM, please arrive by 1:15 pm. There is no charge to attend the AGM.

WEST COAST SPRING BBQ

There will be a MUNPA Spring BBQ at Strawberry Hill, Little Rapids on June 1, 2016.

BBQ hamburgers, two salads, dessert and tea/coffee will be provided for a cost of \$15 per person.

Any other MUN retirees who are in the area are invited to join us. (Please contact Lois Bateman 634-7206 lbateman@grenfell.mun.ca by May 24 for further information).

Grenfell retirees and partners are reminded to confirm their attendance with one of the following by May 24:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We live in interesting times indeed. The province faces a significant budget shortfall, and its actions to combat that shortfall include dramatic cuts to funding for higher education.

The Memorial University community is in the throes of consultations and discussions as to how to minimize the impact of those cuts, but that impact will be considerable no matter what actions we take (see, for example, the most recent blog from the Provost and VPA:

<http://www.mun.ca/vpacademic/blog/?m=201604>)

As retirees, we are fortunate to have a defined-benefit pension plan that is in good shape compared to those of both the teachers' association and the provincial civil servants, and that has recently been performing well. Nevertheless, we must continue to ensure the fund remains strong and able to meet the needs of our members.

MUNPA is represented on both the University Pension Committee and the Benefits Committee, and our representatives do a good job of keeping the MUNPA Board informed of developing issues so that we can provide informed comment. We will continue to work hard on your behalf as the budget scenario unfolds.

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ACADEMICS WITHOUT BORDERS

The latest Newsletter from *Academics Without Borders* is available on the MUNPA website and at http://www.mun.ca/munpa/AWB/AWB_Newsletter_March_2016.pdf

SPRINGTIME AT MUN BOTANICAL GARDEN

Spring is here! We're excited to invite you to the Garden this season! We have a few surprises in store – our new exhibit is 'growing roots' in the Field Centre and our Greenhouse will have a grand re-opening in June but if you pop in this month, we'll let you have a sneak peek.

The Garden opens for the season May 1st with a week-long celebration recognizing International Compost Awareness week. Thanks to MMSB admission will be free and you can enjoy lunch-time gardening presentations, compost displays and demonstrations, family activities, and lots of composting information. In May you can also enjoy Wednesday afternoon guided tours led by one of our Horticulturalists.

Sundays at the Garden are always special. Each Sunday you will discover a special experience, whether it is an early morning bird walk, a fun family program, story time, feeding the ducks or meeting the critters.

May's art exhibit, Brushstrokes opens May 6th and the month closes with a Rock Gardening Workshop and our annual Spring Flower Show. We invite you to come for a walk, pop into the Cafe for lunch and help us celebrate Spring!

VISITING THE GARDEN

Seniors (60+) may join the *Friends of the Garden* for an annual fee of \$15. Members enjoy free admission to the Garden for the year.

Dates:

May 1 – 7:	Compost Awareness Week
May 6:	Art Show Opens
May 28:	Rock Gardening Workshop (\$40, pre-registration required)
May 28–29:	Spring Flower Show
May 29:	Family Program – Sign of Spring

Every Week:

Wednesdays at 2p.m. – Guided Garden Tours

Sundays:

- Bird Watching - every second Sunday, 8 - 10 a.m.
- Nature Hike - every Sunday, 10 - 11 a.m.
- Meet the Critters - every Sunday, 2 - 2:30 p.m.
- Duck Feeding - every Sunday, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Story Time - every Sunday, 3:30 - 4 p.m.

MEMBERS' SURVEY: WHAT WE LEARNED

Last June, the Programme Committee conducted a survey of members living in and around St. John's. Ninety-nine people replied. Here are some of things we learned:

- Of the 99 who replied, half had participated in travel sessions and 36 in members' forums. There was a small core that had taken part in most events and others who attended none or very few.
- Of those who replied, fully half reported that they were so busy that that weren't sure how they had found time to work.
- Members were generally happy with the increased level and variety of offerings. Many of you liked the member's forums that we initiated.
- Responses to questions about travel sessions were similar: Many people indicated that they had learned a good deal that they didn't know or valuable things that would be helpful in planning their own travel.
- Few of you wanted us to use social networking to inform them about events and activities.

The message we heard is to continue offering a wide range of programming, but not to do too much because we are not the only game in town.

A fuller report will be posted on the MUNPA website. Thanks for taking the time to reply. We appreciate it.

RETIREE NEWS

Below is a short message from Michael Langford, whom many of us will remember from 20+ years ago.

It is good to hear MUNPA news after 20 years of retirement in the UK. On Aug 13th, my elder daughter (Jeanette Langford, born in St John's in 1987) is to be married to the nephew (Laury Hawkes) of my best man.

Sally and I (nearly 85) continue to enjoy good health, and I am still teaching part time at Cambridge University -- and have brought out two books and a number of articles since my retirement in 1996.

Best wishes, Michael Langford [Professor of philosophy, emeritus, MUN]