



Your Voice

MUN Pensioners' Association (MUNPA) Newsletter Vol. 15, No. 1; January/February 2017; Peter Fisher, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of the MUN Pensioners' Association, I wish you all a very Happy New Year as we forge forward into 2017. As noted on our web site, *The Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners' Association (MUNPA) is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of all retired faculty, staff and their survivors (widows, orphans and widowers)*. That very broad mandate providing activities for members, ensuring the rights of retirees are represented in discussions within the University, keeping our members informed on relevant topics such as the Memorial University Pension Plan, and being responsive to requests or questions from members. Thanks to the good work of my colleagues on the Board and of other volunteers (and of our efficient and always helpful office manager, Gwyn Barrowman!) we do a good job of fulfilling that mandate, although are always working to improve. Most recently, we have been upgrading our web site (www.mun.ca/munpa). Bear in mind that it is a work in progress and may have a few rough edges for a while, but this is a good time for you to tell us what you think of it. Are there things you think should be there but aren't? ...that are there but you don't think need to be? ...that could be more clearly or more effectively presented? Comments to munpa@mun.ca will be forwarded to those responsible for the site upgrade!

We are also always looking for things we can do to involve our members – particularly those outside St. John's and Corner Brook. MUNPA is in sound financial shape, with a small surplus that the Board can use to help move along new activities or expand those already up and running. Please send along your ideas and we will give them due consideration as we continue with plans for the remainder of this year and with the development of the MUNPA program for the coming year.

CAMPUS FOOD BANK DONATION

The monies raised at the MUNPA Christmas social for the Campus Food Bank totalled \$338.40. An additional four bags of non-perishable food items were donated. The funds were used for Food Bank Christmas hampers.

WINTER COAT COLLECTION

The university Chaplaincy has completed its warm clothing drive. It is incredible what you all donated - thank you very much!

PARKING UPDATE

The on-line request process for temporary parking permits, initiated about a year ago, has resulted in a dramatic decrease in members' concerns about parking on campus. One lingering issue is the question of parking access at those few times when the on line system is not available. Typically, that happens when the parking office is overwhelmed with requests from new or returning students, and can also affect the issuing of temporary permits in person at the front desk at CEP. MUNPA recognizes that those situations arise, but is also aware that retirees may have legitimate and pressing reasons to access campus at such times. Retirees who require a temporary permit under those circumstances but have not been able to obtain one should forward their requests directly to Karen Alexander (709-864-7544) kalexander@mun.ca or Mary Beth Delaney of the Department of Risk and Administrative Services, who will ensure that the request is dealt with expeditiously.

WINTER BLUES

Winter is upon us. Some of us may want to hibernate, but there are other ways to cope. One is to get out and enjoy it.

If anyone is interested, we would like to start an outing club. In view of the time of year, the focus would be walks, either outdoors or indoors at the Works, snowshoeing and occasional cross-country ski expeditions, followed by coffee or tea at a convenient locale. What we need are people who are interested and someone willing to take on a bit of the organizing – nothing onerous – just planning expeditions and letting others know what is on or, in the event of bad weather, off.

Of course, not everyone wants or is able to get out in the snow. There are other alternatives. We would like to start a games club, starting with chess and checkers and Scrabble, branching out into whatever members want. MUNPA can help by providing a place to meet and supplying coffee and tea, as well as games, if necessary. As per the above, if this is to work, we need willing participants and help getting organized. Nothing onerous is involved: The principal tasks are scheduling and getting the word out.

If you are interested and want to participate, or better yet, willing to help, please let us know by sending an e-mail to munpaevents@mun.ca or Steven Wolinetz at steven.wolinetz@gmail.com. Needless to say, these are not the only things we could organize. Your suggestions are more than welcome.

FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Upcoming events

Tuesday, February 14th, 2017, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

"Defensive Driving for Seniors".

Session offered by Safety Services Newfoundland and Labrador, 1076 Topsail Road, Mount Pearl.

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017, 2:00-4:00 P.M.,

The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road.

Travel Session with Alan Whittick, Biology,
"Australia: East and West".

Wednesday, April 12th, 2017, 2:00-4:00 P.M.,

The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road.

Travel Session with Suzanne Sexty, QEII Library
"Madagascar: The Red Island".

Save the date: Our Annual General Meeting will take place on **Thursday, June 8th, 2017** at Lester's Farm Chalet on Pearltown Rd.



Enjoying the MUNPA Christmas social

NEW MUNPA WEBSITE LAUNCHED

We're pleased to announce the successful launch of our new web site on Dec 7th, 2016. Our new site has been reorganized and is especially intended to enhance and promote member activities, association interest groups and events. It offers improved site navigation, look and feel, and the site supports newer web standards. Information on upcoming events is available through the main site page and activities sections.

We are continuing to work on ways to better serve our members through the web site and are open to suggestions for further improvements.

The location of the new site is the same as our previous site, <http://www.mun.ca/munpa/>. We encourage all members to visit and please bookmark our site to stay abreast of association activities.

Interested in web site maintenance and wish to support the association and members? Please contact us through the mechanisms noted in Your Voice and our site.

ONLINE TAX SLIPS

Human Resources is encouraging employees and retirees who have not already done so, to consider providing consent to receive their tax slip online. Tax slips for individuals who do not provide consent will be mailed to the address they have on file for T4s in Employee Self Service. Those who choose the online option will have access to their tax slip approximately two weeks earlier than those who choose to receive their slip in the mail. For more information and links to instructions to either provide consent or update the address you have on file for T4s, please go to <http://www.mun.ca/hr/news.php?id=8469>

FOCUS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, WINTER 2017

The Shutterbug Club for is now meeting every second Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at The Lantern, Barnes Road. Meetings are announced on our web page at <https://munpaphotos.shutterfly.com/>. The next meetings are: Friday 27th January and Friday, 10th February.

Usually a meeting includes a short presentation on an aspect of photography followed by an opportunity to view recent shots by members and to discuss them. Photos are loaded on to the website and are available for view by anyone; feel free to browse through some of the recent work of members. We may occasionally organize an impromptu outdoor session, weather permitting. New members are welcome regardless of skill level. For more information contact Mike Wilkshire at mwilkshire@nl.rogers.com.

The Craft Group: Come and join our craft group on Thursdays, whenever you can, from 10-12 at the Memorial University Mount Scio Building, just up from the Botanical Garden, on the opposite side. Bring along any craft project you want to do. It's a great opportunity, for a couple of hours, of getting together with friends, while working on that project that you never seem to have time for. It is also a good place for questions on how to do some of the craft things you've wanted to try, but have had no one to ask. A couple of times during the year, we may do a group project. It's a fun get-together. Coffee/Tea and a little sweet provided. There is lots of parking on the back. If interested or have questions about the group, send an email to Liz Stanford (stanford@mi.mun.ca) or Linda Kirby (linda.kirby@med.mi.mun.ca).

The Memoir Group meets from 12-2:00 pm on the first Monday of the month. The MUNPA Memoir Group is a lively and sociable group of those interested in writing about their lives, and hearing others' stories. The group meets on the first Monday of the month, from 12-2.00 pm. in the Board Room of the Mount Scio Research Facility, 297 Mount Scio Road (opposite the Botanical Garden). Bring your lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. Why not drop in and see if you like it? Please note that this is not a "critical" group; we like to enjoy others' work rather than analyze it. Our winter and spring meeting dates are Monday 6 February, 6 March, 3 April, and 1 May. For further information, please contact Roberta Buchanan, Department of English (rbuchana@mun.ca)

Health and Aging is an ongoing MUNPA discussion group. About a dozen members meet over coffee on the third Wednesday of each month at the Lantern to share their knowledge and experience. For some topics, outside resource people are invited to lead the discussion. Past topics have included: dealing with doctors; evaluating biomedical reports; memory; gut bacteria; incontinence; sex; vision and hearing loss. Newcomers are always welcome to drop in without any commitment. The next meeting will be at the Lantern from 10:30 to noon on Wednesday, February 15th. For further information, please contact David Thompson (davidt@mun.ca).

Forming soon: an outing club that will combine walking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing with all-weather activities like bowling or pool. Stay tuned for further information, but if you are interested contact Joanne Myrick-Harris (jharris@mun.ca).

Can't find a group that interests you? Consider starting one: We would be happy to spread the word and arrange a place for the group to meet at the Lantern or the Boardroom of Mt. Scio Research facility. If you have an idea for focus or special interest group, let us know about it. Send your suggestions to munpaevents@mun.ca or writing to Steve Wolinetz (steven.wolinetz@gmail.com).

DEFENSIVE DRIVING FOR SENIORS

Self-driving cars are coming but they are not here yet. Most of us are still driving and hope to do so as long as possible. One way to make that happen is to brush up on your driving skills. To that end, we have asked Safety NL to repeat the session that they delivered to us at our 2015 AGM. Delivered by Jim Brazil, that session was excellent but had limited attendance. Several of you have asked if it could be repeated. We have asked and it can – on Tuesday, February 14th from 1:00-3:00 pm. As before, Jim Brazil will deliver the session. It will be offered at the Safety NL office at 1076 Topsail Road in Mt. Pearl. Those who wish can gather for coffee at a location nearby, such as Coffee Matters in Mt. Pearl. Because the session works better with smaller groups, enrolment is limited and **pre-registration is required**. We'll send out details on the MUNPA listserv, but if you are interested and want to reserve a spot now, please send an e-mail to munpaevents@mun.ca with "defensive driving" in the subject line.