

# Your Voice

MUN Pensioners' Association (MUNPA) Newsletter Vol. 15, No 4, Sept. 2017 *Steven Wolinetz*, Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

It is indeed an honour and privilege to serve as your President for the 2017-2018 year and I thank you for your support. I am looking forward to working on your behalf with our Executive - Steven Wolinetz, David Thompson, Cynthia Whelan and Grant Gardner - as well as the other members of the Board.

We bid adieu and a well-earned thank you to former Board members Cathy Penney, Peter Fisher, Rod Campbell and Bob Lucas, and extend a hearty welcome to new Board members Sheila Singleton, Audrey Power, Brian Power, Donna Jackman and Chris Dennis. A special thank you to Grant Gardner, who served so effectively as President the past two years.

We welcome all recently retired MUN faculty, staff and their survivors as full-fledged members of our Association. We look forward to working on your behalf, responding to your needs as appropriate, and especially meeting with you. The Association offers many events of general interest throughout the year. We hope that you will become involved in some of these activities which are listed on our website, [www.mun.ca/munpa](http://www.mun.ca/munpa), and are also available directly to you, via email. It is a means of your staying connected with former colleagues, friends and the University community in general. If we do not have your email address, please contact Gwyn Barrowman at [munpa@mun.ca](mailto:munpa@mun.ca) to be included.

Jane M. Foltz  
President

**Save the date:** Our Christmas Social is Thursday, December 7th, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Fluvarium, Nagle's Place.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Upcoming events
- Pension update – from Glen Roberts (HR)
- Focus and special interest groups
- Our new board
- Report on the 2017 AGM

## Upcoming Events: St. John's, Fall 2017

For all of these events, pre-registration at [munpaevents@mun.ca](mailto:munpaevents@mun.ca) is required. Please name the event in your subject line.

- **Bowling with MUNPA will be Tuesday, Sept 19, 12.30** at Holiday Lanes, Elizabeth Avenue.
- **The first Outing Club walk will be on the South Brook Trail in Bowring Park, Tuesday, September 19th at 2:30**, hosted by Steve Wolinetz. We'll meet up at the main parking lot on Waterford Bridge Road. After the walk, we'll gather at the Elements Coffee Shop, Cowan Avenue and Topsail Road to discuss future plans. (Rain date: Wednesday, Sept. 20th, 2:30 pm).
- Mark Graesser will present a **Travel Session** on Tuesday, October 3rd at 2pm – Living and Travelling in New Zealand, at The Lantern
- James Hiller will give a tour of **Gower Street United Church** on October 12, at 2pm.

We hope to see you at one or more of these activities.

Anne Sinnott, on behalf of the Programme Committee, St. John's

## From the Editor:

Just a quick note to say hello: I've taken over as editor of **Your Voice**. I hope to make it a lively and more frequent publication than in the past. However, I can't do it alone. My predecessor, Peter Fisher, did yeoman service but was always scraping the barrel to find sufficient copy.

Entitled **Your Voice**, this newsletter is supposed to be the voice of our members rather than a house organ serving as the mouthpiece of the Board of Directors. To be sure, it is that when we have something that we need to tell you, but it can provide space for members to share tips about travel, things to do, ideas, or even a bit of poetry. If there is interest, we can set up a few rubrics to which you can contribute. Here are a few examples:

- **Members' corner**, for thoughts on life and times and the strange period in which we live
- **Travel tips** for suggestions on travel – e.g. groups or firms organizing small group travel, cruises, etc.
- **Out and about:** Things to do in and around St. John's or Corner Brook
- **Volunteering:** Who needs help and ways we can provide it

Needless to say, what we are looking for are short pieces – no more than 50-100 words. If you have thoughts or ideas about any of these or other areas, please let me know about them. We've set up dedicated e-mail account for that, [yourvoice@mun.ca](mailto:yourvoice@mun.ca).

Steve Wolinetz



## The 2017 AGM: **SUSTAIN... to the best of your ABILITY.**

MUNPA's 2017 AGM took place on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Lester's Farm Chalet. Reflecting our location, the theme was "**SUSTAIN...to the best of your ABILITY**". The speakers during the morning session were Dr. Max Liboiron, Department of Geography, and Emily Bland and Taylor Young, from Memorial's award-winning Enactus Group.



Max Liboiron led off, telling us about her ongoing research on the accumulation of plastics and microplastics in our ocean. Emily Bland and Taylor Young followed, explaining how they their group had not only developed Rubbermaid container-sized hydroponics units that could produce sufficient fresh vegetables for two adults for one year in northern climes but also how they had arranged for the units to be produced and distributed by social enterprises like Choices for Youth.

After lunch, Sonja Knutson, Director of MUN's



International Centre talked about Memorial's involvement in the Scholars at Risk programme, designed to help scholars whose political views had not only rendered them unemployable but also put them at risk of being imprisoned. You will be hearing more about Scholars at Risk. We, along with other units, are active supporters.

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to the annual general meeting. As usual, we elected a new slate of officers and board of directors. You will find their names listed on page 3.

## Under Construction: The MUNPA Website

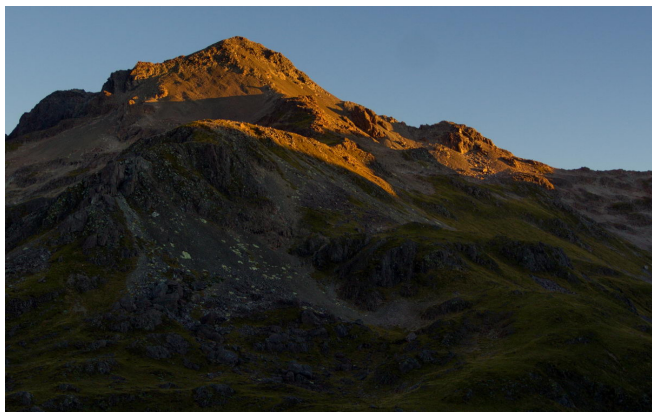
Some of you may be wondering what happened to the MUNPA website, <http://www.mun.ca/munpa/>).

Working on it, the Communications Committee hoped to launch it in this issue. We may be able to do in the next... or failing that, this fall.



When we do, you will find not only a new look, but also up-to-date information on what we are doing and events we are organizing. That should mean fewer and shorter e-mails and more information, including links we included in this edition of *Your Voice*.

As always, we welcome suggestions, comments, and above all, content. Please stay tuned.



### MUNPA Board 2017 - 2018

President: Jane Foltz (Computer Science)

[jane@mun.ca](mailto:jane@mun.ca)

Vice-President: Steven Wolinetz (Political Science)

[swolin@mun.ca](mailto:swolin@mun.ca)

Past President: Grant Gardner (Biology)

[ggardner@mun.ca](mailto:ggardner@mun.ca)

Treasurer: Cynthia Whelan (Facilities

Management) [whelancynthia@nl.rogers.com](mailto:whelancynthia@nl.rogers.com)

Secretary: David Thompson (Philosophy)

[davidt@mun.ca](mailto:davidt@mun.ca)

#### Directors

Lois Bateman (Biology, Grenfell Campus)

[lbateman@grenfell.mun.ca](mailto:lbateman@grenfell.mun.ca)

Karyn Butler (Geography) [kgbutler@mun.ca](mailto:kgbutler@mun.ca)

Joe Byrne (Registrar's Office) [jbyrne@mun.ca](mailto:jbyrne@mun.ca)

Chris Dennis: (Library) [cdennis@mun.ca](mailto:cdennis@mun.ca)

Donna Jackman (Biochemistry)

[djackman@mun.ca](mailto:djackman@mun.ca)

Audrey Power: (Information Technology Services)

[audrey@mun.ca](mailto:audrey@mun.ca)

Brian Power (Information Technology Services)

[brian.power@mun.ca](mailto:brian.power@mun.ca)

Sheila Singleton: (Office of the Registrar)

[asingleton@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:asingleton@nf.sympatico.ca)

Anne Sinnott (Biochemistry) [asinnett@mun.ca](mailto:asinnett@mun.ca)

Patrick Tyler (Lifelong Learning)

[wmt Tyler2@gmail.com](mailto:wmt Tyler2@gmail.com)

### Help Wanted:

The MUNPA Communications committee needs volunteers to help with the website and *Your Voice*. If you are interested and have a bit of time, please send an e-mail to [yourvoice@mun.ca](mailto:yourvoice@mun.ca).

### Ideas Needed:

As always, the Programme Committee welcomes your suggestions. If you have an idea for a travel session, members' forum or an outing or expedition, or know someone who does – or could lead one – please send your suggestions to us by e-mailing [munpaevents@mun.ca](mailto:munpaevents@mun.ca).

## PENSION UPDATE

*Below is an update from Glen Roberts, Human Resource's Manager, Benefits and Pensions, on changes recommended to the Board of Regents with respect to the management of the MUN Pension Plan. These are from an ad hoc committee struck to make recommendations to the pensions committee. MUNPA has been ably represented on the ad hoc Committee, and has been following its deliberations carefully on your behalf. The changes, if implemented, would remove the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador from the management of the pension plan, turning it over to joint sponsors -- the employer, the Board of Regents, and employees and their representatives. This parallels changes that have been made to other public sector pension plans.*

*We would like to call your attention to recommendation #8, that no changes can be made to **"benefits that Pensioners are receiving or to which their surviving principal beneficiaries may become entitled to receive at the effective date of joint sponsorship, or on the effective date of a subsequent pension plan changes.** We would also like to remind you that the pension plan is in good shape and that should a shortfall become evident at some future date that it will be the responsibility of the sponsors or stakeholders – i.e., the University and current employees – to make up any difference. The dollar value of our pensions is guaranteed.*

*The Board of Directors maintains a watching brief on the health of the plan as well as proposed changes. William (Patrick) Tyler is our representative on the pensions committee. We will keep you informed about any changes.*

### **From Glen Roberts, Human Resources:**

At a special meeting of the Board of Regents, held on August 9, 2017, the MUN Pension Committee's recommendation (below) was considered. The Board has asked the Pension Committee for more information relative to a chronology of deliberations thus far: Where we've come from and why and the work done to this point. They are also interested in more information on what remains to be done and timelines. This is a reasonable request as the full Board of Regents has had relatively little involvement in our process and needs to be more informed on the work done and the legal frameworks ahead before authorizing such a significant change process for our pension plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Regents authorize the University Administration to engage the union leadership to proceed with discussion on reaching agreement with respect to joint sponsorship of the pension plan on the understanding that the recommendations and guiding principles approved by the Committee on July 19, 2017 are non-binding on either party at this stage in the process.

### **Joint Sponsorship Recommendations & Related Guiding Principles Submitted to the Board of Regents:**

1. The Memorial University Pension Plan should be jointly sponsored by the University and its employees.
2. The joint sponsors should be:
  - i. Memorial University of Newfoundland as represented by the Board of Regents, and;
  - ii. The Unions, as represented by MUNFA, CUPE and NAPE
3. The plan should use a two-tier governance structure of a Sponsor Body and a Board of Trustees.
4. At the Sponsor Body level, Block Voting should be employed with one vote from the University and one vote from the Unions.
5. There should be joint and equitable participation in the sponsorship and administration of the pension plan.
6. Under a jointly sponsored model, the pension plan should be administered by a Board of Trustees, the composition and responsibilities of which would be governed by a Trust Agreement between the parties to joint sponsorship.
7. Accrued Benefits cannot be reduced under a jointly sponsored model recognizing the principle of the protection of pensioner benefits.
8. No change is permitted to the benefits that Pensioners are receiving or to which their surviving principal beneficiaries may become entitled to receive at the effective date of joint sponsorship, or on the effective date of a subsequent pension plan change.
9. The University should assume responsibility for and fund the initial deficit under the pension plan upon conversion to joint sponsorship. The initial deficit is defined as the total going-concern unfunded liability less the amount attributable to the past service costs of indexing.

## FOCUS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### Craft Group (weekly, Thursday mornings):

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 to get together with friends and to meet new people, 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 about...also to share your expertise in an area with the rest of the group! A couple of times during the year, we have done a group project for those who want to participate. We've done card-making, rug-hooking, felted items, and even knitted dolls for African countries. This fall we have basket-making on the list. It's a fun get-together. Coffee or Tea and a little sweet provided. There is lots of parking around the back. If you are interested or have questions about the group, please send an email to Liz Stanford (stanford@mun.ca) or Linda Kirby (lkirby@mun.ca).

### Health and Aging (monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

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; fats; glycemic index; evaluating biomedical research; memory; gut bacteria; incontinence; sex; sleep; dying; vision and hearing loss. Newcomers are always welcome to drop in, without any commitment. For further information, please contact David Thompson (davidt@mun.ca).

### Grenfell content?

Definitely needed. Please send it in to [yourvoice@mun.ca](mailto:yourvoice@mun.ca) and we will be happy to include it.

### Memoir Group (monthly, first Monday)

The MUNPA Memoir Group is a lively and sociable group of those interested in writing about their lives, and hearing others' stories. We meet once a month, on the first Monday of the month from 12.00 to 2.00 in the Mt. Scio Research Facility Boardroom, 297 Mount Scio Road (opposite the Botanical Garden). Bring your lunch, coffee and tea provided. Why not drop in and see if you like it? It is not a "critical" group; we like to enjoy others' work rather than analyse it.

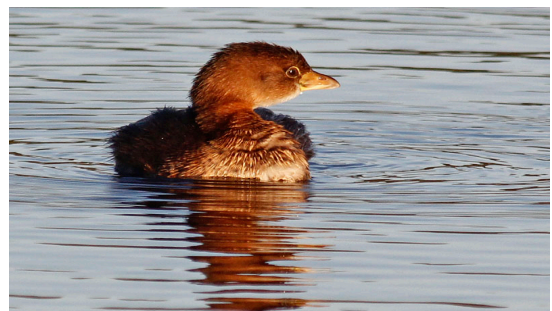
**Fall dates:** Monday 11 September (1st Monday is Labour Day); 2 October; 6 November; 4 December

### Bowling with MUNPA, Tuesday September 19th

It is anticipated that bowling will continue on a monthly basis. The timing of future games will be planned at the Sept 19th gathering

Based on the success of last winter's bowling outings, we've planned another opportunity for you to hone your skills in the alley. Everyone is welcome (and encouraged!) and no bowling experience is required. Bowling, including shoes, is provided at NO COST. Date: Tuesday, September 19th Time: 12:30pm - 1:30 pm. Place: Holiday Lanes, 27 Elizabeth Avenue, in the strip mall between Lawtons and Pipers.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER for Sept 19th. We've booked four lanes and need to ensure that number is adequate. You can pre-register for this event by sending an e-mail mentioning Bowling in the subject line to [munpaevents@mun.ca](mailto:munpaevents@mun.ca). We will form into teams on arrival. There's room for everyone to join in.



## FOCUS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (cont'd)

### The Shutterbug Club (bi-weekly, Fridays)

The Shutterbug Club – MUNPA's photography club -- normally meets every second Friday from 2-4.00 pm at The Lantern, Barnes Road. Meetings are announced on our web page at

<https://munpaphotos.shutterfly.com/>. Our next meeting is Friday, September 22, 2017 from 2-4 p.m. 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, but this one has an additional item on the agenda: Talking about and planning what we do in the fall and winter. Please come along and see what we are about.

Photos are loaded on to the Shutterfly website and are available for viewing by anyone who wants to see them. Feel free to browse through them. We occasionally organize impromptu outdoor sessions. New members are welcome regardless of skill level. For more information contact Mike Wilkshire at [mwilkshire@nl.rogers.com](mailto:mwilkshire@nl.rogers.com).



### Can't find anything you are interested in?

The Programme Committee (St. John's) is happy to sponsor new groups. If interested in forming or joining a new group – in the past, we have had interest in golf and/or tennis, a singing group, and a games club -- we would be happy to see if others are interested as well. We can arrange a room at the Lantern (35 Barnes Rd) or reserve the Mt. Scio Research Facility Boardroom for your use, provide coffee and tea and -- if needed -- funds to help the group get going, if these are needed. E-mail us your ideas at [munpaevents@mun.ca](mailto:munpaevents@mun.ca).

### *New this fall:*

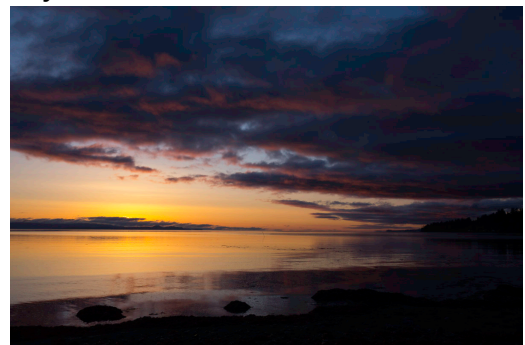
#### Outing Club

The Metro St. John's area has multiple trails that are ideal for walks in the fall and spring and snowshoeing or cross-country skiing in the winter, but MUNPA as yet has no outing club. Steve Wolinetz would like to start one. If you are interested in joining, please e-mail [munpaevents@mun.ca](mailto:munpaevents@mun.ca), mentioning **outing club** in the subject line, and let us know. The first walk will be on the South Brook Trail in Bowring Park, Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. We'll meet up at the main parking lot on Waterford Bridge Road. After the walk, we'll gather at the Elements Coffee Shop, Cowan Avenue and Topsail Road to discuss future plans. (Rain date: Wednesday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 pm).

#### Woodcarving Group

Helger Eckenweber is interested in starting a woodcarving group, providing instruction for any skill level. Participants would learn the skills of relief, figure, and driftwood carving. Helger is interested in starting the group in late October. Further details will be emailed to the MUNPA list and posted on the website, once they are confirmed. If this topic interests you, email [munpaevents@mun.ca](mailto:munpaevents@mun.ca), mentioning **woodcarving** in the subject line.

**If you are interested in any of these or have an idea for a new focus or special interest group, write to the programme committee at [munpaevents@mun.ca](mailto:munpaevents@mun.ca), and one of us will get back to you.**



## KEEPING BUSY IN ST. JOHN'S

### EVENTS AT MUN & AROUND TOWN

- MUN Gazette featured events  
[gazette.mun.ca/events](http://gazette.mun.ca/events)
- City of St. John's Calendar of Events  
<http://www.stjohns.ca/calendar/month>
- The Overcast - local events.  
<https://theovercast.ca/events/>
- VOCM Community local Events.  
<http://vocm.com/event/>
- Events on the Community Sector Council NL Bulletin Board  
<http://communitysector.nl.ca/>
- Kijiji community events for St. John's.  
<https://www.kijiji.ca/b-events/st-johns/c28911700113>

### MUSIC, THEATRE & ARTS

- School of Music - Music at Memorial  
<https://www.mun.ca/music/musicatmemorial/>
- Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra  
<http://nsomusic.ca/>
- Arts and Culture Centre- St. John's  
<https://artsandculturecentre.com/stjohns/Online/>
- Holy Heart Theatre.  
<http://holyhearttheatre.com>
- LSPU Hall.  
<http://rca.nf.ca>
- The Rooms  
<https://www.therooms.ca/visit-us>
- Public Libraries  
<https://www.nlpl.ca/>
- Art Galleries  
<http://www.stjohns.ca/living-st-johns/arts-culture/galleries>

### SENIORS PROGRAMMING

- St. John's Seniors Programs  
<http://www.stjohns.ca/living-st-johns/recreation-and-parks/seniors-programs>
- Seniors Resource Centre NL web site, events, volunteering  
<http://www.seniorsresource.ca>

### FITNESS & RECREATION

- The Works.  
<http://www.theworksonline.ca>
- YMCA  
<http://ymcanl.com/>
- St. John's Recreation  
<http://www.stjohns.ca/living-st-johns/recreation-and-parks/fitness>
- Mount Pearl Recreation  
<http://www.mountpearl.ca/events/#>
- MUN Botanical Gardens  
[www.mun.ca/botgarden](http://www.mun.ca/botgarden)
- Pippy park  
<http://pippypark.com/>
- Geo Centre.  
<https://www.geocentre.ca/exhibits/steeler-3d-theatre/>

### LOOKING TO JOIN A CLUB OR GROUP?

- WAMUN: Women's Association of Memorial University <http://www.mun.ca/wamun>
- CFUW – St. John's: Canadian Federation of University Women <http://www.cfuwstjohns.org/>

### ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR GO BUS ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT?

[http://www.metrobus.com/ALF/gobus\\_info.asp](http://www.metrobus.com/ALF/gobus_info.asp)

#### Missing links?

Send your suggestions to [yourvoice@mun.ca](mailto:yourvoice@mun.ca). We will include them not here, but on the MUNPA website, which we hope will be ready soon.

#### Photos from the Shutterbug Club:

- p. 2 col. 1, Mark Graesser, New Zealand
- p. 2 col. 2, Steve Wolinetz, Manuels River walk
- p. 5 Mike Wilkshire
- p. 6 col. 1, Grant Gardner
- p. 6 col. 2, Mike Wilkshire, Vancouver Island