



Your Voice

MUN Pensioners' Association (MUNPA) Newsletter Vol. 16, No. 2, April 2018
Editor: Steve Wolinetz • Design and Formatting: Patrick Tyler



Jane Foltz President's Message

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

It's Spring! Although on some days when we have freezing rain, it may seem like warmer weather is never coming. For me, as a happy gardener, it is a time of waiting—waiting for my tulips and other spring flowers to bloom. In the meantime, visits to local nurseries, as well as a Gardening event, with Peter Scott, April 19th, which MUNPA will be hosting, will have to suffice. There are several other very interesting events scheduled by our Programme Committee, so do check out their listing elsewhere in this newsletter.

SURVIVORS NOW PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES

Those who are members of our Association as a result of a loved one or partner having passed away, have for a very long time, been known as Survivors. Your Board had wanted to replace this word with something that was not as value-laden. This change could not be done unless the University was in agreement. After meeting with the Department of Human Resources, we were told that they had no objections to making a change; however, for legisla-

tive purposes, certain words had to be maintained. The original suggestion from Human Resources was to use the words, Surviving Principal Beneficiary. There was then agreement by both parties that the word Surviving could be dropped. **So from now on, Survivor will be replaced by Principal Beneficiary.** In the end, we are all MUN Pensioners and members of this Association and therefore, we each have all the same rights and privileges, regardless of how you became a member.

DR. ED WILLIAMS CELEBRATED BY CURAC

CURAC, the College and University Retirees' Association of Canada, of which MUNPA is a member, will be holding its 2018 annual meeting in Halifax in May. At this meeting, Dr. Edgar Williams, a retired Professor from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics will be recognized and honoured for his years spent as a member of the Board of CURAC and as its secretary. We offer our sincere congratulations to Ed for his years of service in this capacity. This is quite an accomplishment. Ed also remains active with other senior oriented groups across the country.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REMINDER

Just a reminder that **our Annual General Meeting will be held June 7th at The Fluvarium.** Our Programme Committee will provide you with more information on this in the next several weeks. Hope to see you there.

Also in this edition

- From the Editor 2
- Upcoming Events in St. John's 3
- News from the west coast 4

- What's been happening in St. John's . . 5
Plus lots of activity photos and a notice about our upcoming AGM

From the Editor

This edition of *Your Voice* has been late appearing. There are several reasons for that—the press of other things that I have been doing amongst them—but the principal one was a dearth of copy.

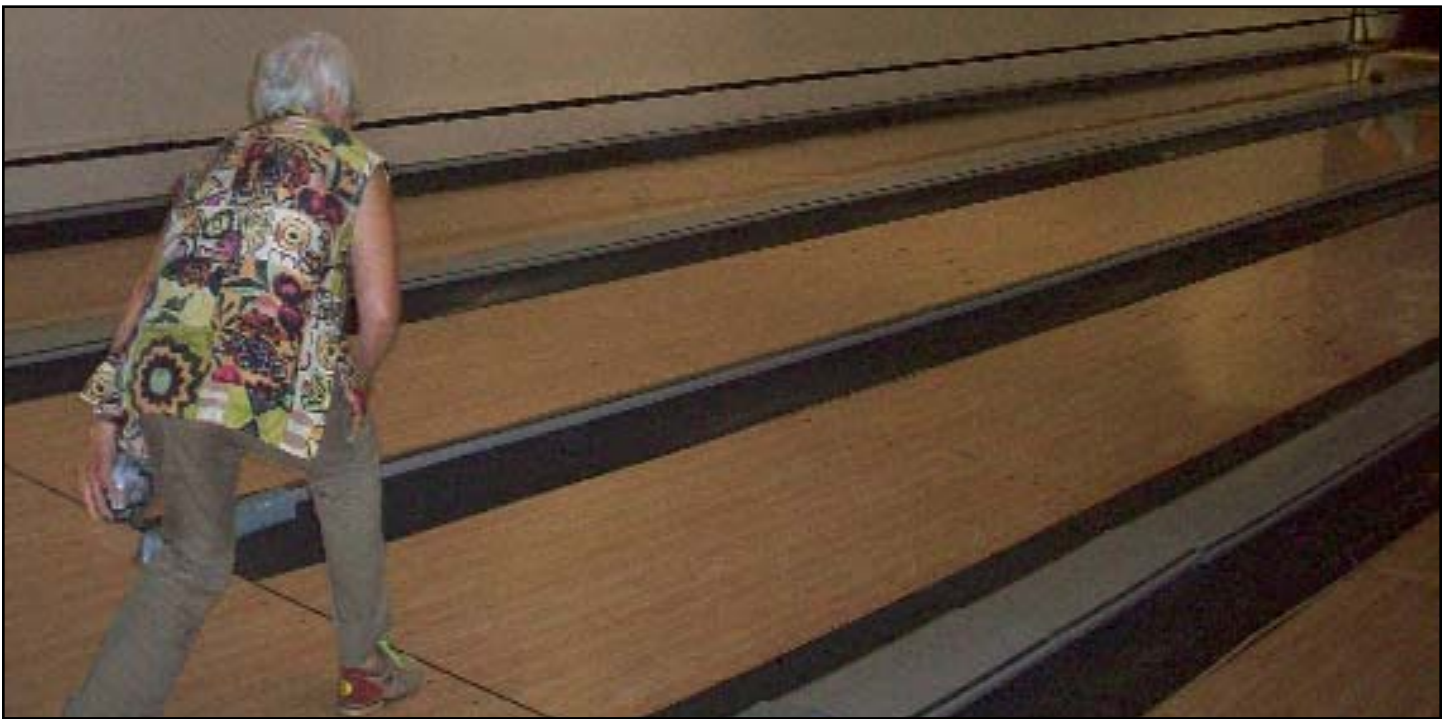
Not having much to print is the lament of most newsletter editors, but I found the paucity disheartening. Many of you have told me how much you've enjoyed the new style *YV*, but it is hard to sustain without your help. Differently put, I know that I have to beat the pushes and prod people, but sometimes I like, many of you, prefer just to read a book and or binge out on a good Netflix series. I am happy to include short reflections, stories about what you are up to, travel suggestions and the like, but I need a steady flow to keep the presses flowing. There will be one more issue this year, but I would be delighted to have copy on hand for the fall.

There is one other issue that needs to be addressed. Patrick Tyler has done a first class job of formatting *YV* in ways that make it like more than a newsletter, but if we want it to look like that, we will either have to elicit help from people able to use Quark or its successor, Adobe InDesign, or pay to have it done. That isn't out of the question, but if you can help and have the requisite skills we would be delighted to hear from you.

Finally, I owe an apology to Abe Ross for not ensuring that his formatting instructions were strictly observed, forcing you to imagine what a parrot fish looked like. I regret that not only because it wasn't what Abe wanted, but also because it has deprived me of an opportunity to ask you to send in your own drawings of that parrot fish hovering on a tiny barbeque. Apologies Abe.

You can get in touch by e-mailing yourvoice@mun.ca

Steve Wolinetz



The Bowling Group is nearing the end of its first season as an ongoing MUNPA group. It's a chance for participants like Mierelle Thomas, above, to have some fun, get a bit of exercise, and socialize with friends old and new. See Bowling item (What's been happening in St. John's), page 7.

Upcoming events in St. John's

1. Gardening Q&A Session

Thu., April 19, 2 - 4 p.m. at the Lantern
Facilitator: Peter Scott

2. Quidi Vidi Brewery Tour and Tasting

Fri. May 11, 2 - 3 p.m.

3. Ediacaran Fossils of Mistaken Point

Tue., May 29, 1:45 - 3:30 p.m.
Manuels River Interpretation Centre

Pre-registration required for all of these events!

Email munpaevents@mun.ca and put event name in the subject line.



Craft Group rug designed and produced by Barb Cox. See more Craft Group photos pages 6, 7 and 8.

And don't forget our AGM!



**Thu., June 7
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
at the Fluvarium**

Morning Session

***NL Population:
Pitfalls and Prospects***

Presenters:

Dr. Alvin Simms
and

Dr. Keith Storey

Harris Centre's Population Project.

Newfoundland and Labrador has the most rapidly aging population in the country. The outmigration of youth, declining birth rates and an increasing number of people moving from rural areas to more urban centres mean that Newfoundland faces an unprecedented population challenge.

Using maps and other illustrations, our speakers will explore the implications of the demographic changes projected for the next 20 years.

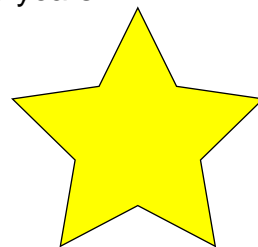
Afternoon Session

Annual Business Meeting

Cost for lunch: \$25/person
(same as in recent years.)

Advance registration is required.

Further details on signup will be sent out on our listserv closer to the event. We'll also post AGM information to our website at the same time.





What do MUN retirees do in winter on the west coast of Newfoundland?

by Lois Bateman

MUNPA sponsored snowshoe trek March 1 at Pasadena Ski and Nature Park. Left to right: Cal Hemder, Sherry Bussey, Elizabeth Behrens, Bruce Bussey, Lois Bateman, Ed Andrews, Peggy Kelly and Phyllis Mann.

It has been an odd winter in terms of weather with snow storms alternating with warm, rainy spring weather at least six times between the New Year and St Patrick's Day. Between the weather and the many events in which retirees were participating, the local MUNPA group found it difficult to schedule gatherings.

After a couple of weather-related postponements, a snowshoe trek was successfully held at the Pasadena Ski and Nature Park on March 1st. Henry Mann guided several on snowshoes around wooded trails. The weather was pleasant and the snow was good for both snowshoeing and showing up the tracks and local fauna. Cal Hender opted to try out the ski trails. Afterwards, we gathered for pizza at a local cafe with a few other retirees.

Three local Winter Festivals (Deer Lake, Pasadena and Corner Brook) in February were followed by the March Hare in Deer Lake and Corner Brook, the NL Winter Games (based in Deer Lake with events in Pasadena, Steady Brook and Corner Brook) and the Rotary Music Festival in Corner Brook. In addition to their regular activities, MUN Retirees could be seen volunteering as well as playing major organizational and participation roles in all of these events.

Included in the active group were the spouses/partners of several deceased MUN retirees. In the midst of the Music Festival we did manage to gather a few of the latter for lunch at the venerable Carriage Room of the Glynmill Inn. Having just sampled the Inn's famous partridgeberry and bakeapple tarts, the group was photographed by Sharon Walsh, MUNPA committee member. (See photo top of next page.)



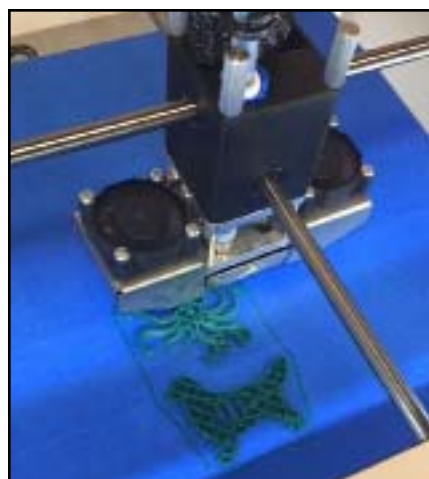
MUNPA Beneficiary lunch. L to R around foreground table: Madonna Day (MUNPA committee member), Edna Hodgett, Maureen Mennie, Lois Bateman (MUNPA board member), Sheila Ashton and Susan Malley. Their husbands/partners Ferriss Hodgett, Ian Mennie, John Ashton and Maurice Good are all well known for their contributions to the Grenfell Campus, MUN. Photo credit: Susan Walsh.

What's been happening in St. John's

3D Printer Workshop

Wed., Feb. 21, at the QEII
with Simon Hawkenson

Simon Hawkenson carefully guided a full contingent of MUNPA members in the production of 3D key chains. We input details into a software package and then chose the colour of the plastic. The 3D printer did its magic over the next hour and made our keychains of dogs and Death Stars! Everyone found the printer to be an amazing piece of technology.



Left: 3D printer prints object from program. Right: Printer output: 3D dog for keychain.

Antarctica Observed: Amaze Your Shipmates with Who, What, Why Where and When!

Feb. 15 with Tony Dickinson

Tony Dickinson gave his audience a brief history of polar exploration voyages to Antarctica, including pictures and charts on the topic.

Of particular interest was his drawing the connections which exist between Newfoundland and Antarctica. Many of the early exploratory voyages used Newfoundland-based ships, or crew, or both. There are several place names in Antarctica derived from Newfoundland names, such as Trepassy Island.

First Aid Mini-course

March 8, by Red Cross' Training Partner
First Aid Vitals NL

Jill Hunt of First Aid Vitals NL/Red Cross gave a very informative presentation on selected First Aid topics. We learned about recognizing choking, signs of stroke, and heart attack and what to do in each instance. Our instruction included giving CPR and using an AED. Some MUNPA members volunteered to participate in demonstrations for each activity, giving attendees either hands-on practical experience or personal observation of same.

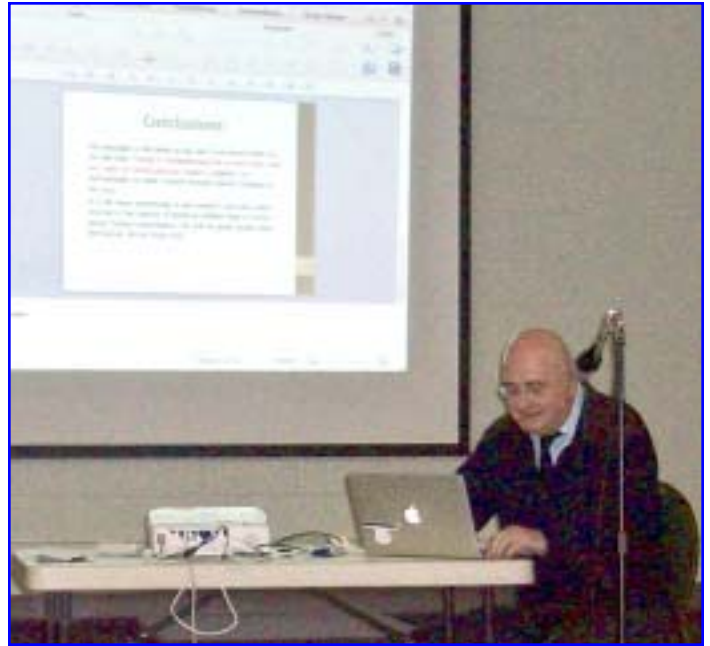
Recognizing the usefulness of our training, several attendees noted that this was one seminar that should definitely be offered again to permit other MUNPA members to receive the same knowledge. We will look at having a repeat offering in the future.

Surviving Donald Trump: American Democracy Under Stress

April 4th

with Political Scientists Steve Wolinetz
and Osvaldo Croci

Political Scientists Steve Wolinetz and Osvaldo Croci (not quite but almost retired) took a look at what has been happening south of our border. Steve



Osvaldo Croci (not quite but almost retired) examined continuities in American foreign policy no matter who occupied the oval office.



Another attractive Craft Group product: A sock featuring a Winter/Christmas motif by Vera Mitchell. See more Craft Group photos, pages 7 and 8.

What's Been Happening - cont'd on next page

examined ways in which Trump's presidency—by any measure, unconventional—was unfolding and explored the implications for domestic politics and the durability of American democracy, while Osvaldo examined continuities in American foreign policy no matter who occupied the oval office. Writing as one of the presenters, I am not sure how much new light was shed but the session gave an interested audience a chance to commiserate, share feelings and ask questions.

Bowling

The Bowling Group is nearing the end of its first season as an ongoing MUNPA group. We started with 17 people signed up for September's game, and by February, the group had grown to 30 members. As member schedules vary, we don't see the full 30, but often get 20 or more people out. Everyone looks forward to our monthly game. It's a chance to have some fun, get a bit of exercise and socialize with friends old and new. This is a non-competitive game: it's all about the fun not the score. Although, there is great cheering when someone gets a strike, and a few muttered groans get heard when there's a gutterball! Each week members can get to bowl with different people; there are no assigned teams. The group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at Holiday Lanes. See our Bowling page on the MUNPA Activities website for further details.

Craft Group

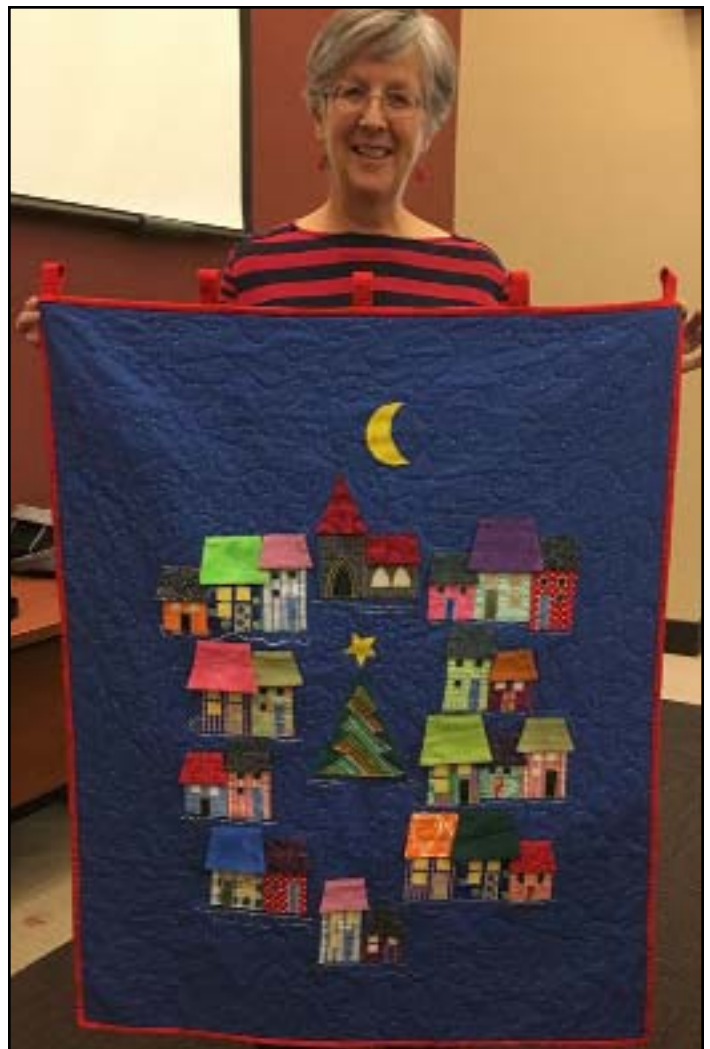
As you can see from the photos scattered throughout this edition of YV, the craft group has been busy (as it always is).

Coffee and Conversation

Our first ever Coffee and Conversation morning is planned for April 23rd. This event is for the surviving spouses and partners of deceased MUN retirees. We've invited this group, who are MUNPA members, to let them know about the services they may not know about that are provided by MUNPA. We've also asked the Human Resources Benefits section to speak to the attendees. Invitations were sent out in mid-March to those living in the greater St. John's area.



A warmth inspiring winter hat by Barb Cox (above) and a fanciful Christmas Wall Hanging by Wanda Garrett (below).





Finally, a lovely set of head warmers produced by Vera Mitchell.