
WAMUN

Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland

Volume 33, No.2

November 2005

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was good to see many regular members at the Fall Reception and I was delighted to see so many new people. As you know, we have already had a successful plant sale and raffle in support of our scholarships. See the reports later in this newsletter. I would really like to thank all our members who did so much work planning and conducting the whole event. I thought it went really well.

Our interest groups are already surging ahead. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will already have had many successful meetings of all the groups. Be sure to read the reports in the next few pages. It is not too late to join some of the groups if you see something that appeals to you.

The next meeting for the whole group will be on **Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Junior Common Room of R. Gushue Hall. Sue Scott is going to present a slide show on her uranium exploration in parts of Peru ordinary tourists would not visit. Her talk entitled "High Altitude Challenge: Peru on a Paycheque" should be very interesting. Try to come.

In January 2006 WAMUN will be 40 years old! We will celebrate this at our New Year's Coffee Morning. Please note on your calendars that it will be held on **Saturday, January 14, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Genesis Board Room, 4th floor Spencer Hall. We plan to have some interesting photos from the Archives, historical information on WAMUN and some special guests. Come and help us celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

Please read about all the activities that are going on. I will resist the urge to tell you about anything else myself.

Eleanor Nesbitt, President
(754-0355; enesbitt@mun.ca)

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

A minor constitutional change was approved at the AGM in April 2005. Please change the following paragraph of your copy of the WAMUN Constitution as follows:

Article IX 1. b. Standing Committees, Other Offices and Interest Groups

Add the following new sentence: "The Chair will continue to serve as a regular member on the Committee for one (1) year following the completion of her term of office as Chair." after the sentence ending "unless an extension is agreed to by the Executive".

(576-4433; gloriasmall@nl.rogers.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

High Altitude Challenge: Peru on a Paycheque:
Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.
Junior Common Room
R. Gushue Hall (Prince Phillip Parkway)

Sue Scott traveled to southeastern Peru for a month last spring to explore for uranium. The project was in an area that is not normally visited by tourists. Just living and working above 4500 metres elevation does present some interesting challenges. Sue will have interesting slides to show of the scenery, the communities, the people, and of course, the "hot" rocks!

If you are new, R. Gushue Hall is on Prince Phillip Parkway, between the Arts and Culture Centre and the chemistry building.

Parking:

- We may park in front of the building along Irwin's Road.
- The Arts & Culture Centre is also open to the public after 6 p.m.
- Parking areas 11 and 12 are for the Paton College tenants only.

New Year's Coffee Morning

Saturday, January 14, 10:30 a.m.

Genesis Boardroom

4th Floor, Spencer Hall

220 Prince Phillip Parkway

Come to celebrate our 40th birthday! We won't have another newsletter until after this event, so please mark your calendars. This will be a good opportunity to see all your friends who you missed at the fall reception.

Parking:

- lot 62 in front of the building;
- lot 19 at the rear of the building.
- Metered parking is available, but you must pay or you will be ticketed.

Remember a food item for the Campus Food Bank.

Brenda Burness

(895-2712; bburness@nl.rogers.com)

Margaret Michalek

(579-5847; michalak@mun.ca)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the following winners of WAMUN graduate scholarships:

Mary Keefe

Master's Thesis Route Scholarship

Faculty of Education

Colette Moores

Master's All Course Route Scholarship

Faculty of Business Administration

Robert Dykstra

Doctoral Scholarship

Department of Anthropology

Connie Morrison

Doctoral Scholarship

Faculty of Education

Each scholarship is valued at \$1,200. Of that, \$600 comes from the WAMUN Scholarship Fund and the Office of Graduate Studies provides \$600. You will recall that the membership decided at the AGM in April 2005 that scholarship students would not receive their actual funds until they had successfully completed their first terms of study.

The four undergraduate scholarship recipients are in the process of being named by the Scholarships and Awards Office. Their names should be available for inclusion in the next newsletter.

The hardworking members and contributors who made the profits to our Scholarship Fund from the September Plant Sale so amazing deserve a special

thank-you. Equally amazing have been the generous individual donations that continue to come into the Fund. The members who are quietly helping in this manner will be receiving tax receipts for 2005.

Tonya Bassler, Chair

Scholarship Committee

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to you our new members and those who are returning! It is always interesting to meet new people who decide to join with us in supporting scholarships and enjoying each other's company.

Annette Murphy recently moved to St. John's from Australia with her partner, Chris Radford, who is the new head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Jill Knoechel and Linda Hensman introduced her to WAMUN and she is walking with us and enjoying Wednesday coffee mornings. Kathy Simonsen came to St. John's in 2003 to join the Classics Department. She has now had a couple of year to settle in and at the suggestion of Sue Scott she has joined us. She is walking with the Saturday group and reading with the non-fiction group. Tanya Shalaby has also lived in St. John's for several years and has now joined the non-fiction reading group at the instigation of Tonya Bassler. Noreen Atkins has taught ESL in St. John's for several years and has now found time for Wednesday coffee with us.

The International Food Group has several new members. Pat Rivers has lived in St. John's since 1977 and has joined WAMUN at the suggestion of Margaret Dohan. She will be a member of the International Food Group and is enjoying the coffee mornings. She is also hoping to walk with us sometime. Marcia Spence has also joined the International Food Group at the suggestion of Margaret Dohan. In addition, Dorothea Hanchar and Anna Consoli have joined this group.

Welcome back to Donna Burden and Sherry Seshadri. We've missed you!

Thank you to all our members who are inviting people to join WAMUN and to the Wednesday morning coffee group and the International Food Group for the welcome they extend to new people. Annette appreciates the warm welcome she has received very much; Pat suggests that considering the spread on Wednesdays, membership in the walking group should be mandatory for those who go to coffee mornings!

Mary Chalker (753-4262; maryc@mun.ca)

ARCHIVES

Mary Chalker and I are putting together a display of archival material for the New Year's Coffee Morning in January when we will celebrate our 40 years. We are asking you for photographs, especially old ones and by 'old' I mean from the early years. We will copy the photos and return them to you.

If you can help, please call either one of us before December. We would like to have things in our hands early in December so we can relax over Christmas and be ready to start putting our display together early in January. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Julia Mathieson
(722-3249; gmathieson@nl.rogers.com)

RECYCLING FOR THE WAMUN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The first \$100 made from the recycling efforts of WAMUN members will soon be deposited into the WAMUN scholarship fund. This is an easy way of raising money for our scholarship fund! Please consider donating your entire recycling revenue to WAMUN - sharing it with other worthy causes is fine, too!

WAMUN members who currently recycle items at any of the following Evergreen Recycling locations can have their refund credited to the WAMUN account:

Mill Lane Enterprises, 807 Water Street
(777-3400)
Cowan Avenue at Waterford Bridge Road
(777-3832)
Regatta Plaza Building, 92 Elizabeth Avenue
(777-3382)

All proceeds donated by WAMUN members will be directed into the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. Ask the depot employee counting your items to complete a blue credit slip for your signature; a receipt may be obtained at the refund desk if desired. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me.

Marilyn Macdonald
(726-3134; m_macdonald17@hotmail.com)

BITS AND PIECES

WAMUN Member Honoured

Susan Scott, P. Geo., has received the Award for Service from the Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland & Labrador (PEG). It was awarded to Sue because of her contributions to PEG and her service to her profession. Congratulations, Sue!

WAMUN Honours Member

At the fall reception, Elke Molgaard received the WAMUN Distinguished Service Pin. Elke has served WAMUN as vice-president and president, regularly serves at the annual Plant Sale and is currently one of the organizers for the International Food Group.

When Elke came to Newfoundland in 1968 with husband John and two babies, she did not join WAMUN for a host of reasons, like finding a baby-sitter in a new sub-division and then finding the money to pay for it, inability to drive ...but most of all her fairly immediate and complete involvement with the Children's Center for about ten years.

Over time she attended WAMUN functions on a casual basis and eventually joined the executive. In addition to the food group she currently participates in two book groups (fiction and non-fiction) and the weekday hiking group.

Looking ahead Elke would like to see Gallery Visitors resurrected. This group went to exhibitions, sometimes persuading artists such as Ilse Hughes and Anne Meredith Barry to talk about their work.

SELF-DEFENSE

So far, there have been only a few women who have indicated that they would be interested in a short (2 hours or so) self-defense course for WAMUN members. If you are interested, please contact Elfi Boehm before November 11. Obviously, if too few women are interested, this will not go ahead. Please call:

Elfi Boehm (722-9623).

House-swap?

Would you, or somebody you know, be interested in a house-swap?

Where: Lisbon, Portugal - St. John's, Newfoundland
When: Approximately the last 2 weeks of July and the first two weeks of August, 2006
What: Swap your house in St. John's for a house with garden in a suburb of Lisbon, 5 minutes from the beach.

For more information, contact:
Elke Molgaard (726-0719)

CAMPUS FOOD BANK

Don't forget the Campus Food Bank. Several of the interest groups take a collection when they meet. Items can always be dropped off at Corte Real.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Book Discussion Groups (fiction)

Well, the split of the fiction book group has occurred. It will be interesting to see how the smaller groups work out. The two groups met together in September to discuss *The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseim. Both groups meet monthly, except December, July and August. We are pleased to be able to meet in the Common Room at Tiffany Towers on Tiffany Lane off Mount Cashel Road. Having this comfortable, well-appointed space is a real benefit.

The groups have decided that, for the present, they will read the same book(s) each month. Here is the schedule for the coming period:

Month	E	A	Title
Nov	15	22	Deafening by Frances Itani;
Jan	17	24	An Equal Music by Vikram Seth
Feb	21	28	My Family and Other Animals by Laurence Durrell

Evening Fiction Book Group

This group meets at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. As indicated above, we meet in the Common Room at Tiffany Towers. New readers are always welcome.

Julia Mathieson (gmathieson@nl.rogers.com)

Afternoon Fiction Book Group

This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. As indicated above, we meet in the Common Room at Tiffany Towers. On Tuesday, October 25, we discussed *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd.

Karen Herzberg (753-6568;
karen_herzberg@hotmail.com)

Book Discussion Group (non-fiction – afternoon)

We will continue to meet on the second Thursday afternoon of each month at 2:00 p.m. Eleanor Nesbitt has kindly offered to host all meetings.

A small group discussed *Samuel Pepys* by Claire Tomlin in September. More of us were present in October to discuss *In the Wake of the Plague* by Norman Cantor. As usual, the discussion was lively and several of us are very sorry that we were unable to make the September meeting. Our schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:

November 10	<i>Notes from a Small Island</i> and <i>Notes from a Big Country</i> by Bill Bryson;
December 8	<i>Bookseller of Kabul</i> by Åsne Seirestad;
January 12	<i>The Desert Queen</i> by Janet Wallach;
February 9	<i>Leap of Faith</i> by Queen Noor;
March 9	<i>Karmic Traces</i> and <i>9/12</i> by Eliot Weinberger;
April 13	Presentation of book choices for 2006 – 2007;
May 11	<i>The Opposite of Fate</i> by Amy Tan;
June 8	<i>Future: Tense: The Coming World Order</i> by Gwynne Dyer.

Note: When two books are listed, members may read either one or both.

We welcome new readers. If you want to join us, send an e-mail to the address below and I will provide you with more information about the books that have been suggested for the group to read.

Annmari Tougui (amtougui@nl.rogers.com)

WAMUN Book Groups Coffee and Treats Afternoon

The Afternoon Fiction Book Group is inviting members of all WAMUN Book Groups to come to a Coffee and Treats afternoon on Tuesday, Dec. 6th at 2 pm. at the Tiffany Towers Common Room. Bring only your mug and be prepared to chat with all the old friends from our Book Groups. Yes, we are having a bit of separation anxiety and are missing everyone. We hope to see as many of you as can possibly attend! Mark this date on your calendar now; more information will follow.

Coffee Break

This very informal group meets in members' homes every two weeks throughout the year for coffee (or tea) and a chat. The location is sometimes changed at short notice, so for the time and place of the next meeting either call Susan Murdey or check for an email from Karen Herzberg.

Susan Murdey (726-0428)

Discovery Investment Club

We are meeting regularly and continue to learn about investing; there are no openings at present. If anyone is interested in starting a new group, we would be happy to have them attend one of our meetings and would help you get started. You would need at least 8 to 10 people who are interested.

Mona Gillespie (368-9623)

Hiking, Etc.

Weekday Walkers

Our new format (any weekday with anyone organizing) hasn't worked very well. I'll try to organize the walks further in advance and try to use every other Tuesday as a starting point. This will give us a framework and alternate days, destinations, etc. can be added if desired. Mark October 25, November 8 and 22, and December 6 for walks starting at 10 a.m. As before, I will e-mail those who have indicated interest in advance. Please feel free to e-mail or phone me if you have any suggestions or questions.

Karen Herzberg
(753-6568; karen_herzberg@hotmail.com)

Saturday Walkers

We continue to walk every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Since the beginning of October we have walked around Long's Pond, from Bowring Park towards the city on the TransCanada Trail, 'behind the Hindu Temple', and 'from Elfi's house'. We decide from one week to the next where we will walk and a message goes out sometime during the week with directions. Of course, every walk ends with a stop at Tim's! Please feel free to join us. The walks are not too strenuous and the conversation is fantastic!

Please contact:

Deborah Rehner re Saturdays:
(739-5046; Deborah.Rehner@mi.mun.ca)
Karen Herzberg re Tuesdays/weekdays:
(753-6568; karen_herzberg@hotmail.com)

International Food Group

The International Food Group started off with a very successful hors d'oeuvres party at Brenda Burness' home on October 22nd with about thirty very enthusiastic people bringing very tasty dishes to this most enjoyable event.

This group of about twenty regular and six substitute members is looking forward to our English dinner in November followed by a meal from Tuscany and another one from the Czech Republic in the spring. We hope to end out season with an April Fool's meal.

Should anyone like to join our group, please contact either Susan Jackson at 726-3808 or Brenda Burness at 895-2712.

Susan Jackson (726-3808)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

1970 – 1971 (35 Years Ago)

- There were dues of \$1 for 'old' members; no dues for new members;
- WAMUN met monthly meetings.

1975 – 1976 (30 Years Ago)

- Sharon Coffey received the first scholarship;
- Interest groups: square dance club; book discussion (reading Alice Munro); gardeners; homemakers; bridge; Wednesday coffee.

1980 – 1981 (25 Years Ago)

- By this time, there were two scholarships.
- Interest groups: book discussion; "conversations with colleagues"; gourmet food; morning and evening homemakers; bridge.

1991 – 1992 (14 Years Ago)

- Sue Scott was president.
- Interest groups: book discussion group (reading Alice Munro and Eugene Forsey); International Food Group; coffee break.
- There were no October or November newsletters in 1985, 1990 or 1995!

2000 – 2001 (5 Years Ago)

- Fundraising activities for the year included the 5th Annual Plant Sale and the Gala Scholarship Concert.
- Interest groups: book discussion group (*Baltimore's Mansion* by Wayne Johnson); bridge; coffee break, Discovery Investment Club; the International Food Group.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

It all started with Elke Molgaard! In the spring, on one of our Tuesday walks, Elke said that she had been thinking about how many members of WAMUN have talents and interests of which others might not be aware. She suggested interviewing some of them for the newsletter and recommended Leila Clase. Those of us who have walked with Leila know that if one has a question about a plant, you can ask Leila and get a well-considered answer. So recently your editor visited Leila and asked her a few questions about her interests.

Leila Clase

When I went to interview Leila, we focused on her interest in flowers, gardening and herbs, in particular. When Leila was in high school, they had separate courses in botany and biology. In botany, they were required to collect, press, identify and label plants, with their Latin names and all. This sparked her interest in the organization of the plant kingdom. She went on to study languages, not biology, and so the interest lay dormant until she came to St. John's.

Once here, Leila started to develop her interest in herbs of all kinds. Her family responded to her interest by giving her books. In the old days, herbs were used not only for cooking, but also as medicines and for other household uses. So today Leila's herb garden contains costmary and hyssop in addition to tarragon, dill, fennel and other cooking herbs.

In 1972, Bernard Jackson started to develop Oxen Pond Botanical Garden, which was opened to the public in the mid-70s. He sent out letters to some people that he knew were interested in the welfare of the Garden and about twenty-five people responded to form the group we know as the Friends of the Garden (FOG). It was an informal group at that time. The Garden was open to the public on Sundays and members of the group manned the desk and walked the trails and were available to answer questions.

In the early eighties the Garden began a more active propagation program of plants using seeds and cuttings, which led to FOG plant sales for fund raising as there were always seedlings and rooted cuttings surplus to the Garden's needs. At the beginning, there was only a fall sale and perhaps only 25 kinds of plants. The sales have grown to include many dozens of kinds of plants and there is a spring sale that is larger than the fall one. Although the horticulturist identifies the plants, Leila puts her interest in "the organization of the plant kingdom" to work by making the plant list for the sale.

In the latter part of the '80s, FOG held their first herb plant sale. The horticulturist instigated it and of course it was a great lot of work. There was even a sheet of recipes, decorated by Sylvia Cullum. Once it was done, there was a short period of wondering what to do next, before they were back at preparing for other sales and figuring out other ways to help the Botanical Garden.

Today, FOG is more highly organized than it was in the early years. Members may be either supporting members or active members. Of the active members, the most active is the horticultural group, which meets every Wednesday morning. Part of this group focuses on dried flowers, which they prepare for sale in the gift shop.

Another group continues to develop the wild life garden, which is just on the edge of the cultivated area of the Botanical Garden. They started to develop this garden in 1992 and it was opened to the public two years later. The idea is to create a garden that is attractive to wild life: birds, bees, and butterflies – which we are likely to notice – and also insects and other smaller wild life.

It is always a delight to visit the home of Leila and Howard Clase. Even on a blustery October morning, one is greeted with a burst of color from the flowers lining the road up to their house. When one leaves, one is very likely to be carrying a little bouquet of flowers plucked from their garden. Thank you, Leila, for consenting to be interviewed!

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to all the people who have contributed to the newsletter. As usual, Shannon Crotty of the newly named Division of Marketing and Communications has provided editorial help. Leila Clase and Elke Molgaard gave generously of their time to help create interesting articles. The executive and conveners all helped by providing material and by helping with proofreading. That being said, your editor takes full credit for any errors that remain.

The next newsletter will come out in early February. With that in mind, the deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2006**.

"No news is good news" does not apply to the WAMUN newsletter. We only print the good stuff! Please help me find it. You provide the suggestions; I'll try to follow up on it.

Deborah Rehner, Editor
(739-5046; Deborah.Rehner@mi.mun.ca)

FUNDRAISING

WAMUN Plant Sale 2005



Thank you, Thank you and Thank you! we want to say to all of you who made this year's plant sale a success. We could not have done it without your support. From donating plants that were carefully nurtured over the summer to volunteering at the plants sale, many of you made a wonderful contribution to the sale.

This year the plant sale brought in \$1,576.15 – a great result for our annual plant sale. All the money raised will go towards the WAMUN scholarships, a great cause.

We had a great committee this year and we had a wonderful experience organizing the plant sale! Karin Kahn, Marjorie Evans, Elfi Boehm, Margaret Dohan and Jaime Enachescu.

Plant Sale Raffle

WAMUN held a raffle held in conjunction with the Fall Plant Sale. We collected items from members and from the business community. Our sincere thanks to Jill and Roy Knoechel, who donated a night for two at McCoubrey Manor B & B; this item was paired with a dinner for two at Magnum and Steins to become the grand prize. Over 300 tickets were sold to raise a total of \$588.00 for the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. The raffle organizers, Marilyn Macdonald and Mary Neifer, would like to thank all those who contributed items and purchased tickets, thereby helping to make the raffle such a success.

Weekenders Shawl

Gloria Small will be offering Weekenders Shawls as a fundraiser for the scholarship fund. This shawl is made from Interlock material and is 19" x 73". The colours are: redwood, almond, emerald, black, slate, ruby, deep purple, lapis blue, teak, soft coral, green apple, raspberry sherbet, and lavender. The shawl costs \$20. This includes tax and must be pre-paid. Four dollars from each shawl will be given to the scholarship fund. These shawls are great for gift giving or for oneself.

Gloria will have some shawls on hand at the various events coming up. It will only take a few days for the shawls to arrive once ordered. If you are interested, you may contact:

Gloria Small
(576-4433; gloriasmall@nl.rogers.com)

Soap Stone Sculpture

A member has anonymously donated a beautiful soap stone sculpture to WAMUN with the understanding that tickets will be sold to members at every WAMUN event this year. The sculpture, which was done by Michelle Rice (a student of Nathaniel Noel) depicts a group of puffins sitting on a rocky ledge. The tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Members are encouraged to purchase tickets for family and friends (what a great stocking stuffer!). The draw will be made at the AGM in April 2006. All proceeds will be directed to the WAMUN Scholarship Fund. If you would like to purchase some tickets and are unable to attend meetings, please contact Marilyn Macdonald.



Marilyn Macdonald (726-3134).