



NEWSLETTER Volume: 1
Date: January, 1999

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Those appointed to sub-committee (not necessarily members of the Board)

Constitution: Harry Evans 461-0989

Newsletter
Editor: Doreen Badgero 931-5641

Benefits: Lionel Funt 926-5063

Chair's Comments:

Happy New Year, as we retirees are dragged towards Y2K. Just as Norman Swartz gets us onto such exciting things as web sites and e-mail someone tells us that all our computers will crash "But then", we say with a shrug of our aching shoulders, "didn't we say so?" One of the important things about being a retiree is the need to communicate. We can't do the things we used to. So let us get into the habit of asking each other. The plumber I get to solve the many plumbing problems of my too old house I can recommend to anyone living on the North Shore. As a mathematical scientist I find I cannot do my income tax return to the satisfaction of the authorities ... any one good at filling in the tax form? I am good at gardening, others are good at wood working, like going to the theatre, playing a game of bridge, can give advice on buying a second hand car ... like a chat over a virtual glass of beer! The e-mail and the web site can act as our help line, let's make use of it.

The first "Board" of the SFURA are an enthusiastic and hard working bunch, so the Association is beginning to get off the ground. Donna (Laws) has much experience in "getting things going" so if you have any ideas phone or e-mail Donna. Remember - 1999 is the United Nations International Year of the Older Person!

Our first "lunch with a speaker" comes along in February so make a date and come along for a convivial lunch with old friends. We have lost our "home", the Diamond Club should continue, "we are promised". We would like to thank the staff at the Diamond Club, particularly Caroline, Sandy, Debra and Derek.

Quotable Quotes:

"There is more to life than increasing its' speed" -- Gandhi

ELDERHOSTEL:

Elderhostel programmes are for people who have retired, participants are usually in their mid fifties and beyond. The programmes cover a very wide range of activities. If you wish to receive an Elderhostel Catalogue write:

- 4 Cataraqi Street, Kingston,
Ontario K7K 1Z7
e-mail: ec mail @elderhostel.org

NORDIC WRECKS:

A cross country skiing organization which meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Coquitlam Recreation Centre, 630 Poirier Street. The President is Gil Richardson at #461-4873. Annual fee is \$15. Trip sign-up at the monthly meetings.

For other ideas for fun and profit visit our website: <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees>

WORK IN PROGRESS:

Please remember that we are a group that offers only advice. We do not seek an advocacy position – all we can do is to remind others that one day “they” will be one of “us”.

Economic Benefits Committee:

This SFURA committee has been considering the medical and out-of-Province benefits packages for the various employee groups on campus. A comprehensive report has been made to the SFURA Board pointing out the existing disparities amongst the various employee groups and making comparison with other similar employee groups outside the university. The adequacy of the coverage is also questioned. The committee is aware of the complexity and difficulty of making policies on a university wide basis but their report to the SFURA Board makes compelling economic arguments for the implementation of equitable treatment. These matters will be discussed by the SFURA Board with the various employee groups.

Parking:

Our man continues to pursue the elusive retiree parking sticker. He reported that he thought he had seen one back in early December, but it escaped from his grasp leaving behind only a few ruffled feathers. Since the start of the New Year even the local variant the unused Parking Space is rarely seen on campus. The hunt continues and the cry of “where is my parking sticker” echoes across the mountain top. Some members have reported that the well known retiree ruse of being very hard of hearing and saying “that’s right, I am a retiree” has worked. Some retired faculty members have tried the “I used to park here before you were conceived” line, but the security person was generally a student who remembered his poor grade. We will not cease in our efforts to find the lair of the wild parking sticker though some claim it to be an extinct species.

SFURA Motto:

A small prize will be given to the best (humorous) motto for our association. So far we have been offered “Nous Sommes Pretes ... almost” and “Happiness is the traffic report at eight o’clock in the morning”. All entries will be published in later news letters.

News of Members:

Please send us any news items you have about your doings, about doings of other retirees or about past members of the SFU workforce and we will run a retirees gossip column, sorry, a retirees news column! Any photos of historical, or even historical interest that could be published in the newsletter or on our web site will be welcomed.

Board Meetings:

The Agenda for our monthly SFURA Board Meetings (first Thursday in the month) will be put into our website. Members of the Association are very welcome at these meetings, so if you have some good ideas for the Board to consider come and tell us about them ... or fax, e-mail or write.

“Take Charge of Your Boredom!”

Friday February 19th,

No host bar @ 11:30

Buffet lunch @ 12:00

Speaker @ 1:00

Location: Best Western Coquitlam Inn
Salon B, 319 North Road, Coq.

Cost: SFURA-member (or spouse) or Guest
\$20.00 Payable at the desk.

Reservations (before February 15th) Donna

Laws #261-4691 or email:

donnaalex@bc.sympatico.ca

Since the Association will be responsible to the Inn for paying for the numbers confirmed, it is important that your commitment to attend and pay for the luncheon is a firm one. Reserve early – seating limited.

Wednesday, March 24th, 7:00 pm on campus
(location to be determined)

“A Shutterbug in the Southern Hemisphere”

Travel talk by **Dr. Derek Sutton** will talk about Chile and the Galapagos Islands.

Thursday, April 22nd,

Annual General Meeting and Dinner. On campus (we hope), details later.

It is hoped that over the next few months some meetings will be arranged for retirees and “near retirees” in conjunction with SFU Human Resources to hear from experts on topics such as Travel Insurance, Income Tax, Setting up your Own Business, Health Concerns, How to make use of e-mail and the World Wide Web, and even Vacation topics. We think putting these as Morning coffee events at 11:30 am on campus might be useful... let us know what you think and give us any other topics you would like explored.

LUNCH SPEAKER:

David Lethbridge

“Waking Up to Racism”

Dr. Lethbridge is College Professor of Psychology at Okanagan University College, in Kelowna. He is nationally renowned, as one of Canada’s most knowledgeable, and effective, fighters against racism and hate. He is well-acquainted with the operations of hatemongers and recruiters in the public schools. He has published more than sixty books and monographs on the phenomenon of hate and racism.

Other Activities:

GOLF:

Norm Robinson and a few other retirees from the Faculty of Education have formed an informal golf group. They generally play weekly on Wednesdays at various local courses. In addition, in the Spring and the Fall they schedule tournaments out of town, in Parksville or Kamloops, etc. If you are interested in a little golfing with this group, Norm would be pleased to hear from you at #325-4964.

“I would give up golf if I didn’t have so many golf sweaters!”

WOMEN’S GOLF:

SFU Women’s Golf meets from April to October, normally on Tuesdays starting at 4:30 pm/5:00 pm at the Kensington Pitch and Putt in Burnaby. All levels are accepted. If you are interested in a little golf with this group, Aileen Sams would be pleased to hear from you at #464-2722.

Letters to the Editor:

Human Resources,
Simon Fraser University
2180 Strand Hall
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

Visit our website:

<http://www.sfu.ca/retirees>

HELP WANTED:

We need a "co-webmaster" to help Norman Swartz with our website. Volunteers?
(swartz@sfu.ca.internet)

IF YOU NEED SOMETHING

If you are looking for help, advice or whatever, send your request to our Human Resources address or e-mail to Norman Swartz and we will put your request on the SFURA website.

**NEWS, NEWS, NEWS
PARKUS OMNIVERUS CAPTURED!**

We are most happy, in fact deliriously happy, to report that a new species, the Parkus Omniverus Retiras, has been captured on Burnaby Mountain. We now have FREE PARKING in the VISITORS PARKADE. On leaving the Parkade you show your NEW 1999 SFURA membership card ... and your parking will be FREE! Please remember that this is a very special arrangement for the OCCASIONAL parking of us retirees. There may be glitches until it gets run in, if you do get charged just let us know, get a receipt and we can get your money back ... well? If you are on campus doing research or etc. on a more or less regular basis PLEASE purchase a normal parking sticker. We are meeting with the security people later in the year to find out how things have gone, and we do emphasize that there is much of an honour system built into the use of our membership cards for this parking privilege. SO IF YOU WANT YOUR NEW SFURA MEMBERSHIP CARD (it will be different in both colour and design from the present one) fill in your SFURA Renewal form and return it to us in the enclosed addressed envelope, please remember to put a postage stamp on the envelope!

Thanks to George (Suart) for all the work he put into getting us our special parking treatment, and our thanks to Nick Coutu (Security and Parking) for coming up with such an acceptable solution.

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SFURA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

FULL NAME _____
NAME OF PARTNER _____
ADDRESS _____
HOME PHONE _____ FAX _____
E-MAIL _____ INTERNET _____

Please make your cheque payable to SFURA.
Use the enclosed addressed envelope. Put on postage stamp!

Note: If you have joined SFURA since January 1st, 1999 your present membership subscription will take you through to March, 2000. You will receive a new 1999 SFURA Membership Card automatically without filling in the above information.