



## Urban Transit Gondola to Burnaby Mountain: Safe, Reliable Transit

*SFU Communications and Marketing*

Arthur Erickson and Geoffrey Massey, the architects of the SFU campus on Burnaby Mountain, envisioned a real community on the mountain – with a lot of housing and places for social interaction. As part of the vision, they imagined a funicular on the north side of the mountain, connecting to Port Moody.

In 2009, SFU Community Trust completed a viability assessment followed by TransLink's business cases in 2011 and an update in 2018. What was envisioned as a "nice to have

to connect communities" has become the best solution for the major transportation issues facing students, staff, and faculty commuting or living on Burnaby Mountain.

Over the last year, the proposal to build a high-capacity urban transit gondola to Burnaby Mountain has progressed significantly. Burnaby Mountain has among the worst performing bus routes in the region, with overcrowding creating some of the longest commute times in Canada

for thousands of SFU students, faculty and staff, as well as UniverCity residents. With nearly 75 per cent of commuters to the Burnaby campus travelling from outside Burnaby, an expanding campus community (25,000 rides per day at present and growing to 40,000 over the next few years), a rapid transit connection to the mountain is needed. The SFU community, and over 5,000 UniverCity residents, (soon to grow to over 9,000) also lack an alternate access route to get on and off the Mountain in the event of road closure due to snow, fire or other emergency.

An urban transit gondola is a proven technology used around the world, and has been determined by TransLink planners as the most feasible rapid transit solution to the growing challenge commuters are facing. In fact, in the recent public engagement process called

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## President's Report

Frances Atkinson

Dear members,

On behalf of your SFURA board, I would like to extend warmest wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling year ahead. It's hard to believe we are already in the 3rd decade of the 21st century.

The Board continues to work hard to maintain good relations with the university and achieve benefits improvements for all retirees. We have just had our annual meeting with President Petter. Several months ago our Benefits Review Committee put together a position paper containing several desired improvements, which the Board sent to the university bargaining committees who bargain on our behalf. We were pleased to see a recent letter from SFU Human Resources sent to all retirees announcing a new Pay Direct Drug plan. That is something our members have long asked for. If any particular improvements to benefits are high priority for you, please do let me know.

The Benefits Review Committee has also worked hard to produce a document called *Choosing Extended Health and Travel Insurance*, which is a guide to help SFU retirees determine the best combination of extended health care and emergency travel insurance to meet their specific needs. When complete, this document will be sent out to all of you and will be added to our website. I want to express gratitude on behalf of all of us to this busy committee for all the good work they have done. Committee members are Jim Boyd, Jay Burr, Apollonia Cifarelli, and Tom O'Shea.

By the time you read this some of us will have participated in an informal lunch at The White Spot on Kingsway in Burnaby, on Tuesday January 14. This is part of our continued efforts to help alleviate the dark days of January by providing you with an enjoyable and affordable opportunity to interact with colleagues and friends.

Our next Spring event will be the annual "Ides of March" reception on Thursday March 12 in the Segal Building downtown. More information will be available by email in due course. At this reception we will once again honour all members who are at least 85 years of age with lifetime memberships as a mark of respect from those of us who have not yet reached that venerable age.

The Ides of March reception serves as a catalyst for renewing your annual SFURA membership. Note, you do not have to wait until March 12; you can renew any time via our website at <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/membership-registration.html>. Even if you don't routinely attend our social events I strongly encourage all of you to renew your membership. Healthy membership numbers give the Association a strong presence with the university to work for the benefit of all retirees. Since membership comes with free parking on Burnaby Campus, just a few visits to campus will cover the \$30 membership cost.

Once again I extend my sincere thanks to our Board members and all volunteers who have helped out in any way with our various activities over the



Fall. In particular I would like to acknowledge Maurice Gibbons who recently retired as our newsletter Editor after many years of excellent work producing well-received newsletters and obtaining a deserved award from CURAC in recognition of his work. Finally, many thanks are due to Tom O'Shea for guest-editing this issue of the newsletter.

Best wishes to all,  
Frances



## *2020 CURAC Conference*

### *UBC – May 13-15, 2020*

College and University Retiree Associations of Canada is a not-for-profit federation of retiree organizations at colleges and universities across Canada.

It is only January, however you may start to think what you'd like to do for the May long weekend. The next **CURAC** conference is being held from May 13-15, 2020 in Vancouver, BC, just before Victoria Day.

While UBC Emeritus College is the conference host organization, both SFURA and UVRA are supporting co-sponsors of the conference. SFURA is an active member of CURAC, co-hosting a previous conference at the University of Victoria in 2012. This is another West Coast opportunity.

The Conference theme is "***Faces of Wellness and Well-Being***". See more information at: <https://www.curac.ca/conferences/2020-conference-at-ubc/> . Please share this information with other members of SFURA who may be interested in attending the conference.

An important feature of the conference is that the presidents of all three universities have been invited to participate in a high level panel discussion on the Friday program. The program is not completely finalized however SFU Gerontology Professor Gloria Gutman is a confirmed speaker.

Registration is available at three levels:

1. Full registration (including banquet)
2. Day Registration (Thursday or Friday)
3. Banquet – Guest - the UBC Opera department will perform at the banquet

For those who might want accommodations near the conference, hotel rooms have been booked for this period: [http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/news/2020\\_CURAC\\_Conference.html](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/news/2020_CURAC_Conference.html)

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“transport 2050” conducted by TransLink, a gondola to Burnaby Mountain was the “most liked” idea.

On May 27, 2019 Burnaby Council unanimously endorsed in principle a gondola link from SkyTrain to the top of Burnaby Mountain. In July 2019, the Mayors’ Council of Metro Vancouver approved the gondola project to proceed with project development, including additional technical design on the route options and engagement with the public.

TransLink and the City of Burnaby are now considering three route alignments for the gondola.

- A direct route from Production Way to University Station
- A dog-legged route from Production Way to University Station with a stop in the Forest Grove neighbourhood
- An L-shaped route from Lake City Way traveling over the tank farm to a mid-point station at SFU

TransLink’s public engagement process for the gondola is to be launched this spring, and the outcome from public feedback, alongside additional technical work, will result in the selection of a route and next steps.

SFU will be reaching out to our community to encourage participation in the public consultation, and we would love to see our retirees participate either in town hall forums or online.

**Fast facts:**

- The urban transit gondola would carry 3000+ people per hour, and cut the commute time between Burnaby Mountain and Production Way SkyTrain station in half.
- The project would free up 26 TransLink buses to serve other routes in the region, reduce greenhouse gases, and improve safety and reliability for transit users.
- The gondola would cost less than \$200 million and has a benefit-cost ratio of 1.8 -- the highest of its kind for a rapid transit project.. ❖



Rendering: Perkins + Will Architects

# On Reflection

## On Consuming

### Marilyn Bowman

For my first eight years I lived in a small northern railway town where my parents personally built a nice wooden house. A hired man helped to dig the basement. We grew a large garden and throughout the season my mother canned vegetables and meat for use all winter. In the fall men hunted, and we hung some meat out in the garage to keep it cold all winter. Mom baked our bread. Our food variety was very limited especially during winter. We only had oranges (Japanese) at Christmas time as the long transport supply chains for fresh fruits were barely established. Our town had no water system so we bought water for our basement cistern from a visiting water tank truck using a hand-pump upstairs to the (only) sink. We collected rain-barrel water in the summer for washing. There was no sewage system so we used a backyard biffy in the summer and a commode in the basement in the fierce winter. The town became electrified only when my father and a neighbour built the power plant; then we had one radio and one telephone. Baths were once a week on the kitchen floor in a tin tub, first the kids, then mom, then dad all in the same water, heated on the wood/electric stove combo that our neighbours envied. We burned coal in a small basement furnace. My mother sewed and knitted most of the family clothes and we purchased very few

“

*Baths were once a week on the kitchen floor in a tin tub, first the kids, then mom, then dad all in the same water, heated on the wood/electric stove combo that our neighbours envied.*

‘consumer’ products. The village had no library and the four-room school had almost no resources.

For my brothers and me life was wonderful in ‘sunny Alberta’, but by modern standards that largely self-sufficient low-consumption life was truly primitive, requiring heroic labours by my parents for every aspect of living.

When I contrast that with my urban life now, I see how much cheap hydrocarbon fuels contributed to allow me vastly more consumption of every kind of possession and labour-saving device, and easy access to every kind of supportive resource starting with water, electricity, and heating. Many urbanites in the developed world assume it is normal to have a daily shower, daily laundry and machine dishwashing. Our possessions mostly derive from the production of oil used both as fuel and as the basic material in plastics. Our tech devices, grooming and cleaning products, kitchen equipment, paint, furniture, bathrooms, and cars are mostly made of plastic from oil, and are transported across the globe by ships and airplanes. Our clothes and fabrics in home and car are plastic-derived polyester. Producing polyester for clothes emits as much carbon dioxide as 185 coal-fired power plants, but cotton has its own problems as it consumes vast amounts of water. Our fresh groceries from distant lands come in plastic packages, and packages from huge online shopping empires come in containers strong enough to survive fuelled-journeys of thousands of miles

by air and sea. Our tech devices are operated by vast servers in remote locations using great amounts of electricity, consuming as much fuel as all air-flights, and are made of rare minerals that poison impoverished miners in remote lands. Pushing for new ‘green’ items is a new consumption. Obese levels of consumption generate obese levels of garbage, and the disposal of huge quantities of electronics is poisoning the third world, urban sewage is clogging giant systems, and discarded plastics are creating giant blobs dangerous to sea life in the open ocean. In recent years our consumer debt in Canada has also become dangerously bloated as we grab onto even more.

Our lives have become easier, cleaner, warmer, more entertaining, safer, and more enriched because of our great hunger for the products of oil and its combustion. If we stop buying and consuming all these modern industrial and remote marvels we will be able to cut back on our use of oil (fuel for transport and material for manufacturing), although we will be able to only partially replace oil with electricity derived from air-water-sun because of significant power storage and transmission problems.



Must people return to the simple, but hard life my parents faced in northern Alberta? Plastic-free lives might indeed prove difficult, characterized by heavy physical workloads, only the most basic possessions, fresh food limited to local and seasonal, and little travel, either locally or beyond.

This difficult scenario is easy to create because we have not yet appreciated the gross limits of air-sun-water power as replacements for the world's vast use of hydrocarbons for products hugely beyond fuel. We seem not ready to consider nuclear power although Canada now makes small safe nuclear power plants. Protesting against pipelines is easy and popular but the consequences of not using oil for fuel and manufacturing are massively beyond what we consider when we do that. We can do many small personal things to reduce our carbon footprint, and we need governments to set policies for the overall trajectory, but we have to understand all the implications that go beyond pipelines. Limiting the passage of a fraction more pipeline oil through our port while living pampered urban lives risks hypocrisy, ignores the huge amount of fuel oil in all the cruise ships and freighters regularly in our port, and affects products and lives far beyond fuel-burning. We have all become consumption grandees and need to consider much more carefully what lives would be like without hydrocarbons being moved from one land to another.

There are important things that government policy can do to offset our dependence on oil for energy, although limiting our consumption of oil-based products is still an open problem. I will write next issue about the things we can do on a large scale in Canada to change how we fuel our power needs, many of which are not yet widely discussed.❖

## **Margaret Jones**

To many, **Marg Jones** was the face of the SFURA from its founding until her retirement from SFU after more than 50 years of service as an employee and volunteer. Marg was elected to the SFURA Board in April 1999 and served as the Treasurer and Membership Coordinator for many years. She served as a Board member until 2008 and as an Advisor until 2015. When her terms as Board member were up she attended meetings as Advisor and Memory Bank to the ever changing Executive Boards and served under SFURA Presidents **John Walkley**, **Donna Laws**, **Bill Yule**, **Marv Wideen**, **Norman Swartz**, **Len Evenden**, **Marilyn Bowman**, **Tom O'Shea**, **Hiromi Matsui**, **John D'Auria**, and **Jim Boyd**.

Marg and her husband Jack were residents of Burnaby and parents of three children when SFU opened in 1965. She was active in Brownies, Girl Guides, Little League and the PTA during her children's school years and she threw herself into SFU activities with equal enthusiasm. She began as a typist and departmental assistant in the Reading and Study Centre, then moved in the 1970s to the counselling office where she was a secretary with departmental assistant duties. A few years later she moved to the Department of Athletics and Recreation where she remained until her official retirement, then stayed on there working part time and volunteering full time. She organized golf tournaments and promotions for the women's basketball teams and was active in many other aspects of campus life. She received a President's 40th Anniversary Award and a C.D. Nelson Memorial Prize for her outstanding contributions to SFU.

When the SFURA was founded, Marg worked from her office in Athletics and Recreation to establish a physical location where SFURA business could be done, with mail and telephone services. The team of Marg, **Jan Blanchet** (Newsletter) and **Bev Carlson** (Social Events) produced a newsletter every month, a social event every month, and looked after memberships and elections and frequent announcements. Mailing and postage costs were a significant fraction of the budget. Norman Swartz ran the website and communications. Eventually we began to rely more on email and now only a few members receive notices and newsletters by post. Marg continued to use her office in Athletics and Recreation for SFURA business until 2016 when we hired an Office Assistant and established an office in AQ 3048.

Marg also helped to organize the production of our seven Oral History DVD's, and our contribution to SFU's 40th anniversary celebrations. She arranged most of our dining events and receptions and provided flowers and door prizes for the lucky recipients. Our book *Remembering SFU on the Occasion of its 50th Birthday* was dedicated to her. Our annual Day at the Races is dedicated to her and is called *The Marg Jones Sweepstakes*. She received a CURAC Tribute Award in 2016, given by the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada for her service to SFU and to the SFURA.

She moved to Vancouver Island a few years ago and passed away on September 21, 2019.

# Activities of the SFURA Benefits Committee

*Apollonia Cifarell - Chair*

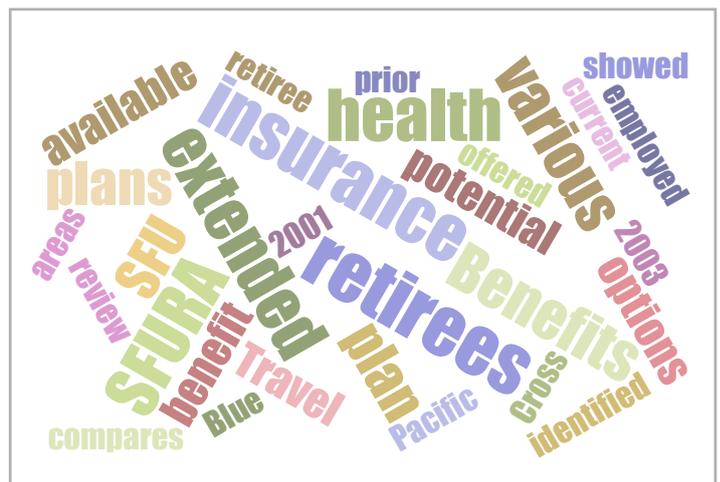
In 2019 the SFURA Board established a Benefits Committee consisting of **Jay Burr, Jim Boyd, Tom O'Shea, and Apollonia Cifarelli**. The committee was tasked with:

1. *Reviewing the SFU extended health coverage for SFU Faculty Association and APSA retirees employed prior to 2001, and CUPE and Poly Party employed prior to 2003.*
2. *Identifying areas for potential benefit improvements.*
3. *Developing a Guide to assist retirees in choosing among extended health and travel insurance plans .*
4. *Creating a brief summary highlighting key points in the Guide.*
5. *Reviewing extended health coverage for retirees employed post 2001 and 2003.*

The review of current extended health coverage for retirees employed prior to 2001 the Pacific Blue Cross plan offered by SFU compares favourably with other retiree plans. A few areas were identified for improvement. SFURA has prepared and submitted a document prioritizing the desired changes. One of the improvements identified (direct pay for drugs) was implemented January 1, 2020. Other areas where improvements are sought include an increase to the lifetime limit from \$150,000 to \$195,000, an increase to reimbursements for vision care and hearing aids, and lumping professional practitioner services into a single annual limit of \$1,500. We are hopeful that with continued effort the SFURA Board can work incrementally to achieve success towards these improvements.

A Guide, "Choosing Extended Health and Travel Insurance", will soon be available to SFU retirees.

Given the complexity of insurance coverage, significant effort was required to clarify the benefits and actual coverage, and the various insurance plan options available to SFU retirees. Thanks to the tenacity of Jay Burr and Jim Boyd the coverage details were clarified and reference documents secured. A draft of the Guide has been prepared by Jay and Tom O'Shea with input from Apollonia, and Jim. All this effort has resulted in a very detailed and comprehensive guide that will assist SFU retirees in making personalized choices for extended health care, travel medical emergency and trip cancellation/interruption insurance. A summary document providing a brief overview of the Guide has also been prepared. The Summary should provide some focus on where to seek more clarification in the Guide. Both the Guide and the Summary will be circulated to retirees and posted on the SFURA website.



The committee has yet to initiate a review of extended health coverage for retirees employed post 2001-2003. ❖

## *Cirque du Soleil*

Tom O'Shea



**D**o you long for the days of the travelling circus? Lion tamers? Elephants? Freak shows? In the words of Mickey Blue Eyes, “Fuggedaboutit.” Welcome to the new circus generation exemplified by the Cirque du Soleil. No animals are harmed in the show because there are no animals in the show. Just human performers of extraordinary talent and derring-do. Only one was harmed in the show I saw last year and that looked like a sore ankle from a mis-judged landing.

Years ago I attended a conference in Last Vegas (my first and last time there) and we saw the Cirque du Soleil production of “O” (from “l'eau”) in a specially designed venue at the Hotel Bellagio. It was spectacular, unique, and highly enjoyable (and still running). I raved about it to my friends.



So I was delighted that several years later CduS appeared in Vancouver in a travelling show called Koozâ. There it was, in the big tent, on the shores of False Creek. But it turned out to be a disappointment—about five acts separated by long spells of clowning filler. Not surprising, I guess, as the production had been designed by a clown.

And so, with some trepidation, we decided to give them another chance and bought tickets for last year's production of Luzia (prompted partially by a 25% off deal thanks to a fellow volunteer at Vancity). The theme of the show was Mexican and we do like the music and folklore of Mexico.

This time we were not disappointed. The sets were colourful, creative, and captivating. They even had a waterfall that somehow created the illusion of ghostly creatures falling within a curtain of water.

To open...a sky-diving man descends from the darkness into a foreign landscape that becomes populated with iguanas, jaguars, swordfish, mobile cacti, and a giant metal-plated horse. A huge sun/moon looks down on all the action. What follows is a varied succession of acts using Cyr wheels (hard to describe), tight and slack ropes, trapezes, hoops, and springboards. Diving through hoops is done on a giant treadmill set on a rotating turntable. Other acts are set on dual turntables that allow the audience to watch from constantly changing angles. A highlight, but not for the faint-hearted, was the contortionist. It was hard to believe that anyone could bend backwards to the point where he was looking at the audience from his pelvis. My wife, who is a pain specialist, was feeling sick. The music that accompanies the acts is powerful and enhanced by soloists and choral groups. The show is subtitled “a waking dream of Mexico” and the combination of sets, music, and acts does create a dream-like quality to the show.

In February, we're off to Puerto Vallarta in Mexico. The resort we're staying in is constructing a permanent Cirque du Soleil venue on the premises. I hope they will open with Luzia...it would feel entirely at home. ❖



Reviews by Sandra Djwa, David Stouck, Jerry Zaslove



## *Being Mortal* / review by Sandra Djwa

To celebrate your 80th birthday, as I did this year, is to recognize that you're not going to be around forever. In the train of this thought comes a whole sheaf of documents: *Representation Agreement*, *Power of Attorney*, and ominously, *Last Will and Testament*. It has also caused me, when scanning my daughter-in-law's bookshelf, to pick up and carry away her copy of Atul Gawande's eloquently written *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*.

Gawande is a medical doctor, the son of Indian immigrants to the United States. He contrasts the experience of his grandfather in India who could remain an independent self, that is stay in his own home with help and dignity, with that of his wife's grandmother in the United States, who was faced with a nursing home so odious that she gives up and allows herself to die. The middle way is provided by the story of his own father who finds, at the end, some autonomy and palliative care.

Gawande's central argument that doctors are not taught to understand the tragedy of human life, that for all of us "things fall apart" in a genetically programmed manner accelerated by wear and tear (his Chapter 2 is a wonderfully nuanced description of the process of aging). He is writing "about the modern experience of mortality – about what it's like to be creatures who age and die, how medicine has changed the experience and how it hasn't, where our ideas about how to deal with our finitude have got the reality wrong." (p. 9)

When we age, most doctors and patients believe that what is required is medical intervention, which persists sometimes beyond the point that medicine can actually help. What we have got wrong, Gawande says, is how most people feel at the end of their lives. Abraham Maslow had argued that survival is a primary impulse but gerontologists now believe that this is no longer true as we age. Our perspective is conditioned by our sense of how much time we have left. When we are young we imagine we will live forever. "But as your horizons contract – when you see the future ahead of you as finite or uncertain – your focus shifts to the here and now, to everyday pleasures, and the people close to you." (p. 97)

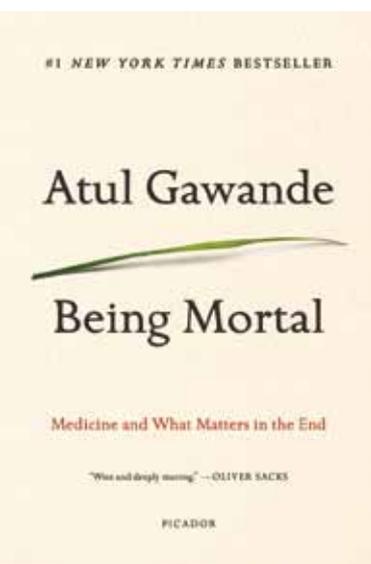
We all need to be able to exercise some autonomy in our lives but nonetheless we willingly surrender independence to our children as we grow old. Because taking care of a debilitated older person is "an overwhelming combination of the technological and the custodial" the usual choice of our children is the "Nursing Home" or "Assisted Living" which provides security but denies individual autonomy. Gawande spends some time describing how various individuals have attempted to bring humanity to such care facilities, and how little of their findings are reflected in existing institutions. He also points out that the structure of such institutions destroys what we value most: "Whatever limits and travails we face, we want to retain the autonomy – the freedom – to be the authors of our lives. This is the very marrow of being human." (p. 140)

This problem faces many of us. After retirement how do we find our way in that long or short interim between health and infirmity? When infirmity occurs, how do we find nursing homes that feel like home? Gawande takes care to point out that current research has proven that overly aggressive care can shorten life but that some of the alternatives can prolong it. He is particularly helpful in pointing out the ways in which palliative care can keep us comfortable longer.

Finally, he emphasizes what scholars call the "dying role" and its importance to people as their lives end. "People want to share memories, pass on wisdoms and keepsakes, settle relationships, establish their legacies, make peace with God, and ensure that those who are left behind will be okay. They want to end their stories on their own terms." (p. 249) The last part of the book deals with the problems faced by Gawande's father in old age and the steps they took together. To conclude with Gawande's own words:

"Being mortal is about the struggle to cope with the constraints of our biology, with the limits set by genes and cells and flesh and bone. Medical science has given us remarkable power to push against these limits ... but again and again I have seen the damage we in medicine do when we fail to acknowledge that such power is finite and always will be.

We've been wrong about what our job is in medicine. We think our job is to ensure health and survival. But really it is larger than that. It is to enable well-being." (p. 259). ❖



## Truth

*Joannie Wolfe*

Truth finds us  
It awakens us from deep sleeps and leaves us  
questioning  
It prods us out of denial and propels us into  
action  
It nags us when we least expect

It brings to us experiences from which to grow  
It underlies judgement and belief and  
heals disease

Truth finds us--it lies  
within



Monet, Claude: Path in the Wheatfields at Pourville



## Make America Grate Again

*By Albert Curzon*

Once there was a US cook  
And late in life he wrote a book  
He loved his work of times gone by  
He was a real historic guy  
Parmesan's a solid cheese  
Which can be powdered with great ease  
Once this is done it can be scattered  
O'er many dishes both boiled and battered  
But now you find in any store  
There's parmesan powder in packets galore  
This upsets our literary cook  
Who claims most forcefully in his book  
"Machine powdered cheese is harmful to health  
It merely improves the seller's wealth.  
The cure to powdering is very plain  
Just make America grate again"



# My Serendipitous Engagement with Hawaiian History

By Jim Boyd

In June of 2019 while on a trip to New York I was fortunate to have an amazing experience. Sitting beside me on the shuttle bus into Times Square from the airport, I was privileged to meet Mr. Leon Kaulahao Siu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands.

He was on his way to the United Nations to present a report on *The Basis for the Restoration of the Hawaiian Kingdom*, a hard copy of which he gladly provided to me for my own interest. This gentleman was nominated for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize and in June 2017 he received the Gold Medal “UN Peacemaker Sergio Vieira de Mello” awards from the International Parliament.

Mr. Siu is an astute participant, analyst and strategist in the political arena and has received international awards and recognition for his work in affecting public policy. He has been a Hawaii contact and contributor to the Washington Times, the Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post and the International Diplomat. Leon Kaulahao Siu is actively involved in the movement to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom as a sovereign, independent, neutral nation, working to revive diplomatic relations with other nations. He informed me as follows:

In 1993, the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution, which President Bill Clinton signed into law, offering an apology to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States for its involvement in the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. The law is known as the Apology Resolution, and represents one of only five times that the United States government has formally apologized for its actions.

On January 16, 1893, United States troops invaded the Hawaiian Kingdom without just cause, which led to a conditional surrender by the Hawaiian Kingdom's executive monarch, Her Majesty Queen Lili'uokalani, the following day. In response to the Queen's conditional surrender of her authority, President Grover Cleveland initiated an investigation on March 11, 1893, with the appointment of Special Commissioner James Blount whose duty was to “investigate and fully report to the President all the facts [he] can learn respecting the condition of affairs in the Hawaiian Islands, the causes of the revolution by which the Queen's Government was overthrown.”

The investigation concluded the United States committed Acts of War against the Hawaiian Kingdom. The agreement of restoration, however, was never implemented. Despite the unprecedented prolonged nature of the illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom by the United States, the Hawaiian State, as a subject of international law, is afforded all the protection that international law provides.

The Hawaiian Islands had a well-established culture and long history of self-governance when Captain James Cook, the first European explorer to set foot on Hawaii, landed in 1778. Originally governed by individual chiefs or kings, the islands united under the rule of a single monarch, King Kamehameha, in 1795, less than two decades after Cook's arrival. The Hawaiian Islands were first settled as early as 400 C.E., when Polynesians from the Marquesas Islands, 2000 miles away, traveled to Hawaii's Big Island in canoes.

The overthrow of Lili'uokalani and imposition of the Republic of Hawaii was contrary to the will of the native Hawaiians who staged mass protest rallies and signed an important historical petition. On January 5, 1895, the protests took the form of an armed attempt to derail the annexation but the revolt was suppressed by forces of the Republic.

When the Hawaiian Islands were formally annexed by the United States in 1898, the event marked the end of a lengthy internal struggle between native Hawaiians and American businessmen for control of the Hawaiian government. Once annexed by the United States, the Hawaiian Islands remained a U.S. territory until 1959, when they were admitted to statehood as the 50th state.

There is a growing movement on the Islands to revive interest in the native Hawaiian language and culture. Primary sources such as the 1895 petition bear witness that there is another side to the story. The Nation of Hawaii is an independent and sovereign group of Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians), formed in resistance to the occupation of Hawai'i by the United States. It is the oldest Hawaiian independence organization.

For more information on this important movement, please note the following links:

Watch the interview of the Ambassador for Peace, Mr. Leon Siu, attending for the 30th time in 10 years, the Human Right Council of the United Nations in Geneva (18 Sept. 2019) to plead the cause of the restoration of Ke Aupuni o Hawaii, the Hawaiian Kingdom.

<https://vimeo.com/360917146> and <https://www.gspeakers.com/our-speakers/leon-kalauhao-siu/>

More information here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overthrow\\_of\\_the\\_Hawaiian\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overthrow_of_the_Hawaiian_Kingdom).

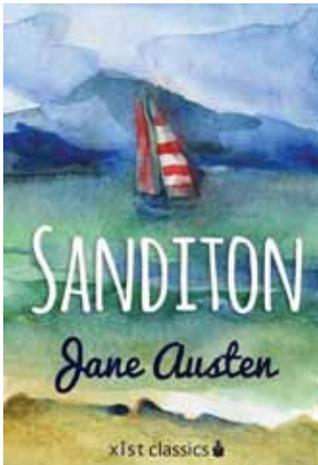
[hawaiiankingdom.net](http://hawaiiankingdom.net) and here: [talesofhawaii.net/category/leon-siu/](http://talesofhawaii.net/category/leon-siu/)

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/hawaii-petition>

Sheila Delany

**T**hree novels in four days, all of them astonishing, shocking, subversive.

First a Sunday night TV series. The dramatized novel is *Sanditon*, Jane Austen's unfinished last work, started in 1817 shortly before her death, extant only in the incomplete manuscript. I've read several of Austen's novels and taught two of them: *Pride and Prejudice* at my first job at Queens College, CUNY and *Northanger Abbey* here. (It was no small point of pride when a student observed that I reminded him of Miss Elizabeth Bennett.) Nonetheless I was amazed at *Sanditon*: Did Jane Austen really write this? Well, yes and no: The text has been tweaked and enhanced by TV adaptor Andrew Davies, bringing out hinted-at themes or undeveloped characters, but all within historical and interpretive reason.



It's probably one of the earliest literary treatments of rural development after Oliver Goldsmith's "*The Deserted Village*" (1770)—certainly a poem Austen would have known-- about the loss of collective lands to enclosure. Here it's the financial manipulations behind an attempted transformation of a tiny seaside village into a luxury spa and hotel resort. It has a black heroine, Georgianna, who is wealthy, beautiful, independent-minded, and fully aware of the British racism she encounters at every turn. She is the daughter of a British landowner in the Indies and a black former slave mother; for those who consider her a financial catch, her color is no deterrent—the mother's status is more of an issue. The novel has an apparently incestuous brother-sister team determined to pull themselves out of poverty by ensnaring Georgianna; they could have inspired Riff Raff and Magenta in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*—or vice-versa: RHPS as inspiration for the adaptor. Either way, the bizarre sibling relationship is in the novel. The brother, a rake, attempts

to rape the young ward of a wealthy woman; she deters him with a hand-job, which he recounts explicitly to his sister. This sequence is only alluded to in the text, but the interpretation is valid. So Jane is writing about British colonialism, race, incest, money, declassed aristocrats, rural development, investment, rape...Let's do the time-warp again!

Second is an actual novel, begun on Tuesday: *The case of Comrade Tulayev* (1947) by the lifelong revolutionary activist and prolific writer Victor Serge. What a writer! The ingenious narrative thread is a murder and far-reaching investigation of it, permitting chapters set in cities and rural areas of Russia or Spain during the revolutionary war. Everything appears with the physical granularity possible only for someone who's been there, noticed everything and forgotten nothing, someone on whom (to echo Henry James) nothing was wasted. On every page are gorgeous lyrical natural scenes, psychological insights into character, deep philosophical or political ideas. To be a successful bureaucrat in the midst of a Stalinist purge, to be an ardent young revolutionary in the failing Spanish civil war—it's painful reading for anyone who knows the history. It's an education in writing for anyone brought up on modern or, worse, postmodern minimalism and cynicism.

Last is the ongoing Trump saga. A major segment opened Wednesday night on TV with an interview of Lev Parnas, one of Trump's many low friends in high places. No literary manuscript here, just the reality of e-mails, scrawled notes on luxury hotel notepads, text messages, all caught up in the relentless research and brilliant journalism of Rachel Maddow. As to the interview: as they say, you couldn't make it up—and don't have to. The sensational reality playing out in my country has the quality of fiction, so bizarre is much of it, so upfront and unashamed the corruption, so utterly dismaying the moral cowardice and sycophancy of so many elected or appointed officials. It's partly the extension of the 18th-century developer portrayed by Austen, ready to sacrifice anything to see his project built (need we say "Trump Moscow"?). It's partly another version of the corrupt and hypocritical Chief (Stalin) portrayed by Serge, surrounded by yes-men and ready to throw under the bus anyone suspected of disloyalty. We await the next installment—not only of the next interview with Parnas, but of the entire thing, the Senate trial. Will they or won't they (call witnesses)? What more will be revealed? Was there a budding assassination plot ("an unfortunate accident...") against Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch? Shouldn't Vice-President Mike Pence be impeached alongside Trump given his active role in the Ukraine scandal? How would Nancy Pelosi be as president were they both thrown out? How much crime and corruption can the Republicans close their eyes to? Where is the U.S. headed? Stay tuned? ✨



# Inspiration

*By Albert Curzon*

For some time now I have been writing to a young boy in Romania. He is called Andrei. There are misfortunes in his life and I thought a regular letter from distant Canada might do something to cheer him up a bit. The trouble is that it is difficult to find suitable subjects about which to write. What I need is some inspiration.

A long time ago a mathematician called Charles Lutwidge Dodgson used to write to a little girl called Alice. He had no trouble with inspiration. He invented a whole menagerie of interesting characters and wrote stories to entertain her. They were published under the pseudonym, Lewis Carroll. His "Alice in Wonderland" became world famous. If only I had his inspiration!!

A visitor to our garden in the year 2,000 was "Scruffy" a Stellar's jay which had the most beautiful blue plumage. His plumage was not smooth and sleek, as is generally the case. It was untidy, hence the name "Scruffy". I expect it got that way because he had been in a fight. It is little wonder that it's hard for me to find inspiration for letters to Andrei. The bird's



Photo: Courtesy of Robin Lamb. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/robinbirdman/>

plumage is ruffled so I call him Scruffy. Doubtless if I had a Dalmatian dog I would call it Spotty. Obviously there's no hope!

An English family of bird lovers visited us in 1997. At that time (inspired by them) we had a bird feeder in the back garden and all sorts of multicoloured finches would come to dine on the seeds. They were unafraid and the visitors would sit on the sundeck in the early morning talking quietly and watching the birds--a moment of sheer delight. Unfortunately birds are messy eaters. The seeds go everywhere. We decided to let the fallen seeds germinate to see what plants would grow. As a special treat for our visitors I bought several pounds of peanuts to feed to the jays. They are cheeky birds and will come very close especially if food is involved so I put a piece of plywood about one foot square on the horizontal rail of the sundeck and added some peanuts. It was not long before the jays came and our visitors got a close-up view of these very attractive birds.

One day I was quietly looking at the bird feeder when I saw a rat heading towards the base. This horrified me. The prospect of rats in the basement was too awful to contemplate. I went to the basement and found part of a 4"x4" fence post. I quietly slid open the door to the sundeck and stealthily crept down the steps towards the bird feeder. The rat was too busy feasting among the plants which had grown up around the base of the feeder to notice me. When I was close enough to strike I brought down the post with incredible speed. The rat saw me and with even more incredible speed

headed for a retaining wall by the side of our back garden. Neighbours' cats prowl in our garden. I never did see the rat again and presume that he fell prey to one of the cats. This event decided me to abandon feeding the birds. It was just too stressful. I put the remaining large quantity of peanuts in a plastic bucket in the carport and closed the bucket with a plastic lid with a large stone on top for added security. I considered that the hard plastic of the bucket would be resistant to the sharp teeth of rodents and that was that. No more feeding of the birds and no more associated problems, but then came Scruffy.

Scruffy arrived about three years later on one, cool morning in the summer of 2000. He sat on the rail of the sundeck all puffed up, disheveled and forlorn. I felt sorry for the poor creature and wondered "Is there anything I can give him?" I remembered the peanuts. They were still in the carport and amazingly, nothing had got into the container. I broke open a peanut shell and sniffed. It smelled fresh so I decided to put a few peanuts on the sundeck rail. As I went out to the rail Scruffy flew to a nearby plum tree. After I retreated a few paces he flew back, eyed me, grabbed a peanut swallowed it down, shell and all and then took another peanut in his beak. They can store the whole nuts in their crop and they regurgitate them later so as to peck away the shell and eat the nut inside. We repeated the ritual for two or three days and each day he would tolerate my being closer to him as he picked up the nuts. Then came a disaster. One morning he did not appear. I felt very sad because I thought that the nuts had poisoned him. I had been too mean to get fresh supplies and I had killed a beautiful, trusting creature. My mind manufactured a convenient cat which had eaten him as the mind always invents excuses for those who know they have done wrong but seek some reason to explain why they are still without fault. You can imagine my jubilation when he returned the next day after the gap. I was singing all day long. Eventually Scruffy's colleagues noticed that a new restaurant had opened up in the neighbourhood so they came too. I didn't mind, but Scruffy was still the favourite. He was not as sleek as the others but he let me come the closest and I was able to take a picture of him. He and his friends ate all the old peanuts and do you know what, I bought some new ones!

Above the board where Scruffy ate there was a steel clothesline sheathed in blue plastic. Every three months or so, when my wife does the washing, the line is full of brightly-shining, Tide-bleached washing. The flapping clothes do not seem to deter the birds from perching on the line and their activities when the blueberries are flourishing lead to stains which all the wonders of modern cleansing technology cannot remove. The blue stains become rust coloured and they are absolutely permanent, a dye maker's delight. I resent this lack of courtesy by our feathered friends but I love them just the same. Under this clothesline there is a peg cemetery. For the sake of any North American readers who have not received the benefit of the best possible education, an English education, I should explain that North Americans quaintly refer to a clothes peg, if they refer to it at all, as a "clothes pin". Another misfortune of North America is the belief that clothes should be dried in a rotating drum through which electrically heated air is passed. This means that many Americans have never even heard of a clothes peg or clothes pin. This habitual use of the clothes roaster deprives the clothes of the benefits of the exposure to ultraviolet light in sunlight. The rule is that clothes benefit from ultra violet light and brains and skin do not. The popularity of the television programme "Babe Watch" in which bosomy and bikini clad Californians romp every week on sun-drenched sands until they rescue an idiot who has some part of his anatomy trapped in a robot shark's mouth clearly shows the harmful effect of the sun. The little brains they do have become overheated and lead them to the reckless exposure of themselves to the sun. The situation can be summarized by the equation "reckless exposure = reckmore skin!" But I digress. I introduced the term "peg cemetery" which has not yet appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary but which will appear there when this story has been accepted into English literature. A peg cemetery is quite simply a place where pegs fall to the ground and, instead of being retrieved are left to die. Our peg cemetery is at the foot of the sundeck below the clothesline. To get there it is necessary to descend the steps of the sundeck and then to turn, walk back towards the house so as to be directly under the clothesline. The journey involves a drop in height of at least four feet and one must walk at least ten paces. It is clear why human foot seldom treads in the peg cemetery. Recently I dropped a peg there when I was virtuously hanging out to dry a washed plastic bag which had previously contained muddy vegetables. The ultimate destination of the cleaned plastic bag was to be transported to the recycling centre where it could be reincarnated as another plastic bag for more muddy vegetables. The thought of a peg perishing so early before it had reached its full potential touched me deeply. This and my avarice resolved me to retrieve the peg immediately. I set off and looked in the grass which had grown up since the last mowing. I found an even greater treasure than I could have imagined. I picked it up and with the sun shining over my shoulder upon it I marveled at the wonderful blue iridescence of the feather from a Stellar's jay. I am sure it was from Scruffy and it was his way of saying "thank you."

I started out looking for inspiration. I think I've found it. I'll send the feather to Andrei and I'll tell him about Scruffy. Don't you think he might like that? ❖

# Barry Truax : Electroacoustic Composer

website: [www.sfu.ca/~truax](http://www.sfu.ca/~truax)

2019 marked the 50th anniversary of retired Professor Barry Truax's career as an electroacoustic composer, which he pursued at SFU since 1973 when he joined the (then-called) Department of Communication Studies to work with **R. Murray Schafer** and the *World Soundscape Project (WSP)*. To celebrate this anniversary, Barry presented three solo retrospective multi-channel concerts of his works (those on fixed media) first at the University of Greenwich, UK a year ago, then more recently in Venice at the Conservatory of Music, and finally, at the Université de Montréal, arguably the most important centre for this type of creative work in Canada.

The year also saw him receive an Honorary Membership in the Canadian Electroacoustic Community organization, as well as a premiere at De Montfort University in Leicester, UK, plus other performances in Copenhagen, Linz, Colombia, Udine (Italy), and the U.S.

The solo retrospective concerts all included his now "classic" work *Riverrun* (the title being from Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*) which has the distinction of being the first computer-synthesized work realized entirely with real-time granular synthesis, a technique based on producing high densities of very short "grains" of sound. It was realized with the composer's own PODX software, entirely developed at SFU, initially in the 1970s on "borrowed" research computers in Psychology and Computing Science, and then in the 1980s and later on a dedicated machine in the School for the Contemporary Arts. This software established SFU as a centre for the emerging field of "computer music," marked in 1985 by SFU hosting the International Computer Music Conference on campus, including a memorable four-channel concert in the AQ on a sunny day in August. More recently the legacy of the WSP has included the practice of "soundscape composition" in all of its varied forms, for which SFU is regarded as a pioneer. ❖





## IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

Evelyn Palmer



Congratulations to SFU Earth Scientist **John Clague** who has been named as an Officer of the Order of Canada. John was recognized for his contributions to environmental earth science and is an expert on Quaternary science, the geological history of Earth of the last 2.6 million years.

John is a member of the SFURA and like many members, remains active in geological research with projects in South America and Europe through consulting, committee work, and philanthropy. Before his retirement he gave us a talk at Harbour Centre in the Speakers Program Living on the Edge. See [http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/previous-years/2017/Living\\_on\\_the\\_edge.html](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/previous-years/2017/Living_on_the_edge.html)

See the story at <https://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2020/01/sfu-earth-scientist-john-clague-named-to-order-of-canada.html>



Photo: Sandra Djwa and Annie Ye

Congratulations as well to **Sandra Djwa** who has been made a Life Member of the Royal Society of Canada, one of Canada's highest academic honours. Sandra is a former Chair of the English Department where she taught Canadian literature. She has won many awards, one of which was the 2014 Canada Prize in the Humanities for her book *Journey with No Maps, a Life of P.K. Page*. She gave us a talk on this book in our Speakers Program a few years ago.

She is an active member of the SFURA and contributes to the Newsletter.

See the story at: <http://www.sfu.ca/english/news/blog/former-sfu-english-department-chair-becomes-lifetime-member-of-t.html>

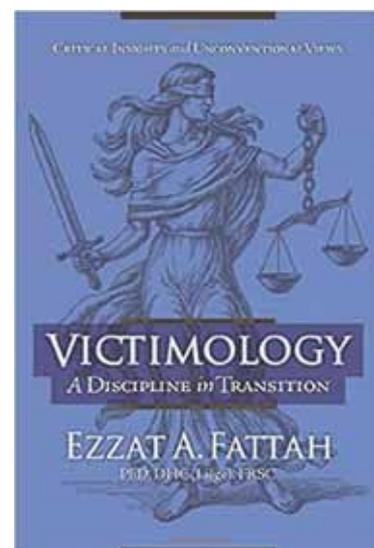
Our indefatigable **Selma Wasserman** has just come through with another book, *Evaluation Without Tears, 101 ways to evaluate the work of students*. It is one of SEVEN of her books on our website published since her retirement; [www.sfu.ca/retirees/Books\\_By\\_Retirees.html?q=selma+wassermann](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/Books_By_Retirees.html?q=selma+wassermann)

The cover has a photo of a darling little boy. I asked if it is of one of her great grandchildren. She replied "Yes indeed. It's the adorable Kai, who is so pleased that he is going to be famous. I have to keep writing books so that all the "greats" get a chance on a cover."

**Sheila Delany's** new poetry collection, *Crowded Mirror*, announced in the last issue of the newsletter, is now available at both SFU bookstores (Burnaby and Harbour Centre), People's Co-op on Commercial, and Spartacus on Findlay Street between Commercial and Victoria. It is published by Durga Press. See [http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/Books\\_By\\_Retirees.html?q=delany](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/Books_By_Retirees.html?q=delany)

**Ezzat Fattah** has published his second book in three months, *Victimology, A Discipline in Transition*. The previous one, *Restorative Justice: March Towards a Civilized Justice Paradigm* was announced in the Fall 2019 Newsletter. Both books are being sold by Amazon and Kindle Direct Publishing. See: [http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/Books\\_By\\_Retirees/Victimology.html](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/Books_By_Retirees/Victimology.html)

**Jim Felter** wrote from Ecuador: Mónica Polanco, researcher in the area of Design and Visual Culture, Management of entrepreneurship projects with native communities and Faculty Member at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador headquarters in Ibarra, dropped by Saturday afternoon to present me with a signed copy of the new limited edition 96p illustrated book she



recently co-authored with Elizabeth Guzmán. The book, entitled "*Ecuadorian postal stamp: origins and transformations*" includes the first essay on International Mail Art published in Ecuador and a selection of my Mail Art and ECUADADA artistamps.

Jim included beautiful images of his Mail Art and Ecuadada postages stamps in his letter. His website is: The House of Jas: <<http://thehouseofjas.ca>> and his Artwork is at: <https://www.facebook.com/artwork555/> Have a look.

The SFURA Executive Board hosted a lunch for **Maurice Gibbons** on November 29, 2019, to thank him for his many years of service as Editor of the Newsletter and Editor of *Remembering SFU*, as well as his very hard work on the Board.



He has stepped down as Editor and is planning to work on his own stories, poems and books. We hope he carries on with his art and

sculpture too. He has promised to write stories for our newsletters. We wish Maurice many years of happy pursuits.

Maurice has a long history with the SFURA. He and Marv Wideen gave one of the first talks in our Seminar Series on November 16, 2004. He later gave one on keeping a personal journal. He represented the SFURA at conferences of CURAC, the Tri-Universities, and the Northwest Universities Retiree Associations in Seattle. He was a winner of the CURAC Tribute Award in 2017. He was the author and director of our skit at the 2019 Ides of March Reception: *Big Julie Hits the Forum*.

Maurice is the personification of the SFURA motto "*It's not so much what you have already done but what you are planning to get done tomorrow.*"

Many of our members regularly attend seminars and colloquia of their departments. A very faithful bunch include Physics retirees **Daryl Crozier, K.S. Viswanathan, Leigh Palmer, Dave Huntley** and **Tony Arrott**, who along with **Lionel Tolan** attended a colloquium presented by their old student, **Ken Urquhart** in October. Ken came to give a presentation to students on the excellent opportunities available to Physics graduates. See the story at: <https://www.sfu.ca/physics/newsevents/phys-news/2019/oct/Alumnus-Urquhart-Colloquium.html>

A big welcome to new SFURA members who have joined since May:

**William Glackman, Rick Parent, Karen Marotz, Richard Harris, Janet Hudgins, Paul Percival, Margaret Rimmington, Sue Wilson, Paul Ho, Anita Turner, Sue Digney, Ailsa Davies, Jill Baryluk, Cheryl Amundsen, Peter Williams, Kieran Egan, Carlyne Smart, Derryl Maclean, Jill Mandrake, Bob Anderson, Barrie Bartlett, Bertram Schoner, Monique Layton, Lynette Dookie, and Susan Cowan.** We hope to see you at many SFURA events.

All members are encouraged to invite old colleagues and new retirees to join the SFURA. Their first year of membership, up to the next membership year from April 1 - March 31 is free. See the Registration page at: <http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/membership-registration.html>.

AND, we would like to know of members who will turn 85 in the 2020-2021 membership year to award them with life memberships. They have paid their SFURA dues for 20 years, now we will give them the next 20 years free. If you will be a member of the 85+ club, please let us know. Email Annie, Walter and/or me: <[annie@sfura.ca](mailto:annie@sfura.ca)>, <[walter@sfu.ca](mailto:walter@sfu.ca)>, <[evelyn@sfu.ca](mailto:evelyn@sfu.ca)>.



Photo: Courtesy of Simon Fraser University

**Top Left:** Joannie Wolfe Reading at Fall Dinner. **Top Right:** Walter Piovesan holding 3D printed scale model of SFU Library. **Right:** Jim Boyd, Walter, Maurice Gibbons and Jay Burr. **Below:** Gwen Bird, University Librarian giving opening remarks during the official opening of the SFU Library Media and Maker Commons



Photo: Courtesy of Simon Fraser University

# IN MEMORIAM



We ask any of you who have further information about any deceased SFU retirees to submit obituaries to the SFURA Webmaster on the link provided on our website at: [https://www.sfu.ca/retirees/in-memoriam/a\\_g.html](https://www.sfu.ca/retirees/in-memoriam/a_g.html) We post names of all deceased SFU retirees whom we are aware of, not only those who were SFURA members. We welcome tributes to your former colleagues. We will place them with their obituaries on the website.

**Joseph Eugene Gallagher**                      March 26, 1938 - October 17, 2019

Joe came to Canada in 1966 where he taught first at Laurentian University for a short time, then joined the English Department at SFU. He was well known for his Chaucer and Shakespeare classes and was a gifted orator and actor. He presented his own Old English productions of Beowulf and Chaucer. He taught two years in Harbin, China and there developed a love of travel. After retirement he visited every continent.

His obituary is on our website at: [http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memoriam/2019/GallagherJoseph\\_obit.pdf](http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memoriam/2019/GallagherJoseph_obit.pdf)

**Peter Grieves Hight**                              May 25, 1943 - September 23, 2019

Peter was involved in many renovations that shaped the Library building, such as the creation of the David Lam Graduate Research Centre, the Library Administration Office, the Processing Division and Special Collections. He played a key role in relocations of the SFU Bookstore on campus to its eventual home in the Maggie Benston Centre, and was highly involved in setting up the Bookstore at Harbour Centre in Vancouver.

Peter started with SFU June 1, 1977, he retired from SFU on April 1, 1999.

His obituary is on our website; [http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/in-memoriam/h\\_m.html](http://www.sfu.ca/retirees/in-memoriam/h_m.html)

**Margaret Violet Jones**                              February 2, 1928 - September 21, 2019

Marg Jones was a Vancouver native, graduating from Britannia High School as Valedictorian. She moved with her husband Jack to Burnaby. and was involved in many of her children's activities including Brownies, Girl Guides, PTA and Little League.

She started at SFU in 1966 and worked in several different positions, including many years before and after retirement in the Athletics Department. She won several SFU awards and honours. She was a Founding Member of the SFURA and served on the Board from 1999 to 2008.

See the separate story about her in this issue of the Newsletter. Her obituary is at:

<http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memoriam/2019/MargJonesObit.pdf>

**Brian Graham Wilson**                              April 9, 1930 - September 2019

Brian Wilson came to SFU from the University of Calgary in 1970 to accept the position Academic Vice-President. He had degrees in Mathematics, Physics and Astrophysics and he was a member of SFU's Department of Physics. In 1979 he moved to the University of Queensland in Australia where he was Vice-Chancellor from 1979-1995. After retirement he moved with his wife Dr. Joan Opdebeeck to France.

His Obituary, written by his son Bronwen, is on our website at: [http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memoriam/2019/BrianWilson\\_Obit.pdf](http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/retirees/memoriam/2019/BrianWilson_Obit.pdf) Another, from The University of Queensland is at: <https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2019/09/vale-emeritus-professor-brian-wilson-ao-1930-2019>

**Ida M. Curtis**    April 16, 1935 - January 21, 2020

Born April 16, 1935 in New Haven CT, Ida passed away January 21, 2020 in Seattle WA. Ida will be remembered for the unflappable optimism and adaptability that fuelled her remarkable ability to overcome adversity. To leave a message of condolence, please visit [www.funerals.coop](http://www.funerals.coop)



# Post-Brexit Britain and Northern Ireland

*By Frances Atkinson*

The guest editor for this issue asked me to write a lead article on “the Brexit results.” Only a fool rushes in where angels fear to tread. I said yes. Here are my personal musings on the subject, informed by keeping up with news, analyses, and regular visits to my homeland.

It is worth noting that the term Brexit is misleading. B stands for Britain, which consists of England, Scotland and Wales. But Northern Ireland, which is in the UK but not in Britain, is also set to leave the EU (or sort of leave, as it turns out.) As well Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory that is neither in the UK nor in Britain, is supposed to leave the EU. Incoherence is not a good place to start.

Brexit is the choice of a voting majority in England only, and is thought to be a product of factors that pertain mainly to England, including these: an angry dispossessed de-industrialized north; a careless and sometimes ruthless ruling class; an entrenched class system; inequality of education and jobs; uneven political representation (no devolved government in England; unclear separation of powers given to the devolved governments that do exist); unwritten constitution; infighting within the major political parties; biased media; opportunistic free-market private interests; and a population divided against itself.

An England-centric focus allowed the central UK government in Westminster to ignore vital issues further afield until they emerged as highly problematic confounding factors. Scotland’s desire for independence is an example. Another is the need to have a EU/UK frontier in Northern Ireland, which is far from ideal in a place with a decades-long history of civil war and uneasy peace.

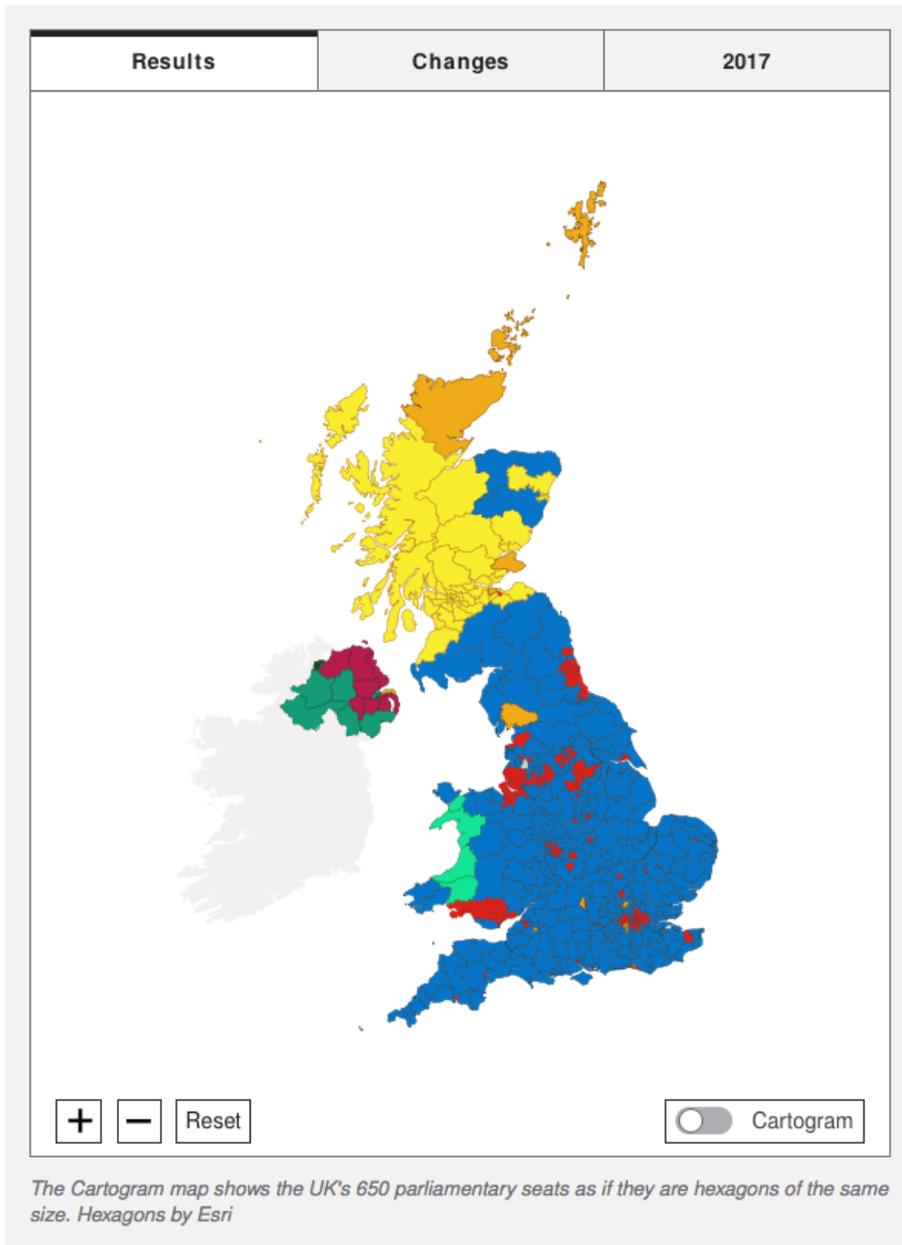
For the last three years Brexit has consumed the UK. The recent UK election ensures that some form of Brexit will now get done. So how do things look for the UK as a whole? The future is unclear. There’s still an air of disregard for major complications, lack of attention to detail, and a sense of things being someone else’s problem to fix. There seems no clear vision about what the future relationship between the UK and the EU might look like. According to some analyses, that’s because the EU doesn’t represent a clear target, being something of a concocted scapegoat all along to distract people from internal issues.

The future for Scotland is equally unclear. Scotland voted to stay in the EU. Scotland’s devolved local government, founded in 1999, gives it a focal point for possible independence from the UK. But Westminster would have to agree to Scotland holding another independence referendum and nobody expects Prime Minister Boris Johnson to do so. A unilateral declaration of independence on the part of Scotland might not work as a means of getting back into the EU, as a bad precedent. The idea that Scotland represents a looming constitutional crisis for the UK gets mentioned regularly, but beyond that there is no roadmap.

Northern Ireland also voted to stay in the EU. It has a potentially easier route back into the EU should it wish. “All” it has to do is unify with the independent Republic of Ireland that is in the EU and will remain so. The Good Friday Peace Agreement of 1998 states that Westminster should call a referendum on the reunification of Ireland if it seems that a “majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland”. However, divided loyalties over this question in Northern Ireland could trigger a resumption of the long and inconclusive conflict known as The Troubles.

Meanwhile, a need for a EU/UK frontier within or around Ireland has proven to be Brexit’s thorniest issue so far. Controls will be needed either inland between the Republic of Ireland (in the EU) and Northern Ireland (in the UK), or at the ports between the island of Ireland (in the EU+NI) and the island of Britain.

Reactivating the land border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland has raised major concerns about doing drastic economic damage to both by disrupting extensive integration between the two. As well, it has provoked



- CON      ■ LAB      ■ LD      ■ SNP      ■ PC      ■ GRN
- DUP      ■ SF      ■ SDLP      ■ APNI      ■ Other
- Undeclared

broken. (It hasn't sat for three years. Imagine BC without a provincial government for three years.) The people are united, loud and clear, in demanding their MLAs get local government going again and get back to work. The politicians, meanwhile, have no meaningful voice at the table, as others - England, EU, Republic of Ireland - figure out how to make a 1/2EU- 1/2UK version of Northern Ireland work for the movement of goods and agri-food. Hard on those heels are myriad "Brexit 2.0" issues to be addressed across the UK, including fisheries and fish management, services, people (free movement, immigration, health, education) and much more.

Finally there is America. In the recent UK election, fears were stoked about an impending American takeover of Britain. Ireland is already there. American companies employ an estimated 20% of the workforce in both parts of Ireland. What role America might play in post-Brexit Britain is unknown.

In conclusion, Brexit remains a high-risk adventure. As I write this, Prime Minister Johnson seems more interested in removing safety nets than in doing the hard work. Things are fluid all over. Nothing is settled. Stay tuned. ❖

worries about renewed paramilitary activity and rogue smuggling. Anyone familiar with The Troubles knows how ungovernable that border was, even when heavily militarized.

Boris Johnson's deal takes the ports approach, specifically having border controls at all ports down the Irish Sea, with some form of "special arrangements" to keep Northern Ireland functioning seamlessly with the Republic of Ireland within EU parameters, while still keeping Northern Ireland in the UK.

Johnson's solution for border controls at all Irish ports has infuriated hard line unionists who see him as fracturing the UK and pushing Northern Ireland towards a united Ireland. Others seem less concerned about that, and most seem to prefer the ports solution to an inland border. Dublin port, in the Republic of Ireland and in the EU, has had time to undertake a massive port expansion in preparation. Belfast port, in Northern Ireland and soon to be neither entirely in the UK nor entirely out of the EU, has not.

So how does all this look in Northern Ireland itself? It's a cheerful place these days, a far cry from the hunkered-down embattled place of The Troubles. The people have recognizable peacetime expectations of their political structures. They are annoyed that their devolved government (in the UK) is currently

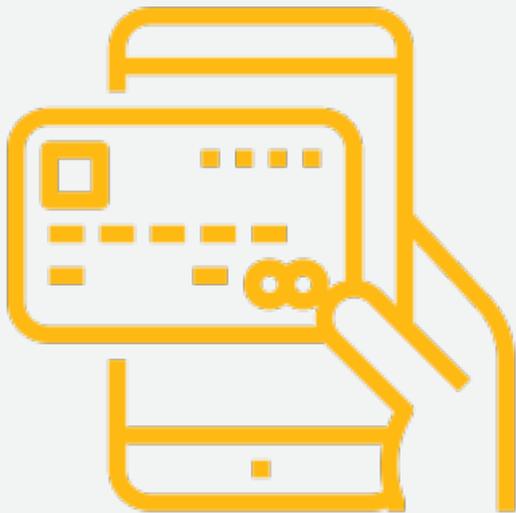
# SFURA Now Accepts Payments Via E-Transfer

Jay Burr, SFURA Treasurer

I have set up with VanCity: that any money e-transferred to the email address treasurer4sfura@gmail.com will be auto-deposited to our chequing account.

There will be no charge to us.

**SFURA member** is given the option to e-transfer their payment. If they so choose, then they would:



1. logon to their online banking (or mobile app)
2. set "treasurer4sfura@gmail.com" as a new recipient in their account (only on first use)
3. click on 'Transfer Money', then 'Send e-transfers' [or something similar]
4. fill in email address: treasurer4sfura@gmail.com
5. fill in amount
6. there will be a space to enter a memo. The member needs to note the purpose of payment: e.g. 'dues' or 'AGM', etc. This will appear on the notification sent to treasurer4sfura@gmail.com
7. press Send

**NB:** The payer's name will automatically appear on our bank statement but the purpose of the payment must be sent us in the memo.

The e-transfer may be free to the member, depending on their financial institution and type of account and possibly if they have a minimum balance in their account. Otherwise they would be charged something like a \$1.00. The member can inquire about this with their bank, and may be able to arrange for free e-transfers.

## Examples:

**RBC:** Sending an Interac e-Transfer is FREE for all RBC personal chequing accounts. A service fee of \$1.00 applies to most personal savings accounts, and a fee of \$1.50 is charged for all Business accounts

**TD:** The fee to send an Interac e-Transfer from a personal account is \$0.50 for each transfer of up to \$100, and \$1.00 for each transfer of over \$100. The fee to send an Interac e-Transfer from a business account is \$1.50. Regular account transaction fees may also apply.

There is no transfer fee for sending money using Interac e-Transfer from a TD Student Chequing Account, TD Every Day Chequing Account, TD Unlimited Chequing Account, a personal chequing account with an All-Inclusive Banking Plan, or a business chequing account with a TD Unlimited Business Plan.

**Vancity:** E Package Chequing, Access Chequing, and Independent Business account holders will benefit from free Interac e-Transfer transactions. For other accounts, sending and requesting e-transfers costs \$0.90 per transaction. Can e-transfer without charge when you transfer funds to another Vancity member. **Note:** SFURA is a Vancity member.

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## Editorial

Fools step in...as they say. But in this case it's just one step in and then I step back out. For this one issue I'll try to replace Maurice Gibbons as outgoing (in all respects) editor. And I'll take this opportunity to pay tribute to Maurice the person and Maurice the editor.

Maurice was already a member of the Faculty of Education when I was hired in 1980. But I knew him before then through his writing. I had, once undertaken to read as many Canadian novels dealing with teaching school as I could find. I worked my way through works by W. O. Mitchell, then Margaret Laurence, and then... Maurice Gibbons. Who was this relatively unknown genius? His book *"The Predicaments of Eustace Prim"* captured the very essence of teaching in a Vancouver secondary school. His central character, the English teacher Eustace, lusted after his colleague the beautiful Maria Palpitalli while fending off his Physics teacher rival Akrid Grimsby. Gibbons had perfectly captured the essence of staff relations and classroom interactions (as I had experienced them). And so I was delighted to find myself a colleague of his at SFU.

Maurice's great contribution to education was inspired by the Australian aborigines' tradition of "walkabout," the six-month endurance test for boys that preceded their acceptance into adult society. From

this, Maurice developed his notion of self-directed learning and created an international community of educators dedicated to the creation of a model by which students can take on an increasingly autonomous, self-directed role as they design and pursue independent course work, special projects, artistic presentations, or community field work. Our overlapping time in the faculty was too short as Maurice couldn't resist the attractive early retirement package offered to senior faculty members in the 1990s.

We were re-united a number of years later on the golf course and played once a week as part of a foursome until late last year. A formidable driver, a mediocre putter, with a passable short game, much like all of us. But always great company and game for a glass of red afterward, usually accompanied by serious conversations about the state of the world and what we might do about it.

In 2011, I was President of the SFURA and Tom Poiker had been editor of our newsletter for several years. Tom had begun the shift from printed newsletter to on-line and print, but was finding the job too time-consuming given his personal situation. In 2012, we prevailed upon Maurice G. to take on the position. He did so with enthusiasm, and immediately changed the format, introduced more colour and photographs, and increased the size

from 8 pages to 14 to 18 to 24 over the next few issues. We had difficulty getting him to accept a page limit. He persuaded some of us to become regular "columnists." He reached out to retirees across the spectrum for contributions. A measure of his success was that *Simon Says* was the first newsletter at CURAC national conferences to disappear from the display area.

In addition to his position of newsletter editor, Maurice was the driving force behind our book *Remembering SFU on the Occasion of its 50th Birthday*, the SFURA's contribution to SFU's 50th anniversary celebration. The result was a fine collection of photographs and articles from early members of the SFU community. Maurice's work as editor of the newsletter and *Remembering SFU* was recognized by the College and University Retiree Associations (CURAC), which awarded him the 2017 Tribute Award at their annual meeting in Ottawa.

Maurice concluded his first editorial by saying "I'm all for becoming a community with character, a voice, and a purpose. There is power in our numbers, our knowledge, and our experience. We are good at talk: can we find a walk to walk? What do you say." I say, Maurice, you found your walk to walk and you helped us all to create a community with character, a voice, and a purpose. Thank you... thank you.

- Tom O'Shea