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The Office of the Retirees' Association is located in AQ 3048 and is open every Thursday from 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. The office is staffed on a volunteer basis by P. Spagnolo.  
(Phone: 604-268-6717)

**SFURA NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2002**

**MEMBERSHIP:** As of November 25, the membership of the Simon Fraser Retirees' Association stands at 295.

**UPCOMING EVENTS and future plans.....**

For the beginning of 2003 several dates are now firm. Mark your calendars!

**Wednesday, January 22/03, 2:00 p.m.**

A matinee performance at the Orpheum of a concert entitled "From Russia with Love." The doors open at 1.00 p.m. – complimentary tea and cookies will be available.

The cost is \$27.00 per person. (*see enclosed for full information*)

**Wednesday, February 19/03, 2:00 p.m.**

A matinee performance at the Arts Club, Granville Island, of a play entitled "The Little Shop of Horrors."

The cost is \$26.00 per person. (*see enclosed for full information*)

**Wednesday, March 12/03, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

"The Ides of March," a reception at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Club for members of the Simon Fraser Retirees Association and their spouses or partners. Complimentary light food.

A ticket at the door will entitle you to one free drink, and there will be a no-host bar. (**Members must pre-register for this event**)

**April 16, 2003.**

A tour of two wineries in Langley together with a visit to The Chocolate Cottage.

The cost is \$39.00 per person – this includes transportation, the tour and a box lunch.

**Wednesday, May 7/03, 5:30 p.m.**

SFURA Annual General Meeting at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Club.

The cost will be in the neighbourhood of \$25.00 per person.

Organising for summer events is not yet complete, however tentative plans are to have a walk in Mundy Park (Coquitlam) in June, a day at the races in July, and a barbecue at S.F.U. in August.

The Executive Board would welcome ideas for entertainments and events from the SFURA membership.



## MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

Human Resources has confirmed that if an S.F.U. retiree has been covered under a spousal health insurance plan, and that coverage has now been terminated, it is possible to join the Simon Fraser insurance plan. Reference Bill Yule, President of SFURA.

## TRAVELS AND CHANGES

*SFURA members continue to be active and innovative, and to encounter adventures.*

*Marvin and Loretta Wideen cycled in Europe last summer, and Marvin describes the journey as follows:*

“We added another cycling adventure by touring from Munich, Germany to Salzburg, Austria, and then to the famous Danube trail with another couple, the Pyes. We were very impressed with the historic preservation—the architecture, the castles, museums, cathedrals, and even the remnants of war. In spite of language difficulties, the friendliness of the people enabled us to negotiate roads, bicycle paths, trains, and boats with only a modicum of confusion. A highlight was ending our tour in Vienna, where we had the opportunity to attend Carmen in the Opera House for Euro 2.00!”

*Other SFURA members have moved their domicile. Ida Curtis writes in part, as follows, about moving to Seattle to be nearer to their son, and about the problems encountered:*

“After thirty-one years in Vancouver, we sold our house and moved south. Going across the border and moving into our new place was all surprisingly easy. One day we were in Vancouver, the next day our things were moved into our new home. Even crossing the border on a Friday afternoon took us only fifteen minutes.

Although the big things that we worried about were relatively easy, a number of little problems frustrated us. We had ordered a phone well in advance and were given a number, but for some reason it wasn't connected. Every time Jared called about it, he talked to a different person in a different part of the continent. The most interesting location was Nova Scotia and he chatted with the representative about Canada, but still no phone line. The problem seemed to be that our suite had been used as a show suite and a phone line was still listed in the agency's name.

After several days without a phone, we decided to buy a cell phone. We picked one out, figured out the plan we wanted, then, when we were arranging payment, they asked for Jared's Social Security number. He didn't have it memorized, but he had his card. The young man punched the number in and Jared was informed they couldn't sell him the phone plan as he had no credit record.

We laughed it off and decided we would borrow my son's cell phone until our home line was connected. Then we applied for a credit card in order to establish a credit rating. In Vancouver we were bombarded with offers for a credit card; however, in the States we were refused a card, again because we had no credit background.

But these are silly bureaucratic problems. The real shock took place about three weeks later as the financial and social implications of our move sunk in. “Why did we do this?” Fortunately we have now worked through these anxieties.”

*Ida generously includes her address and telephone number, and offers SFU retirees visiting Seattle a tour of Gas Works Park on the north shore of Lake Union, close to her new home, should visitors to Seattle find time to contact the Curtis household: Ida and Jared Curtis, 1700 N. Northlake Way, #106, Seattle, WA, 98103. Telephone (206) 632-5489.*

*Please keep the SFURA Executive informed of your travels and adventures, so that we may pass accounts of them on to SFURA members.*

**Janet Blanchet - Editor**