

Retirees'

Volume Twenty-two, Issue One

September, 2017

News

The 42nd President's Reception for Retirees

The next President's Reception for members of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA) is set for Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 2:00 pm in Marshall McLuhan Hall in University Centre on the Fort Garry campus.

The UMRA Annual General Meeting will precede the reception at 12:30 pm. All retirees are welcome.

Paul Samyn To Speak

Paul Samyn, who is editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, will be the featured speaker at the President's Reception.

His topic will be: "Securing a future for newspapers in the digital age – How trust can be a recipe for success when delivering the news our democracy needs."



Paul Samyn

Paul Samyn has been part of the Free Press newsroom for more than a quarter century, working his way up after starting as a rookie reporter in 1988. And if you count the time he spent delivering the newspaper as a boy growing up in St. James, his connection to the Free Press goes back even further.

As a reporter, Samyn wrote for every section of the paper, covered elections, wars overseas, and the funerals of a royal princess and a prime minister. He also helped lead the Free Press's political coverage

for a decade as Ottawa bureau chief before being named city editor in 2007. In the summer of 2012, Samyn was promoted to editor, becoming only the 15th person to hold that office since the Free Press began publishing in 1872. He is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg and Red River College.

For the past several years, Samyn has served as the master of ceremonies at the annual Three-Minute Thesis competition, an event organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. He is also a member of the board of the John Dafoe Foundation.

Reservations: You are asked to RSVP to Lynn Bohonos, Learning and Organizational Development, by Tuesday, October 10, 2017. You may telephone 204-474-9124 or send her an email at: Lynn.Bohonos@umanitoba.ca.

We're Going Digital!

This is the final hard-copy issue of The Retirees Newsletter, the last printed version. Starting with the Spring, 2018 issue (Volume Twenty-two, Issue Two), this newsletter will only be available on the internet or via email. To ensure that you keep up-to-date with the

latest news from the retirees association, please email your address to retirees@umanitoba.ca or contact the U of M Retirees Association by phone (204-474-7175) or by mail (137 Education Building, U of M, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2).

From the Editor

I'm writing this column on August 19. This is a problem -- a problem that will be solved, we hope, in moving to a digital format for future issues of the UMRA Newsletter. It's difficult to call the contents of a newsletter "news" when the deadline is two months before delivery. In other words, what you're now reading is old news. A digital issue will have a tighter deadline and be newsier.

By the time this newsletter reaches print, Dunkirk, the blockbuster war movie of the summer, will be gone from movie theatres. It's been ballyhooed by critics as a great achievement. But as a prof who taught "War and Film" courses during my career, I would not include it in my curriculum. It's a grand spectacle with thrilling scenes and a feel-good vibe. It's just not a good war movie.

Why? Dunkirk lacks the scope, the accuracy, and the depth of the event it's based on.

Director Christopher Nolan has bragged about the fact that he refused to use computer graphics (CGI) in the movie. But if there ever was a movie that required CGI, this is it. In reality there were 800 boats and likely as many planes involved in the evacuation of 400,000 Allied troops. The actual evacuation took over eight days. The movie provides only a Reader's Digest version of this -- at best. This is most evident in the dearth of German warplanes. There is no threat envisioned. Threat is only conveyed by the bombastic music.

Dunkirk is really three short war movies edited together expertly -- war in the air, on land, and at sea. Each section comes up short when compared to the great war movies of the past.

Gene Walz, Professor of Film Studies
(Retired, obviously, but not entirely)



Gene Walz

President's Message

Beginning in 2018, the U of M Retirees Association will be sponsoring the Second Place Prize in the annual Three-Minute Thesis competition.

The award is worth \$500 to the winning graduate student and will be called: The University of Manitoba Retirees Association Prize for Second Place.

The main event in the annual 3MT competition is the final evening of competition when 12 graduate students make their presentations. In less than an hour, the attentive audience in St. John's College is treated to an amazing amount of information on a wide range of topics. There are three prizes: First Place, Second Place, and People's Choice. This past year the First Place Prize of \$2,000 was named in honour of the late Archie McNicol, who was associate dean of graduate studies. Beginning with the 2018 competition UMRA is funding the Second Place Prize of \$500, which will now be named in its honour. There is a third award, the People's Choice Prize that is awarded to the graduate student who garners the most votes from among those attending.

UMRA executive agreed to fund the Second Place Prize because it shows the wider university community that retirees have a continuing interest in the educational enterprise of the university and that they are willing to demonstrate this commitment by providing financial support to an activity that helps students, in this case graduate students.

You will recall four graduate students from the final competition were invited to repeat their three-minute theses at the past two spring President's Receptions. The students were well received. Audience members commented that it was the "best" program ever and engaged the students in long discussions during the refreshment time.

Reminders to "click" on

Anyone who has visited the UMRA webpage in the past two months will have noticed a two-word line that reads "Important Reminders." When you click on it, there are reminders relating to supplementary health annual reset dates and to supplementary coverage for surviving spouses.

The purpose of these reminders is to give prominence to important information that may be missed because it is in the "small print" of some policy document. It is the hope that website visitors will click on "Important Reminders" regularly.

In addition, if you have a suggestion for something that should be included as an "Important Reminder," please send me an email:
Edward.Unrau@umr.umanitoba.ca.

Ed Unrau, UMRA President



Ed Unrau, UMRA President

Retired? Not Entirely!

The Ukrainian Church Archival Inventory

by Stella Hryniuk

Beginning in 2015 the Manitoba East European Heritage Society (MEEHS) has undertaken a new phase of its project to create an archival inventory of photos and cultural history of all the Ukrainian churches in Manitoba. This project has been ongoing since the 1980s and has resulted in the 1990 publication of a book, *Monuments to Faith*, co-authored by Roman Yereniuk, Basil Rotoff and myself. The results of this year's research have been added to MEEHS's holdings in the Archives of the Ukrainian Canadian Experience in the University of Manitoba's Archives.

Recent work has focused on studying the churches in the Interlake district and in the southeastern corner of the province. We were able to do substantial studies of churches in many villages and towns around Gimli. Some of these places might not even be familiar to many Manitobans – places such as Malonton, Pleasant Home, Camp Veselka, Ukrainian Park, Dnister, Rosedale, Komarno, Gonor, and Foley. Others, such as Tyndall, East Selkirk, Poplarfield, and St. Martin, are more well-known. In the southeast churches were researched in Tolstoi, Arbakka, Rosa, Sundown, and Sandhill.

From our church-history work, we often discovered other bits of little known information about Manitoba. A conversation with a local resident of Arbakka (halfway between Stuartburn and Piney in the extreme southeast of the province) recorded by one of our students revealed that the name Arbakka is Icelandic in origin, named by

Icelanders who homesteaded in that area. Two eastern rite churches were built there, fairly close to each other. One of them, St. Nicholas, served by Russian missionaries from the USA has been moved to a Building Museum in Portage La Prairie where a fee is now charged to gain admission to see it. The hall which stood beside it is now a hunting shack. Another fascinating finding was of the close connection between Ukrainians living in Manitoba near the US border with those in Caribou, Minnesota. An untended path still exists to the USA between Arbakka (halfway between Stuartburn and Piney in the extreme southeast of the province) and Caribou with two markers on it, one saying “Treaty of 1908” and the other “Convention of 1918”. Apparently during the Prohibition era there was a speakeasy located in this area.

One day last summer I had a call from a retired U of M professor who lives in Fraserwood, near Gimli. She told me that she had recently driven by an abandoned church in Malonton (16 kilometers southwest of Gimli), and noticed that the front door had a hole in it. Through it local critters could enter the building – and not for worship. In no time, we sent our students to look into the matter and to photograph the church before further damage could be done.

In June I visited friends near Shoal Lake in the western part of the province. They took me to the little church where they had been



Holy Trinity Church Komarno, MB

married in the 1950s. The little church was painted white with black trim with only one cupola. Nestled in the woods well back from the road, it was a welcome sight after driving on gravel roads for a number of kilometers. Fortunately, it was open, something rarely seen nowadays. That church -- called the Rosburn Farms Ukrainian Catholic Church was built in 1904; it has one service a year on the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul in July which is attended by dozens of local people with connections to the church. Gradually, this is the fate of most of the over 200 Ukrainian churches in the province.

That's why our completed files are so important. They include photos of the church exterior, as well as all other structures belonging to the church property – such as a cemetery, cairn, commemorative cross, etc. The most numerous photos in the archives are of the totality of the interior of each church. These photos include the iconostasis (the wall of icons and religious paintings that separate the nave from the sanctuary in a church), the vestments, banners, books and more.

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John Mundie wins CURAC/ARUCC Tribute Award

On March 31, 2017 Edgar Williams, Awards Secretary for the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC/ARUCC) informed John Mundie that he was a recipient of the association's 2017 Tribute Award. He was nominated by Jay E. Goldstein, Past President of UMRA. Jay's nomination letter follows:

John Mundie retired from the School of Commerce (now the Asper School of Business) at the University of Manitoba in 1995. John's work on behalf of his fellow retirees began in 1996 when he helped to organize the University of Manitoba Retirees' Committee. This committee served unofficially as the organization representing the interests of the university's retired faculty, staff, and administrators from 1996 until 2003. As chair of the Retirees' Committee, John met with the university president to discuss ways of fostering ties between the institution and its retirees. The outcome was the inaugural President's Reception for Retirees in 1997. The reception has become a twice a year event (the 40th of which was held in the fall of

2016) sponsored by the Office of the President. The reception gives the 75-100 people who attend (retirees, their partners, and the survivors of retirees) an opportunity to hear a presentation by a guest speaker, to be updated on university news, and to renew acquaintances with former colleagues.

Also in 1997, John edited the premiere edition the Retirees' News. This newsletter is published twice yearly and is sent to all U of M retirees. John continued as newsletter editor until 2011.

In 2002, John was invited to the conference at the University of Toronto at which CURAC/ARUCC was created. In 2003, discussions between John and the university resulted in recognition of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA) as the representative of all retirees of the University of Manitoba. UMRA became a founding member of CURAC/ARUCC the same year.

In 2004, John was elected as UMRA's first president, a position

he held until 2006. From 2006 to 2010 he served as past-president and chaired the Nominating Committee. Since 2010 John has chaired or been a member of several UMRA committees including the Executive Committee, the Benefits and Pensions Committee, and the Communications Committee.

In addition to the positions he has filled, John has written items for UMRA's website. One is the history of UMRA. Another is a pamphlet outlining options for retirees who are excluded from the U of M supplementary health care plan at age 75. Many retirees have told UMRA that they have found John's pamphlet to be extremely useful.

In summary, over a span of two decades John Mundie has made exceptional contributions to the University of Manitoba Retirees' Committee and to UMRA. Those contributions make John most deserving of a CURAC/ARUCC Tribute Award.

John Mundie will receive the award during a special ceremony at this fall's President's Reception.

Aviation Museum

Tour: Tuesday, July 11

About twenty-five members of the U of M Retirees Association toured the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada on Thursday, July 11, at 1:30 p.m. The museum is housed in the old terminal of the Trans Canada Airlines.

The afternoon began with a genial and well-informed guided-tour of the museum's extensive collection of airplanes important to the development of aviation in Manitoba and the rest of Canada. Perhaps the highlight of this part of the tour was a chance to walk through and sit in a Trans

Canada Airlines Vickers Viscount. Though the ceiling was low and the upholstery showed some signs of its age, the leg-room of the Vickers Viscount was much roomier than today's flying sardine cans.

At present, the museum is featuring a special exhibit of the Antonov Aircraft Design Bureau. This exhibit is composed of more than twenty model airplanes from the personal collection of Ostap Hawaleshka, a retiree from the U of M's Faculty of Engineering. Dr. Hawaleshka was present to explain how he came to be in possession of this impressive collection of model airplanes manufactured by the Antonov Design Bureau of

Kyiv, Ukraine. Dr. Hawaleshka has had a life-long interest in aviation, and it showed. He enthusiastically and convincingly reminded us of the unique and enormous impact that Oleg Antonov and the company named after him have had on world aviation.

Antonov is the builder of the world's largest airplane, the Antonov AN-225; a model of this airplane, which in real life has a wingspan nearly equal to the length of a football field, is one of the models on display. Another model in the exhibit is the smaller AN-124, a cargo airplane which is a regular visitor to Winnipeg.

TRAVEL PLANNING?

The Colleges and Universities Retirees' Association of Canada (CURAC) has signed the umbrella agreement that allows retirees who are members of their local association, in our case UMRA to be eligible for insurance coverage.

An eligible retiree "member" should be interpreted to mean (in the case of UMRA) a retiree who has purchased one of the two membership categories -- the lifetime membership or the annual membership.

This plan will be of specific interest to UManitoba staff members who retired before July, 2004, and whose participation in the university-sponsored supplementary health plan expires at age 75.

CURAC has identified the following two programs:

1. MEDOC offers competitive travel/trip cancellation insurance, with rates varying by age and medical condition. A summary of their offerings can be perused at <https://www.johnson.ca/travel/medoc/splash-en.jsp>. Interested individuals may call 1-866-606-3362 with specific questions, to obtain a quote and to purchase the insurance. Please identify yourself by the university/college association

from whence you come, and quote group number 087 unit 11.

2. RTO/ERO does not offer stand-alone travel insurance. However, their full extended health care package includes competitive travel/trip cancellation insurance. Rates are not age-banded and their full rate becomes increasingly a better travel value for clients at age 76 and upward. For those who opt to maintain their current EHB coverage and purchase this as their travel add-on, an incidental value is that the client would also have top-up insurance in other included categories. Their travel plan may be reviewed at <https://www.rto-ero.org/group-insurance-plans/rtoeros-group-insurance-plans/extended-health-care-plan>. To contact them, please call the Plan administrator (Johnson) at the RTO/ERO toll-free telephone number 1-877-406-9007; identify yourself as a member of the CURAC group; and, identify your member association.

Note that RTO/ERO is permitted to offer its Plan only to members of RTO/ERO. Therefore, to enrol in the Plan you must become a member, at an annual cost of \$56. Membership enquiries may be directed to RTO at 1-800-361-9888.

There will be some members who will not see a fit with either

of these options. Those may wish to contact Securiglobe, a broker that endeavours to match individual clients to an insurance that best suits their needs. Contact Patrick Lavoie, at 514-370-2555, ext. 233 or 866-666-0060.

CURAC has now had two successful years of partnership with Collette Travel. Members planning future travel may wish to check out the broad range of tours available to them at the following website: <http://www.gocollette.com/en-ca/landing-pages/2015/partner/curac>.

The website lists more than 160 tours to destinations worldwide at a broad range of departure dates. CURAC members enjoy savings on bookings, benefit from professionally planned itineraries and the services of a Tour Manager, and enjoy other perks on certain tours, e.g., roundtrip home-to-airport sedan service.

Inquiries about tours, or bookings, can be made by calling 800-468-5955. Or bookings can be made through your local Travel Agent. Make sure to mention your membership in a CURAC association for additional savings!

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE ELECTED

On May 25 Greg Flemming, Executive Director of the University of Manitoba Faculty Association, announced that Jay Goldstein has been elected by acclamation as Board Representative for the Constituency of Retired Members. Dr. Goldstein will join Mr. Earle Ferguson and Ms. Pat Nicholls as a representative of UMRA.

The UMFA Board is the governing body of the Association in the interim between meetings of the general membership. Among other things, the Board approves the Members of the Executive Council, appointees to Committees, UMFA representatives to other bodies, and motions related to policy and collective bargaining.

Please keep your Board Representative informed of your opinions and comments. It is only through a strong Board that the membership of the Association can best be served.

Church Inventory

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Each individual artifact is named and described briefly. Also gathered were floor plans, architectural information, current condition of the buildings, and a history of the parish. In other words, we have compiled a complete inventory of each church.

In addition to photographs and descriptions, cultural historical research was conducted, some of it being oral history. Interviews were done with local parishioners, some of them the last remaining original founders of these parishes, and builders of the churches. This textual material will be added to the files on each church. In using this comprehensive methodology, we strove to document each and every church as no other study of Manitoba churches has done before.

The project applied for and received grants from the Shevchenko Foundation, Manitoba Heritage, the Ukrainian Catholic Foundation, and the federal government's Canada Summer Jobs Programme. Students were hired and trained to assist with the field work which began in earnest in May after exams and continued until September when the new school year commenced.

In the course of this study, MEEHS also created a portable exhibit featuring some of the churches of southeastern Manitoba. The exhibit was displayed at the Gardenton Ukrainian Festival and the Kviv Folklorama Pavilion. In addition, the exhibit contained a detailed map depicting Ukrainian churches and their connection with the first Ukrainian settlers in the region. These materials will contribute to the development of resources to promote heritage tourism in the region.

MEEHS has created a legacy of the complete architectural and decorative character of Manitoba's Ukrainian churches, accessible to future researchers in the areas of religious, architectural, and cultural history of Ukrainians in Manitoba. We anticipate that our project will continue when more funding becomes available.

Stella Hryniuk is a retired historian who has been working with students and colleagues on the Ukrainian Church Archival Inventory. This interesting and valuable project continued this summer.

Do you have a new email address?

If you are one of the retirees who has registered for the university's ".umr" email address, please send your new email address to: retirees@umanitoba.ca

If you have changed internet providers and/or you prefer to use another email address, this request for an update of your email address applies to you as well.

This will ensure that you will continue to get regular retiree updates and other missives, including *Retirees News*, the twice-yearly UMRA newsletter.



Contact information for UMRA

The University of Manitoba Retirees
c/o Learning & Organizational Development
137 Education Building
The University of Manitoba,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2
Phone: (204)474-7175
E-mail: retirees@umanitoba.ca
Website:

<http://umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees>

Email contact to Retirees

UMRA is using e-mail to send reminders and notices of events of interest to retirees. To receive these, retirees should forward their e-mail address to:

retirees@umanitoba.ca

Computer help still available

Retired university staff members who are also members of UMRA are eligible to use the computer support service provided by three graduate students in the department of computer science. The assistance available covers both hardware and software problems.

The computer service is not

"instant" in that it may take a day or two or three for your call for help to be fully processed, partly because the graduate students are not able to drop everything and partly because incoming telephone and email message are monitored by UMRA executives from their homes.

Computer support is a "fee-for-service" arrangement and you should discuss this at the outset, either as an estimate of time or as a project cost. The service can be provided in your home

where desktop equipment is involved, or in the case of laptops on campus or some other convenient location.

This computer support service is only available to UMRA members with paid memberships; that is, holders of the life membership or those who are paying the annual membership fee.

Call the UMRA telephone number, 204 474 -7175, or send an email to: retirees@umanitoba.ca



University of Manitoba Retirees Association
c/o Learning & Organizational Development
137 Education Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 2N2
(204) 474-7175
retirees@umanitoba.ca
www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees

Membership Application*

*For new members only. A renewal form will be mailed to current annual/biennial members.

[Please Print]

Name: _____
(First name or initial) (Middle name or initial) (Last name)

Status: Retiree Spouse/Partner of Retiree

Year Retired from University _____ Department/Unit _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____

E-mail address*: _____

**Required to receive news and notices.*

I wish to become a(n):

- Member @ \$15 per year
- Member @ \$25 for 2 years
- Lifetime member @ \$100
- Associate Member (no fee)

Members and Associate Members are welcome to serve on our committees. Check the one(s) that you would like to join:

- Benefits and Pensions
- Membership
- Endowment Fund
- Communications

Signature: _____ Date : _____

Please send your completed form with a cheque payable to "UMRA" to: UMRA, 137 Education Building, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2.

Information provided on this form is protected by the University of Manitoba Retirees Association Privacy Policy.

(For Office Use Only)
Date received _____ Cheque # _____ Amount \$ _____

What is UMRA?

The University of Manitoba Retirees Association (UMRA) evolved from the 1996 University of Manitoba United Way Campaign Committee. Under the leadership of John Mundie, that committee continued on as the Retirees Committee. The Retirees Committee focused on monitoring retiree benefits and promoting the interests of retirees. In 2003, the University recognized the Retirees Committee as the University of Manitoba Retirees Association, which was authorized to represent all retirees at the University. In October, 2004, UMRA held its first Annual General Meeting, at which time its constitution and privacy policy were ratified.

In 2003, UMRA became a founding member of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC/ARUCC). CURAC is a federation of retiree associations at colleges and universities across Canada. In 2004, UMRA and the University of Winnipeg Retirement Association co-hosted CURAC's annual national conference.

Since 1997, the former Retirees Committee and now UMRA has been instrumental in organizing the semi-annual President's Reception for Retirees. The reception features a guest speaker followed by refreshments and an opportunity for retirees to renew acquaintances. Information about the date and location of the President's Reception is published in the *Retirees' News* which is sent to all retired employees of the University.

For more information about UMRA's history please visit our website: www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/retirees.

UMRA's Purposes

- ✓ To act as a liaison between retirees and the University.
- ✓ To promote and defend the interests of retirees in the pension and benefit plans of the University.
- ✓ To provide a means for continuing the associations which members enjoyed as employees.
- ✓ To organize and promote recreational, educational, and other events.
- ✓ To facilitate interaction with other retiree/seniors organizations.

Membership Q & A

Q. Who can join UMRA?

A. Anyone who has retired from the U of M, or who is the spouse/partner of someone who retired from the U of M, is eligible for membership in UMRA.

Q. What's the difference between UMRA's membership categories?

A. There are several differences: (1) Members pay a fee which supports the operations of UMRA; Associate Members do not pay a fee. (2) Only Members can participate in the governance of the Association, e.g., voting in elections and serving as voting members of the Executive Committee. (3) Members can receive in-home computer support services provided by graduate students in Computer Science. (4) Members can take advantage of other benefits that may become available.

Q. I'm a Member paying the annual/biennial fee. When do I have to renew my membership?

A. Our membership year runs from October 1st to September 30th. When it is time to renew we'll notify you by mail.

Q. I'm an Associate Member. Do I have to renew my membership each year?

A. No. However, please be sure to notify us if your contact information changes.