

University of Manitoba Retirees Association
Annual General Meeting, October 24, 2009

President's Report

At the end of my second term as President of our Association, I look back on our accomplishments and ponder what could be achieved for our members in the future. From small beginnings our Association is evolving and developing an identity. The adoption of a logo, initially for our letterhead, has extended to engraved mugs and now to jackets. Our web site, initially on a member's personal account, is now integrated into the University's web site. We gained an office but, unfortunately, have lost it with the demolition of the Alumni House this past August. Our membership has tripled and increasing numbers are enjoying the biannual receptions.

Such achievements can be realized only with the dedication of our entire team of executive and committee members. Thanks to you all for your continuing contributions. Our sincere gratitude is also extended to those leaving our team this year. Many thanks to Irv Gusdal who has chaired the Retirees United Way Committee through many years of successful campaigns, to Doug MacEwan who cared for our funds and to Gunter Baureiss who designed and maintained our web site.

Though my term comes to an end, I will still be there in the wings as Past President, monitoring our activities and encouraging the Executive to move forward. We wish to support our members in every way possible and ask you to communicate your wishes to us. Pension and benefits issues are a concern for us all and our Benefits Committee monitors them carefully. But we ask, are there other ways we can serve our members. Though small, a discount coupon from the University Bookstore is enclosed for Active members. Some ideas have come forward from members which we are working on including a wine tasting event and campus tours of those buildings you have seen but never entered while employed. Have you ever been in Tache Hall? Soon it will no longer be a student residence. Have you wondered what it is like in the Art Barn or its history? Or have you been to Glenlea or Delta Marsh? Let us know what you would like to see and we will attempt to organize tours.

We continue to have representation on the on the Colleges and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) with John Mundie on their Communications Committee, and Frits Stevens on their Benefits Committee.

In closing, it has been an honour to serve as your president for the past four years. It is with confidence that I pass the presidency on to a new candidate to whom I offer my support in continuing our mission of promoting a spirit of fraternity among our members.

Respectfully submitted

Lois Brockman