

University of Manitoba Retirees Association
Annual General Meeting, October 18, 2008

President's Report

As we close year four and prepare for year five, we need to review how far we have come and plan how we wish to move forward. Our accomplishments over the past year are well detailed in the committee reports where it becomes apparent that the major work of our organization is done at the committee level. I wish to thank the committee chairs and all committee members for their continued diligence in carrying out their mandates thus making UMRA a viable organization dedicated to the well being of the retirees at the University of Manitoba.

The viability of our organization became evident several times over the past year. Last Fall, despite the cancellation of the President's Reception due to the CAW strike, we were able to proceed with our AGM with attendance equal to that of the previous year, thanks to the efforts of our Communications Committee.

Furthermore, a role for retirees in the life of the University is being recognized. We are invited to participate in various activities such as Campus Beautification, Kids to Work, etc., and more significantly, to provide input to the developmental plans of the property recently purchased from the Southwood Golf Club. We hope to continue to explore ways that we, as retirees, and the University may experience mutual benefits.

For this we are most grateful to our former president, Dr. Emöke Szathmáry who initiated and supported the semiannual President's Reception, the precursor of the establishment of our organization. In appreciation for her support of retirees, UMRA presented her with a watercolour painting by Michael Cox at the April President's Reception.

In late August members of UMRA's executive and committees met the new President, Dr. Barnard. The discussion was open and positive and we look forward to working with him to the mutual benefit of our retirees and the University.

Our representation on the national organization, the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) continues with John Mundie on their Communications Committee, Frits Stevens on their Benefits Committee, Marilyn Stothers on their Housing Committee and Lois Brockman as a Director on the Board. The latest news is that the CURAC office will be located at Queen's University who have agreed to host the organization for five years.

Our continuing relationship with the University is important but we are also an organization dedicated to promoting a spirit of fraternity among our members and organizing events of benefit to our members. To this end, a short survey was included with the AGM materials in which we invite you to suggest how we may achieve these goals. We encourage you to respond.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Brockman