

# Retirees' Newsletter

WLURA

Wilfrid Laurier University Retirees' Association

[www.wlu.ca/retirees](http://www.wlu.ca/retirees)

November/December 2005

## Message from WLURA President

October was an exciting month for the citizens of Kitchener-Waterloo. Our newly founded Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics organized a very successful three week celebration of the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's "miracle year", 1905, when at the age of 26, he published his three most important papers that revolutionized the study of physics and changed the way people viewed their world.

"EinsteinFest" covered a wide spectrum of hands-on exhibits, excellent lectures, classical and contemporary music, and live theatre plays centred primarily around events in the world in 1905.

The Institute's outreach to the general public was extremely successful with every seat taken at the events that Jim and I attended. According to our local press attendance at the festival topped 28,000. Certainly the twin cities have come a long way toward developing a flourishing center of knowledge in the many years I have lived in the area. The other blossoming institution in Waterloo is the Centre for International Governance Innovation concerned with world politics and peace.

The present year, 2005, marks "The Year of the Veteran", paying tribute to the aging and rapidly depleted numbers of survivors of two World Wars in Europe. For the last few weeks our media has brought to life for us the horrendous loss of life, the heroism, the pain and suffering of our Canadian troops in these two wars. We salute our veterans. We applaud their sacrifices. We honour those young people who made the ultimate sacrifice. We are overwhelmingly grateful for our freedom, our democracy, our lawful and orderly society that they fought to preserve.

Currently your Executive is looking into potential sources of funding to contribute our share of support of CURAC's annual conference to be held at the University of Guelph in May 24-26, 2006. Arleen Greenwood is our excellent representative on CURAC's organizational committee. We will keep you updated on our fund raising efforts.

Dr. Robert Rosehart's annual seasonal dinner for WLU retirees takes place on December 14. We look forward to meeting many of you at this very enjoyable and gracious event. Our deep appreciation extends to Dr. Rosehart and our University.

Our Executive wishes all of you a grand holiday season.

Yours very sincerely,  
Josephine C. Naidoo

## RETIREES SEASONAL DINNER

Members of WLURA in good standing will be receiving invitations in the next few weeks to the Annual Seasonal Dinner kindly gifted us by Dr. Robert Rosehart, President of Wilfrid Laurier. This delightful event offers us comradery and contact with the University, our "home", for many years. ---JN

## 2005: THE YEAR OF THE VETERAN

In this "milestone" year it seems appropriate to recall the agony of war as expressed in the memorable poem written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. (1872-1918) of the Canadian army as he witnessed the terrible battle at Ypres, Belgium. Dr. McCrae vented his anguish from the ordeal of attending to the mortally wounded by scribbling the lines of his now famous "In Flanders Fields" during a 20 minute rest period. From his dressing station he could see the wild poppies that sprang up in the ditches in the Flanders area of Europe. The poem was first published by "Punch" magazine in England on December 8, 1915. Today, the poppy has become a much loved symbol of peace.

### IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields.

---JN

## Previous Meetings

### CANADIANS IN AFGHANISTAN

Dr. Geoffrey Hayes delivered a fascinating talk to us on the role of the 1,600 strong Canadian armed forces in Afghanistan serving with the International Security Assistance Force in that troubled country. Dr. Hayes is Professor of History at the University of Waterloo and Associate Director of the Laurier

Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies. (Geoffery kindly replaced his wife, Katherine Sage Hayes who was inadvertently unable to attend.) Dr. Hayes had recently spent time in Afghanistan under the auspices of the Department of National Defence.

Contrary to media reports, we learned that our Canadian contingent is well equipped, heavily armed, and are highly trained combat-ready troops ever vigilant in an inhospitable land, but also compassionate peacekeepers among the war-weary and poverty stricken Afghan people. Canada's efforts to coordinate defence, development, and diplomacy in Afghanistan is known as the "3-D" approach. The lively questions generated by Geoffrey's talk attest to its success. The talk and questions covered a wide range of issues including reining in powerful and belligerent warlords, drug trafficking as farmers have largely returned to readily cultivated poppies, and the status of the tenuous Afghan-Pakistan border.

Our retirees roundly appreciated Dr. Hayes impressions of Canadian efforts to bring peace, reconstruction, and democracy to a country that has seen its share of war.

### SENIORS AND GAMBLING

October's presentation by Sue McLaren was an eye opener. Gambling is now a respectable way for governments to generate revenues and for its citizens to socialize and have fun. However, many gamblers become addicted to the point that their lives and those of their families suffer. One of the vulnerable groups, those who are prone to become problem gamblers are seniors. Many casinos and other gambling venues cater specifically to seniors through inexpensive transportation, meals and even free playing chips to gamble with.

Gambling for seniors becomes a problem when they spend money on gambling at the expense of other necessities; when gambling becomes the only social activity; when gambling consumes much time; and when gambling takes over family and other relationships. It is common for children of seniors to call a gambling counselling clinic requesting assistance for their mother or father.

Counselling is available through St. Mary's Hospital Counselling Centre (where Sue is) in Kitchener/Waterloo and Homewood Health Centre in Guelph. The Ontario government also has access to other such resources

Rose Blackmore

### Upcoming Meeting: Friday Nov. 26, 2005

*Our monthly meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. usually on the last Friday of the month, in Room 271 in the Regina Bldg at 202 Regina St., Waterloo.*

*Members who attend are invited to bring along a little snack for sharing at the meeting. Coffee and tea are provided.*

The topic of our next meeting will be **Pensions at Laurier**, and will feature Jim Butler, WLU's Vice-President of Finance and Administration. Jim has held this position for just over three years, and before that, he was the head of Human Resources at the University of Windsor for 14 years.

While there, he taught courses in human resources management, compensation management, pension management as well as business policy and strategy for their faculty of business administration.

He holds an honours degree in business administration from the University of Western Ontario, a master of business administration from the University of Saskatchewan, and a certified human resources professional designation from Human Resources Professional Association of Ontario.

It is clear that Jim is the ideal person to explain every aspect of the Laurier pension system to those of us who may not completely understand its ins and outs.

Elizabeth Miller and representatives from Cowan Wright Beauchamp and Frank Russell Canada will also be in attendance.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to learn, and there will be ample time for questions.

### CURAC Corner



As we mentioned in the last newsletter, Wilfrid Laurier University is co-hosting, together with the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo, the 2006 annual CURAC conference, to be held at the University of Guelph, May 24-26.

The joint committee in charge of this conference has met several times already, and is making significant progress in the required organization. Arleen Greenwood, Laurier's representative on the committee, has offered to arrange the entertainment for the dinner being held on Thursday, May 25. Since so many of us who attended last year's Seasonal Dinner (thank you again Dr. Rosehart!) were entirely captivated by the "Three Tenors" from our School of Music, we are proposing to use this opportunity to showcase what our university contributes to the world of musical entertainment through its faculty, students and graduates.

While the "Three Tenors" have dispersed, we are in communication with the School of Music to arrange for a presentation that will be equally as fabulous.

Stay tuned!

Arleen Greenwood

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