

**Report of MAUT Retirees' Section
MAUT Fall General Meeting, Nov 13, 2014**

Activities

Bridge. The Retirees' Section has continued to offer its very successful bridge club, meeting alternate Tuesdays in the Maude Abbott room of the Faculty Club. This is a superb venue and we are grateful to the Faculty Club for its continuing support of this venture. We welcome new retiree members. *[organized by Dorothy Thomas-Edding]*

Luncheons. We have also sponsored three retirees' luncheons during the past year, two at the Faculty Club and one at Tadjia Hall on the Macdonald campus. At each lunch a McGill faculty member is invited to give a talk. These lunches are well-attended and appreciated by retirees as an enjoyable social event as well as a chance to learn about the academic activities of present faculty members. *[Organized by John Dealy, Gowri, and Darlene Canning]*

Visits. We also sponsor visits for retirees to museums and concerts. In the past year, these included a concert at Bourgie Hall at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, a nature ecology walk at the Morgan Arboretum, and recently a guided visit of the Redpath Museum on the downtown campus. These are accompanied by lunches at nearby restaurants. *[Organized by Darlene Canning]*

The Retirees' Section is an active member of the College and Universities Retiree Associations of Canada, an umbrella group that sponsors information exchange and holds an annual meeting. Kohur Gowrisankaran, the Chair of our Retirees' Section Committee, is on the Board of Directors of that group.

Retirees' Concerns

Our Committee recently drew up a list of concerns that MAUT retirees have with respect to the University administration. Ken Hastings, then President of MAUT, and Al Shrier, then Past-President, helped produce a document outlining these concerns, and Ken brought a brief summary of this document to a meeting with the Principal and the Provost, where they were discussed. We are presently following up on the recommendations resulting from this meeting. We thank Ken and Al for their invaluable contributions to this effort.

Representation of retirees on Staff Benefits Advisory Committee (SBAC)

Nick Acheson, our Retirees' Section Committee member specializing in benefits, was named one of MAUT's three members to the Staff Benefits Advisory Committee (SBAC) in Spring of 2013, to enable the voice of retirees to be heard at this important University committee. As a result of recent discussions at SBAC, it has now been decided that one SBAC member will be designated as a representative of all University retirees (not only academic retirees). This has been made possible by the formation of a new group, the

McGill University Retirees' Association (MURA), which is in the process of formation after several years of negotiations.

McGill University Retirees' Association (MURA)

MURA held its first organizational meeting on Wednesday, Nov 5. This meeting was set up by an ad hoc committee who have worked long and hard on this subject, including representatives of the four major McGill employee groups (MAUT, MUNASA, MUNACA, SEU). Over 50 McGill retirees and colleagues from various areas attended this meeting. Ron Critchley, president of MUNASA, ably chaired this meeting.

An interim executive (President: Ginette Lamontagne; Vice-President Internal: Joan Wolforth; Vice-President External: Henry Leighton; Treasurer: Wes Cross) and 10 other interim Board members were chosen at this meeting. Four additional members will be recruited from MUNACA and SEU to complete the interim Board.

The interim MURA Board will have its first formal meeting shortly. One of its first tasks will be to inform the McGill retiree community of the formation of MURA via a letter that McGill Human Resources has agreed to include in this year's annual benefits update message to retirees. This will allow MURA to make contact with many McGill retirees and to invite them to become members.

The MAUT Retirees' Section Committee has decided that it will continue to exist and carry out all its present activities, at least for the time being, but it will propose that its own members also become members of MURA when that becomes possible. Both MUNASA and MAUT have offered help to get the fledgling MURA up and running.

Nick Acheson

For Kohur Gowrisankaran, Chair of MAUT Retirees' Section Committee

Nov 10, 2014