
BURA Newsletter

Brock University Retirees' Association

December 2018

BURA Executive

President:	Ian Brindle ibrindle@brocku.ca
Past President:	Steve Hartman shartman@brocku.ca
Vice President:	Jill Brindle jillabrindle@gmail.com
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Councillor:	Pat Cane patcane213@gmail.com
BURA Representative, Brock Pension:	Terry Varcoe
Telephone Ambassador:	Peggy Collins
Telephone Ambassador:	Marilyn Ferracuti
Web Master:	Jim Kerr

Upcoming BURA Events

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Festive Holiday Lunch at **Hilton Garden Inn**, 500 York Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Arrive: 11:30am for noon luncheon
Cost: \$35 pre-purchase per person

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Coffee Club at **Sunset Grill**, Fairview Mall, Geneva Street, St. Catharines
Arrive: 9:30-11:30am for breakfast/coffee
Cost: Pay your own

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Family Pasta Dinner at **Club Capri**, 36 Cleveland Street, Thorold
Arrive: 4:30pm for 5:00pm dinner
Cost: Adults: \$20, Children: \$10 (plus one canned or boxed food item per person for Community Care)

March, (TBA)

Film Night for BURA
Dinner at **Sahla Thai Restaurant**, 270 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines
Film at **Performing Arts Centre**, 250 St Paul Street, St. Catharines
Cost: (TBA)

Please welcome **Pat Cane**, our newest councillor, to the BURA executive.

A Message from BURA's President

Welcome to the BURA Newsletter and our update on activities since the last newsletter. We have several new members to BURA since our last newsletter including Al Ross, Joe Kenny, Chris Critelli, Frank Benko, Josephine Callaghan, Gloria Dringus, Julia Gottli, and Gloria Gallagher. We hope that we can welcome more to our group and I hope you will remind others you may know about the Association and the pleasure we all get from meeting each other on a regular basis. I am glad to report that Pat Cane has joined the Executive as a Councillor – a welcome addition to our busy group.

This fall we enjoyed several events. The well-attended **September** social event, organized by Pat Miller, was held at Cat's Caboose – a venue that many of us have enjoyed visiting over the years. This was followed by a sold-out event at the Fall Shaw Festival event. This event was organized by Evelyn Janke.

In **October**, Charles Burton presented a fascinating talk on *The Past, Present and Future of Canada-China Relations*. Professor Burton, a fluent Chinese speaker, has lived and worked in China for the Canadian government and so is well-qualified to speak about the dynamics of China's relations with the west and its Asian neighbours. This talk was organized by Steve Hartman and Jill Brindle.

Our **November** event, organized by Joan McCurdy Myers, featured a visit from Brock alumnus Adam Shoalts, who gave a spellbinding talk about his solo trip by foot and canoe across the Canadian arctic. This event was held at Rodman Hall which was filled to capacity. Adam published his latest book, "A History of Canada in Ten Maps" in 2017. Here is what the CBC said about the book:

What would the new world look like to wandering Vikings, who thought they had drifted into a land

of mythical creatures, or Samuel de Champlain, who had no idea of the vastness of the landmass just beyond the treeline? Adam Shoalts, one of Canada's foremost explorers, tells the stories behind these centuries old maps, and how they came to shape what became "Canada." It's a story that will surprise readers, and reveal the Canada we never knew was hidden. It brings to life the characters and the bloody disputes that forged our history, by showing us what the world looked like before it entered the history books. Combining storytelling, cartography, geography, archaeology and of course history, this book shows us Canada in a way we've never seen it before.

<https://www.cbc.ca/books/a-history-of-canada-in-ten-maps-1.4246860>

We hope that we shall have another visit from Adam in the near future.

On **December 4th**, our *Festive Holiday Lunch* will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn 500 York Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake and will feature a seasonal lunch with entertainment by a barbershop quartet (JAQ – Just Another Quartet).

We are busy planning next Winter/Spring events and we are adding a couple of coffee mornings as informal get-togethers for BURA members at the Sunset Grill at the Fairview Mall in St. Catharines in January and on Highway 20 in Pelham in April. We understand that BURA members will get a free pancake at the January launch. Another film night at the Performing Arts Centre is in the planning stages for March, 2019.

Finally, on behalf of your executive committee, I would like to send you best of good wishes for the holiday season.

- Ian Brindle, President

In Memoriam

In sorrow, with respect and high regard,
BURA observes the passing since
August, 2018 of the
following members:

Siu Ping Lo, spouse of Wing Check Chan, August 20, 2018

Carl Wolff, August 30, 2018

Emma Carlson, October 29, 2018

Would you please let the Executive know about serious events in the lives
of our BURA colleagues and friends?

We'd like to send a greeting card. Contact

Carol-Ann Farinacci buratreasurer@gmail.com

or **Pat Miller** bura@brocku.ca

New BURA Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Frank Benko, *Physics*

Josephine Callaghan, *Registrar's Office*

Chris Critelli, *Athletics*

Gloria Dringus, *Brock Central/Financial Services*

Gloria Gallagher, *Registrar's Office*

Julia Gottli, *CHYS/SOCI/SJES*

Joseph Kenny, *Athletic Therapy Clinic*

Al Ross, *Parking Services/Shipping and Receiving*

Past BURA Events

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

September Social at Cat's Caboose

Wes Turner spoke about the plans underway to establish the Carl M. Wolff endowment and encouraged everyone to contribute.

Cheques can be made out to Brock University with 'In memory of Carl Wolff' in the memo line and mailed to:

Development and Alumni Relations
1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way
St. Catharines ON L2S 3A1



Wes Turner

Gifts can be made online at brocku.ca/donate. Under the area with the amount for the gift, there is a check box 'Make this gift in honour or in memory of an individual'. Once checked, you can select 'In Memory' and type 'Carl Wolff'.

Gifts can also be made via phone at 905-688-5550 x4190. It can be indicated at this time that the gift is in memory of Carl Wolff.

Pam Shanks presented Steve Hartman with Brock's annual thousand dollar donation to BURA. We thank Brock and Pam for their continuing support.

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Adam Shoalts



Adam Shoalts

Adam Shoalts regaled us with stories about his solo trek across Canada's Arctic in 2017. He travelled nearly 4,000 km by canoe and on foot.

He showed us how his custom-built canoe was tested by being dropped from the roof of an abandoned five story building! (He actually used one that was not drop-tested.)

The wildlife showed as much interest in him as he in them. Moose had extended their range northwards, probably due to climate change.

Upcoming BURA Events

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Festive Holiday Luncheon

Join us for the last BURA event of the fall season. Share with us stimulating conversation, fine food, and musical entertainment by JAQ (Just Another Quartet.)

Lunch will be a delicious roast turkey meal with apple bread stuffing, garlic mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, dessert and coffee/tea in the lovely Niagara Garden Room B of the **Hilton Garden Inn**.

About JAQ:

JAQ is a Registered Barbershop Quartet and has been singing for the last 10 years. As noted on their web site “ We started singing as chorus members of A Cappella Niagara spending time learning our respective parts under the direction of Derek Stevens, considered one of the finest young directors in the Ontario District. Our A Cappella Niagara experience provided us the opportunity to become one of the premier a cappella quartets in the Niagara Region. We have performed at numerous venues and celebrations throughout Niagara including singing Christmas Carols for Niagara Falls Mayor Diodati and his family. JAQ, our unusual name, is pronounced Jack and is an acronym for Just Another Quartet. We are comprised of Tenor-Jym Cummings, Lead-Kerry Russ, Baritone-Dan Roy, Bass-Howard Bogusat.”

Event Details:

Time: 11:30am – 2:00pm for lunch at noon

Venue: **Hilton Garden Inn**, 500 York Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake. (at Glendale Avenue & QEW)

Cost: \$35 pre-purchase per person, Cash Bar

Coordinators: Carol-Ann Farinacci and Pat Miller

Avoid missing out on BURA Newsletters and Event Notices

by making sure we are kept apprised of any revisions to your email or home address.

Please forward any change notices by e-mail to:

bura@brocku.ca

Wednesday, January 16, 2019
***BURA Coffee Club* at **Sunset Grill**, Fairview Mall**

What better way to endure a cold January day than to enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea (with or without breakfast) in the company of friends. Introducing BURA's new **Coffee Club** commencing Wednesday January 16, 2019 which, going forward, is expected to be hosted in a variety of locations a few times in 2019.



On January 16th, **Sunset Grill** at Fairview Mall will be pleased to provide you with your choice of beverage and food items from their tasty menu of breakfast and lunch items. One free pancake per person will be included with any breakfast plate ordered. As noted, this event is “*pay your own way*”.

Event Details:

Time: 9:30 – 11:30am (arrive when it's convenient)

Venue: **Sunset Grill**, Fairview Mall, 285 Geneva Street, St. Catharines

Cost: Pay your own way

Coordinator: Pat Miller

RSVP: Thursday December 27th through Saturday January 12th

Go ahead – Make My Day: Again

Contribute to the *BURA Newsletter!*

The BURA Newsletter continues to publish three times a year---the first week of September, December and April. These may include reports, notices of events, travelogues and photos, humour, poetry, and other information of interest to members. Photos should be jpeg format only and submitted as attachments to your email. Text may be submitted as part of email or as an attachment. If you do not use a computer, you may also send a paper submission.

Please send your submissions anytime, but at least a week before publication, to

Ron Ogawa rbgabadh@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Family Pasta Dinner & Community Care Food Drive
at Club Capri

Gather members of your *famiglia*, young through old, and celebrate Family Day week with an Italian pasta and meatball dinner with salad, dessert and refreshments.

While you are thinking of family, let's not forget about our former Brock family and the many Brock students who struggle to pay tuition and rent, leaving little left for food. To help out, we are asking each diner to bring a canned or boxed food item for donation to Community Care.

There will also be two 50/50 draws during the evening to raise some cash for Community Care's fresh produce inventory. A cash bar will be available. Table reservations of 7-8 seats per table will be accepted. Please advise when you forward your email RSVP. *Mangia!!!*

About Community Care Thorold:

MISSION: We compassionately provide vital services and assistance to individuals and families that meet their basic needs and help bridge their journey to self-sufficiency.

Since 1984 Community Care Thorold has been meeting the needs of those facing hardships in our community.

Programs range from food security, clothing and household goods, to emergency services and supports throughout the Region that lead to the independence clients strive to achieve.

Event Details:

Time: 4:30pm – 7:00pm. Doors Open at 4:30 pm, buffet at 5:00-6:45 pm followed by refreshments and sweets through to 7:00 pm.

Venue: Club Capri, 36 Cleveland Street, Thorold

Cost: \$20 for adults, \$10 for children under ten, plus one canned or boxed food item per person for Community Care. Cash Bar.

Coordinator: Pat Miller, Pat Cane

RSVP: January 16th through February 11th, 2019

March (TBA)
Film Night for BURA

The film will be chosen by the Brock University Film Society (BUFS) with our group in mind. We will have reserved seats for BURA attendees. If you have been to BUFS film screenings, then you know how difficult it can be to get good seats.



Dinner will be at the **Sahla Thai Restaurant**, 270 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines.

Event Details:

Time: (TBA)

Venues: **Sahla Thai Restaurant**, 270 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines.

FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines
(We will have reserve seats for BURA attendees)

Cost: (TBA)

Coordinator: Jill and Ian Brindle

Volunteers Needed

This is an interesting and rewarding activity where small groups work together to organize events and complete other BURA activities. The Executive can always use new volunteers, whose talents and ideas are needed. Contact Steve Hartman or any current member of the Executive for more information.

Steve Hartman shartman@brocku.ca (905) 685-3839

Future BURA Events

April (TBA)

The Pre-History of Brock University with Ian Brindle

Event Details:

Time: 11:30am – 2:00pm for a light lunch at noon, catered by **Mahtay Café**, St. Catharines.

Venue: Marilyn I. Walker Centre for Fine and Performing Arts, 15 Artists' Common, St. Catharines. Meet outside the door to the student art gallery.

Cost: No cost to attendees, save parking (\$4.50 maximum at Meridian Centre).

Coordinator: Pam Shanks

We thank Brock's Office of Development and Alumni Relations, and Executive Director Pam Shanks for this privilege!

Thursday, April 25, 2019

BURA Coffee Club at **Sunset Grill**, Fonthill

Event Details:

Time: 9:30 – 11:30am (arrive when it's convenient)

Venue: **Sunset Grill**, 130 Highway 20 E., Unit D1, Fonthill (near Food Basics)

Cost: Pay your own way

Coordinator: Pat Miller

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

BURA Annual General Meeting Brunch at the **Welland Canal Centre**

Event Details:

Time: 9:30am for breakfast buffet and social catered by **Sweets Café**;

10:30am AGM commences

Venue: Lockview Lounge, **Welland Canal Centre**, 1932 Welland Canals Parkway, St. Catharines (Lock 3)

Cost: (TBD)

Thursday, June 6, 2019

2018-19 Year End Barbecue Luncheon at **Brock University**

Event Details:

Time: 11:30am – 2:00pm

Venue: Pond Inlet, **Brock University**, 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St. Catharines

Cost: (TBD)

CURAC

College and University Retiree Associations of Canada

CURAC announces **travel and extended health** insurance available to our members through CURAC's affiliation with

- **MEDOC** (Johnston Inc.) and
- **RTO/ERO** (Retired Teachers of Ontario / Les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario).

Go to <https://www.curac.ca/members-benefits/benefits-for-members/insurance-now-available-en/> for more information.

Brock Pension Notes

On October 10th, 2018, Ian Brindle, Gail Neff, Carol-Ann Farinacci, and Steve Hartman met with Terry Varcoe, who has been BURA's representative on the Brock Pension Committee for the last year and a half.

A question was raised about the difference in the rates of return of Brock's pension fund (\$500M), and of Brock's endowment fund (\$100M) which funds scholarships and bursaries. According to Terry, the endowment fund has a very conservative payout of about 3%, and in a bad year the payout can be cut without touching the capital. The endowment fund can accept more risk - higher-risk investments tend to have higher returns (when all goes well).

The pension fund has no such flexibility in its payout. For this reason, our plan managers have put 40% of the Brock assets into long-term fixed-income assets. It's very hard to make money on this 40% that protects us from a major market plunge, and this diminishes the overall rate of return of the plan.

The other 60% of the plan's assets are divided up as follows:

- 50% equities (of which 13.7% is Canadian equities; the rest is distributed world-wide, with considerable assets in the USA.)
- 30% fixed assets
- 10% real estate
- 10% infrastructure