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Upcoming Events

April 23, 2025

Brock University Update

with *Lesley Rigg*

at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and
Performing Arts

Arrive: 11:30am for lunch at noon

May 20, 2025

Annual General Meeting

at the St. Catharines Museum – Lock 3

Arrive: 10:00am

June 18, 2024

Spirit in Niagara Distillery Tour, Tasting and Lunch

at *Spirit in Niagara*

Arrive: 11:00am for Tour and Tasting

Arrive: 12:00pm for Lunch

BURA Coffee Club

at *Ostin's Restaurant*,

Arrive: 9:30am

April 16, 2025

May 6, 2025

June 4, 2025

Member News



In Memoriam



In sorrow, and with respect, BURA observes the passing of the following members:

Stanley Sadava, January 30, 2025

Jean Harley, February 26, 2025

New BURA Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Anne Adams, *Library*

Tim Murphy, *Psychology*

Fatima Noorbhal, *Dean of Social Science Office*

Michael Owen, *Dean, Faculty of Education*

“Canada’s Longest Serving Councillor, Joseph Kushner, 1976-2025”

written by *Wesley Turner & Joseph Kushner*

THIS forthcoming book may be of interest to members of BURA. Joe was elected in 1976 for St. Andrew’s Ward in St. Catharines and has been re-elected continuously ever since. Only the mayor of Milton has served longer, most of that time as mayor. The book surveys Joe’s childhood and upbringing followed by a detailed account of his elections and political career. It includes advice for new councillors and testimonials from many local residents. Joe is part of the city’s history as municipal councillor, Brock professor and businessman. It will be published shortly.

–Wes Turner

Do you have any news that you would like to share with the BURA membership?

WE would be pleased to review any member news submitted on the webform at:
<https://brocku.ca/retirees-association/contact-us/>

Past Events

BURA Holiday Celebration with *Starla Silvestri & John Davies*

STARLA and John are passionate musicians embarking on a musical journey to make a lasting impact with their distinctive blend of alternative acoustic folk rock. Their innovative approach to music sets them apart as they strive to create a memorable and meaningful musical experience for their audience. With a shared vision and dedication to their craft, Starla and John are determined to leave a positive and lasting musical mark on the world.

They provided musical entertainment during our holiday lunch.



Starla Silvestri

Artificial Intelligence and Post-secondary Education with *Rahul Kumar*

DR. Kumar from the Department of Educational Studies at Brock University describes his research as concentrated on “the disruptive force of GenAI on education, its effect on Academic Integrity and how to cope with it. ”

GenAI can generate new content, summarize, make connections and explain. Dr. Kumar discussed the problems with GenAI. These include limitations in accuracy in some tasks, misinformation, and possible lack of understanding. The issues include detection of authorship, skills development, assessment challenges, and ethical and policy consideration.



Rahul Kumar

In <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-4449928/v1>, Rahul Kumar and Robert McGray reported on the results of a study of postsecondary education students’ use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. They concluded that the use of GenAI is higher than often reported and appears to be growing.

Film Matinee

THIS year's film was "Drive Back Home" starring Alan Cumming, Charlie Creed-Miles and Clare Coulter. It was written and directed by Michael Clowater.

In the winter of 1970, a cantankerous, small-town plumber from rural New Brunswick drives his beat-up work truck 1000 miles to Toronto to get his estranged, gay brother out of jail after being arrested for having sex in a public park. The two men are then forced to drive back home together at the behest of their hard-nosed mother.

First Time Authors' Speakers' Panel with *Lori Littleton & Nancy Taber*

THE focus of this event was on the process and experience of being a first time author: how each got to the starting point, how they prepared themselves, what motivated them, the highs and lows of the process, finding a publisher, experiencing the promotional process and what they took away from the whole experience. The authors used their recent novels as examples.

Dr. Neta Gordon from the Department of English Language and Literature, Brock University, moderated the discussion.



Neta Gordon, Lori Littleton, Nancy Taber

Are you 90 years of age or will you turn 90 in the next year?

YOU qualify for our **I'm 90 Birthday Club**, and your membership is free forever! (The change to free membership was discussed and unanimously approved at a past Executive meeting for anyone 90+.) Your membership card will be mailed to you each year at no charge.

Please let us know by e-mail to:

Pat Cane BURAMembership@outlook.com

Upcoming Events

April 23, 2025

Brock University Update

with *Lesley Rigg*

at *the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts*

LESLEY Rigg, Brock University's President and Vice-Chancellor, will report on the latest developments at Brock. We thank Brock University for sponsoring this event.

Event Details:

Time : 11:30am for lunch at noon

Venue: *the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, 5 Artists' Common, St. Catharines*

May 20, 2025

Annual General Meeting

at *the St. Catharines Museum – Lock 3*

YOUR participation in the AGM is important. It provides support and guidance for our BURA Executive in its role of enriching the lives of our members.

Prior to the AGM event, you'll receive Package #1: Notice of the AGM. That notice will come to you by email on April 13th, or it will arrive by regular mail (mailed out March 22nd for some members). The package will contain the agenda, proposed constitutional changes, proposed Executive slate (if available at this time), and RSVP request.

Later, on April 22nd, your AGM Package #2 will be emailed out, and also will be sent out, by regular mail, for some. This package will contain the updated agenda with motions, reports, the unapproved minutes from the AGM, May 22nd, 2024, as well as the proposed Executive slate (if not available for package #1).

Event Details:

Time : 10:00am

Venue: *St. Catharines Museum – Lock 3, 1932 Welland Canals Pkwy, St. Catharines*

June 18, 2024
Spirit in Niagara Distillery Tour, Tasting and Lunch
at *Spirit in Niagara*

SPIRIT in Niagara Small Batch Distillery is built on a deep-rooted farming legacy. Founder Arnie Lepp comes from a family that has farmed in Niagara for four generations.

Over the years, Arnie saw a challenge facing the industry – nearly 10% of Niagara’s tender fruit was going to waste each season, not because of quality, but simply because it was slightly overripe or had fallen before harvest. With his life-long passion for farming and sustainability, Arnie saw an opportunity: instead of letting this perfectly ripe fruit go unused, why not turn it into something exceptional?

That vision led to the creation of *Spirit in Niagara*, where they craft premium small-batch spirits using the ripest, most flavourful fruit from their orchards.



Spirit in Niagara

Event Details:

Time : 11:00am for Tour and Tasting, 12:00pm for Lunch

Venue: *Spirit in Niagara*, 458 Lakeshore Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

BURA Coffee Club

following dates at the *Ostin’s Restaurant*

April 16, 2025

May 6, 2025

June 4, 2025

GOOD news! The monthly coffee club will continue to be in-person gatherings this spring at *Ostin’s Restaurant*, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, starting at 9:30am. Please save the above dates. We hope to see you there!

Other Events

Historical Society of St. Catharines

Celebrating the history of St. Catharines and its vicinity

Presentations – April to June 2025

THE Society was founded in 1927 and maintains its mission to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St. Catharines and vicinity.

April 24, 2025 7:30 pm – *Kathy Powell, Museum Director, “Civil Defense in Niagara”.*

May 22, 2025 7:30 pm – *Gary Gardell, “Lacrosse in St. Catharines and Niagara’.*

There will be different invitations to these meetings posted in the coming months. More information can be found at the following link:

<https://stcatharineshistory.ca>

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 Rico Natale or any current member of the Executive for more information.

Please let us know by e-mail to:

Rico Natale BURAPresident@gmail.com