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Upcoming Events

December 8, 2025

BURA Holiday Celebration

at *Club Roma*

Arrive: 11:30am for lunch at noon

January 27, 2026

Canadian Sovereignty in 2026

with *Blayne Haggart*

at *Holiday Inn*

Arrive: 11:30am for lunch at noon

February, 2026

February Event

with *TBD*

at the *TBD*

Arrive: TBD

March 18, 2026

March Event

with *Elias Polizoos*

at *Niagara Artists Centre*

Arrive: TBA

BURA Coffee Club

at the *Courtyard Bar and Grill*,

December 18, 2025

at *Ostin's Restaurant*,

January 12, 2026

February, 2026

–date to be determined

March 5, 2026

Arrive: 9:30am

Member News



In Memoriam



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

Nina Feldman, October 12, 2025

New BURA Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Thomas Dunk *Sociology, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, Provost and Vice-President Academic*

Cheng Luo *Applied Linguistics*

Felice Martinello *Economics and Labour Studies*

Congratulations to Rodger Beatty

Congratulations to Rodger Beatty who has again won first place at the 2025 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair's Amateur Jams & Jellies and Pickling Competition! Rodger placed 1st in the Savory Jam or Jelly category for his Mint Jelly. He also placed 1st in the Heritage Pickle category for his Bread and Butter Pickles, and second in the Sweet (Cucumber) Pickles category. He was also recognized for his Peach Chutney.

Way to go Rodger!

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

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

BURA Pension Update

by *Linda Lowry*

In case you haven't heard, in July 2025, I was appointed to a four-year term as the new BURA Representative on the Brock University Pension Committee (BUPC). You may remember me from my role as the Business & Economics Liaison Librarian in the Brock University Library from August 1997 to December 2021. I am replacing Terry Varcoe, who was the BURA Representative on the BUPC from 2017 to 2025. Those are going to be big shoes to fill! The good news is that I have some experience, as I was a BUFA representative on the BUPC from 1999 to 2005. However, the Brock University Pension Plan (BUPP) has changed quite a bit in the last twenty years. The BUPP Annual Meeting took place on October 23, 2025. This year's virtual meeting included presentations from the BUPP's Investment Consultant (TELUS Health) and Actuary (Mercer).



Linda Lowry

- Julianna Spiropoulos from TELUS Health began with an overview of financial market performance from 2024-2025 and identified three key themes: 1) All asset classes (Equities, Fixed Income, & Alternatives) offered positive returns over a one year period; 2) The performance of the "Magnificent 7" stocks (Nvidia, Apple, Amazon, Meta, Alphabet, Microsoft, and Tesla) shrank in the first half of 2025; 3) Non-North American Markets have outperformed North-American markets in 2025.
- The second half of the TELUS Health presentation was a Fund and Manager Performance Commentary. The BUPP Fund is currently allocated across the following asset classes: Global equity, Fixed income, Real Estate, Infrastructure, Cash & Equivalents. The Global Equity Managers have underperformed compared to their benchmarks. The Fixed Income Investment Managers and Alternative Investment Managers have met or exceeded their benchmarks over the longer term.
- Bill Watson and Armand Abehsera from Mercer provided with an overview of BUPP membership. There are 603 pensioners, 444 deferred members, and 1797 active members. Pensioners represent 21.2% of BUPP members. In 2025, 46% of retiring active members elected to receive a monthly pension from the BUPP, while 54% elected to transfer their funds out of the plan.
- The MPP Fund rate of return for 2024-2025 WAS 4.7415%, which was -1.2585% less than the expected rate of return of 6%. This was offset by a positive mortality adjustment of 0.9873%, resulting in a total pensioner adjustment of -0.2712%, as of July 1, 2025. The MGP increased by 2.0% (indexed for inflation).
- Mercer informed us that in 2025, 124 pensioners received the Minimum Guarantee Pension (MGP) compared to 479 pensioners who received the Money Purchase Pension (MPP).

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns with respect to the BUPP. I can be reached by email at: lindadlowry@gmail.com

Past Events

Steel Blade Classic

Brock vs Guelph Gryphons



Steel Blade Trophy

THE Steel Blade Classic is an annual event during Homecoming Weekend that was first held in 1999. The Brock Men's Hockey Team and the Guelph Gryphons competed for the Steel Blade Trophy, a sword commemorating the War of 1812. The sword was carried by Sergeants of the Upper Canada Artillery Units and Royal Artillery during the War of 1812 and is a priceless piece of Canadian history.

The Brock Badgers hockey team lost five to one to the Guelph Gryphons at the Meridian Centre before a crowd of 3700 spectators.

Vanished Beyond the Map, The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell

with *Adam Shoalts*

ADVENTURER Adam Shoalts joined us to share the story of his latest expedition: his quest to retrace the route of lost explorer Hubert Darrell, who vanished in Canada's western Arctic in 1910. Adam's newest book, *Vanished Beyond the Map*, unravels the mystery of Darrell's disappearance.

This lecture was co-sponsored by Lifelong Learning Niagara and Brock University Retirees' Association.



Adam Shoalts

Mapping the Historic Welland Canals one lock at a time: My Stories

with *Colleen Beard*

WE enjoyed an illustrated tour of the three historic Welland canals while Colleen demonstrated how to use the [Historic Welland Canals Mapping Project](#) (HWCMP) to optimize the user experience. She described the best hiking routes, and recounted stories of terrorist attacks and other interesting finds. Participants gained a better understanding of canal history they can explore on their own, from either an armchair or on the ground.



Colleen Beard

Colleen Beard is Map Librarian Emerita, Brock University. She holds a BSc degree in Physical Geography and Geology from Brock with a concentration in the cartographic sciences, and a Masters of Library and Information Science from University of Toronto.



Upcoming Events

December 8, 2025

BURA Holiday Celebration

at *Club Roma*

JOIN your BURA friends and colleagues for some holiday cheer and live entertainment with local artist Caitlin Miller. This is your last chance of 2025 to catch up with old friends and enjoy holiday entertainment.

Caitlin Miller is a Niagara local singer & songwriter who has been performing at various live venues since 2019. Her styles range from 60's era tunes, to contemporary music and originals. From rock, to pop, to country, folk and indie, Caitlin performs something for everyone to enjoy, on acoustic guitar with accompanied singing.

Event Details:

Time : 11:30am for lunch at noon,

Venue: *Club Roma*, 125 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines, ON

January 27, 2026
Canadian Sovereignty in 2026
with the *Blayne Haggart*
at the *Holiday Inn*

IN April 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney led the Liberals to an unexpected victory, based largely on his promise to stand up to the United States and to protect Canadian sovereignty in an increasingly unstable continent and world. Join us as we explore the biggest questions facing Canada today: Is Carney's strategy up to the task? What challenges can Canadians expect in 2026 and beyond, and how should we respond?

Blayne Haggart is a Professor of Political Science at Brock University. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo, Ontario.

Event Details:

Time : 11:30am for lunch at noon

Venue: *Holiday Inn*, 327 Ontario St, St. Catharines

February, 2026
February Event
with *TBD*
at the *TBD*

More details will become available at a later date.

Event Details:

Time : TBD

Venue: *TBD*,

Avoid missing out on BURA Newsletters and Event Notices

MAKE sure we are kept apprised of any revisions to your e-mail or home address.
Please email any changes to: Pat Cane BURAMembership@outlook.com

March 18, 2026

March Event

with *Elias Polizoes*

at the *Niagara Artists Centre*

More details will become available at a later date.

Event Details:

Time : TBA,

Venue: *Niagara Artists Centre*, 354 St. Paul Street, St Catharines

BURA Coffee Club

following date at the *Courtyard Bar and Grill*

December 18, 2025

following dates at the *Ostin's Restaurant*

January 12, 2026

February, 2026

-date to be determined

March 5, 2026

GOOD news! The December coffee club will continue to be in-person gatherings this winter at, the *Courtyard Bar and Grill*, 2 Dunlop Drive (beside Comfort Inn), St. Catharines., starting at 9:30am.

The remaining coffee club meetings will continue to be in-person gatherings this winter at, *Ostin's Restaurant*, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, starting at 9:30am.

Please save the above dates. We hope to see you there!

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 Hilary Findlay or any current member of the Executive for more information.

Please let us know by e-mail to:

Hilary Findlay BURAPresident@gmail.com

Other Events



LLN – Winter Lecture Series 2025

Tuesdays, 10 am to noon.

Zoom Webinars

Registration opens (TBD December)
at <https://llniagara.ca>

\$75 for 5 webinars, or \$20 per
webinar

February 3rd – The Latest from Space: Discoveries from the Webb and Hubble Telescopes
Dr. Nathalie Ouellette, Astrophysicist; Outreach Scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope in Canada,

Explore how the James Webb Space Telescope and the Hubble Space Telescope work and how they play an essential role in bringing us discoveries ranging from Solar System objects to alien world to distant galaxies. And find out what the next generation of space telescopes, namely the Canadian-led CASTOR Mission and the Habitable Worlds Observatory, promise to deliver in the coming decades.

February 10th – Innovation and Creative Thinking: Pathways for Canada and for Each of Us

Dr. Roseann Runte, Past President and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation,

How does innovation build the economy and how does investment in innovation fuel the economy? Learn how innovation works and who is driving positive change in Canada and in the Niagara Region.

February 17th – The Adaptable Country: How Canada Can Survive the Twenty-First Century

Dr. Alasdair Roberts, Professor of Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Amherst

The capacity to anticipate and manage dangers such as shifting geopolitics, regional conflicts, climate change, and technology shocks is essential for Canada to survive and thrive. Dr. Roberts outlines some reforms to improve adaptability.

February 24th – To be Determined

March 3rd – Enhancing Brain Fitness and Resilience Throughout Adulthood

Dr. Mark Fenske, Neuroscientist; Professor of Psychology, University of Guelph,

Gain insight about the impact of stress on brain function and what the latest scientific findings tell us about enhancing resilience and maintaining brain fitness throughout our lives.