
BURA Newsletter

Brock University Retirees' Association

September 2026

<https://brocku.ca/retirees-association>

BURA Executive

President	Alan Castle	BURAPresident@gmail.com
Past President	Hilary Findlay	BURAPastPresident@gmail.com
Vice President	Michael Owen	BURAVicePresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Margaret Bernat	SecretaryBURA@gmail.com
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Councillor	Gail Neff	gailneffca@gmail.com
Councillor	Linda Rose-Krasnor	linda.rose-krasnor@brocku.ca
Brock Pension Representative	Linda Lowry	

Executive 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 **Alan Castle** or any current member of the Executive for more information.

BURA Member News

In Memorium

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

[Robert Ogilvie](#) April 8, 2026

Avoid missing out on BURA Newsletters and Event Notices

Please keep us informed of any
revisions to your e-mail or home
address. Please email any
changes to:

BURAMembership@outlook.com

New Members

We extend warm welcomes to the following new
members:

Sheila Bennett	<i>Education</i>
Uwe Brand	<i>Earth Sciences</i>
Santo D'Agostino	<i>Physics</i>
Dorothy Griffiths	<i>Applied Disability Studies</i>
Lynne Irion	<i>Alumni</i>
Alba Kotyk	<i>ITS</i>
Ruth Rigbey	<i>NA</i>
Caron Staff	<i>Nursing</i>
Caroline Starrs	<i>Chemistry</i>

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/](https://brocku.ca/retirees-association/contact-us/)

from Joe Norris

Joe Norris recently joined BURA and reports that he has published a piece in University Affairs (UA) in April regarding his ongoing transition into retirement. It can be found at: <https://universityaffairs.ca/career-advice/creating-retirement-step-by-step/>. He serves as a member of the Later-Life-Learning Committee of the College and University Retiree Association of Canada (CURAC) and would like to bring to the membership's attention that:

Since 2021, UA has afforded CURAC a column in their newsletter called Academic for Life and is now available on the last Friday of each month. Members of BURA are welcomed to submit an article related to the topic. For further Information, please contact Carole-Lynne Le Navenec, the Editor of Academic for Life at [<cllenave@ucalgary.ca>](mailto:cllenave@ucalgary.ca).

Past BURA Events

Brock University Update - April 2026

Lesley Rigg talked about **SPARK**, a campus-wide infrastructure renewal initiative designed to reduce carbon emissions, enhance energy efficiency, and to modernize Brock's physical systems. with no upfront capital investment from the University.

Lesley also talked about the "The Clean Agriculture for Sustainable Production project." Within this project, the "Clean Plant Program" will identify virus-free grapevine material, develop production processes for clean plants, adapt next generation diagnostic tools, and maintain a national germplasm repository.

"Precision Agriculture and Ecological Interactions" will study how clean grapevines interact with other plants and organisms and farming methods that use a range of technologies to grow crops more efficiently. The "Urban Applications" examines how clean plants and new knowledge on landscape approaches to sustainable agriculture development can be integrated into the greening of urban ecosystems.



Lesley Rigg

Annual General Meeting - May 2026

Changes to the executive:

President – Alan Castle Secretary – Margaret Bernat
Past President – Hilary Findlay ITCordinator – Rico Natale
Vice President – Michael Owen
Membership Facilitator – Karen McAllister-Kenny

From the Treasurer's report:

We began the year with \$8623 in the bank. We ended the financial year with a balance of \$10238, a difference of \$1615.

From the President's report:

A particular thank you to Pat Cane. Pat has been working hard for BURA for many years organising membership drives, keeping track of members' whereabouts and generally keeping us all on track. She has also been the force behind the monthly coffee events and our two major outings each year.

Niagara Takes Flight - June 2026

Niagara Takes Flight is a brand new, fully immersive flying theatre ride that takes you to the skies for a breathtaking journey along the Niagara River corridor.

Everyone who attended the event enjoyed the experience, and lunch at the Table Rock House Restaurant.

Upcoming BURA Events

Steel Blade Classic at the Meridian Centre

Join your BURA friends and colleagues for our first event of the season.

Bring your Badger pride and be part of a game that continues to make Brock history!

The Steel Blade Classic hockey game will kick off BURA's 2026-27 events schedule.

September 18, 2026

Meridian Centre
1 David S. Howes Way,
St Catharines

arrive 6:30pm

It's back for the 26th time! The annual Steel Blade Classic is the cornerstone of Homecoming weekend. A celebration for alumni, students, retirees, and community alike. Watch the Brock Men's hockey team take on the Guelph Gryphons at the Meridian Centre. Celebrate your Badger pride at this unforgettable event.

BURA members and a guest can attend the game and enjoy access to, and seats on the 4th floor VIP alumni section, complimentary stadium snacks, and access to a private bar.

A limited number of tickets are available for a discounted price of \$30 per person (regular price \$40).

Register, on-line, by September 11, 2026 at:
<https://brocku.ca/retirees-association/events/>

The story behind blood splatters: what gravity and other factors can reveal

Richard Wisznoiski is a local artist, former blood spatter analyst and detective with the Toronto Police Service. His art is inspired by the forms and patterns of blood spatter that he had encountered.

October 15, 2026

at the Holiday Inn,
327 Ontario St,
St. Catharines
arrive 11:30 am

Canada and the United States: What Now? What Next?

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

November 25, 2026

at the Holiday Inn,
arrive 11:30 am

BURA Holiday Celebration

Join your BURA friends and colleagues for some holiday cheer.

December 10, 2026

at the Holiday Inn,
arrive 11:30 am

BURA Coffee Club

The coffee club meetings, this fall, will continue to be in-person gatherings. We hope to see you there!
Arrive at 9:30am



September 22, 2026
Other dates to be determined

at Ostin's Restaurant
327 Ontario Street,
St Catharines.

Other News and Events

Share Your Expertise and Write What You Know

by Dr. W. J. Becker

Writing a book can be a source of immense satisfaction. **Dr. W. J. Becker** has published a piece in University Affairs (UA) in May regarding his efforts at writing a book in retirement. It can be found at: <https://universityaffairs.ca/career-advice/share-your-expertise-and-write-what-you-know/>

Dr. W. J. Becker is a professor emeritus in clinical neurosciences and medicine at the University of Calgary and a past president of the University of Calgary Retirees Association.

Life Long Learning Niagara Fall Lectures 2026



Tuesdays, 10 am to Noon
Registration opens September 15
at www.llniagara.ca
Registration closes October 8
Lectures will not be recorded
\$75 for 5 lectures, or
\$20 for Individual lecture

All lectures are In-Person
at Ruby Carroll Hall,
Trillium United Church,
415 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines
Wheelchair accessible
Parking available
Bus stop nearby

Arrive at 9:30 to enjoy social time with refreshments.

October 13 – Canadian Art in the 20th Century: A Feast for the Eyes and the Mind

Susan Dobson, BA Fine Art, University of Guelph; Teaching Certificate, Brock University

Join us for beautiful slides and rich information about Canadians painting in the early to mid-20th century, including the Toronto Painters Eleven, Group of Seven, and Les Automatistes.

October 20 – Uncertain Times: The Role of Social Service Agencies in Niagara and Beyond

Elisabeth Zimmermann, Executive Director, YWCA Niagara Region

In a world that has become increasingly complex, social service organizations play a vital role in the health and well-being of the overall community. We will explore the history of social services and the evolution to where we are today – looking at the opportunities and challenges we currently face in providing the services needed for a healthy community.

October 27 – Building Empathy as a Pathway toward Water Sustainability

Dr. Julia Baird, Director, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Human Dimensions of Water Resources and Water Resilience in the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre, Brock University

Climate models for the Niagara region show changing patterns of water availability, the potential for greater flooding and erosion along our shorelines, and degraded water quality. Learn how empathy can be useful in moving us to take action for a better, more sustainable water future.

November 3 – Aging Well from the Inside Out: Muscle, Mind and Metabolism

Dr. Matthew Lees, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Kinesiology, McMaster University

Muscle loss, metabolic dysfunction, and cognitive decline are deeply interconnected processes that can be influenced by how we move, eat, and live our lives. Learn some practical strategies that support strength, independence, and quality of life.

November 10 – Ethnic Flutes from Around the World: From Paleolithic Bone Pipes to 3D Printers

Douglas Miller, Principal Flute of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra

The flute is one of the oldest known musical instruments. Found throughout the world, the various flute designs uniquely reflect the culture where the flutes evolved. Enjoy short performances demonstrating many flutes from around the world and learn how flutes produce the sound that is always recognizable as a flute.