

# CUPARUC

newsletter of the concordia university pensioners' association

bulletin de l'association des retraité-e-s de l'université Concordia



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## RESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another summer has come and gone. I hope you all have had a good one. It always seems to go by so quickly!

As for our Benefits and pensions, we continue to be concerned and are watching events very carefully. The University put out a request for tender for the benefits package with results due in the fall so we'll see what will happen then. The two-year terms for our representatives on these crucial committees are up so there will be a call for nominations shortly. Your executive proposes to nominate two representatives on behalf of CUPA and expect they will be our current reps – Howard Fink and Eddy Ginocchi. They have been, and are, doing a great job for us and I hope they will have your vote should an election be required.

As to other activities, you will see by this issue that Geoff Adams has revitalized the social activities for those of us in and around Montreal. How about someone outside Montreal in say B.C. starting something? We'll be very happy to support any ideas.

Please keep your e-mail address with us up to date and checkout the Web at [cupa.concordia.ca](http://cupa.concordia.ca) as well. Roger Kenner has been updating it.

Finally the commercial message - Our fiscal year is from June to June so if you haven't sent in your \$20 dues for 2010-2011 please do so. Thanks.

Have a great autumn,

*Graham Martin*



## Message du Président

L'été tire à sa fin. J'espère que vous avez tous eu du beau temps. Il me semble que l'été passe toujours trop vite.

En ce qui concerne nos avantages sociaux et régime de retraite, nous sommes toujours vigilants et continuons à suivre les événements de proche. L'université a demandé des soumissions pour le régime d'avantages sociaux et nous attendons les résultats cet automne. Nos représentants au sein des ces comités cruciaux finissent leurs termes de deux ans, il y aura donc des appels afin de nommer deux candidats pour représenter ARUC. L'exécutif propose la nomination de Howard Fink et Edward Ginocchi qui sont nos représentants actuels. Ils font un excellent travail et nous espérons qu'ils recevront votre appui si jamais une élection devient nécessaire.

En ce qui concerne nos autres activités, vous vous rendrez compte que Geoff Adams a soufflé de la vie aux activités sociales pour ceux d'entre nous que demeurent dans la région de Montréal. On serait très heureux de soutenir de telles activités en dehors de Montréal, en Colombie Britannique par exemple.

Veillez nous tenir au courant des changements à votre adresse courriel et consulter les pages web a [cupa.concordia.ca](http://cupa.concordia.ca). Roger Kenner le tient à date.

Finalement une communication commerciale – notre année fiscale va du mois de juin au mois de juin. Si vous n'avez pas encore acquitté vos droits de \$20.00 pour 2010 – 2011, SVP veuillez le faire maintenant. Nous vous remercions de votre soutien continu.

Passez un bel automne,

*Graham Martin*



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## HANGE OF LIFE

*Graeme Decarie*

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The professor frowned. He often frowned quite fiercely because it gave the impression of a fearsome intellect. (You know the type.)

“That doesn't sound like very scientific logic,” he growled.

Well, no. It wasn't scientific at all. I was talking about history: and history is not a science, and it's certainly not a science even in some sense of logic. That is why we were placed in a faculty of arts. The historians' role is not simply discovering new evidence (or diving for buried treasure as one enthusiast put it). It is in seeing old evidence in a different way, using methods that are neither scientific nor logical.

I thought of that as I soaked into the wonder of my new pastime. I still write a good deal for a couple of blogs; and I'm working on a serious short story; and I've started a current events group. That, with exercise and three children, has kept me busy. But, oh, painting is, as my students of the 70s used to say, like wow.

I've never painted before. I was one of those kids who flunked art in grade four. I can't even write an intelligible signature. But it was my wife's idea. She's the artist. She can paint a picture in any style you like and in any medium and it's good enough to frame. We have many walls to prove it. She insisted I give it a shot with a painting of the garage. That way, I wouldn't have to get up from my lounge chair. I kind of enjoyed it. Then, she insisted I sit it on her art class.

I was hooked. That night I bought the biggest canvas in the art shop to paint a panorama of the street I grew up on – Rue St. Gerard for two blocks north of Jarry, flats with one big one downstairs and row on row of curving staircases to the second storeys, each second storey with two, tiny flats – each of them really only two rooms. Mine is the first one, second storey on the right. (Lord, those curving staircases are hard to paint.)

I've been two months on it. It's a passion. I felt real exhilaration as the sketch came to life when I added the colour of brick on brick on brick. It's been two months, with the finish projected within a week. Some of it has been thinking with scientific logic; but even that thinking, as in mixing a colour has been guided by something more than science and logic. Much of the thinking has

been of things I can define only vaguely – mood, memories of mood, smells, atmosphere, instinct, my childhood, that sort of thing. It has been teaching me a lesson.

We cannot be wholly scientific or wholly logical, not in anything. History and even science change as we change and as the world changes. Even the choice of what is worth studying is one of those inner matters that are neither logical nor scientific.

Painting has made me think a good deal about the academic world. Does peer review encourage creativity or only conformity? Is graduate studies about opening minds? Or narrowing them? Perhaps, just perhaps, professors might be more helpful if they taught with humility as the object and manner of the lesson, not the pursuit of a persona of authority.

As I read some of the more bizarre items on The Gazette op ed page, it occurs to me that McGill historians and economists should give this issue special attention.

I can't wait for my next project. The scene is the old Villeroy garbage dump and quarry in winter. Featured is a cute eight-year-old (me) with the piece of cardboard he is using to slide down the snow covered piles of garbage at the edge of the quarry pit.

No. It wasn't a very scientific or logical thing to do.



## CUPARUC SOCIAL EVENTS

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Your Social Events committee (Geoff Adams, Elizabeth Henrik, Christine Mackay and Mair Verthuy) has been working hard to provide CUPARUC members with a varied as well as stimulating program for this fall.

We look forward to seeing a good turnout at each of the following four events:

### ***1 - GHOST WALK***

Saturday, 18 September 8:30 p.m. Traditional Ghost Walk in Old Montreal. Ghosts are now present in the west of Old Montreal. They get out at nightfall to make you shiver with new stories and old legends. The gruesome decor of this unexplored side of Old Montreal will bring on goose bumps for sure. Strong nerves required? Approximate length: 90 minutes. For more details v. [info@fantommontreal.com](mailto:info@fantommontreal.com).

Tickets: Adults \$21.50 ; Seniors and Students (ID required) \$18.50 (or so they said); Children \$12.50

In order to maintain our group reservation for September 18, we need to know HOW MANY PEOPLE will be attending. We also need to receive the appropriate amount of money (according to the age and status of anyone accompanying you) by September 3. A personal cheque should be mailed to Mair Verthuy at 828, avenue Querbes, apt 200, Montreal H2V 3X3. Receipts will be issued 'between ghosts' on September 18. See you there!

## 2 - THEATRE

Sunday, October 3, 2 p.m. Matinee at the Segal Centre, 5170, Côte Ste-Catherine Rd. This will be the opening performance of the Segal's production of Arther Miller's A View from the Bridge which deals with the social and psychological crises faced by an Italian-American longshoreman and his immigrant family in post-World War II America.

For those interested in the context of the play, a lecture will be offered at the Centre beginning at 11 a.m. Worth noting also: there is an attractive downstairs lounge at the Centre where some of us may decide to have a light lunch before the show.

If more than twenty of us buy advance tickets (some are already sold following an e-mail ad), the ticket price is reduced to \$25 (tax incl.) per person. This is a bargain these days for a professional theatre performance. If you're interested, please send a personal cheque to Geoffrey Adams, 1780, rue du Bocage, St-Bruno, J3V 4M6.

To get to the theatre by public transport, the nearest metro stop is 'Côte Ste-Catherine'. Bus # 17 runs n/s on Decarie and Bus #126 runs along Côte Ste-Catherine and stops right in front of the theatre. Parking is usually available on nearby streets. Hope you'll join us!

## 3 - EASTER ISLAND EXHIBIT

Wednesday, October 20, 1:30 p.m. at the Pointe-à-Callières Museum on Place Royale near the Old Port. We have a privileged opportunity here to examine the famous sculptures of this isolated society, on display in North America for the first time.

Easter Island (Rapa Nui or Isla de Pascua in Spanish) is a Polynesian island in the Pacific Ocean, at the southeasternmost point of the Polynesian triangle. It is one of the world's most isolated inhabited islands. Its closest inhabited neighbour, Pitcairn Island (1075 km to the West) has fewer than a hundred inhabitants. Annexed by Chile in 1888, Easter Island is famous for its 887 extant monumental statues (called moai), created by the early Rapanui people. More than 200 objects, including some statues, are included in the current exhibition.

We have organized a special group visit for October 20 at 1:30 p.m. Seniors will be charged \$8.50 for the tour which will last about 90 minutes. We are welcome afterwards to visit the entire Museum which will reveal to us many fascinating secrets.

Personal cheques should once again be sent to Mair Verthuy, see address above, by September 10. If not enough people sign up by that date, we will have to cancel. We require 15 people to constitute a group, so bring friends and family!

We can have lunch at the attractive Museum restaurant and suggest 12 p.m. as an appropriate time to allow us to eat in comfort and reestablish contact with one another.

See more information on the CUPARUC website.

## 4 - CABARET SHOW

Come with us on Tuesday 16 November 8 p.m. to the Lion d'Or, 1676, Ontario St-E, just before Papineau to hear the very popular chanteuse Danièle Odéra offer her particular take on some of the classic songs of Jacques Brel, a contemporary of Piaf and Yves Montand, whom some of us know less well - although Nina Simone and others popularized him in their own voice. This is a one-night stand, a one-woman show in a stylish Art Deco cabaret where the atmosphere is warm and welcoming. Some of you, contacted by e-mail, have already indicated your interest. Others may book through Alain Labonté at 514-815-2128 or try showing up at the guichet at 7 p.m. the night of the show. Geoff suggests that we sup together at 6 p.m. at Le Petit Extra next door to the cabaret. Let him know if you're interested in the supper at: [jada2@videotron.ca](mailto:jada2@videotron.ca)

We look forward to seeing you at these events!

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**LES CAFARDS ET DES KÉPIS  
BLANCS**

*AlexS.* 

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« Tiens, tiens, regarde moi ça », vous dites à votre conjoint, «Tu sais, il écrit maintenant en français ». « Mais de quoi tu parles, mon chou, et de qui ? » « Tu vois c'est celui qui écrit des essayes pour notre bulletin, toujours les meilleures et les plus intéressantes. Mais jusqu'à maintenant, c'était toujours en anglais ». «Quel dommage, et alors, quoi ? » «Comme je te dit, cette fois-ci, il a écrit en français, finalement». «De quoi

donc ? » «Des cafards et des képis blancs ». « Eh bien celui la, il a du culot ! »

Est-ce que c'est comme ça que c'est déroulé chez vous, ou bien est-ce que mon imagination fait des sursauts ? Quoi que ce soit, je vais faire de mon mieux de vous présenter une bonne histoire, mais vous me promettez en retour de ne pas me dénoncer à l'Académie de la Langue Française. Ca marche ? Alors, 'kif kif' !

A lire le titre de mon histoire, ce ne sont pas que quelques mots de la langue française. Et comme c'arrive souvent, en grattant à la surface on peut découvrir des choses intéressantes. Naturellement, vous connaissez chacun des mots, comme par exemple le mot 'le cafard', un insecte de cauchemar, et le 'képi', un genre de chapeau, c'est tous, fin le l'histoire. Mais pas si vite, on va regarder derrière les coulisses et essayer de découvrir un peut plus.

Nous allons examiner ce mot «le cafard », faire un petit exercice intellectuel, et puis voir ou ca nous mène. Alors nous allons simplement ajouter un deuxième mot, un verbe, tout à fait commun et ordinaire dans la langue française. Le verbe « avoir » ! Verbe auxiliaire, transitive. Maintenant nous avons deux mots et ca donne: « avoir le cafard ».

Oh la la, ca change tous. Une expression française souvent jette dans le vent sans trop y penser. Mais nous, on va prendre un moment pour réfléchir. Bien que l'expression « avoir le cafard » semble typiquement français, vous constaterez toute suite le mot «le cafard» . Ce n'est pas un mot français. C'est vrai, on dit que c'est un mot arabe. Ca viens de l'Afrique du nord, disons de l'Algérie ou du Maroc.

Et comment ce mot est arrivé en France ? Avec la Légion Etrangère ! Comment ca ? Les légionnaires qui finissaient leur formation de base près de Marseille, en France, recevraient le droit de porter le képi blanc, pour

mettre le képi blanc en jeu. Après cette formation, la plupart des légionnaires fut envoyés en Afrique pour 'protéger les colonies'.

Ca alors, c'était un boulot dur. Il faisait chaud, c'était plein de sable et les légionnaires s'ennoyaient. Ils n'avaient rien à faire, rien du tous, sauf une seul chose, se protéger des cafards. Alors ils leur tireraient dessus avec leurs fusils. Voilà.

Donc l'expression «J'ai le cafard». Merci aux Légionnaires qui nous ont apportez cette expression. Alors la prochaine fois quand vous vous ne sentez pas tellement bien, pensez-y, vous n'avez pas le cafard, au fait, le tou-bib vous dit : « Vous n'aurez plus jamais le cafard, puisque maintenant vous connaissez 'le reste de l'histoire'».

« Moi ? Le cafard? Pourquoi? »

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## **N**EW MEMBERS

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- Jacques Gagne
- Ralph Carter
- Nancy Helms
- Joanna Kirk
- Buryung Lee

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## **C**ONDOLENCES - DECEASED MEMBERS

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- Jacqueline Dealy
- Taye Haile
- Kailash C. Dhawan
- Theresa Humes Dawson
- Adam Dickie



### NEXT MEETING

October 21 (tentative)

### The CUPARUC Newsletter

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**The CUPARUC Newsletter continues with the online section.**





## SENIOR HEALTH CARE SOLUTION

So you're a sick senior citizen and the government says there is no nursing home available for you - what do you do?

Our plan gives anyone 65 years or older a gun and 4 bullets. You are allowed to shoot 2 MP's and 2 Ministers - but not dead, flesh wounds only, please!

Of course, this means you will be sent to prison where you will get 3 meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating, and all the health care you need! New teeth - no problem. Need glasses, great. New hip, knees, kidney, lungs, heart? All covered. (And your kids can come and visit you as often as they do now).

And who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you that you they cannot afford for you to get into a home.

Plus, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any income taxes anymore.

## IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?



## THE RUBICON



*AlexS.*

Some rivers conjure up images, like the Nile with barges floating downstream without a ripple. The Amazon with dugouts moving among overhanging vines. The Yellow River. Then there are others like, the Mekong, the Volga. How about the Mississippi, the Rhein, la Seine, la Loire? All of those are among the world's longest and most famous rivers. But there is one more!

How about the Moon River? Gottcha! That was Andy Williams's theme song from 1961. Remember those days? Finally, situated in northern Italy, just south of the city of Ravenna, there is a small river that flows from the mountains to the Adriatic Sea, called "the Rubicon".

Ever travelled in that area, ever crossed the Rubicon? Yes and no? You don't have to travel to Italy to 'cross the Rubicon'. You don't have to, because someone else, much more famous than any of us did that already. His name, Julius Cesar. He did it in 49 BC. It was not without consequences.

Roman law did not allow the crossing of this river, which was the border between Italy to the South and the alpine province to the North. This law was meant to protect the Roman republic from an internal armed threat. It didn't.



At just thirty kms in length, the Rubicon is a mere creek compared to the before mentioned rivers but it has acquired a special significance. Many people have crossed it, metaphorically speaking. Cesar did it physically and did not look back. Some of us followed his lead. That brings us to today's question.

Who amongst us has crossed the Rubicon? Not everyone has. But for those of us who did, once or even more than once, it is something that .... Well, it's hard to explain, but once you cross, you know what it takes.

Need to experience that too? Find a cause, push it to the limit and then observe. Can't find a cause? Why, travel to Ravenna, the Rubicon is close by and start walking. When your feet get wet, this is it, you have reached the 'point of no return', don't look back, forge ahead. You made it. The downside: now, you have to conquer Rome.

# **R**EVISED LYRICS

Some of the artists of the 60's are revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate aging baby boomers who can

remember doing the "Limbo?" as if it were yesterday .



They include:

**Bobby Darin** ---*Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' A Flash*



**Herman's Hermits** ---*Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Walker*



**Ringo Starr** ---*I Get By With A Little Help From Depends*



*The Bee Gees -- -How Can You Mend A Broken Hip?*



*Roberta Flack---The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face*



*Johnny Nash ---I Can't See Clearly Now.*



*Simon---Fifty Ways To Lose Your Liver*







**Procol Harem**--- A Whiter Shade Of Hair



**Abba**---Denture Queen

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**A**ND FINALLY - THE INTELLIGENT HUNTER....

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