

CUPARUC

newsletter of the concordia university pensioners' association
bulletin de l'association des retraité-e-s de l'université Concordia



See our Website at <http://cupa.concordia.ca>

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF CUPA
DE L'EXECUTIF DE L'ARUC

BILL

KNITIER

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MARY

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MILTON

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BARBARA

HARDING

MAIR

VERTHUY

SHIRLEY

ROBINSON

COLIN

WATERS

WENDY

HEDRICH

JOHN

WOODROW

HOWARD

FINK

SEE YOU ON DECEMBER 4th, H767, 11:30AM
AT THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH !!



LA FÊTE DE NOËL AU PAYS DE GALLES

Mair Verthuy

Nadolig llawen !

Grâce aux Romains d'abord et ensuite aux Chrétiens, les Noël's dont je me souviens ne sont plus ceux des réelles traditions celtes qui remontent loin dans le temps. De surcroît, devant l'explosion de la télévision et autres média sociaux, les différences culturelles s'estompent.

Chez nous Noël et le Nouvel An avaient tendance à se fondre dans une longue célébration où calme et jubilation se succédaient. Noël était considéré comme la fête des enfants; nous préparions des décorations (des chaînes en papier de toutes les couleurs et beaucoup d'images); nous nous occupions de ce qui s'appelle aujourd'hui «the hobby horse,» composé d'une tête de cheval posée sur un manche. Cette tête de cheval, devenue un jouet dans le monde actuel, à ses débuts et encore durant mon enfance, avait une qualité sacrée; il fallait y accrocher des rubans, des clochettes, etc., ainsi que le gui, une plante magique pour les Celtes, et le houx, admiré parce qu'il portaient ses fleurs, feuilles et fruits tout l'hiver, pour ensuite se mettre à danser autour, gens de toutes les générations. Seuls les enfants recevaient des cadeaux de Noël; parfois des adultes en échangeaient mais pour le Nouvel An seulement.

Le cheval jouait un rôle important dans ces fêtes celtes. Pour le Nouvel An et cela jusqu'à la Deuxième guerre mondiale, les fêtes se clôturaient sur l'arrivée de la Mari Lwyd (la jument grise), celle-ci se présentant sous forme de tête squelettique, drapée dans une toile, accompagnée d'une équipe de fêtards. La Mari Lwyd frappait à la porte, souvent d'un «pub» ou d'une maison où des gens festoyaient. S'ensuivait tout un jeu. D'abord la «jument» et ses accompagnateurs chantaient en gallois une chanson un peu provocatrice; les gens à l'intérieur répondaient avec des jeux de mots, et cela continuait tant que de chaque côté on trouvait les mots qu'il fallait. Cette «guerre» ayant pris fin, la jument et son équipe passaient la porte et le «wassail» commençait. On pourrait presque dire la «beuverie» mais même si beaucoup d'hommes buvaient des alcools épicés, tous étaient censés se tenir à peu près correctement en fin de nuitée. Il reste quelques communautés dans la région où je suis née où se pratique encore cette tradition.

La nourriture comprenait beaucoup de fruits à coque : noix de Grenoble, de muscade, de Brésil, des noisettes,

etc., tous les petits fruits disponibles (sauf le houx !) et toujours une orange piquée de clous de girofle. Surtout pour ceux qui pouvaient se le permettre ou qui les élevaient, il y avait l'oie. De nombreuses ménagères, dont ma grandmère, envoyaient leur oie farcie chez le boulanger du village pour la faire cuire. Une fois son pain pour la journée terminé, celui-ci enfournait tout dans ses fours encore chauds et nous, enfants, allions chercher les mets plus tard. N'oublions pas le «Christmas Pudding», emprunté aux Anglais et transformé à travers les siècles. Nous commençons à faire les nôtres au moins un mois avant les Fêtes; famille et voisins étaient invités à touiller le mélange, tout en buvant, sauf pour les enfants, un petit lait de poule ou alors une goutte (médicinale...) de rhum; on y ajoutait des pièces de monnaie qui portaient bonheur à ceux ou celles qui le jour de Noël en trouvaient dans leur pouding, une fois flambé. On en préparait assez pour que chaque membre de la famille en reçoive un pour son anniversaire, y compris le frère né un 18 décembre.

Tiens, il faut que je m'y mette !

Blwyddyn dda !

Mair



UPA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Mary Baldwin (Chair)

The market value of the fund as of June 1, 2012 determines the payout for the 2012-13 academic year, which is divided equally between graduates and undergraduates. Given the volatility of the financial markets it is becoming more difficult to maintain our level of support.

At the undergraduate level four in-course Scholarships of \$2,500 will be made, as well as four undergraduate bursaries of \$2,500 to students in financial need, one of each to a student in each of the four faculties of Arts and Science, Commerce, Fine Arts and Engineering and Computer Science.

Graduate awards are made through Graduate Studies, and Pat Verrett who oversaw this dossier retired in February this year. Normally four awards have been made at the graduate level but due to some administrative glitches during the transition only three graduate awards of \$5,000 were actually made for this fall - there was apparently concern about finances, and more than usual was held back in trust. Claudia Tocca has now assumed Pat's posi-

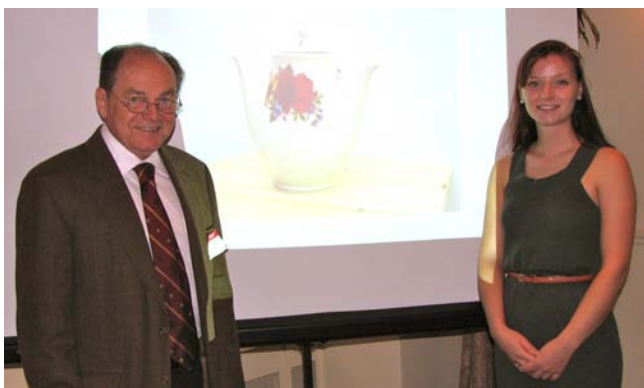
tion, and after checking the accounts, we hope to award five scholarships at the next round of open competition. Claudia is also reviewing and updating the description on the Graduate Studies web page outlining awards to ensure accuracy.

The Retired Faculty and Staff Scholarships and Awards Endowment Fund, like most investments, may suffer again this year in the current financial uncertainty. However, costs to students are continuing to rise. To maintain, let alone raise the amount of our support, or to increase the number of awards made, the fund needs to grow. In the Concordia Annual campaign there is now a box to earmark donations specifically for the Retired Faculty and Staff Scholarships and Awards Endowment Fund, and we urge you to consider seriously supporting students through this fund.

The money is genuinely appreciated by the students, as shown in the following extract from an undergraduate bursary recipient in Specialization Art-Education, who wrote:

"Currently I am enrolled in four classes at Concordia, completing a stage at an elementary school, and working part-time to complete my studies. I am deeply committed to my schooling and to my teaching practice. Facilitating learning for children through art is my great passion. I devote much of my free time to planning and organizing activities for my students. Receiving this grant means that I will have a little more time to make those activities more rich for myself, and those children I am fortunate enough to teach. "

Laura Hudspith, a student who received an undergraduate scholarship last year joined us at the meeting, to tell us a little about her work in ceramics. Laura presented a slide show of some of her work and it is most rewarding for CUPARUC to feel it supports such talented individuals.



Bill Knitter thanks Laura Hudspith.



CONCORDIA PENSION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Howard Fink has been elected as the Non-Active Members Regular Representative on the University's Pension and Employee Benefits Committee. Howard has held this position for a number of years and continues his excellent and thoughtful oversight in the interest of retirees.



Howard is now joined by George Tsoublekas as the the Alternative Representative on the Committee. During his career, George specialized in Econometrics, Statistics, Economic Development, Marketing and Strategic Planning. He has been a P/T Instructor for Introductory/Intermediate courses in Micro and Macro, Statistics, Research Methods, Industrial Organization, and Political Economy at Concordia University since 1976.

He has held senior managerial positions in the Marketing Department of the Royal Bank of Canada in charge of Strategic Planning, Market Research, Customer Satisfaction, and Employee Satisfaction for 22 years
Congratulations to both Howard and George!





GUEST SPEAKER - ALAN SHEPARD

We were honoured at the Fall General Meeting by the attendance of Allan Shepard, the newly installed President of Concordia University.



Dr. Shepard was previously Ryerson University's provost and vice-president academic, where he had oversight of academic affairs, strategic planning and the budget. He also boasts extensive experience in university administration in Canada and the United States.

He earned an undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, where he won the George Weida Spohn Memorial Award, and a PhD from the University of Virginia. He grew up in Iowa, California, and Minnesota; immi-

grating to Canada in 2002.

He spoke of Concordia as having two 'DNA strands' - referring to the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University in 1974. He went on to discuss the challenges facing Universities today, with the dual role of continuity and at the same time, fostering change. In today's society, we have come to expect instant change in reaction to

events, however, this model is neither desirable or possible in an organization as large as a modern university. He feels that university retirees are



CUPA SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The CUPA Social Committee, chaired by Wendy Hedrich, has been busy preparing for a busy season of social events. We all know that Montreal offers an almost limitless selection of 'things to do', 'places to see', and the like, so the committee needs your feedback to try to narrow down the possible events to a manageable number. All members are encouraged to consult the CUPA website (<http://CUPA.Concordia.ca>) and look through the list and descriptions of possible events assembled by Wendy and her team, and give them your feedback on events that interest you, and that you would likely attend.

This is important because the tickets for many events must be pre-purchased to ensure a group rate, also the event hosts need to number the number of attendees.

Please give us your input.....



The Other Side of the Camera

The CUPARUC Newsletter

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