

WLU RETIREES' NEWS

A Publication of the Wilfrid Laurier University Retirees' Association

To contact the executive: retirees@wlu.ca WLURA website: www.wlura.ca

Winter 2023

Friday Afternoon Gatherings: November

Passage to the Northwest

by Alan Auerbach

What's the size of Canada?

In area, it's the biggest country in the world after Russia. Its population, however, is about the same as California's, and most of it is confined to a narrow band along the U.S. border. That leaves vast northern areas where few people ever set foot.

One of us did, and described it at our meeting on November 25. Dr. David Peirson, who long served as Chair of Biology at Laurier and is now on the retirees executive, joined a caravan of intrepid adventurers, and described the trip to many of his fellow retirees, some in person, others via Zoom.



A nice view of Yukon scenery where the Klondike Highway crosses the Yukon River at Carmacks (all photos courtesy of David Peirson)

All members of his group pulled an Airstream trailer by car or truck. The photos he showed were spectacular, such as the Mackenzie, which is the third-longest river in North America, all of it within the Northwest Territories. The group saw lakes, rivers and streams, as well as waterfalls galore. (Canada holds one-fifth of the planet's fresh water, and only a tiny bit of that is in the Great Lakes.)

The names of places visited conjured exotic images: Chilkoot, Yukon, Skagway, Klondike, Dawson, Whitehorse – more amusing than exotic, we saw where actress Margot Kidder grew up before she played Clark Kent's girlfriend in a Superman movie. The street named after her is called Lois Lane.

We asked David if he would address retirees who don't pull a trailer, and maybe don't even have a car, but who



A survival hut on the McKenzie Highway – a life-saver in winter along a stretch of unattended road

may want to visit some of Canada's remote treasures by more public forms of transportation. His reply:

"A two-week adventure could start with a flight into Whitehorse. A rental car will allow for access to nearby places like Carcross, the train to Skagway, a day trip to Klune, and other places along the Alaska Highway (AH). The drive up the Klondike Highway to Dawson City can be fast or meandering, but plan to spend at least five or six days in Dawson City and area visiting the town, gold mining displays, the top of the World Highway to Chicken, Alaska, and a day trip to Tombstone Territorial Park.



Robert Service's cabin in Dawson City, Yukon – Sam McGee got cremated somewhere around here

"A more extensive (say, three weeks to a month, since you are retired) journey could start in Edmonton, travelling through Grand Prairie (side trip to Peace River), Dawson Creek (where the Alaska Highway started), Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Liard River, Watson Lake, and other towns on the way to Whitehorse and beyond. It may be called the

Alaska Highway but most of it is in Canada. Out toward Kluane Park (and other places too) you can look for remnants of the original AH running along side the “new” upgraded highway. The AH is a good road. For the adventurous, flights to Virginia Falls in Nahanni can be arranged from near Watson Lake, and to Mount Logan from either Burwash Landing or Destruction Bay.

“One can fly into Yellowknife (probably from Edmonton) and easily spend a week exploring the town and day trip in the area (rental car again). The roadsides around Yellowknife in later June and July were like a garden. With these suggestions, please keep in mind that Wilma and I do not travel fast and furious.”

Friday Afternoon Gatherings: January

The Secret Lives of Bees

by Jan Overduin

Fred Leutenegger is a bee-keeper and dairy farmer from the Listowel area. At our January 27 presentation, he divulged the secret and astounding lives of honeybees.



(All images courtesy of Fred Leutenegger)



A bee in the hand is worth five in the hive?

– and his specialty is raising queen bees for other apiarists who need them.

His presentation was solidly organized and supported by many slides. His talk was not only fact-filled but personal and inspiring, because his love for bees goes back to his childhood in Switzerland. Fred had us spellbound by sharing not only how amazing and intricate the lives of bees are, but his passion and respect for them. He said it's easy to have them make honey, but not so easy to ensure there's one queen bee per hive

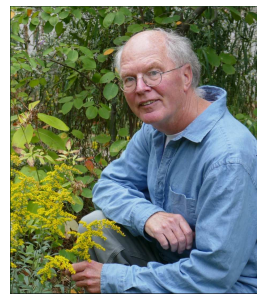
The numbers he quoted were hard to fathom. Bees have been around Asia for 150 million years, and were brought to the Americas by humans. If one high-flying drone manages to mate with a queen, she will lay 2,000 eggs per day during her lifetime of up to four years. (That makes her too busy to eat, so it's the job of worker bees to feed her.) He described how other roles include cleaning and guarding the hive, and foraging for nectar.

He brought a range of props including a bee-suit, various hives – and samples of honey that were snatched up quickly.

Friday Afternoon Gatherings: February

Strictly for the Birds

by Alan Auerbach



Lyle Friesen

At our February meeting we heard Dr. Lyle Friesen's presentation, “Birds of Waterloo Region: Their Status, Threats, and What We Can Do to Help Them.” This interesting talk was well attended, both on campus and on Zoom.

I had no idea that the Canadian Wildlife Service (part of Environment Canada) staffs two “Songbird Biologists” in Ontario, two in Quebec, and one each in the east, the Prairies, and BC. Lyle served Ontario as a Songbird Biologist for over 20 years, monitoring, researching, and recommending policies on native bird populations.



Sawwhet Owl (all images courtesy of Lyle Friesen)

He documented significant and widespread losses of both insect pollinators and birds in North America, with a decline of one-third in bird abundance since 1970. One cause is the way we've developed the urban landscape. For instance, the abundant treetops throughout our cities invite birds to forage in them as if they're out in the country. But

our city tree species are those that deter insects, and our manicured lawns are leaf-free, so the birds starve. (We can help by using native plantings and letting our yards provide food and shelter for insects and birds throughout the year. Curtail pesticides, plant native species, and leave the leaves.)

He focused on at-risk species like the Wood Thrush, King Rail, Cerulean Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush, and on environmental assessments such as the impact of wind turbines on birds and bats. With Covid keeping people secluded, and the deer population cleaning up the suburban grazing land, some species are moving to the cities. And warmer winters are encouraging some species to stay here all winter instead of migrating. Not good for them, although half of migrating birds don't survive the two-way trip.



Snowy Owl

He showed us lots of photos, played many bird calls, and answered questions galore. Most important, he left us feeling that he would have done all he could to help our wildlife – even if he had not been paid a cent to do so.

Pension Update

A Challenging Year for Pension Funds

by Alastair Robertson

In 2022 huge market volatility caused Canadian pension funds to experience some of their largest asset losses since the 2008 financial crisis. In a recently published survey of Canadian defined-benefit pension plans, RBC Investor and Treasury Services reported a median annual return of -10.3% in 2022, the lowest observed since 2008, which saw a median annual return of -15.9% . The survey found that pension asset losses were particularly heavy in the first half of 2022 with some recovery in the final quarter of the year.

Rate of return data for the Laurier pension fund in 2022 exhibits a similar pattern to that in the RBC survey, but with significantly smaller losses. For the first six months of the year to June 30, 2022, the Laurier pension fund had a negative year-to-date rate of return of -6.76% . In the latter part of 2022 the fund staged a partial recovery and posted a rate of return of -1.49% for the year as a whole, a better than expected result, given the challenges faced by investors in 2022.

Both stock and bond markets suffered losses in 2022. In Canada, the S&P/TSX Composite Index declined by 8.7% ; in the U.S., the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 8.9% , and the S&P 500 Index was off by more than 19% . Losses were not confined to North America; the MSCI World Index, which tracks stocks in 23 developed market countries, fell by almost 18% last year. Meanwhile, as central banks adopted restrictive monetary policies to cool inflation, interest rates rose, leading to a sharp drop in bond valuations. The FTSE Canada Bond Index recorded a -11.7% return on bonds in 2022.

Publicly traded stocks and bonds make up the bulk of Laurier's pension plan assets. Just over half of the pension fund is held in the form of equities, both Canadian and foreign, distributed over four different pooled investment funds. Among fixed income investments two bond funds – one Canadian and one global – together comprise almost 20% of pension fund assets. The remaining 30% of the pension fund consists of assets other than publicly traded stocks and bonds, almost equally distributed over three pooled funds, one each for mortgages, infrastructure, and real estate. Such assets can help pension funds outperform stock and bond indexes in years of market turmoil.

Responsible Investment Report

At their October 2022 joint meeting, the University's Pension Committee and its Finance, Investments & Property Committee received the 2021–2022 Responsible Investment Report. Following the recommendations of the Responsible Investment Working Group, as approved by the Board of Governors in November 2017, Laurier continues to monitor the size of its holdings of publicly traded securities issued by the world's top 200 fossil fuel companies, as identified by the Carbon Underground 200 (CU200) list. As of December 31, 2021, the pension plan's investment in CU200 securities amounted to $\$8.7$ million, representing 1.0 percent of total pension fund assets of $\$869.7$ million. This is a decrease from the $\$15.8$ million in CU200 securities, representing 2.1 percent of total pension assets, held at December 31, 2020. Laurier's pension fund is invested in a series of pooled funds whose managers report each year on their ESG (environmental, social, and governance) policies to Laurier's Investment Oversight Sub-committee. In pursuit of its commitment to seek out collaborative relationships with other institutions to advance responsible investing, in

November 2021 Laurier became a signatory to the Climate Charter signed by other universities in June 2020.

Pension Fund Rate of Return

In a year in which most Canadian pension funds suffered losses, the Laurier pension fund posted an annual rate of return of -1.49% for 2022, the first annual loss for the Laurier pension fund since 2011. The pension plan's average annual rate of return over the last four years (2019-2022) is 8.26%.

From President Pro-tem

by Gerry Schaus



Winter 2023 is half over as I write with rain pouring down and winds blowing strongly from the south; days are noticeably longer; the sun climbs higher in the sky and soon we can expect to hear our first cardinal singing brightly to claim its territory. It's good to be optimistic as the seasons change.

I was reminded of the importance of our Association a couple weeks ago when I learned about the troubles that some WLU retirees have had in accessing their pensions and benefits. One member learned suddenly and without warning that at least one of their benefits had been cut off and only after some phone calls were they properly restored. Blame a computer glitch or an adjustment of programs at source for the error, or some such technical issue.

Another recent retiree voiced their frustration at the whole process of transitioning to retirement, with a general lack of support and information about steps to take. A third person, though, takes the cake in dealing with frustrations, delays, bureaucratic snafus, and lack of response from offices whose only real purpose is to help employees transition to retirement.

I never learned the whole story and I'm sure there are important missing elements to it, but I can share with you that the system in place to help retiring members of the WLU community was not working properly for this person, leading to a delay of six months after retirement before the retiree received their first pension deposits. You can only imagine how this affected the person in question both financially and more importantly, psychologically.

The WLU Retirees' Association was there to plead the case for immediate attention to this third person's problems, and to its credit, staff in Human Resources very quickly acted to expedite a solution to the issues. One major source of the problem seems to have been Aon, the insurance company that administers the pension and benefit

plan on Laurier's behalf. Needless to say, the company received appropriate feedback.

My advice to retirees who experience these kinds of problems in accessing benefits and pensions is to keep a written record of your dealings with the University and with Aon or other service providers. Do not wait weeks for a response to an email or phone inquiry, since the response may never come. Politely wait for a day or two, but if no response appears, leave another message, and then take action. Go higher up the chain of command, copy your emails to others who tangentially are connected to the issues or to those who are willing to advocate on your behalf, and don't accept wishy-washy replies, like "we'll get back to you." It's just not good for a healthy state of mind to accept a passive role as victim. Others are here to support you. I'm certainly *not* advising angry tirades on the phone. That's usually counter-productive. Rather, calm and polite but well-prepared and informed conversations are the best way to make progress. Keep in mind, though, that firm persistence is sometimes needed.

See you at our next event.

The Benefits of Membership

- ◆ Members receive a copy of our newsletters, with news for and about retirees
- ◆ Members receive a free copy of the latest Directory of WLU retirees
- ◆ Members are invited to all our gatherings, presentations, and social events.
- ◆ Members can participate in discount programs open to members of the Association
- ◆ When needed, you will be provided with pension and benefit advice and information
- ◆ Membership is a way of keeping in touch with fellow retirees

Our Membership Dues

- ◆ 1-year membership: \$15
- ◆ 3-year membership: \$35
- ◆ Lifetime membership (the best deal): \$125

WLURA Bursary

Please consider making a donation to this very worthwhile initiative of your Retirees' Association. We can make a difference in the life of students at WLU.

Eligible candidates are undergraduate students enrolled full-time in any faculty and year of study. They must be meeting program requirements and demonstrate finan-

cial need. Preference will be given to students who have contributed to their community through volunteer work. If there are multiple eligible candidates, this award will be granted to the candidate with the greatest financial need.

Cheques can be made out to Wilfrid Laurier University with designation for the WLU Retirees' Association and mailed to:

Development & Alumni Relations,
Alumni Hall

Wilfrid Laurier University
75 University Avenue West
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
N2L 3C5

or donors can go to this website to donate online: <https://secureca.imodules.com> or go to our [website](#) for the exact link.

CURAC Affinity Agreements

by Frank Millerd

Registered Teachers of Ontario Plans

Members of WLURA may join the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) and participate in RTO's group plans. You must be a member of RTO (fee is \$70 per year) to join an RTO group insurance plan, but you can join RTO without joining an RTO plan.

RTO Extended Health Care Plan

- ◆ Pays for eligible expenses that are recommended as medically necessary but are not normally covered by a government health insurance plan.
- ◆ Includes, with some limitations, prescription drugs, vision care, eldercare guidance, paramedical practitioners, aids and appliances, accidental dental, and guidance on treatment options.
- ◆ Comprehensive travel medical insurance for 93 days per trip.

Retirees not now members of WLU or another extended health care plan, or those wishing additional insurance, may join RTO and the RTO Extended Health Care Plan. RTO members currently in Laurier's plan will be accepted into the RTO Extended Health Care Plan without a medical questionnaire. Coverage also available for a spouse and dependent children.

Joining RTO to ensure that the surviving spouse or partner is eligible to join RTO group plans:

- ◆ The surviving spouse of a deceased retiree may join RTO and RTO's plans only if the deceased retiree was an RTO member at time of the retiree's death.
- ◆ After a retiree dies, health and dental benefits from Laurier for a surviving spouse and eligible dependents continue for two years.

- ◆ A surviving spouse who joins the RTO plan within two years of the retiree's death and is still a member of Laurier's Group Benefits Plan will be accepted into the RTO plan without a medical questionnaire.

RTO does not offer stand-alone travel insurance but their full extended health care package includes competitive travel and trip-cancellation insurance.

Travel Planning

Collette Travel: Inquiries and bookings can be made at [1-855-394-8687](tel:1-855-394-8687) or through a travel agent. CURAC members save \$100 per person on all tours, all dates. Mention your CURAC membership when calling. Use code CURAC-SAVE for seasonal offers up to \$500 off per person. www.gocollette.com

Trip Merchant: At the website www.curac.tripmerchant.ca/ enter the CURAC password: CURACTM18. Mention your CURAC membership when inquiring.

Travel Insurance: Johnson Inc. offers two Travel Insurance plans to CURAC members.

- ◆ MEDOC Travel Insurance provides emergency health care as well as trip cancellation or interruption coverage.
- ◆ Stand Alone Trip Cancellation Insurance for those who already have out-of-province medical insurance. The coverage is per person per trip for an unlimited number of trips per year at an annual premium to cover an individual, a couple, or a family. Extended family members or friends of CURAC members are also eligible.

For information on the policies and how to enrol, go to: curac.johnson.ca.

Members who do not see a fit with the above may contact Securiglobe ([1-888-211-4444](tel:1-888-211-4444)), a broker that endeavours to match individual clients to insurance coverage that suits their needs.

Home and Car Insurance

Waterloo-based Economical Insurance, a leading property and casualty insurer, offers auto and home insurance at advantageous rates to CURAC-affiliated retirees. You may call [1-866-247-7700](tel:1-866-247-7700) for a quote or go to: www.economicalgroup.com, using discount code E2413.

Pet Care Insurance

PetSecure offers retirees affiliated with CURAC pet insurance at advantageous rates. PetSecure is a member company of Economical.

Visit petsecure.com/group for information.

For further information on all affinity agreements go to the CURAC web site www.curac.ca and click on Member Benefits.

What Is CURAC?

A Short History

by Fred Fletcher

College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) is young. It was founded in 2002 when representatives of 20 retiree groups met at the University of Toronto, and a constitution was ratified at Dalhousie University in 2003. CURAC now includes over 40 retiree associations (RAs) with over 21,000 retired faculty and staff members.

CURAC has assisted retirees and their associations through newsletters, an informative website, reports on pensions and benefits, health policy bulletins, and an annual conference, at which best practices are shared among RAs and presentations made on seniors' issues. The 2022 conference can be viewed at www.emerituscollege.ubc.ca/events/videos, under the heading "CURAC Virtual Assembly."

The organization has negotiated a number of affinity agreements that provide savings and benefits to members. Information is on www.curac.ca

CURAC is undertaking new projects, focusing on providing information to retirees, scheduled and targeted communication, webinars on timely topics, consultations with RA leaders, and surveys of retiree benefits and the interests and concerns of members.

Local RAs are engaged in a wide range of activities including lectures and discussions, theatre trips and tours, visits to local attractions, raising funds for student support, mentoring younger faculty and students, encouraging ongoing professional activities that enhance the reputation of their institutions, and many volunteer activities.

* * *

From an article in the November 2, 2022, issue of *University Affairs* by Fred Fletcher, professor emeritus of political science and communications studies at York University and chair of the com-

Member News

Thank you to all who sent messages of their time as a retiree. You have certainly been active. We have so many messages that we are spreading them out over several issues. For exact links to the URLs referenced here, please go to our [website](#).

Simon Dalby

I recently published "Climate Security: Moving NATO – and Canada – Beyond Fossil Fuels" in *Navigating a Global Crisis: Climate Change and NATO* (NATO Association of Canada, Winter, 2023).

On February 21 I made an online presentation, the first lecture for the International Science Council Distin-

guished Lecture Series, entitled "Firepower, Geopolitics, and the Future: Rethinking Environmental Security," in which I brought, according to the event's description, "his knowledge and insights to the table, making this an opportunity for attendees to expand their understanding." <https://council.science/events/>. I also recently published an essay on climate for the NATO Association of Canada publication, linked at <https://natoassociation.ca/>

Jeanette (Jan) Golbeck

As some of you know, I served in Social Work with and for Prof. Rose Blackmore for many years. She was married to Prof. Ralph Blackmore, became my good friend and mentor, and finally moved back to Toronto. Fellow readers might like to know that this special lady turned 90 on March 12.

Michele Daviau

[Editor: When it comes to the post-retirement academic activities of Michele Daviau, her list exceeds the room that a newsletter can provide, so the best we can do is to show a partial list, and offer our apologies and admiration.]

Books

Daviau, M. "Excavations at Tall Jawa, Jordan. Volume III: The Iron Age Pottery." *Culture and History of the Ancient Near East* 11/3. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

—. *A Wayside Shrine in Ancient Moab: Wadi ath-Thamad Project I*. Oxford: Oxbow, 2017.

—, et al., ed. *Walking through Jordan: Papers in Honor of Burton MacDonald*. London: Equinox, 2017.

Encyclopedia Contributions

Daviau, M., et al., eds. *Encyclopedia of Material Culture in the Biblical World*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022.

Articles and illustrations in the above: Food Preparation. Cols. 279–283. Medical Instruments, Cols. 604–608. Metals, Precious. Cols. 617–623. Ovens. Cols. 717–720. Shells. Cols. 861–864. Standing Stones. Cols. 898–905. Pottery Figure 6 (drawings 1–39). Subject Index: Mudayna, Khirbat al. P. 50 in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. vol. 20. Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2022.

—. "Bulls and Horses, Gods and Goddesses: The Religious Iconography of Israel's Neighbors." In *Divine Doppelgängers: YHWH's Ancient Look-Alikes*, edited by C. Cornell. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2020.

Journal Papers and Presentations

Daviau, M. "Where Has All the Incense Gone? Another Look at Iron Age Stone Altars and Tripod Cups from Transjordan." Presented at Trade Going Up in Smoke? Contact and Exchange in Incense Practices: The Southern Levant as Case Study.

—. "Recognizing Ceramic Traditions: Moabite Painted and Decorated Wares." In *"And in length of days understanding" (Job 12:12): Essays on Archaeology in the 21st Century in Honor of Thomas E. Levy*. edited by Erez Ben-Yosef and Ian W. N. Jones. Interdisciplinary Contributions to Archaeology. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature (forthcoming).

—. A House as Palimpsest: The Reshaping of Building 600 at Tall Jawa. In *The Palimpsest of the House. Re-assessing Roman*,

Late Antique, Byzantine, and Early Islamic Living Patterns. Edited by I. Uytterhoeven and A. Ricci. Presented at the 8th International ANAMED Annual Symposium, Istanbul: Koç University Press, 2022.

—. “Cultural Multiplicity in Northern Moab: Figurines and Statues from Mudayna Thamad.” *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan XIV* (2022).

—, and E. Zeran. “Astarte on Her Horse at Khirbat Al-Mudayna in Northern Moab.” *Iron Age Terracotta Figurines in the Southern Levant* edited by E.N. Darby and I. de Hulster. Culture and History of the Ancient Near East. Leiden: Brill, 2022.

—. “Exploring Ancient Moab: Archaeology and Material Culture.” *Nouvelles Recherches autour de la Style de Mésha. Neue Forschungen zur Mescha-Stele*. Presented at Kolloquium des Collège de France, des Musée du Louvre und des Deutschen Vereins zur Erforschung Paläsinas anlässlich der 150, Oktober 2018.

—, and S. Klassen. “Linking Iron I Sites on the Madaba Plain. The Evidence from Collared Pithoi.” *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan XIII*. Amman: Department of Antiquities, 2019.

Peter Tiidus

After 26 years at WLU, mostly as a faculty member and Chair of the Department of Kinesiology, I “retired” in 2015 (at a relatively young age) to take a Brock University position as Dean of the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, where I’m in my second five-year term. My wife Ann and I live close to the university and still follow events at WLU. Our two sons live in Burlington and Fredericton NB, each with a young daughter, so we have two grandchildren.

Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts

- ◆ 2008 3M National Teaching Fellow
- ◆ 2013 Wilfrid Laurier Inaugural Teaching Fellow

I retired in 2021 but had a year off before that, so I left Laurier in 2020. That I love retirement is an understatement. I’ve found new passions and am extremely happy. Between learning Italian, watercolour paintings, reading, Pilates, and Creative Writing courses, I find a sense of fulfillment in retirement, which I find to be an exquisite stage.

Paul Tiessen

On retirement from English and Film Studies, I relied on four fellow Malcolm Lowry scholars and long-time friends to pull me forward: Miguel Mota, Canada; Patrick McCarthy, the US; Chris Ackerley, New Zealand; and Vik Doyen, Belgium. We worked together from 2009 to 2015 on what became an exhilarating collaboration.

Focusing on archival manuscripts that we had unearthed, we co-edited critical editions of three novels by Lowry that the University of Ottawa Press published between 2013 and 2015 (*Swinging the Maelstrom*; *In Ballast to the White Sea*; and *The 1940 Under the Volcano*). This Lowry trilogy project was supported by the Editing Modernism in Canada program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

In various Canadian collections addressing areas such as literature, film, mass media, and the archive, I published work on Marshall McLuhan, Wilfred Watson, Sheila Watson, and others. The art book, *Woldemar Neufeld’s Canada: A Mennonite Artist in the Canadian Landscape, 1925–1995* (WLU Press, 2010), on which I worked with Laurence Neufeld, Monika McKillen, and Hildi Froese Tiessen, is, according to rumour, still in print. These days, in conversation with over 100 participants, I’m working on a book-length historical and critical study of novelist Rudy Wiebe and his complicated relations with Mennonite readers during the sixties.

Recent Books by Retirees

[Summaries are taken from publishers’ websites.]

Terry Copp

Montreal at War, 1914–1918, with Alexander Maavara, University of Toronto Press, 2021

Drawing from newspapers, journals, government reports, and archival records, Terry Copp tells the story of how citizens in Canada’s largest city responded to the challenges of the First World War. *Montreal at War* addresses responses to the outbreak of war in Europe and the process of raising an army for service overseas. It details the shock of intense combat and heavy casualties, studies the mobilization of volunteers, and follows the experience of battalions from Montreal to the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Challenging long-held assumptions, *Montreal at War* aims to understand the war experience as it unfolded, approaching history from the perspective of those who lived through it.

Barry Gough

Possessing Meares Island: A Historian’s Journey into the Past of Clayoquot Sound, Harbour Publishing, 2021

Centred on Meares Island, located near Tofino on Vancouver Island’s west coast, *Possessing Meares Island* weaves a unique history out of the mists of time by connecting eighteenth-century Indigenous-colonial trade relations to more recent historical upheavals. Gough invites readers to enter a dramatic epoch of B.C.’s coastal history and watch the Nuu-chah-nulth nations spearhead the maritime sea otter trade, led by powerful chiefs like Wickaninnish and Maquinna.

Eventually, Meares Island declines into an economic backwater due to overhunting the sea otter, the bloody Clayoquot War of 1855, and most importantly, the proxy of empire – the Hudson’s Bay Company – establishing colonial roots in nearby Victoria. Caught up in the tides of change, the Oregon Treaty of 1846 ushers in a new era as the island is officially declared property of the British Crown.

Gough bridges the gap between centuries as he de-

scribes how the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council draw on this complicated history of ownership to invoke their legal claim to the land and defend the majestic wilderness from the indiscriminate clear-cut saw.

John Redekop

Mennonite in Motion: The Life and Times of John H. Redekop, Ph.D., Fraser River Books, 2022

John Redekop has written quite a few books as well as several hundred articles and learned papers. He has delivered several thousand university lectures and sermons. Dozens of faith-based, academic and social service organizations have benefitted from his thoughtful and vigorous leadership skills. And now, as he enters his tenth decade, he has provided almost 400 pages of personal insights into the motivations, permutations and combinations that have shaped his remarkable life.

John writes: "The book chapters ranges widely, from a session in the Kremlin to miracles in the Sahara, from experiences at WLU to an interview with the Vice-President of Congo (Kinshasa), and from dustbowl experiences in Saskatchewan to an amazing experience in a large church in Communist China. Naturally, a lot of the book deals with our 26 years in Waterloo. The book also deals with the major religious and political events of the day."

The book is available at Wordsworth Bookstore, online from Amazon, and as an ebook from Kindle.

In Memoriam

Please see our [website](#) for linking directly to the online obituaries.

- ◆ **Ed Riegert**, October 24, 2022 <https://erbgood.com>
- ◆ **Baldev Raj**, December 4, 2022
<https://www.kitchenerfuneralhome.com>
- ◆ **Martin Dowding**, December 12, 2022
<https://erbgood.com>
- ◆ **Alex Murray**, December 19, 2022
<https://www.henrywalsler.com>
- ◆ **Ken Harling**, December 22, 2022
<https://www.jconline.com>
- ◆ **Paul Bosch**, January 21, 2023
<https://www.legacy.com>
- ◆ **Susan Berczi**, February 1, 2023
<https://www.legacy.com>
- ◆ **Jennifer Horton**, February 9, 2023
<https://www.legacy.com>

Upcoming Gatherings

The next few gatherings (except for the Pub Night) will be a hybrid of in-person and by Zoom. Keeping with university policy, masks should be worn at the in-person gathering in the 202 Regina lounge.

Friday, March 31, 2023, 4:30 p.m.

Pub Night: at the Abe Erb pub in the Tannery Building at Charles and Victoria St. S. in downtown Kitchener.

Friday, April 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Carol Stalker, Visiting the Costa del Sol; an alternative to Florida

Friday, May 26, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Brad Dunbar, Certified Public Accountant, on tax advice and long-range planning

WLURA Executive 2022–2024

President

Gerry Schaus • 519-886-4428

Past President

Frank Millerd • 519-576-3468

Secretary

David Peirson

Treasurer

Ed Linder • 519-579-6629

Membership

William Salatka • 519-747-2399

Mailing List Co-ordinator

Rob Arnold • 519-743-6484

Pensions

Alastair Robertson • 519-884-5532

CURAC Representative

Frank Millerd • 519-576-3468

Social Convener

Doreen Koenig • 519-884-4986

Newsletter, Editorial

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