

WLU RETIREES' NEWS

A Publication of the Wilfrid Laurier University Retirees' Association

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

Autumn 2025

Les Protopapas, Wills and Estates: The 21st Century Family

by Gerry Schaus

Les Protopapas of the Kitchener law firm, Protopapas & Spiegelberg, came to campus on September 26 and gave a lively, informative presentation to almost two dozen members of the Association.



Fig. 1. Les Protopapas at WLU

The speaker is a former quarterback of the WLU football team who graduated in the early 1980s and went on to earn a law degree at the University of Windsor, being called to the bar in 1985. He has advised hundreds of clients over the years about making wills and acting as executors for estates. This was a “must-hear” lecture for anybody who has an estate of any size, who is

concerned about making a will, who has been designated as an executor for an estate or who is concerned about reducing government probate fees when the time comes to settle an estate. In other words, this was an extremely valuable talk for almost any person entering the golden years!

As Les described it, his presentation was a primer on legal issues affecting wills, powers of attorney and estates, but even as just a primer, it was full of information about the importance of the role of the executor of an estate, the need for clarity and precision in laying out terms of a will, ways in which such things as probate fees can be reduced, and the functioning of powers of attorney both with regard to property and personal care provisions. Did you know that there are professional “capacity assessors”? These are people used by lawyers to confirm that a person making a will has the capacity to understand what he or she is doing in making a will or setting up a testamentary trust etc.



Fig. 2. “Capacity Assessment”

In other words, if a will is contested, especially by close family members of the deceased who don't like that they've been cut out of the will or given less than they think they deserve, a lawyer can rely on an assessment by such capacity assessors made when the will was drawn up, to challenge any attempt at contesting the will. Imagine that the rebellious child whom you wish to disinherit completely, decides to come back and acquire an equal share of the inheritance from the other siblings. Having a capacity assessment at hand helps to prevent the specific terms of your will not being respected.

There was a long list of issues affecting a will covered in Les' presentation. Besides simple competence of the person making a will, there were marriage(s) and co-habitation agreements, rights of beneficiaries versus family members, dependents' relief under the Succession Law Reform Act, guardianship clauses for minors or dependents, equalization of NFP (net family property) under the Family Law Act, foreign wills, and intestacy (dying without a will). You might be surprised to learn that in the case of you dying without a will (i.e. intestacy), a surviving spouse currently will receive the first \$350,000 of an estate and the remainder is divided between the spouse and surviving children. So, much food for thought, eh?

In addressing the very common question, "Do you really need a lawyer in drawing up a will", we were told about some special issues regarding wills. Here some of the names of these special issues are head-scratchers at times – like Henson Trust Clauses, Hotchpot Clauses, or the Brady Bunch Dilemma (surviving kids from two separate marriages), but the one that caught my attention was the "On Golden Pond" Dilemma. This involves a family cottage that is part of the estate and how it can be passed down to surviving family members. There are two key issues here – high capital gains taxes on the increased value of the property since the time it was purchased – and how the property can be retained in the family when there are multiple beneficiaries. Fortunately, a FOCA (Federation of Ontario

Cottagers' Associations) and estate lawyer named Peter Lillico specializes in such matters and as a starting point, you can go online to read some preliminary information - <https://foca.on.ca/cottage-succession/>. Good to know.

We are all fully aware that the tax man is ready to pounce whenever a person passes away. It's our own fault. We voted for the *blankety-blank* politicians who passed the laws bringing in all these taxes. So, when we kiss the sky a final time, there is one last income tax return that must be filed (one of many duties of the estate executor) which includes a wind-up of our RIFs and a big capital gains tax on our property as part of it, unless your spouse is still alive and receives your estate. Besides, these taxes, and probably others, of course, there are also "probate fees". This is a nice euphemism, a disguised way of saying "TAX", on the total value of your estate. It's 1.5%! It sounds like a little. It might not be. But there are some ways around it. Find a good lawyer, preferably before you're really feeling crummy, and see what ways can be conjured to avoid "probate fees", or at least seriously reduce them. In fact, that was Les' overall message to his audience of retirees. Don't hesitate to find a good lawyer.

President's Message



Season's Greetings!

The snow is falling, and my driveway needs to be shovelled yet one more time. Those who live in

the KW area can relate. Indeed, we had to cancel our November membership meeting due a winter storm that closed the university. Brian Findlay, Registered Physiotherapist, was originally scheduled for November and has kindly agreed to make his presentation at our January 30th meeting. The January 2026 meeting will also have Human Resources provide an update on the new University Pension Plan. It's a full agenda that you won't want to miss.

February's meeting, we have Terry Labach present on the important topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI). His presentation, entitled "*Personal Information Security in the Age of AI*", will give us critical insights into the emergent dangers connected with this transformative technology.

Our March meeting will see us gather in Waterloo for food and libations at "Beer Town". Hopefully, the weather will cooperate.

April's meeting, we will have a presentation by Art Reid on "Web Telescopes". You won't want to miss this presentation as it will be "out of this world". *Apologies for the bad pun but I couldn't resist.*

We will wrap the year up at our Membership Annual Meeting in May. Please consider the volunteer opportunities. WLURA needs you.

All the best for the remainder of 2025 and an exciting 2026!

Jim Butler
President, WLURA

Pension Update

by Alastair Robertson

Transitioning to the UPP

Wilfrid Laurier University continues to make significant progress towards the transition of the WLU Pension Plan to Ontario's University Pension Plan (UPP), effective January 1, 2026. In January 2025 the University achieved the required level of consent to pension conversion by members of the WLU Pension Plan. In May of

this year the University filed an application with the pension regulator, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA), to transfer the assets and liabilities of the WLU Pension Plan to the UPP, effective January 1, 2026. In early November, WLU received final approval of that transfer application from the CEO of FSRA. Thus, effective January 1, 2026, all current members of the WLU Pension Plan, including retirees, will become members of the UPP, the new administrator and service provider of their pension plan. Laurier retirees will continue to be entitled to the same pension benefits in accordance with the provisions of the WLU Pension Plan under which they retired, but these payments will now be issued by the UPP. As members of the UPP, retirees will also be able to access the *myUPP Member Portal*, which provides a secure gateway through which they can: communicate directly with UPP's Member Services team; manage their personal information; access and submit documents; and manage their pension payments. Further information about the UPP is available at <https://myupp.ca/members/laurier>

Pension Plan Funded Status and UPP Funding Policy

Like all other universities which have converted their single-employer pension plans to Ontario's University Pension Plan (UPP), WLU will be required to undergo an actuarial valuation of its pension plan as of the date of conversion, using the particular valuation assumptions employed by the UPP. If that conversion-date valuation reveals a pension funding deficit on a going-concern basis, WLU will be responsible for amortizing that deficit over a 15-year period through a series of special payments to the UPP. We should note that, as the sponsor of a single-employer pension plan, Laurier is already required under Ontario's Pension Benefits Act to fully amortize any going-concern pension funding deficit, but over 10 years rather than the 15 years allowed in its Transfer Agreement with the UPP.

Under the UPP's Funding Policy, for the first 10 years after conversion Laurier will continue to be solely responsible for fully funding any going-concern funding deficit that may arise with respect to pension benefits earned through pre-conversion service. If, upon conversion, WLU enters the UPP with a going-concern funding surplus, that surplus will be notionally tracked within the UPP pension fund and credited towards any going-concern funding deficiency associated with pre-conversion service which may arise in the first 10 years after conversion.

In October 2025, the Pension Committee of the Board of Governors, in a joint meeting with the Finance, Investments & Property Committee of the Board, reviewed a report on the funded status of the WLU Plan at January 1, 2025. In anticipation of conversion to the UPP, the Plan actuary assessed the going-concern funded status using both the typical WLU valuation assumptions ("WLU Basis") and the UPP assumptions, required for conversion valuation ("UPP Basis"). At January 1, 2025, the WLU Pension Plan had an estimated going-concern funded ratio (assets divided by liabilities) of 107.1% on a WLU Basis and 107.4% on a UPP Basis. The corresponding funding surpluses were \$71.1 million and \$73.4 million, respectively. Finally, the Plan actuary provided an estimate of the going-concern funded status of the Plan when projected to January 1, 2026. Based on the actual investment performance of the Plan up to July 31, 2025, WLU is projected to enter the UPP on January 1, 2026 with an estimated going-concern funded ratio (on a UPP basis) of 107.5% with a funding surplus of \$79.6 million.

Pension Fund Rate of Return

The latest figures reveal that over the nine months from January 1 to September 30, 2025 the Laurier pension fund earned a year-to-date rate of return of 6.64%.

October Pub Night

Our Pub Night event in October only attracted the hardiest of WLU retirees! It was not such great weather, and we were late to send reminder notices that it was scheduled for the second to last Friday in the month rather than the last, due to its conflict with Halloween. Let's hope for a better turn out in the spring, and better weather.

Stephen Wenn and "A Games Changer"

by Gerry Schaus



Professor Stephen Wenn, WLU

The last of the Retirees' Association's lectures in the spring term (April 25) was presented to us by Professor Stephen Wenn, former Chair of Kinesiology and Physical Education at WLU and a past president of the North American Society for Sport History. His topic was entitled, "*A Games Changer: The International Olympic Committee, Tokyo 2020, and COVID-19*" which is also the title of his recently published book with

co-author Robert Barney, Professor Emeritus, Western University. It was based on interviews that Stephen conducted in Lausanne in January 2023 with the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and five other IOC officials and was supported by extensive research from contemporary newspaper and magazine coverage of the Olympic Games of Tokyo 2020. Wenn and Barney went behind-the-scenes in Lausanne, so to speak, to discover how the decisions on the 2020 Games unfolded, both to postpone the event for a year, and to chart the way forward. The two excellent historians of the modern Olympic Games also drilled down on the Tokyo 2020 experience of Damian Warner, the Canadian Olympic decathlon champion who faced the challenges of preparing for Games in 2020 and then having to start his preparations again for the Games a year later. In their book, Wenn and Barney tried to bring everything together, summarize what the Games really meant and reach a conclusion about whether they can/should be judged a success.

The book, which appeared in September, has already received excellent reviews, as you can read below:

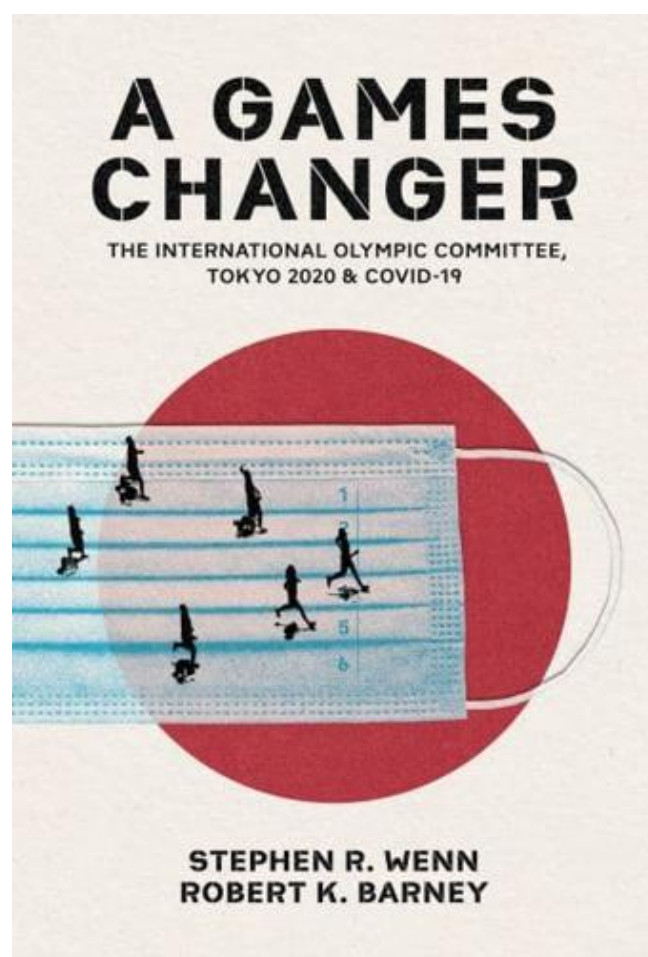
“Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, the IOC and Japanese authorities postponed the 2020 Tokyo Olympics for one year. Wenn and Barney’s memorable description and assessment of the challenges encountered in staging the Games on a delayed basis offer a valuable contribution to world and Olympic history.”

—Richard W. Pound, honorary member of the International Olympic Committee

“In *A Games Changer*, Wenn and Barney offer a remarkable tale of human perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. Rather than surrendering to the temptation to cancel the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the midst of a global pandemic, quarantines, social distancing, and intense criticism from many quarters, IOC President Thomas Bach and Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe instead made the unprecedented decision to reschedule them for a year later. Anchored in primary-source research and interviews with some of the key actors in this drama, this study demonstrates that the resulting competition was a victory for all humanity.”

—Kevin B. Witherspoon, author of *Before the Eyes of the World: Mexico and the 1968 Olympic Games*



CURAC News / Actualités de CURAC — December 2025

From: Gladys We<we@sfu.ca>

lura.communications@gmail.com

Welcome to issue number three of the relaunched CURAC/ARUCC News.

We're pleased to have a longer list of stories from our members in this issue and hope you will enjoy reading news from colleagues across Canada. This issue also includes several opportunities for college and university retirees to become involved with CURAC/ARUCC, from participating in the Later Life Learning committee to joining the CURAC/ARUCC board or one of our committees.

We hope your holidays are warm and bright and look forward to seeing you at our annual conference next May!

If you prefer to read this on a website: <https://curac.ca/en/blog/december-2025-newsletter>

CURAC/ARUCC CONFERENCE

[You are invited to the 2026 CURAC/ARUCC national university retirees conference](#), hosted by the SFU Retirees Association at the Inn at the Quay in New Westminster, BC, May 20–22, 2026. We've checked out the conference space and hotel rooms for out-of-town attendees; all are notable for spectacular views over the Fraser River. Catering will be delivered by the adjacent Boathouse restaurant. We'll be looking for volunteers to help run the event. At the conference, you'll make connections with new ideas and new people, and perhaps even discover renewed satisfaction and purpose in your retirement. Registrations will open in January.

CURAC/ARUCC AWARDS

[Nominations are now open for the 2026 CURAC/ARUCC Tribute Awards](#). This National recognition is a symbolic way for you to say thank you to an individual in your retiree association. Awards will be presented at the Annual CURAC/ARUCC National Conference in May.

NEWSLETTER

ROUNDUP

Please enjoy missives from your fellow retirees, selected by newsletter editors at each RA. We encourage you to browse all the newsletters to enjoy the range of topics, events and pursuits at each retiree association.

University of British Columbia Emeritus College ([see all newsletters](#))

- [A Trip to the Warm Heart of Africa](#), by Valerie A. White (page 25)

Association of BC College Pension Plan Retirees

- [George Looks Back](#) [on his friendship with Paul Ramsey], by George Davison (pages 7–9)

University of Calgary Retirees Association ([see all newsletters](#))

- [Arctic Wilderness Gems and the Threats They Face](#), by Werner J. Becker (page 2)

Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners ([see all newsletters](#))

Kwantlen Polytechnic University Retirees Association

- [Intergenerational Education to Counter Ageism](#), by Roger Elmes (page 7)

Langara College Association of Retirees ([see all newsletters](#))

- [LCAR Grand Gala 2025 Review](#), by Roger Holdstock (pages 2–4)
- [Beautification and Environmental Sustainability at Langara through Gardening](#), by Mario Moniz de Sa (pages 7–10)

University of Manitoba Retirees Association ([see all newsletters](#))

- [Options for Your RRSP at Age 71](#), by John Nelson (page 5)
- [A Popular Hobby for Retirees \(Bridge is my passion\)](#), by Bob Todd , Canadian Grand Master (page 7)

McGill University Retiree Association ([see all newsletters](#))

- [MURA Cares](#), by Debbie Mercier

McMaster University Retirees Association ([see all newsletters](#))

- [Intergenerational Mentoring](#), by Ellen Ryan
- [AI — Tool or Tyrant?](#) By Diana Parker

Association des professeur.e.s retraité.e.s de l'Université d'Ottawa / Association of Professors Retired from The University of Ottawa

- [Shakespeare in Ukraine: Mirror, Prism, Megaphone](#), by Irene (Irena) R. Makaryk

- [Speaking while Aging \(en français\)](#), by Shana Poplack

Saint Mary's University Retirees Association

- [The First Christmas](#), by David Turner

University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association ([see all newsletters](#))

- [Health Column: Aging and Muscle Loss](#), by Tom Wilson (pages 5–7)

Simon Fraser University Retirees Association ([see all newsletters](#)). *Of note: This was a massive special edition created for SFU's 60th anniversary.*

- [Hits and Myths: Charters and Martyrs](#), by Rick McGrath (page 14)
- [Piecing Together the Puzzle of SFU's 'Radical' Past](#), by Melanie Hardbattle (page 17)

University of Waterloo Retirees Association ([see all newsletters](#))

- [Worth the trip: Close-ups in Kenya](#), by Jean Andrey (page 18)
- [Tales in Touristery](#), by Karen Clark (page 12)
- [Bonus word search puzzle](#), by Judi Jewinski (page 17)

Wilfrid Laurier University Retirees' Association ([see all newsletters](#))

- [Indigenous-led Climate Change Adaptation in the](#)

- [Northwest Territories](#), by Gerry Schaus (page 1)
- [Fifty Years In and Out of Libya](#), by Gerry Schaus (page 2)

LATER LIFE LEARNING

CURAC/ARUCC now has Later Life Learning representatives at 27 retiree associations. These representatives convey news to all their members about upcoming online sessions, or recordings of same, as well as blogs that foster knowledge and social connection with others, and to convey reminders to them to regularly check [CURAC/ARUCC's events calendar](#).

In addition, invitations are regularly sent out to submit an article on a topic of one's choice in CURAC/ARUCC's Academic for Life column, in *University Affairs*, which goes out to all Universities in Canada. We hope you will review the article published November 28 2025 titled [Bringing experience to shape the future of post-secondary education](#) by Professor Emeritus, Dr. Fred Fletcher, from York University and former CURAC Board member

All CURAC/ARUCC members are welcome to nominate an LLL representative. Please contact Carole-Lynne (cllenave@ucalgary.ca) if you are not sure that your retiree association has a rep, or if you would like to volunteer to be a rep. There is minimal workload (about 10 minutes a month) and two 1-hour online meetings per year.

CURAC/ARUCC 2026: FIRST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

[This is the FIRST Call for Nominations for the CURAC/ARUCC Board](#). We are seeking to fill out a Board of 12 to 15 members to plan and oversee the work of CURAC/ARUCC, which is a federal not-for-profit corporation. Board members

usually have experience in post-secondary administration and/or active involvement in their local RAs.

Member RAs benefit from being effectively represented on the CURAC/ARUCC Board, and the Board benefits from their input. We are inviting you to put a potential nominee or nominees in touch with the Nominating Committee. Self-nominations are also welcome. Please email names and contact information of potential Directors to the co-chairs of this committee, Sandra Hirst (shirst@ucalgary.ca) and /or Carole-Lynne Le Navenec (cllenave@ucalgary.ca). They would be pleased to address any questions.

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR CURAC/ARUCC PERKS?

CURAC's affinity partners all offer something special to association members. This edition of the CURAC Newsletter highlights Collette and its world of travel. Another popular partner is belairdirect — for home, auto, and travel insurance. Check them out; the savings can be significant.

For details about Collette, belairdirect, and other partners, visit CURAC [Member Benefits](#).

Of note, the University of Waterloo Retirees Association has an [upcoming group trip to Spain in April 2026](#). Any CURAC/ARUCC member is able to sign up for this trip!

WLU Pension and Benefits Contacts

HR request that you use the general mailboxes so that your inquiry can be redirected to the most appropriate person

Benefit Inquiries: benefits@wlu.ca

Pension Inquiries: retirement@wlu.ca

Phone: (548) 889-3385

Office: R215, 2nd floor, 202 Regina

Due to the hybrid work environment, calling ahead or booking an appointment is encouraged to ensure someone is available in person.

Pension & Benefits Team:

Siobhan Adams, Senior Pension
Consultant & UPP Project Lead

Cole Moder, Senior Pension & Benefits
Specialist

Keilah Dell'Erba, Pension & Benefits
Specialist

Krista Boertien, Director, Total Rewards

Sun Life

Sun Life continues to be WLU's carrier for Extended Health and Dental plans

Questions in regards to coverage or claims adjudication are best directed first to Sun Life 1-877-786-5433

- If you use the Sun Life mobile app, the click to call within the app has a skip-the-line feature that shortens potential hold times

Any concerns with how Sun Life has processed a claim can be directed to benefits@wlu.ca

WLURA Membership Fees

With our membership year ending on October 31, membership renewals are being sent to everyone whose memberships are expiring. Those with expiring memberships include continuing members and those ending their free first year of retirement membership. Those ending their free first year of

membership retired in 2023.

If you receive a renewal notice, please renew and continue to enjoy the benefits of Retirees' Association membership. Our membership fees are very reasonable; the lifetime membership is particularly attractive. One year membership: \$15, three years: \$35, lifetime: \$125.

When paying membership fees, please write a cheque payable to **WLU Retirees Association** and mail to:

WLU Retirees' Association
Wilfrid Laurier University
75 University Avenue West
Waterloo ON N2L 3C5

A Surprising WLU Connection with the Great Xenophon

by Gerry Schaus

Most of us have come across the name, Xenophon, in our lives. (Fig. 1 – Statue of Xenophon outside the Austrian Parliament, Vienna) If you don't recall anything about him, quickly Google "Xenophon" and read the article on Wikipedia. You'll be impressed. He was one of the great writers of the ancient Greek world, a student of Socrates, a contemporary of Plato, a wealthy Athenian aristocrat, an historian, a philosopher, a military leader, and an uncomfortable friend of the Spartans. At the young age of 30, he was elected General by his fellow soldiers, the famous Ten Thousand, when they were in crisis. Stuck deep in the heart of Persia, having lost their leaders and their purpose which was an attempt to overthrow the great King of Persia, Artaxerxes II, in 401 BC, they faced the very daunting task of marching back up out of Persia while being attacked by ferocious Persian forces and their allies. This Expedition is described in great detail by Xenophon in his book, *Anabasis* ("The Return"), written years later.

In his description of *The Return*, Xenophon mentions a swash-buckling adventurer, either foolhardy or incredibly courageous, and soldier of fortune from Stymphalos, named Agasias, who risked his life on many occasions, as one of the ten “Captains” of this large Greek army retreating from Persia (one of the four Generals and two of the Captains leading the return were, in fact, from little Stymphalos, tucked in the northeastern part of the Arcadian mountains). Agasias became a close friend of Xenophon’s while facing brutal, almost impossible, encounters with a variety of enemies in their retreat. In fact, Xenophon saved Agasias’s life when Agasias faced a court martial for insubordination in front of a Spartan general who had joined the army in the last stages of its retreat. Along the way homeward, Xenophon made a promise to his men that if the army were ever able to extract itself from its dire predicament, he would dedicate a sanctuary to Apollo and one to Artemis, in thanks for their deliverance. Indeed, Xenophon fulfilled his promise by dedicating a sanctuary to Apollo while passing through Ephesus, and many years afterward built a sanctuary to Artemis on his estate near ancient Olympia.

All this is complicated but necessary background for my story.

Not many years after the events of the *Anabasis*, the citizens of the little town of Stymphalos, including its returning mercenaries, built a sanctuary near the low peak of their acropolis in Arcadia, in southern Greece. (Fig. 2 – the acropolis sanctuary at Stymphalos). It was part of a major relocation of the town for unknown reasons. This sanctuary was studied briefly by Anastasios Orlandos, a Greek archaeologist, in the 1920s and identified as belonging to Athena Polias, the protectress of the city, on the basis of a one-word inscription – “Poliados”. Seventy years later, I was invited to bring students from WLU to new excavations at Stymphalos,

led by Hector Williams, University of British Columbia, and I was given responsibility for excavating this small sanctuary on the acropolis. It was not long into the work that we realized there were several Greek gods honoured in this sanctuary, on the basis of five aniconic pillars erected in a row just outside the temple, each representing some deity. (Fig. 3 – Reconstruction of the sanctuary, with temple and row of pillars) But what gods or goddesses? It was only a decade later, while doing library research in Athens, that it dawned on me. One of the goddesses worshipped here was Eileithyia, a goddess of childbirth and child-rearing, a goddess mentioned in three half-word inscriptions from the site and whose role in women’s lives was evident from two of the marble statues we uncovered, a little temple boy and a young girl holding a baby rabbit. (Fig. 4. Reconstruction of the temple interior) Could we identify any of the other divinities being worshipped here? I thought not. It seemed it would forever remain a mystery.

Then one night, just a year ago, lying awake restless in bed with my mind still firing on all cylinders, I had a “Eureka” moment. For twenty years, I had ignored a stone inscription discovered in 1937 in a tiny settlement just outside Stymphalos, clearly moved there, probably to be used as building material, from somewhere among the ancient ruins. The long inscription mentioned that there was a prominent sanctuary of Artemis Brauronia somewhere in Stymphalos where the inscription itself had been erected. Why Brauron, a rural part of Attica, not far from Marathon and controlled by Athens? In fact, not only was there this original sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron, worshipped by women and young girls in preparation for marriage and childbirth, but there was also a large new sanctuary dedicated to the same Artemis Brauronia, right inside the entrance of the Acropolis of Athens, dating to the earlier fifth century BC.

This all needs to be tied together to explain the title of this article. Xenophon built his sanctuary to Artemis near Olympia, fulfilling his promise to his men. Agasias of Stymphalos, a captain in what became Xenophon's army of mercenary Greeks, and saved by his close friend, Xenophon, from a potential sentence of death, must have shared many an evening campfire conversation together while still in their precarious circumstances. Agasias presumably, but many other Stymphalian men also, returned to Stymphalos after the Expedition, a sanctuary was built on the acropolis of the little town, and this sanctuary clearly had a function in women's lives, perhaps as a result of the return of these many Stymphalian men who had fought with Xenophon and Agasias against the Persians. They had three years of catching up to do with their families and loved ones perhaps resulting in a mini-babyboom. Surely the explanation for *Brauronian* Artemis to be chosen by the Stymphalians was their close connection with Athens and Athenians, and what closer connection was there than that between Agasias and the Athenian, Xenophon who himself had built an Artemis sanctuary? The marble statues of a temple boy and a young girl holding a baby rabbit that we discovered in our excavations have close parallels among the finds at the Sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron. Do we need any further evidence at least to suggest that our sanctuary at Stymphalos was known as the Sanctuary of Artemis Brauronia mentioned in the stone inscription found in 1937? It seems then that Xenophon, great general, philosopher and historian, but also friend and leader to those Stymphalians who had joined the Ten Thousand, may have himself influenced Agasias and the returning mercenaries to Stymphalos, to build a new sanctuary on the acropolis of their town and to dedicate it to Artemis of Brauron.

It is worth keeping in mind that Wilfrid Laurier University archaeology students and many others as well worked hard for five long, hot seasons in the 1990s to discover the secrets of the sanctuary, never realizing that the real significance of this little place of worship, nestled within the bosom of Arcadia, may well have been its dedication to Artemis Brauronia inspired by Agasias' and Xenophon's friendship.



Fig. 1. Statue of Xenophon outside the Austrian Parliament, Vienna



Fig. 2. The acropolis sanctuary at Stymphalos

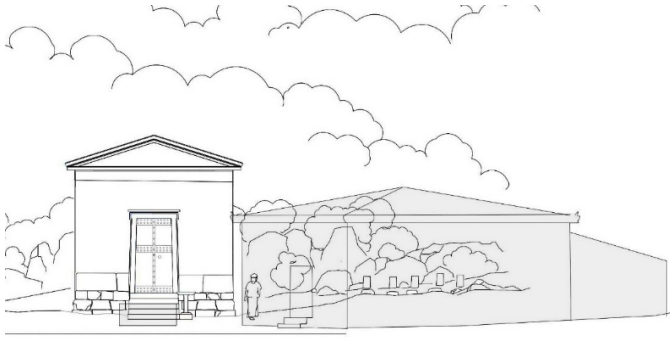


Fig. 3. Sanctuary reconstruction. Temple, Building A (shaded area), row of aniconic pillars (behind)

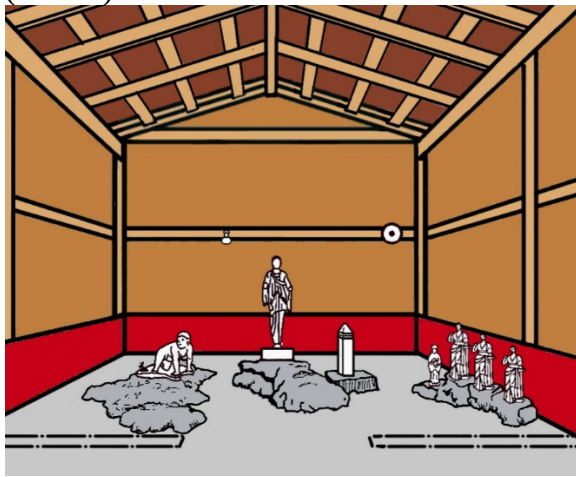


Fig. 4. Temple interior, with statues of girl holding a hare (center) and temple boy (left).
Drawing by Susan Wood.

Editor's (pro tem) Note

Over the past couple years, I have happily taken on the duties of Editor of the *WLURA Newsletter*, but it has always been on a temporary basis. At the same time, the WLURA Executive has been looking actively for a replacement, so far without success. It is time for me to call it quits. I live well outside Waterloo which makes attendance at meetings that much harder. So, either someone steps in to fill my shoes (they are not big ones!), or the *Newsletter* is put into mothballs until a new Editor is found. Some step forward, please!

WLURA Student Bursary

Thank you for your generosity! WLURA members have raised more than \$8,500 in support of the Wilfrid Laurier University Retirees' Association Bursary. As a group, your donation directly helps a student in need. Please make your 2025 donation today!

The WLU Retiree's Association Bursary student recipient for this year is Nidhaan Abrol, who is currently a fourth-year student working towards a Bachelor of Business Administration. Students like Nidhaan who receive this bursary have described feeling "lighter" and describing the community that Laurier fosters as "a genuine environment of support and connection". Let's keep students feeling motivated and supported by coming together to ensure another deserving student has the opportunity to receive this bursary in 2026.

Please consider making a gift before the holidays to support Laurier students at <http://laurieralumni.ca/wlura>

Happy holidays and as always, thank you for supporting Laurier students

Other Notes

Obit Information

We have had several inquiries from relatives of a recently deceased retiree about whom to contact at WLU to announce the passing. Human Resources advises that such a contact should be made by a message to retirement@wlu.ca.

A Communication

from Brett Walther, WLU, Brantford

We've launched the *Campus Connections Brantford e-newsletter*:

Discover how Laurier is making an impact in Brantford-Brant every month with Campus Connections Brantford. Subscribe online and get Brantford campus events, news and stories delivered right to your inbox: wlu.ca/brantford-community

**Next WLURA Meeting, Friday, January 30
2:00 p.m. Retirees' Lounge, WLU**

Brian Findlay, a physiotherapist at Grand River Sports Medicine Centre in Kitchener, will speak on mobility, balance, and strength as we age.

Getting older doesn't have to mean gaining weight, becoming sedentary, or experiencing more injuries. Attendees will learn the basics and the importance of staying flexible, building strength, and maximizing function, as well as the many benefits that come with regular exercise.