

# RALU News



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## **CURAC/ARUCC ONTARIO REGION CONFERENCE, TORONTO 2012**

The Regional Conference of College and University Retirees Associations of Canada/Associations de retraités des universités et collèges du Canada will take place in Toronto Oct 15, 2012.

The program includes sessions on the Drummond Report; pensions, co-housing; relations with faculty and staff unions; retiree benefits; privileges and perks. Speakers include our friend and mentor Dr. Tarun Ghose, former head of CURAC / ARUCC.

For those able to attend, there are hotels located within walking distance of the CURAC Ontario conference site. Most offer *CAA and Senior rates*.

Space is limited, so for those members who are able to attend, please contact Dave Kemp, President RALU or Ian Dew, Secretary.

## **THE GARDEN**

The garden is a great success again. The year 2012 has been and continues to be a phenomenal year; the harvest is bounteous. We have demonstrated that we can grow a range of plants and have a plethora of food. We have demonstrated ingenuity and assiduous study overcoming setbacks with the help of people like Dr. Ken Deacon. The water supply was organized well. The garden may be the only place where tools accumulate over the season.

Summer sightings of bears, a lynx, and a cougar around LU main campus make more than an ordinary impact on our intrepid gardeners. There were reports of deer and ground hogs inside the fence. The latter have a large colony outside the fence. Despite being washed out

early on and beset by insects of all shapes and sizes, the garden was an island oasis of flowers and a riot of every shade of green. Native and imported flowers bloom in succession from raspberries and strawberries early on to asters and chrysanthemums later.



**Heartsease. A *Viola***

There is so much to learn. Whether vegetable, fruit or flower. If your passion is the monster sunflowers that tower over many plots or ponder the question of whether the little flower in the photo is merely another invasive European species taking up scarce resources or a treasure, you are free here to take your time. A major surprise after many years failure was the large crop of tomatoes. Many gardeners have been overwhelmed by the weight of fruit with the result that there is waste.



A continuing condition is the failure to pay

attention to the bees. Few bees mean a poor crop of squash and zucchini. A rigid lawn cutting schedule in the middle of a drought takes its toll. After failure of the arugula, lettuce, spinach seed to germinate or death soon thereafter with a blight of small insects, we were discouraged but replanted as quickly as we could. Our efforts are rewarded with the good crop of beans, onions, and gourds, like monster pumpkins, squash and cucumbers. Corn was great this year. With better management of bees there would have been an even better harvest. A hope for next year also is that we gardeners learn more about sharing and preserving food ...in the meantime take excess produce to the food bank on campus or to the RFDA Food Bank 570 South Syndicate.

For more information on the Food Security Research Network contact Campus Garden Coordinator Lee-Ann Chevrette

[leeann@foodsecurityresearch.ca](mailto:leeann@foodsecurityresearch.ca)

Follow the Food Security Research Network (FRSN).

<http://www.foodsecurityresearch.ca/index.php?pid=89> and learn, learn, learn about growing things and sharing.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Below are the nominees proposed for election at the forthcoming September meeting of RALU. These nominees have agreed to serve during the year 2012-2013.

#### Executive Committee

President: Dave Kemp  
 Vice-President: Clem Kent  
 Corresponding Secretary: Ian Dew  
 Membership Secretary: Beverley Stefureak  
 Treasurer: Bonny Wigmore  
 Immediate Past President (ex officio): Brian Phillips

#### Communications Committee

Ian Dew  
 Walter Momot  
 Margot Ponder  
 Kathy Crewdson

Program Committee

Ernie Epp  
Jenny Phillips  
Jim Stafford  
Bev Stefureak

Please be mindful of the following provision of the constitution:

"Nominations from other members shall be accepted at a general meeting provided that they are nominated and seconded, agreed upon by the nominee, and are submitted to the Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting".

The present report of the Nominations Committee is being submitted for circulation to the membership in time for this due process to take place.

Abdul Mamoojee, Chair, Nominations Committee.

**EVENTS**

**Wednesday 26 September 6 pm  
RALU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
AND DINNER**

Prince Arthur Hotel, Portside Room  
Symposium: 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. (individual orders from menu, individually billed)  
Meeting: 8:00 p.m.

All members, retirees, past employees of Lakehead and spouses/guests are very welcome.

RSVP: Contact Dave Kemp before Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>

**Friday 28 September 9 am  
Aging in Northwestern Ontario – Are You Ready?**

Oliver Road Community Centre, 563 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay

\*Workshop is free and includes light lunch. Register. Nancy, (807) 684-2403  
Learn about latest Ontario Trillium Fund's research.

**Friday 28 September 1 pm  
Active Aging & Sport – And Recreation Sector**

Learn trends and "discover funding possibilities  
Oliver Road Community Centre

\*Workshop is free and includes light lunch. Registration needed. Nancy, (807) 684-2403

**Sunday 14 October  
105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash for the Silver Mountain Station.**

At 11 am at the Silver Mountain Station, Silver Mountain, Ontario. Brunch and talks on the history of the area from the silver mines, PAD&W railway and the Silver Mountain Taxi Service. For details and transport contact Ian Dew, RALU Secretary.

**Tuesday 16 October 7.15 pm  
Presentation by Murray Becotte, TD  
Waterhouse**

7:15 pm, RC 1001, LU main campus. Mr. Becotte will talk about investments, income tax and ways of minimizing taxes.

**October 15 Monday  
CURAC/ARUCC ONTARIO REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

The first CURAC Ontario regional conference is to be held at the School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University in Toronto. The conference will focus on issues of interest to postsecondary education retirees in Ontario; for example, the concerns that arise from the Drummond Commission Report. Information on registration is available

A website has been set up which gives details of the program and how to register.

[http://curaontario.blogspot.ca/p/program\\_13.html](http://curaontario.blogspot.ca/p/program_13.html)



**Saturday October 20  
Fall Colours Field Trip: the RALU  
Annual Field Conference and Road Show**

Meet at the parking lot at the Arthur Street Mall in front of the fitness Club in time for departure at 10 am. This year the theme is “Tracing Glacial Spillways” planned to Kakabeka and south along Highway 595 to South Gillies then by good gravel roads to the scenic valley of the Pine River tributary west of Falling Snow Lake and up onto high ground with a southern vista over the Arrow River Valley. The route then joins Highway 593 and heads north up the Whitefish River to join Highway 588 east to Nolalu and 590 to back to Kakabeka. The tour will be followed by coffee and cake at the Metropolitan Moose.

Bring a packed lunch, good walking shoes, and warm rain gear. This tour has been designed with a minimal amount of walking to make it more accessible. Email Brian Phillips if you plan to come [brianph@shaw.ca](mailto:brianph@shaw.ca)

**May 2013  
CURAC/ARUCC AGM**

The conference is to be held in Saint John's, Newfoundland.

**OUR THUNDERWOLVES**



**Lakehead University**

**Thunderwolves**

Coaches for the various Lakehead University teams are busy recruiting for the coming season. Joel Scherban's contract has been renewed as coach for the men's hockey team for three more years. No word yet on whether all his assistants will be staying for next season. Coach Scherban announced four new additions to the ice hockey team who will make their debut in the Fall. James Delory, who was redshirted last season due to his playing in the pros for two years, will join the defence. Forwards Luke Judson (Emo), Michael MacDonald (Thunder Bay), and Carson Dubchak (Kenora,) have also joined the team. Judson, MacDonald, and Dubchak were all captains of their former OHL teams and Scherban feels that these new additions to the team will provide character, commitment and leadership qualities.

The men's basketball team will be adding “up tempo” guard Dwayne Harvey, a Hamilton product, who has been on the recruitment list starting in 2007 and again since leaving Alabama State University. Jamar Coke, from the Medicine Hat Rattlers, has also committed to the LU team. According to his coach, Ben Julius, a 2000 graduate from Hammarskjold High School, “he is one of the most dynamic players I have ever seen.” David Kohler, a 6’9” post player from Winnipeg has also committed to the Wolves. He helped lead his Winnipeg High School team to a Manitoba high school championship in 2009-2010. The past two seasons he has been a major addition to the CCAA Medicine Hat Rattlers. Also, red-shirted

players Alex Robichaud (Thunder Bay), Michael Thorne-Finch (Winnipeg), and Brandon Myketa (Thunder Bay) will be part of the rebuilding of the team. Their coach, Scott Morrison, traveled with the Canadian U18 men's basketball team this summer as assistant coach and they brought home a bronze medal from the FIBA Americas U18 Championship in Brazil.

Jon Kreiner, coach of the women's basketball team has revealed that they have recruited six new players: Rachael Bland (Washington, U.K.), Gabrielle Robin (Riverview, NB), Jessica de Haan (Thunder Bay), Emily Larette (Timberlea, N.S.), Helena Steeves (Bedford N.S.), and Sarah Barclay (Brandon, Manitoba).

It is always interesting to read about the new additions to the various teams. I am looking forward to seeing the teams in action when the new school year starts!

Margot Ponder

\*Sports women and men among our members appreciate our Wolves and all the gifts they bring us. Participating in amateur athletics is an uplifting experience for everyone concerned. The fact that our athletes are pure amateurs gives us a lifeline to real sport without the distractions of greed and just plain bad officiating inherent in the spectacle of professional sport. While watching you can also brush up on your own technique and generally get your heart rate up and otherwise be exhilarated at the athletic contest unfolding. The prospect of no NHL hockey gives a great boost to attendance in the CIS. What they must do is build new arenas with an international sized ice surface. In this way they may keep good players and attract large crowds.

So give yourself a treat today: find out which of the Wolves you can follow. Take your pick of a whole spectrum from Nordic Skiing and wrestling, two specialties, to volleyball, ice hockey and

basketball, and enjoy!!

<http://www.thunderwolves.ca/>

Once again thanks to the team members: trainers, managers, athletes, coaches, and administrators. Thank you!!

Ed

### **TRAVELLIN' WANDERS ALONG THE NORTH SHORE FROM SPLIT ROCK TO TERRACE BAY**

This travelogue tells the story of a journey over the space of just one weekend that combined pleasure and business in August of this year. The pleasure end was hiking and sightseeing along the north shore: to finally see with my own eyes parts of the north shore where fishing and recreation are paramount. Day one was a dash from Thunder Bay two hundred kilometres south in Minnesota to Split Rock. Day two was the business end of the proposition related to our environment. I want to see the extent of the success of the effort to restore Jackfish Bay, the federally designated "Area of Concern", near Terrace Bay that is in the local media so much under optimistic headings trumpeting recovery. I am particularly interested in at last seeing at least one blackbird along Blackbird Creek or some sign of the jackfish in the bay of that name.



## Split Rock Lighthouse

As things transpired it was a busy summer so by the time the weekend jaunt started I was looking forward to the holiday. By the time we got to Split Rock it was the end of a hot and busy day.

We were so late after stopping to hike on Mount Josephine and swimming from a steep, cobbled beach farther south along two lane Highway 61 – or rather, not swimming because Lake Superior was too cold. It was no surprise that the staff of the park were ready for home as we pulled in. The appearance of two new tourists with only a few moments before quitting time maybe was the straw that broke the camel's back. I did not blame them one little bit. Undeterred we plunged forward: there was only time for a quick tour around to look at as much as we could in just 20 minutes. There was a lot to see.

We began outside at the top of the cliff looking out at a clear blue lake with Isle Royale on the horizon.



### Looking down from the cliffs at Split Rock

We are inside the tower and up the spiral staircase. On the way up is the mechanism that controlled and drove the light, imported from France when the

lighthouse was built in 1910. It is as massive as it is intricate.

The first astounding fact is that it was hauled all the way up the cliff face from boats with all the building materials, lubricants, people, their food and animals during the period of construction and the first years of operation until a road was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In a machinery building next to the light tower are the winch and steam engine needed to haul everything up the cliff face and eventually to power the light. The light floats on a pool of mercury.



In showing us the living quarters a half dozen summer re-enactors give a perfunctory demonstration. It really is time to go. We turn north and back along Highway 61 to stop at Tofte for supper at the Cascade Restaurant. The place was packed. Walleye is on the menu. We order pickerel. The waiter looks confused. It is delicious. Tofte is the centre of a successful lake fishery. They don't accept Canadian cash, except for tips, that is. The end of day one we headed for home. We knew before we began that there is no room to be had here in the height of tourist season. We drive past the border point at Pigeon River and prepare to drive home ever so carefully to avoid animals on the road.

The next morning was another bright blue, clear day. From Thunder Bay we travel north 220 km or so along the most beautiful stretch of highway anywhere, where Ontario Highway 17, which is also Canada Highway Number One, the Trans Canada Highway, hugs the lake shore offering incredible vistas between Rosspoint and Terrace Bay. If media reports are to be believed the Town of Terrace Bay will be the site of the next real estate bonanza associated an attempt to replicate the success of the Grand Marais area to the south. The allure of an economy based on clean water and natural beauty is too much to resist.



### **Terrace Bay Beach**

The town itself is still looking for an identity and has flirted with several models. Terrace Bay the Drag Capital is one. Another persona, espoused by the press, including the *Chronicle-Journal* and *Lake Superior Magazine*, the pristine beach capital of the north shore. Sure enough when we arrived there was a Chamber of commerce scene. I am on a mission to find Blackbird Creek after reading about it and seeing photos. This watercourse was also the outfall of the mill during its years from the earliest days ending 2012.



### **A column of tractor-trailers in the rear-view mirror**

We discovered that getting there is not necessarily half the fun, as the white knuckles in the mirror attest. Objects are much closer than they appear.



### **The Mill**

The Mill. Owned previously by Kimberly Clark, and most recently by Terrace Bay Pulp, it is now owned by a

company named the Aditya Birla Group. Shut down now for some months there is an eerie chemical smell in the middle of the hot afternoon. We drive around looking for the creek but find only an impoundment surrounded by a berm high above the road way. This is the the last outpost of the Buchanan Empire.



### The old parking lot.

You have to wonder whether these new owners will have the same appreciation for the environment as their predecessors. It would not be fair to pre-judge. Perhaps the shape of the vegetation in the photo tells us that the bar is not set too high. In all the flood of hyperbole about the new sale, nobody so far is asking about the environment – nor has anyone asked what happened to the \$25 million loaned by taxpayers to the Buchanan Group.

In the next issue of the RALU News will be Part two of the travelogue that could have been titled, *What I did on my Summer Holidays* or *Looking for Blackbird Creek* or even *Tear-assing around Terrace Bay*.

## LETTERS

CLEARING UP MY NAME: THE FULL VERSION

Dear Ian,

Thanks for your invitation to clear up my name fully for readers of RALU's newsletter, more than I did in my brief answer to Bev's and your initial enquiry concerning the "correct" spelling of the first name. Was it 'Abdul' or 'Abdool'?

As indicated in my earlier reply, this abbreviated first name originates from the Arabic 'Abd-al', as in the former Egyptian President's 'Gamal Abd-al Nass(e)r', *abd* meaning 'creation' and *al* being a connecting definite article resembling English 'the'. This combination, the first element of a two-part name, is followed by a complementary designation of God or one of his Quranic attributes, as in 'Abd-Allah' (Creation of Allah), 'Abd-al-Kad(e)r' (Creation of the Almighty), 'Abd-al-Rahman' (Creation of the Merciful) and a few dozen others. Other popular names of this type, all male, include 'Abd-al-Hamid' (Praiseworthy), 'Abd-al-Karim' (Generous), 'Abd-al-Latif' (Gentle), 'Abd-al-Razzaq' (Provider). One Abd-al-Aziz (Powerful) alias Ibn-Saud (1880-1953) realized the power and potency promised in that name through his conquest of the Arabian peninsula and his proliferation of male progeny sufficient to ensure the immediate family's century-long rule over the resulting Saudi kingdom and their worldwide export of oil and the petrodollar as well as 'Wahabism', the puritanical brand of Islam embraced by his forbears from the 18<sup>th</sup> century fundamentalist Abd-al-Wahab (Bountiful). *Nomen omen*, went an ancient Roman maxim, better in Latin than in English translation, 'Name=omen'. 'Abd-al' shifted into 'Abd-ul' in the Islamized Indian subcontinent, as in 'Abdul Kalam Azad', the Muslim colleague of Gandhi and Nehru in Congress who famously opposed Partition. Likely an English spelling standardized under the Raj, 'Abdul' somehow lost ground to the variant 'Abdool' in the British island colony of Mauritius, my birthplace. So it is spelled

on my birth certificate and all documents, until, venturing overseas, in an ill-advised attempt to conform to the more widespread Indian spelling, I tried 'Abdul'. Recently, in another impulsive move to resume the original identity, I returned to 'Abdool'. The two versions coexisted without problem until the advent of the personal computer which tends to demand orthographic consistency, and so I began to be asked to resolve the ambivalence. Given the chaotic outcome of my two initiatives to establish order, I am resigned to let sleeping dogs lie and leave correspondents to pick their preference. In so doing, I recall, I am being less uncooperative than the incorrigible T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) in his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* when he responded to his confused editor's request for consistency in spelling Arabic names, not by selecting one out of the two or three versions which he had employed, but by adding another half dozen alternatives! As you see, the incomplete 'Abdul' needs the attached complement to form a real name. The first component being the common denominator in these polysyllabic names, informal simplification usually settles on the second, more distinctive, ingredient. 'Kader', 'Rahman', 'Hamid', 'Karim', 'Latif', 'Razaq', 'Aziz' and 'Wahab' will do, although 'Allah' (from 'Abd-Allah') would be taboo, a blasphemous usurpation of God's own name as opposed to participation in his many divine epithets. The complement in my own name is 'Hack' (Truthful), in the Indian subcontinent and more widely 'Haq', the final 'q' making do for a strong Semitic guttural absent from both English/European speech and consonants of the Roman alphabet used. *Haq-Ullah* ("Truth to God") is a familiar Muslim oath invoked by truth-tellers and liars alike to swear to the veracity of a statement, and Zia-ul-Haq was the military dictator notorious for his ungodly persecution of the Bhutto family in

Pakistan. Somewhat harsh-sounding on its own, the monosyllabic 'Hack' or 'Haq' (worsened in Canada into 'Hash' on my medical prescriptions) tends to give way to the opening element in abbreviations of this particular name. Thus 'Zia' rather than 'Haq' is short for the dictator and for me plain 'Dool' back home, 'Abdool' ('Abdul') here. 'Hack' is a usage peculiar to my brother and his family in England. 'Abdool Kader', normally just 'Kader' in Mauritius, but having allowed himself to be dubbed 'Abdool' upon his earlier arrival in that country, he then pinned the trenchant 'Hack' on me, exceptionally, to facilitate differentiation between the otherwise double 'Abdools' in his milieu. The composite 'Abdool-Hack' features a hyphen which I inserted to deter Canadian separation of this integral part of the first name into a non-existent "middle" name. While this first name is pure Arabic, my surname 'Mamoojee' is a hybrid. The last syllable is clearly Hindi, an honorific suffix appended to nouns designating persons: *pita-jee* (Venerable Father), *mata-jee* (Mother), *sardar-jee* (Chief), *munim-jee* (Accountant Sir). It is visible in Hindu surnames like 'Chatterjee', 'Banerjee', 'Mukherjee', common in Bengal. The combination of this adjunct with certain Arabic first names produced Indian surnames that sometimes supplanted Hindu-sounding predecessors renounced by converts to Islam. They are notable in Gujerat, the geographical provenance of my grandparents. In Mauritius Gujerati Muslim immigrants include, for example, families of 'Moosajee', 'Dawoojee', 'Ibrahimjee' and 'Adamjee', surnames procured respectively from 'Moosa', which is Biblical 'Moses'/ Hebrew 'Moshe' (Born of...) in Arabic garb; 'Dawood', the Arabic adaptation of Bibl. 'David'/ Hebr. 'Dawud' (Heel-Grabber); Ibrahim, from Bibl. 'Abraham'/ Hebr. 'Avraham' (meaning uncertain); and 'Adam', identical with the original Bibl/Hebr. 'Adam' (Earth-made).

The Currimjees (from 'Karim' = Generous) are the island's sole distributors of Pepsi Cola and providers of over 30% of its mobile phone business. On these analogies my own 'Mamoo-' is surely not from *mamoo*, Hindi/ Urdu for 'maternal uncle', but a distortion of the well-known first name 'Mahmood', derived from Arabic 'Muhammad' (Praiseworthy), the Prophet's and so the most popular male name in the Muslim world. The Internet now reveals a surprising uniformity in the spelling 'Mamoojee', a welcome circumstance which has, nevertheless failed to save my own from countless mutilations in Canadian hands. One pupil insisted on 'Mamoojy' to make it match the title of his course in "Classical Mythology". A troublesome 'Mamoujee' plagues my automobile-related documents (driver's license, vehicle ownership, car loan), a misspelling from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation which it will not rectify without a sworn affidavit from the victim of its error. Another "sleeping dog" left to lie! Happily, I never carried abroad a piece of equivocation that beset my surname in the native country. Since there are different unrelated families of 'Mamoojee', my own came to be distinguished from other namesakes by a nickname eventually adopted as a superseding surname. Called *atak* in Gujarati and not uncommon among the Muslim Sunni *Vohras* (Merchants), it is comparable to the ancient Roman upper class' third name or *cognomen*, as in 'Marcus Tullius Cicero' (Chick Pea). My own folks' *atak* was 'Kathrada', from *kath*, a species of tree found on their land in Kathor, their native village in Gujerat situated near the port-city of Surat. Ahmed Kathrada, possibly a distant relative, was a close collaborator of Nelson Mandela in the struggle against *Apartheid* and his fellow prisoner for a quarter century on Robben Island off CapeTown. Over time all my relatives mutated into Kathradas in practice, if not always in official papers. My

own father was 'Mamoojee' on his birth certificate but otherwise and in his textile business known usually as 'Kathrada', the name established in local commerce with shoppers and suppliers. My brother and I are the lone exceptions to this rule for complex reasons including our once heretical departure into professional careers from the Kathrada tradition of shop keeping. Still, there are some who know even the nonconforming duo by the overshadowing surname 'Kathrada', an ambiguity which could lead to a comedy of errors, as happened once in my teenage years when I was observed showing interest in a certain girl. "Don't waste your time, Mamoojee," a friend warned me, "she is seeing Kathrada". This last "sleeping dog" lies confined to the Indian Ocean island!

Abdul Mamoojee  
Chair, RALU Nominations Committee

### LAC Update

*Distinguished U of A History Professor [Ian MacLaren](#) lends his eloquent voice to the chorus calling on the government to reconsider its plans for LAC*

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6 September 2012

Dear Prime Minister:

I write as a proud Canadian, a proud Albertan, and a sometime supporter of your government, but a distressed one. I write also as a scholar who has spent years researching and publishing about pre-twentieth-century British expeditions of exploration for a northwest passage. Canadians know this to be a public and private interest of yours and your government's.

My distress issues out of your government's gradual, imperilling

withdrawal of funding needed for the efficient operation of Library and Archives Canada. The resultant restructuring has been so drastic as to render this flagship institution of Canadian culture almost unrecognizable.

Staff have been cut. Service hours have been reduced. The purchase of materials has been brutally curtailed. Loan policies have been cancelled outright. Scholars from other countries coming to Ottawa to conduct research have had their inquiries go unanswered and their trips to Ottawa end in complete failure to access any records because of the dearth of staff available either to reply to correspondence or to fill standard requests to see records. The organization is in utter disarray. The dismal consensus is that, in a space of a half-dozen years, the library has so deteriorated as to be failing to fulfill its legislated mandate.

As you and/or your office staff doubtless know, the national library was founded in 1953, and its most recent charter, the Library and Archives Canada Act (2004), states that one of its chief purposes is to acquire and preserve “the documentary heritage” of Canada. Books and unpublished manuscripts like letters and other documents are the materials through which we discover who we are. They are the eyes through which we see what our country is. Contrary to popular belief, they do not collect and organize themselves. The cuts to LAC’s budget have been so deep and capricious as to suggest that those doing the cutting have no understanding of what the library and archives should be, and the result will be the devastation of what Canada is, not only as a concept and an idea but also as the very real place in which we are leading our lives and raising our families. To dismantle a nation’s library and archives is to shoot a bullet through its temple.

Permit me to provide you with a personal example of the value of LAC to those Canadians who, like you, take an interest in this month’s search for the Erebus and Terror off King William Island. Earlier in my career, I was involved in locating two books of watercolour sketches made by George Back, then a midshipman serving under John Franklin during the first of his overland expeditions to the Arctic. These sketchbooks, which I found in a house in Gloucestershire, England, contain the first known pictures of any part of Alberta (the lower Athabasca River and Fort Chipewyan. In case of your interest, I’ll note that some of these were published in a book entitled *Arctic Artist* [1994]). Although private collectors wished to obtain them, I discussed with their owners the possibility of opening negotiations with Library and Archives Canada so that it could bid to obtain both sketchbooks in advance of a public auction and probable disappearance into a private collection. The diligent staff at LAC succeeded in effecting the purchase. Thank goodness. These priceless documents and works of art now reside in Ottawa, where they belong. Because of permanent ill health, caused by his four expeditions in the Canadian Arctic (one of which subsequently caused the Great Fish River to be renamed Back River, one of the premier waterways of the mainland Barrens of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut), Back was not considered for appointment when Franklin was selected to command the ill-fated expedition of 1845. Subsequently, he was a paramount advisor to the Admiralty during the search operations of the the 1850s, and he numbered among the members of the council that the Admiralty convened to direct the search. With William Edward Parry, he remains a towering figure of nineteenth-century explorations of what now forms the Canadian Arctic.

Intentionally or unintentionally, sir, during your tenure as prime minister, the Government of Canada is conducting what amounts to a search and destroy campaign against LAC and thus against the cultural memory of Canadian people, memory that includes such gems as these sketchbooks. Think of the government's action personally as brain surgery performed on you, sir, to deprive you of your memory. That would amount to a shocking withdrawal of your ability to function.

If not in the shortest of short terms, this is an issue of deep importance to all Canadians. I urge you to read the letter that the Bibliographical Society of Canada sent to all members of Parliament (if your copy has gone astray, please find it at <http://www.bsc-sbc.ca/> and click on either "President's Letter about Library and Archives Canada" or "Lettre du Présidente au sujet de Bibliothèque et Archives Canada") and take measures to reverse the murderous withdrawal of the levels of funding needed to keep the LAC from becoming a disgrace in the eyes of Canadians and in the eyes of foreigners wishing to research Canadian subjects. Surely, you are too proud a Canadian to let this happen; surely, you will not want Canadian History to remember you for perpetrating this atrocity.

Sincerely,

Ian MacLaren, Professor of History and Classics University of Alberta

*From the Save LAC Facebook site:*  
<http://www.facebook.com/savelac>

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

It is the fall season and time to engage with the energy of the returning scholars and students. RALU is in its fifth year and can look back to some accomplishments. This newsletter provides

a forum for members to speak and exercise their right and duty to speak out. Feel free to encourage individuals and libraries with whom you are associated to buy a current subscription to better serve their members. This will improve access to the newsletter and also add to the Association's coffer. By this time everyone reading this should either be a member or have a subscription. For readers associated with corporations that have an acquisitions budget, it's the law... copyright law of Canada, that is. A link to back issues, which are housed by LAC [http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/201/300/ralu\\_news/index.html](http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/201/300/ralu_news/index.html) Everyone is welcome to these.

A perennial topic refuses to go away: **Is LU at last going to take its place with academic colleagues across the country to join the CAUT Academic Freedom Fund?** If it does, LUFA would be the last to join. This issue is keenly felt by everyone in the university community. Is the Faculty Association at LU finally joining the fight for academic freedom in Canada? A special characteristic of LU for the past years has been that of all institutions in Canada that call themselves universities, from the giant University of Toronto, that kicked in \$100,000, down to the College of Cape Breton, which somehow found \$11,000 to contribute to this cause, LU withheld its support and its money. Even the new University of Ontario Institute of Technology, which arguably is not an academic but a technical institution, found \$500. Will it at last shrug off its rogue status and contribute to the academic freedom fund of Canadian Association of University Teachers? This is after holding out for years and years until it seems like nobody believes it could happen. If the answer to that question is "yes", then the next question is how much? Let's face it: the association can afford it, after the détente with the administration over the past decade. LU's position is more than an embarrassment, it represents a bar to

development.

Take time to assist your colleagues at RALU to represent you. There's a lot of reason for optimism, celebration and excitement... Help us achieve our potential in looking after your interests. Make a donation. Write us a letter giving us a piece of your mind... we' ll publish it. Please decide how you can help and jump

right in.

Stay tuned and lend your voice! The next issue will include the first part of an investigative piece on the Orillia campus, by Dr. R-G; member Clement Kent's vision for RALU-university co-operation; and profile of another million dollar baby, member Walter Momot.

**Benefits of Membership in RALU**

**\*Social support. Be informed and active in a group of like minded people who share the same interests and background.**

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**Membership is \$10 annually or \$25 per individual per three years, with equal status of membership for retirees, spouses and partners. Annual membership is from Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug 31<sup>st</sup>.** You are encouraged to support the association by joining us, even if you live far from Northwestern Ontario. Complete the membership form and return with a money order or cheque made out to the Retirees’ Association of Lakehead University to Membership Secretary, 2717 Government Road, Thunder Bay, ON P7G 1V4. For further information please contact RALU President David Kemp, [panddkemp@shaw.ca](mailto:panddkemp@shaw.ca) Please note that there is a new area for expertise, contribution. Tell us how you want to assist RALU, for example, by contributing to the newsletter, giving us a presentation on your expertise, and so on. The Association is inclusive and its membership is open to retirees of colleges and universities.

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