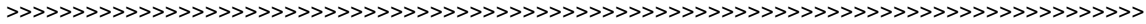




# **RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWS**

## **November 2007**

**Number 72**  
**[www.usra.usask.ca](http://www.usra.usask.ca)**



*President Peter MacKinnon*

*invites you to the*

*University of Saskatchewan Retirees*

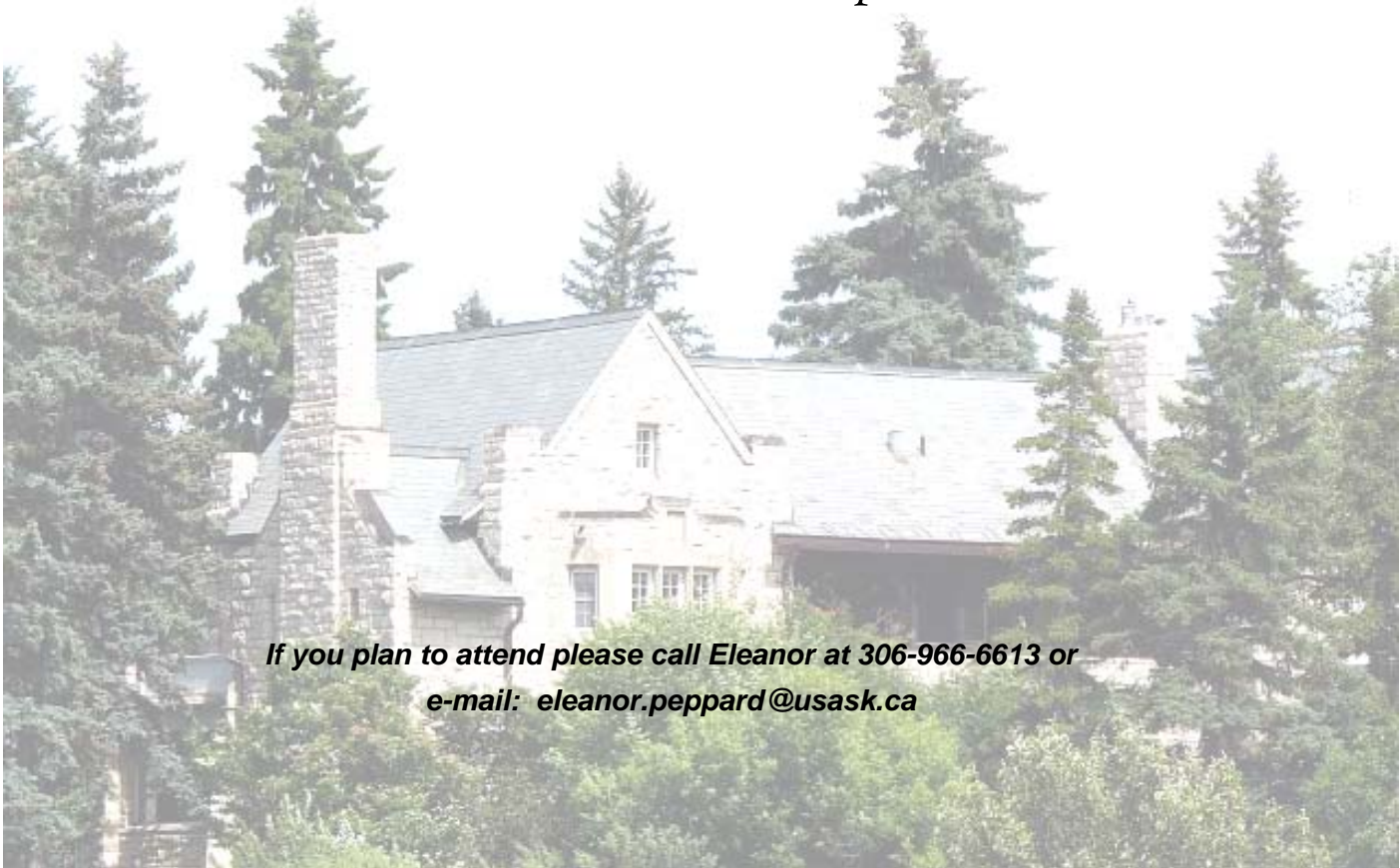
*(for all Faculty and Staff Retirees)*

*Come & Go Christmas Reception*

*Monday, December 17, 2007*

*101 President's Place*

*Between 1:30 and 4:00 p.m.*



***If you plan to attend please call Eleanor at 306-966-6613 or  
e-mail: [eleanor.peppard@usask.ca](mailto:eleanor.peppard@usask.ca)***

## Message From President Murray Scharf :

I am very pleased to have been granted the honour and responsibility of being the President of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association for 2007-2008. I look forward to working with the members of the Executive to serve and promote the interests of USRA's members. We owe a debt of gratitude for the activities and services provided by Bob Woods and last year's Executive. We start the year in good financial and organizational shape.

It is our hope in 2007-2008 to strengthen the structure and membership of the Association and to complete the transformation of USRA from a benefits-oriented organization with a focus on pension and retirement benefits to a service-oriented organization with a focus on service to its members and the University of Saskatchewan. We want to dream dreams and implement our visions. We need your help with this effort to reformulate and enhance the Association.

First, our efforts to strengthen the structure may include efforts such as the development of college chapters of the USRA. These chapters would consist of the retirees from the specific college and would work with the Dean and development officers of the Colleges to initiate and support projects, and to retain the collegial bonds among the retirees. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations provided an opportunity to see the potential for such chapters. There are

undoubtedly other measures and projects that members see as worthwhile instruments for achieving our goals of service and involvement.

Second, we would like to enhance the opportunities for members to be involved. We are holding some of our programme activities this year at Manos restaurant owing to the free parking and convenient access. We will retain the "phone tree" to contact and inform members of our activities and events. In addition, we would like to experiment with a buddy system where drivers can transport other members to our activities and events. We would also like to promote and support projects that small groups of retirees may want to undertake. For example, we know some members have a keen interest in the history of the University and a partnership with the University archivist may yield some productive and satisfying projects. We would like to serve as a facilitator for individuals interested and wanting to participate in short and long-term projects – Give us your ideas.

Third, we would like to serve the University. Members of the Executive are to meet with the President in order to elicit his ideas on our role and some activities we may want to undertake. We will also want to know the support he can give to our Association and its members. The University has provided us with an office, some parking, a retirees' lounge in the College Building, the President's Reception for Retirees, and

involvement in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. We wish to build on this foundation by assuming the role of a service organization committed to promoting the interest of the University and its communities.

In short, we are asking for your ideas, involvement and support. Together we can accomplish great things and continue to derive great satisfaction from our involvement with each other and with the University.

Again, I and the members of the Executive are here to serve. We need your ideas and involvement. Please contact myself or any member of the Executive.

Murray Scharf



## USRA PROGRAMS 2007 – 2008

*(Please mark your  
calendars for these events!)*

*More details on the 2008  
programs will be provided  
after Christmas)*

**Mon. Dec 17 1:30 – 4:00**

- **President MacKinnon's  
Reception** *If you  
require transportation,  
please contact*  
[jblackburn@sasktel.net](mailto:jblackburn@sasktel.net)  
*To arrange a pick up*

**Thurs. Jan 17- 12 noon**  
**Professor Bill Waiser**  
**History Department "A Tale  
of Two Futures –  
Saskatchewan in 1905 and  
2005"**

*(Mano's Restaurant 200-  
1820 8<sup>th</sup> St. E.)*

**Thurs., Feb. 28- 12 Noon**  
**Dr. Michael Pomedli**  
**St. Thomas Moore College**  
*(Mano's Restaurant 200-  
1820 8<sup>th</sup> St. E.)*

**Saturday, April 26**  
**Richard Schwier –**  
**Computers & Technology**  
**Day – We will spend the**  
**morning with hands on**  
**demonstrations of how to**  
**make the best use our**  
**computers**

**May – tour of Canadian**  
**Light Source and lunch at**  
**Boffins**

**June 2 – USRA Annual  
Barbecue, Faculty Club**

### IN MEMORY

**Arthur Karl Sumner**

Deceased Nov 14, 2007  
College of Agriculture and  
College of Home Economics  
1968- 1987

Survived by wife Edith and  
four children

**Sister Mary Loyola**

Deceased Sept. 2, 2007  
St. Thomas Moore College,  
English 1970-1985

**Emma I. Grodums**

Deceased Aug. 20, 2007  
Dept. of Microbiology  
1957- 1982

**Rev. Joseph Bisztyo**

Deceased Aug. 15, 2007  
St. Thomas Moore College  
1967-1986

**Ronald H.M. Mavor**

Deceased Aug. 9, 2007  
Drama Dept. 1981-1990

**Donald H. Dabbs**

Deceased July 27, 2007  
Horticulture Science Dept  
1961-1986

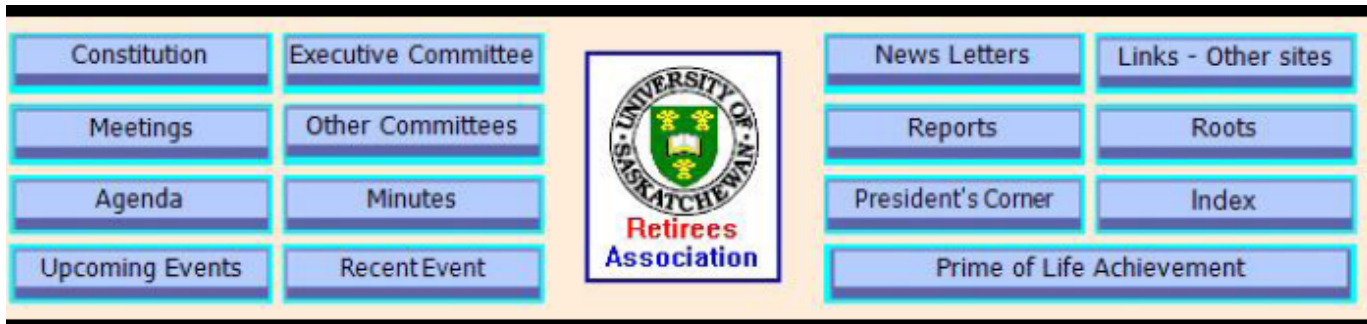
### Functions of Interest to Retirees:

**Sat. Jan. 5 – Lou Heber  
invites you to:**  
***Art Showing and Tea at  
Lou's Home Gallery  
Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
January 5, 2008  
57 Cambridge Cres.  
Saskatoon.  
Please rsvp by Jan. 3 at  
477-1093.***

### USRA EXECUTIVE 2007- 2008

**President: Murray Scharf**  
**Past President: Bob Woods**  
**Vice President: Jim  
Blackburn**  
**Secretary: Yvonne Cuttle**  
**Treasurer: Ken Smith**  
**Members at Large:**  
**Norah Carey**  
**Les Coleman**  
**Peter Cribb**  
**Faye Kernan**  
**Barry McLennan**  
**Dale Miquelon**  
**Mohindar Sachdev**  
**Bob Sanche**  
**Nancy Senior**  
**George Sofko**  
**Duff Spafford**

USRA WEB SITE: [www.usra.usask.ca](http://www.usra.usask.ca)



**USRA Contact Information** : Telephone – 306-966-6618 E-mail – [ss.usra@usask.ca](mailto:ss.usra@usask.ca)  
Ground Mail – USRA, RJD Williams, 221 Cumberland Ave.  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3

### **USRA PRIME OF LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Several years ago, the USRA inaugurated a program to honor and express appreciation to former faculty and staff who, after their retirement, have been recognized for outstanding scholarly, artistic or service contributions. Such contributions would have been recognized by international, national or local bodies (e.g. Order of Canada, Sask. Order of Merit, honorary lifetime recognitions from national or provincial professional societies or associations, honorary degrees, national artistic commissions, etc.)

**For information on Nominations, please check our website or contact Peter Cribb ([peter.cribb@sasktel.net](mailto:peter.cribb@sasktel.net))**

### **CURAC:**

CURAC stands for **College and University Retiree Associations of Canada**. It is a federation of local university retirees associations and is financed by a levy of 50 cents per member of each local association.

The CURAC Newsletter, with two issues now out, is available on a link at the organization's website, [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca). Also available at this site are the proceedings of CURAC's 2007 conference and annual meeting and a comparative report on non-medical benefits offered to retirees at universities in Canada.

**For further information, please contact Duff Spafford ([spafford@usask.ca](mailto:spafford@usask.ca))**

### **Kids in Church:**

*3 Year old Reese:*

*Our Father who does art in heaven, Harold is his name. Amen.*

*A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it, I am having a real good time like I am."*

*After christening his little brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys".*

**Congratulations, Riders!**