

Retirees' Newsletter

*Faculty & Librarian Retirees' Association, University of Windsor, June,
1995. Issue # 13
Editor: Bill Phillips*

THAT IDEA FOR A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION?



**IT LOOKS DOOMED -- MAYBE ALREADY ON LIFE SUPPORTS
RESULTS AT MONTREAL WERE VAGUE, INCONCLUSIVE;
OPINION FAVOURS PROVINCIAL GROUPINGS - IF ANY AT ALL**

(For the background to this, please refer to earlier issues of *The Newsletter*: #8, p.1, and #12, p.4)



WALTER ROMANOW SENT US A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND ON THE MEETING

Walt Romanow, an active member of our Association, now resident in Edmonton, has provided a report to *The Newsletter* on the results of the questionnaire and on the Montreal meeting. What follows is a summary of Walt's report.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Fifty-three responses were received (35 from individuals and 18 from associations). Assoc'ns responding included 8 from Ontario, 4 from Quebec. No responses from PEI or NB.

Results: 38 supported a national federation; 11 opposed it, and 4 were not sure. One reply from Ont (not clear which) indicated consideration being given to a Provincial organization.

Generally, responses about what **role** a national organization might play were **not conclusive**.

Cited as problems concerning a national organization were: (a) the difficulty of establishing a proposed national structure and maintaining continuity, and (b) the **cost** of maintaining, even minimally, an appropriate secretariat.

THE MONTREAL MEETING

Romanow said the meeting was attended by about 20 retirees - 16 or 17 from Quebec, and the rest from B.C., Alberta and Ontario. There seems to have been discussion, with very little by way of decisions, on such questions as who would be included (faculty alone, faculty and others, etc.), and how a national organization could and should function.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. R. Bramwell (U of Calgary), who initiated the Calgary meeting a year ago. Bramwell was invited to chair a follow-up feasibility committee (consisting of a few of the meeting attendees). The committee will continue to explore the matter of a national association. A full report, Walt assumes, will be sent to participants.

ROMANOW GIVES HIS PERSONAL VIEW ON A "NATIONAL" ASSOCIATION

Costs would be too high, interests too diverse, to support a national retirees' association now
Since the idea of a national association of retirees' groups surfaced about a year ago, Walt Romanow has been closer to it than any of our members. In the report he sent to *The Newsletter* following the Montreal meeting June 1, he added some "personal" comments, which are here reproduced *verbatim*, though summarized in part..

"I'm persuaded that the logistics of a national organization will consume a great deal of energy...It will also be costly to maintain any sort of functioning secretariat. Moreover, in a huge country like Canada, regional and provincial interests will dominate...Thus I favour regional/provincial structures over a national body...

"Further, I think that it may be difficult to define a national membership, given the varied categories of membership currently in existence.

"I expect too that CAUT (and OCUFA, etc.) may have a role to play in future with respect to retired professors. There may be some benefits to developing such liaisons.

"In sum, for what it's worth, should it come to a discussion in the Windsor Association (and if I may still be considered a member, however wayward) I strongly support an organization of retired professors/librarians/administrators because it would be important **not to lose** this valuable resource. But it is likely to function more effectively on regional-provincial bases rather than on a national basis". (Ed. note: **Our "wayward" member in Edmonton need have no concern over the valued status of his membership here in Windsor! For a report on our own response to the questionnaire on a national association see this page.**

OUR RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS WILL RECALL THAT, because of the very late receipt of the questionnaire (see #12, p.3) we were hard pressed to get it returned in time to be of use to the Committee. **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THUS DELEGATED** to Norm Shklov and Bill Phillips the task of completing the questionnaire over the Easter weekend and sending it off to Vancouver by courier, which was done. In our response, we indicated support for the proposal, **but with some cautionary comment** (See #12. p.3). Our position was that any national association should serve at first, only "as a **mechanism for interchange of information and advice among the local organizations**, and should build upon this only as experience accumulates". **In answer to questions we stressed the need to accumulate experience before trying to formalize policy-positions on matters such as "office space, lab facilities., etc."** In matters of medical/dental plans, monitoring changes in pension plans, and similar areas, **we** felt a national association might be able to serve some immediate advisory purpose. The remainder of the questionnaire asked about our own current set-up: fees, meetings, social activities, which we supplied.

THE TIME PRESSURE IN RESPONDING TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE WAS IN NO WAY THE FAULT OF THE ASSOCIATION. Regrettably it did limit the opportunity for membership participation, which hopefully will not be repeated. Any member wishing to see our completed questionnaire may do so by asking the Secretary Treasurer Bill Libby.

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following is President Habib's Report to the Membership.

Pension Fund

LAST YEAR the fund manager Jarislowsky-Fraser was replaced by Sceptre and, as to be expected when a new fund manager is appointed, that portion of the fund did not do well. **It takes some time** for a new manager to change the portfolio to his investment strategy. However, **the fund as a whole did better in the first quarter** this year. If the market continues to rally, the overall performance at the end of June should exceed last year's.

Pension and Benefits

HOW MANY PENSION COMMITTEES are there?

You will be surprised to learn that there are four:

- The Faculty Association Pension and Benefits Committee
- The Retirees and Administration Pension Committee
- The Voluntary Early Retirement Committee
- The Board of Governors Pension Committee.

Each Committee performs a specific task but all have the same goal, that of providing an adequate pension for retired faculty members and librarians.

Recreational Facilities at St. Denis Centre

AT THE REQUEST OF THE MEMBERSHIP I wrote a letter to President Ianni expressing the concern of retirees regarding the recommendation in "The Strategic Planning Task Force..." that retirees be charged for the use of recreational facilities in St. Denis Centre. A similar letter was sent to the **President of the Faculty Association**.

Edwin Habib, President

RALPH COWAN'S D-DAY (*reprinted from the Windsor Daily Star*)

ON MAY 7TH, 1945, our corvette was completing convoy escort duty from Londonderry, Ireland to St. John's Nfld. The crew was asked to choose between volunteering to join the battle against Japan or, depending on seniority, taking a FIFO (First in, First Out) demobilization option. At 20, with almost four years of service and over 30 North Atlantic tours on corvettes, my choice was easy. I went for option two.

THAT DAY BECAME FOR ME, "THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE". I had already given thought to my future career and personal goals. But the formalization and priorities needed more work. Finish formal education at the highest possible level; share my time and talents with my country and community; marry the right lady and raise a family I can be proud of and enjoy. After 50 years, six of which are retirement years, I look back and thank God, family, the DVA, and Lady Luck for the blessings I've had. **RALPH K. COWAN.**

[**Ed. Note:** I taught Ralph his first class in Economics at the old Assumption College in the fall of 1950. He did his doctorate at the University of Michigan. Then he came back to teach at Windsor, first in Economics, then in Bus. Ad., separated by a ten-year stint with Chrysler in Detroit. Clearly, his goals on D-day have been more than fully achieved. Congratulations, Ralph.]

The Retirees' Newsletter is published by the Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association of the University of Windsor **five times per year** (Feb., Apr., Jun., Oct., and Dec). The Editor is **Bill Phillips**; Contributing Associate Editor, **Joan Hackett**. Contributions of news items and articles of interest to our membership are much welcomed. All correspondence should be addressed to The Editor, Retirees' Newsletter, Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Assoc'n, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON., N9B 3P4. Or use our E-mail address - philli3@uwindsor.ca

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Retirement Glimpses

EDITOR'S NOTE: There were no responses to my "open invitation" last time for glimpses into members' retirements... So, like any editor worth his floppies, I decided to take the plunge myself. After all, I *couldn't* leave the page blank; and what better excuse for some first-person indulgence! So here goes...
Editor

BILL PHILLIPS - ECONOMICS / *finishing in Africa; flag selling; and some "philosophy"*

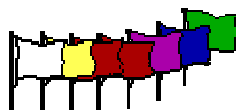
I retired from Economics in '87. For the first four years I continued my work in Africa: three to four trips a year to Lusaka, Zambia. Sadly, in 1991, my boss over there - Zambia's President Kaunda - got the boot in one of Africa's first free democratic elections. For me: Africa game over. I spent 1992 doing a two-volume, 500-page final report for The Canadian International Development Agency on why 26 years of sound economic advice to an African president (one of our honorary graduands, yet!) could have seemingly gone up in smoke.

Since the day I retired in '87, my wife and I have run a business *retailing flags and flag-poles*. We aim principally at business and industry. Today I'm willing to bet two grommet-hooks against a toggle, that we are the biggest such seller in Windsor. That venture has been fun, real fun! Then in 1990, Norm Shklov, Ralph Cowan and I re-started the Retirees' Association, and I started tapping out a communiqué known as The Retirees' Newsletter.

My feelings as a retiree? They're two-fold. **First**, gratitude. It was *pure luck* that my career (like those of many of us now in the Association) spanned what were probably the "best" four decades Canadian universities have ever known. My heart goes out to the young people who are just starting out in today's much more demanding environment; and I truly wish them godspeed and all the extra help they'll need.

Secondly, well, retirement is a bit of a leveller. One would think that all of us who have reached retirement age would *know* what the passage of time can do. But it's *still* a jolt when first you visit your old department and find people - a secretary perhaps, or some new faculty members - who have never heard of you... *Not easy on one's self-esteem!* ... **My philosophy in such a situation?** When you have given all you can reasonably be expected to give, move over gracefully and make way for those youngsters coming up. Try saying aloud, "*Now* I simply do not *matter* any more!", and *mean* it; you'll feel freer than you've felt in years. Incidentally, when you've reached that point, you *must* go out straightway and ***buy yourself a flag company*** The world will unfurl before your very eyes. And, yes, I do know of a deal that might be coming up soon at a price you just can't refuse!

W.G.P., Windsor



TWO OUTSTANDING SUMMER EVENTS PLANNED FOR JULY/AUG

I. THE DETROIT SYMPHONY MOZART PROGRAM



FRIDAY, JULY THE 21ST

Meet at Meadowbrook at 6.15 p.m. on lawn. Bring lunch incl. wine, for picnic. Rent lawnchairs or bring own. Concert starts 8p.m. Follow signs on I-75 north. Meadowbrook is appr 1 hr from Windsor.

II. THE SUMMER PICNIC AT BOB WHITEHURST'S WATERFRONT PROPERTY

SUNDAY, AUGUST THE THIRTEENTH AT 3 P.M.

The venue: 11044 Riverside Drive.

Barbeque - hots and hamburgers. Bring salad, wine or dessert

Cost: \$3.00 per person to cover "hots", coffee and clean-up.

PHONE JOHN LA GAIPA (966-2350) BY AUG 5. ALL MEMBERS WARMLY WELCOMED.

"Bad Hair Day" Joan Hackett

The Scene: Big V. Saturday a.m. Waiting to check out. One woman ahead of me.

"Aha! ... be out of here in no time!" No way. Woman and cashier busy gossiping. What a shame ... her *Prom* night! ... Awful important ... washed it out ... remember "them" beehives?

Her mom "don't" know what to make of it ... if it "was" my kid ...!

This litany was sprinkled with sighs, clucks, and *long* silences.

SOMEONE had had an atrocious "hair-do". The customer uttered her last words on the subject and swept out. I dumped my packages on the counter, the cashier punched up \$1.99, stopped, spotted the Prom-goer's mother, waved her to the counter, the mother wedged herself in beside me and *they* were off! I stared at the \$1.99, my eyes glazed over. "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em", floated through my brain, and I did.

A STUNNING GIRL, the daughter, joined us at the counter. Her classic features were accentuated by her sleek new "hair-do". I piped up, "You look lovely, your hair is perfect". "It's too pouffy", she said, patting her head. The cashier chimed in, "It makes you look too old". I disagreed. "It makes *her* look too old!" she hissed. Mother and daughter began to leave, the cashier punched up another \$1.99, stopped, shouted to them, "Come back at five and let me see the dress". Reluctantly she let them go and *FINISHED ADDING MY BILL!*

THIRTEEN FACULTY MEMBERS RETIRING THIS YEAR

Thirteen faculty members are retiring during the current year. They are: **Thoms F Carney**, Communication Studies; **P. Kumar Chatterjee**, Social Work; **Olga L. Crocker**, Business Administration; **Eric W. Channen**, Computer Science; **Sek P. Chee**, Civil and Environment Engineering; **Krishan Duggal**, Mathematics; **Roland S. Englehart**, Psychology; **Charles E. Fantazzi**, Classical and Modern Languages; **Gino M. Fracas**, Kinesiology; **Nigel E. Hedgecock**, Physics; **Witold T. Kierkus**, Mechanical and Materials Engineering; **Eugene J. McNamara**, English; **Edward A. Watson**, English.

The Association is contacting each of the new retirees with a warm invitation to join. The **Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association** is your best, possibly your only, direct link to the University during your retirement years, and an excellent way of keeping in touch with former colleagues.

NEWS FROM UNICOM

STUART NEASE has advised *The Newsletter* of continuing developments in **UNI-COM**, the organization on campus whose **primary object** is: to provide for retired persons an organizational structure within a University environment to allow access to resources for research and scholarly activity so that such persons may continue their professional, research and community related activities during retirement.

UNI-COM recently moved its office from Assumption University to **360 Sunset Ave.**, third floor. Its telephone is the same: 253-4232, Ext. 3430.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, UNI-COM has continued its speakers program. In summer 1994 it arranged the first appearance of **Elderhostel** in Windsor. It was very successful. Some 20 people spent July 16th to 20th on campus, living in Cartier Hall and eating at the CAW Student Centre. A **second Elderhostel Program** is planned for this summer.

Project C.A.R.E., funded by Health Canada, is going ahead under the guidance of **John LaGaipa, Linda Long, Gabe Seguin, Bill McRaw, Ezio Marzotto and Larry Foley**.

Nease issued a reminder that **ALL RETIREES ARE INVITED TO JOIN** and to talk with the program committee about their ideas and interests. Dues are \$25. per year payable directly to UNI-COM, or \$35. payable to the University. In the latter case, a receipt is issued by the University for income tax purposes.

A REVIEW OF: FREEDOM OF THE CZECHS: General J. Cervinka's Contribution, by **V.B. Cervin** with **Joan C. Cervin** (published privately, 1993).
Reviewed by Eric W. Channen.

This book is a description of an interesting, but little known, series of events that took place in Russia during and just after the First World War. They were an important part of the struggle of the Czechs to escape the domination of Austria, and presaged the formation of the state of Czechoslovakia-that existed between the two World Wars. During the period covered by the book a relatively large army was built up in Russia, consisting of Czechs already domiciled there, and of others captured from the Austrian Army. It was created largely through the efforts, and was under the command, of General Jaroslav Cervinka, a Czech who had been an officer in the Russian army for some time. By the end of the war it consisted of two divisions, one of which had fought successfully alongside the Russians - in fact, by 1917 it was probably the most effective military unit in Russia. At the end of the war an attempt was made to transfer this army to France by moving it to Vladivostok via the Trans-Siberian railway, although this book does not describe the operation in great detail.

The authors treat mostly the difficulties faced by General Cervinka, first in obtaining authority from the Russians to form a distinct Czech army (rather like the Free French Army in World War II), and later in dealing with the various Czech leaders in exile, including T.G. Masaryk, later president of Czechoslovakia.

The authors deal with an involved series of events in a lucid manner, basing their arguments on source documents that are not widely available. They attempt to address the complexities by structuring the work in a series of chapters, each of which is an essay dealing with the topics from a different viewpoint. While this is effective to some degree, it leads to some repetition.

Nevertheless, the book presents a fascinating study of the intricate relationships that develop between political and military factions among expatriate nationals seeking to free their homeland.

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