

TUARP “Times”

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Trent University Association of Retired Persons

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Faculty Co-Chair: To be named; Staff Co-Chair: Tony Storey 2018-2020

Editorial

The Silent Gavel

Wednesday May 6, 10 am.

I am at home. In front of me sits the TUARP gavel (generously donated by former Co-Chair Barb Johns), which I have taken great pleasure to use as Co-Chair when signalling the beginning of our General Meetings. Gavelling the meeting to order is one of those small, delicious pleasures. On one occasion a colleague good-naturedly admonished me, “Careful Tony, you’ll break it.” We should have been gathering at the Trent Student Centre for our morning meeting, followed by the annual Heart of Trent luncheon. In lieu of that meeting, we are publishing this Special Edition of TUARP Times. Two former presidents of Trent have contributed messages from Peterborough and Belcarra B.C., along with colleagues in Kingston, Warsaw (Ont), Stewart Hall and Peterborough.

I am very grateful for our newly appointed colleague Danielle Britton who has joined the Alumni Engagement and Service office after years of service at Conference

Services. She started her new position only to be sent home to work remotely. Her encouragement was important to taking on the publication of this newsletter.

Going forward, we will plan as if we can gather in October for our next meeting, but of course we will be governed by the advice of university officials and public health authorities.

Until then, the TUARP Executive extends its best wishes to all our retirees with the fervent hope that your health and safety have not been affected during the past two months.

We *will* meet again.

Peterborough, Ontario

The TUARP meetings and teas are among my favorite gatherings of the year. It is disappointing not to have the opportunity to see my colleagues this May. I always enjoy the cheerful and stimulating company of friends, both long-time and those more recently met. I greatly enjoy and appreciate the thoughtful reports that

are presented at the meeting and it is a particular pleasure to learn of new developments and contributions to the university we have all helped to shape.

Our Trent is thriving, even in difficult times, and we should feel pride and pleasure.

To borrow the title of Professor David Gallop's 50th Anniversary publication, *Floreat Tridentum*, May Trent Flourish!

Christine and I send profound good wishes from our home in Peterborough.

Thomas H.B. Symons
Founding President and Vanier Professor
Emeritus

Belcarra, British Columbia

On the eve of the Victoria Day long weekend, we are surveying a world that is both familiar and strangely unfamiliar in a myriad of ways depending on where we live and how much of our lives have been discombobulated in the past few months. At the very least, to resort to a well-worn cliché, we do live in interesting but very painful times.

Mayling and I are very fortunate to live in a small village of c.800 inhabitants on the edge of the ocean and in the midst of the mountains, less than an hour's drive from Vancouver. At this time of year a major concern is keeping our "social distancing" from the resident black bears and cougars, the former having recently awoken from hibernation and searching for food and the latter approaching the mating season with hysterical midnight screaming.

More broadly, British Columbia has done well in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic under the quietly charismatic, calm and reassuring leadership of Dr. Bonnie Henry, the provincial Officer of Health [can any

other person in that position claim to have had a stunning pair of red shoes made and named in her honour by the famous designer John Fluevog <https://www.fluevog.com>]. The province has also benefitted from the work of Adrian Dix, the Minister of Health, and the powerful support of the Premier John Horgan who, as many of you will know, is a proud Trent graduate. A number of key members of his team are also Trent graduates and it is generally held that the government has done a very good job to date. Given the fact that there is a minority government here, there is very little political animus in the air.

In the more than a decade since I retired from the history Department at Simon Fraser University in 2008, I have kept deeply engaged in a number of matters in the post-secondary education field. I have reviewed a number of academic program proposals, several institutions, serve on the board of governors of a post-secondary institution and acted as a consultant to an institution making the transition from college to university. I have also served on degree quality assurance boards in both British Columbia and, more recently, in Alberta. Both these boards, which are arms-length from the government concern themselves establishing external academic review panels and, increasingly, from colleges as well. The results of these reviews are then examined by the councils and recommendations are made to the ministries of advanced education. The quality assurance boards also review and "audit", on an approximately seven year cycle, the program approval and 5-7 year processes for new and existing degrees in individual institutions.

In an era where transparency and accountability for public spending has greatly intensified, the newly established

and refurbished degree program approval processes and audits have generally been welcomed by both institutions and governments. A great deal of mutual learning and mentoring has occurred and I would argue strongly that the post-secondary higher education system in Canada is both effective and broadly meeting the needs of the country.

All of this will be (and is being) tested by the Covid-19 pandemic in the months and years ahead. In March 2020, in the space of little more than a week, the entire post-secondary system in Canada transitioned from being in a largely face to face instruction mode to being entirely online. This is a staggering and largely extremely successful experiment. There were, to be sure, many problems for both students and instructors as well as the able and hardworking individuals from teaching resource offices and other student support services essential to this transition. The summer will provide further opportunities to refine this process.

What will happen in September at Trent and peer institutions in Canada and beyond? Will students, both domestic and international, return to the University and old routines begin again? It looks increasingly unlikely in most of Canada at this moment in mid-May. The vast majority of instruction will be online with, perhaps, certain limited exceptions for lab-based programs and graduate teaching. At Trent I have full confidence that the President and his very able team will address these matters as successfully as any university in the country. That said, it will be a different world and the challenges, both financial and logistical, are infinite. I can honestly say that I am glad I am retired, and largely, but not fully, on the sidelines!

Finally, what of the slightly longer term for post-secondary education? I would suggest that the relatively small amount of online teaching that had been going on in Canada will certainly steadily increase over the years and that the “model” that many of us hold dear for university teaching and learning will be subject to continuing, even dramatic, change. As it has done in the past, is doing now and will do in the future I have every confidence that Trent will be a leader in these changes and a model for going forward.

Professor John Stubbs
President Trent University 1987-1993
President Simon Fraser University 1993-1997

Kingston, Ontario

Here in Kingston we are doing very well. As of May 4, the city has had about 60 Covid-19 cases, but no deaths from it and it has not been an over whelming problem for the hospitals. Just about everything is shut down, of course; my hair is shaggy and I need some supplies from Staples-but so what!

Twenty-five years ago we inherited a vast quantity of family correspondence and pictures, boxes of the stuff. We did a rough examination at the time but put most aside for “another time”. That time is now; Audrie has been sorting, labelling, weeding for three weeks and is still not near the end. It’s from her family, but when she’s done we can then start on my family’s stuff. A lesser amount, but equally unsorted. Our children will appreciate our efforts.

That, plus yard work and lots of reading-mostly re-reading old favourites. We’re surviving without difficulty and I hope you are too.

Bruce Cossar

Peterborough, Ontario

The Joys of Gardening

We have always had the good fortune of possessing a large garden area at 28 Weller Crescent. This has become increasingly valuable during the current lockdown. I have always taken a keen interest but Gillian is the Master Gardener. However since the onset of the lockdown I spend two to three hours a day in the garden. I really am not sure what I am doing but with Gill's guidance we have developed a natural garden with numerous fountains, animals and other statues, together with a pond that attracts an abundance of birds and wildlife. I also work under the pretext that weeds are in the eye of the beholder so it is not necessary to spend inordinate amounts of time trying to eliminate what might normally be referred to as weeds. Weed killer is therefore not required and compost is used for nourishment. We also have lots of pots and are about to start a vegetable patch.

Not only does gardening mean you are out in the sun, wind and rain and getting energy but you are also cavorting with nature. . Today in the second week of May you would be out in the snow flurries and freezing temperature. Additionally one is also getting good exercise and enhanced motivation. Interestingly enough a paper published last week by the University of Exeter, UK concludes that the benefits of gardening are comparable to the benefits of living in the wealthier areas of any city and that 71% of the respondents to their survey who were involved in gardening stated they were in good health.

I feel very fortunate to have found this activity and that we have the space to pursue it. Having spent my career at Trent cajoling students and anyone who would listen, and some who wouldn't, to get

involved in regular exercise, I have now learnt and experienced the benefits of yet another form of exercise.

Paul Wilson

Stewart Hall, Ontario

Fox Kits in a Driveway Culvert

We pop up and tumble at both ends of this long round hollow.

Our mother is away somewhere getting us something for breakfast.

We can hear the neighbourhood kids as they bounce on their trampolines.

We watch the usual walkers watching us.

They hold up
flat things in front of their faces
and click.

If their dogs on their leashes snarl
Too fiercely
at us, we hide inside our familiar pipe
for a little while.

Never having felt any other way,
we feel safe.

Professor emeritus Gordon Johnston

Warsaw, Ontario

At the request of the editor, these 'be of good cheer' playlists are thoughtfully provided by Glen and Kathleen Easson.

FEEL GOOD SONGS

Walking On Sunshine - Katrina and the Waves

Go My Way - Gordon Lightfoot

Dancing Queen - ABBA

Chances Are - Johnny Mathis

I'm A Believer - The Monkees

Higher - Johnny Reid

You Raise me Up - Josh Groban

Bowser MacRae - David Francey

You've Got A Friend - Carole King

Baseball Song - Kenny Rogers

Everybody - John Prine

Top of the World - The Carpenters

BRING A SMILE SONGS

Cocktails For Two - Spike Jones

Let's Talk Dirty in Hawaiian- John Prine

Biggest Parakeets - Jud Strunk

My Girl Bill - Jim Stafford

Alice's Restaurant - Arlo Guthrie

Camp Granada - Allan Sherman

I'm Going Miss Her - Brad Paisley

I'm My Own Grandpa - Homer and Jethro

Broken Solar Home - Nigel Russell (Rob Minderman)

Humming Song - Martin Mull

Lord Mr. Ford - Jerry Reed

Lumberjack Song - Monty Python

Peterborough, Ontario

The May 2020 issue of the *Peterborough Historical Society Bulletin* (Issue 467) includes an article by Professor Dale Standen, Spanish Flu meets Covid-19 in Peterborough. In 1918, 31 deaths were attributed to the Spanish Flu and complications from pneumonia. A proportional number of deaths with the City's population today would be 130.

"In 1918, the responses of Boards of Health and governments to the Spanish Flu were remarkably similar to current measures

against the spread of Covid-19. They advocated and employed physical distancing, contact-tracing, hand washing, coughing and sneezing into a handkerchief, isolation and disinfecting. At the peak of the epidemic in Peterborough, Dr. Amys [the medical officer of Health for Peterborough] closed theatres, dance halls, schools, Sunday schools and churches, and threatened to close all factories if things became desperate. When the hospitals were overwhelmed, in four days he turned the vacant Oriental Hotel on Hunter Street into an emergency hospital.”

Professor Standen concludes his article, “We won’t know the outcome until the pandemic is past, and it will pass. What we do know is that authorities took lessons from the Spanish Flu experience of 1918-19 to improve public health responses, and they will take lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic, as well. SARS 2003, Ebola in Africa and measures taken in Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea against Covid-19 have shown that we already have enough knowledge to prevent or impede pandemics. Though essential, knowledge alone is not enough: it must be accepted and applied. Acceptance and application are political and cultural challenges, not medical scientific ones.”

Symons Campus, Peterborough

It’s April 20th and I’m at Mackenzie House-alone because of the pandemic. I’m here to clean out my office because this is my last week at Trent. Then I’m retiring to isolation.

For over 20 years I’ve worked in the Development office and most of it has been at Mackenzie House on the east bank (formerly Mackenzie Gallery). This old farmhouse has a history of resident ghosts

and curious noises that we believe are from the Campbell family who resided there for generations. But I’ve always hoped that the sounds are coming from the two sump pumps in the basement. Over the years, we’ve been surprised by wildlife in the building...bracelets on the floor have really been coiled snakes. Frogs have joyfully leaped around our ankles in the basement and bee hives have been found in the walls. Despite these calamities, Mackenzie House is a warm and inviting environment filled with the voices and laughter of my colleagues and student workers.

For the past five weeks, along with my colleagues, I have been working from home and through technology was able to access our electronic files and databases. Weekly department meetings were held through Zoom. When it came to training my replacement, it wasn’t possible to share information side-by-side so I shared written instructions through email with lots of conversations by phone.

Today I’m alone as I sort through paper and fill the shredding container with my memories of the good times with donors and volunteers at Trent. When I leave today there will be no hugs, shaking hands, pats on the back or farewell lunches with colleagues. As I set the alarm and lock the door to Mackenzie House, I will say my final goodbye to the blooming daffodils outside the door.

The next day I opened my email to find a Kudosboard-a creative and wonderful way to say goodbye comprised of lovely notes from current and former colleagues. This was the Big Hug that I needed!

And someday soon I hope to hold my new granddaughter, born into isolation.

Jennifer MacIsaac

Otonabee River, Peterborough

“When a day that you happen to know is Wednesday starts off by sounding like Sunday, there is something seriously wrong somewhere.”

The opening line of *Day of the Triffids* by John Wyndham

My home is on the Otonabee River in central Peterborough, a scenic place to ride out the pandemic. I have long been an avid reader and likely own about two to three thousand books. Early on I resolved to read with purpose. This took me to a 12-volume masterpiece, *Remembrances of Things Past* by Marcel Proust. I studied the novel with Professor Geoffrey Eathorne in his legendary English course, The Twenties. There was a parade of guest lecturers with deep knowledge of different dimensions of the extraordinary decade of the 1920s. I recall lectures by Deryck Schreuder, Stuart Robson, Dr. Julia Phelps, Jacqueline Southam and an electrifying lecture about Berlin in the '20s by Professor Gilbert Bagnani.

It was quite a feeling to straddle two worlds, the society of France in the late 19th century as evoked through the Narrator's childhood, youth and adulthood and the present pandemic world.

I also embarked on a four-day 'rabbit-hole', composing a Pandemic Polemic derived entirely from the titles of books housed in an elegant bookcase dedicated to my librarian mother Barbara Storey. As my brother Professor Ian Storey dryly noted, perhaps I had too much time on my hands.

And then there were the deaths. My friend and former colleague Dianne Lister retired to the nearby village of Bobcaygeon. The Pinecrest Nursing Home there was one of the first soundings in Canada of the alarm bells signalling the terrible vulnerability of

older residents in care settings. Each day, the deaths mounted as a terrible story unfolded. Twenty-nine residents at the nursing home died, along with the spouse of one of the residents.

A local Ward Councillor in the village and a group of skillful citizens including Dianne Lister established a fully functioning Emergency Relief Fund in less than 24 hours with the professional expertise and experience of the City of Kawartha Lakes Community Foundation.

The Relief Fund has received donations exceeding \$160,000 to support those most directly affected by Covid-19. Dianne chairs a Citizens Advisory Committee that allocates funds or support in the form of food, supplies, transportation, and access to crisis support or mental well-being counselling.

Tony Storey

TUARP 57th General Meeting

Wednesday October 28, 2020

10 am to 12 Noon

Location to be announced

Dues of \$10 are payable at this meeting or by mail.

Guest Speaker to be announced

Alumni Engagement and Services Update

Convocation Update:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions on social gatherings, the Trent University June Convocation ceremonies have been postponed.

To recognize our graduates, a special virtual celebration will be hosted on Saturday, June 13 at 11am EST. While we remain physically separated, this celebration will be sure to bring 2020 grads together to mark their accomplishments and to make virtual memories. This will be one for the ages as we pay special tribute to the resilience and perseverance of our 2020 grads. To watch the virtual celebration, visit <https://www.trentu.ca/convocation/>.

Graduates will have the opportunity to participate in Trent's most time-honoured tradition of Convocation as they have been invited to campus next June to join in the 2021 ceremonies. In the meantime, they will receive their degree parchments and Alumni Association welcome packages by courier.

The Class of '67 reunion, which was scheduled to take place alongside convocations celebrations, has also been postponed until next year.

We are very grateful to all members of TUARP who volunteer to support Convocation ceremonies and events every year. We look forward to next June when we can gather again.

TUARP Digital Resources Workshop:

It is likely that in these lockdown times, you have been introduced to some new feature on your tablet or cell phone, or a new platform to help keep you connected to family and friends. Did you know that as TUARP members you have access to Trent University Alumni Association benefits, including an abundance of digital and virtual resources hosted by the University?

On **Tuesday June 9th at 10 am**, join Danielle Britton from the Alumni Engagement and Services Department as she hosts a live workshop introducing many of the electronic resources available to TUARP members. For more information, or to register, please email alumni@trentu.ca. Space is limited. Registration closes at 4 pm on Friday June 5th.

New Members and Remembrances

We would have announced at the May 6th General Meeting the following:

New Retirements - Staff

Karen Mauro
Trudy Kirschner
David Marshall
John Boudreau
Jean Hall
John Britton
Jennifer MacIsaac

There were no new faculty retirements.

Deaths since October 2019:

Staff

Shirley Lynch
Ina McLean
Margaret Sanders
Marlene Wilke
Agnes Willshaw
Linda Matthews

Faculty

Iswar Chakravartty

TUARP PURPOSES

[From the Constitution of the Association of Faculty and Staff Retirees of Trent University-Approved October 24, 2001]

1. To facilitate the continuing association of its members with Trent University and each other.
2. To safeguard and represent the interests of its members with Trent University and with faculty and staff unions.
3. To monitor the pension and benefits entitlements of its members.
4. To serve as a potential resource pool of expertise and knowledge for the benefit of Trent University

Heat barbecue and grill cheese until the sides begin to bulge. Remove and serve with baguette. Serves 8.

The most recent edition of Trent Magazine is available at www.trentu.ca/alumni and news and events at Trent is available at www.trentu.ca/newsevents.

TUARP is affiliated with the College and University Retiree Association of Canada (CURAC).

Please visit their website for more information at www.curac.ca.

Editor's Choice Recipe

I saw this recipe in Cottage Life magazine many years ago. It became a perennial favourite at the Alumni Association Planning Retreat.

Marinated Barbecued Brie

1Tbsp lemon juice

1Tbsp olive oil

½ red pepper, finely chopped

1 Tbsp fresh parsley, finely chopped

1 clove garlic, chopped or pressed

1 tsp Dijon mustard

¼ tsp black pepper

1 8 oz wheel of Brie cheese

Baguette

Combine the marinade ingredients. Poke the top of the wheel of cheese with a fork repeatedly. Pour the marinade over the cheese and store in the refrigerator.

TUARP EXECUTIVE

Staff Co-Chair: Tony Storey
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Faculty Co-Chair: to be determined

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TUARP acknowledges with thanks the financial assistance of Trent University.

Submissions for TUARP “Times” are strongly encouraged. Deadline for submissions for the next edition is September 1, 2020 and may be sent to tonystorey71@gmail.com.

**Past issues of TUARP “Times” are posted on the TUARP website:
<https://mycommunity.trentu.ca/alumni/tuarp>**