

## TRENT UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS

### MINUTES OF THE 58th GENERAL MEETING

5 May, 2021

Online via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: John Casserly, Gina Collins, Bruce Cossar, Nancy Elliott, Michael Fox, Pat Gage, Dorothy Gill, Alena Heitlinger, Chris Huxley, Winnie Janzen, Roger Jones, Catherine Joyce, Trudy Kirschner, P.J. Lewis, Susan Mackle, Raymond March, Janice Millard, David Morrison, Doris Pereschuck, Sue Robinson, Robert Stairs, Ian Sandeman, Dale Standen, Tony Storey, Jim Struthers, Paul Wilson  
Guests: Danielle Britton, Julie Davis, Stephen Stohn, Stephanie Williams

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Gina Collins.
2. Welcome and Co-Chair's remarks: Gina Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following remarks: a) Gina reported on the thank you letter from Mrs. Christine Symons for TUARP's donation to the Symons Trust in memory of Tom Symons. A thank you letter was also received from Professor Christopher P. Dummitt, Chair of the Committee of Trustees of The Symons Trust Fund for Canadian Studies b) the Heart of the Trent award ceremony will be held this afternoon at 3 p.m. via Zoom and TUARP members are invited to attend c) congratulations to Janice Millard for an Ontario award for her volunteer service to Trent Archives and elsewhere and d) all retirees are invited to join TUARP and if you know anyone who has not joined please ask them to do so. Gina noted there will be a change to the agenda with Julie Davis being #3 on the agenda and Stephanie Williams being #4.
3. Welcome to Julie Davis, Vice President of External Relations and Development: Gina congratulated Julie on the renewal for her third term and noted Julie's expanded duties i.e. the addition of the development of Trent lands to her mandate. Julie reported that at the February Board of Governors meeting the latest [Trent Lands Plan](#) was approved. She noted that long term care and residences for seniors are in short supply in the Peterborough area. For example, there are 2500 people waiting for up to 4 years or more for long term care. The provincial government has announced a competition for funds for the construction of long-term care facilities. Trent met with local groups who interact with seniors including Fleming College, the Hospital and Community Care and they supported the idea of Trent joining the competition. Trent won funds from the province and [the announcement](#) was made March 18. In addition to a long-term care building, that will be on Trent lands there will be construction of a "[seniors village.](#)" Trent's partner - [peopleCare](#) - has 10 homes in southwest Ontario and are a not for profit organization. They have concluded a research agreement with Trent so that research may be undertaken at the facility. This will be a resource for those studying kinesiology, nursing and other disciplines. In the care facility there will be facilities for dementia care in a 32 bed secure ward and graduated levels of care as well as beds for Indigenous people. The location of the care facility and the seniors village will be at the northwest corner of Water St. and Woodland Dr. The village will include independent living possibilities, gardens (including agricultural ones) and services like banks, hair salons, perhaps a small food store and a small medical centre. peopleCare looks for interesting community links, for example, at their Oakcrossing London facility music students from Western provide music for residents and in turn are provided with housing in the facility. Ray March noted that underground parking would be an essential facet because it aids the mobility of older people.
4. Welcome to Stephanie Williams Vice President Human Resources: Stephanie updated TUARP on the UPP (University Pension Plan – for Faculty). 99% of members approved of the proposal so the transition from the TUFA plan to the UPP plan is underway. Trent will file an application by the

end of May to join the UPP and anticipate the process to be done by or before Nov. 1. TUARP members will receive the same pension as they have always received and the SRA will still be run by Trent. The indexation formula for the UPP will be based on returns in the whole UPP plan. Hopefully they will be better than they are now since the funds will be pooled with U of T, Guelph, and Queen's. A larger pool of funds can generate better investment opportunities and returns. Stephanie then talked about some the plans undertaken for management of Covid at Trent. Otonabee College residence because a separated building and those who had tested positive were accommodated there using guidelines from Public Health. All students have gone home and next fall Trent hopes to have mostly in-person instruction plus some still online. A major research study of [wastewater](#) is being conducted by Prof. Christopher Kyle. Interestingly it seems that Covid shows up 5-7 days in wastewater before it is detected in a person.

5. Introduction of New Members: Faculty – Chris Metcalfe, School of Environment and Winnie Lem, International Development Studies; Staff – John Okonski, General Maintenance Worker; Carol Weafer-Lloyd, Admissions; Marlene Davis, Assistant Manager Account Servies; Sandra Sisson, Academic Administrative Assistant, Biology; Dorothy Howard-Gill, Demonstrator/Technician, School of Environment; Susan Robinson, Alumni Engagement & Services Coordinator; Cliff Kee, General Maintenance Worker; Mark Dumoulin, General Maintenance Worker; Ron Fox, Electronics Technician, Science Complex.
6. Observances: Faculty – Thomas Symons, Founding President; Gerhard Baumgaertel, Professor Emeriti, Modern Languages & Literatures (German); Staff – Alice Martin (Sharpe), Staff Doctor, Health Services
7. Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2021 via Zoom were approved by a motion of Tony Storey and seconded by David Morrison.
8. Business arising: There was no business arising.
9. Financial report: John Casserly submitted a financial statement. Our net worth is \$2,648.48. We raised \$305 in dues had expenses of \$25 for bank fees and \$500 for the donation to the Symons Trust.
10. Pension matters: John Breukelaar was not available to provide a report. Ray March talked about a group of TUARP members – those who retired before 1999 – who were entitled to receive from Trent up to \$500 annually for health benefits. 28 people retired before 1999 but only 12 have made application for the benefit. Where are the other 16? They have not responded to University inquiries. Ray asked any retired faculty interested in replacing him please contact him.
11. Guest Speaker: Stephen Stohn, Chancellor of Trent University. Tony Story introduced this guest speaker. Stephen is an alum of Trent and played a key role in the early years and was involved in the founding of Trent Radio and The Arthur. He was an admirer of President Symons and took part in the “Keep the President Resident” protest. Stephen moved to Toronto as was part of Epitome Pictures which produced television programs like Riverdale and Degrassi. He received an honorary degree from Trent in 2015.

Presentation by the Guest Speaker Chancellor Stephen Stohn on Tom Symons– via Zoom

Stephen said everybody who ever met Tom has stories because Tom was genuinely engaged in who you were and interested in your views. Stephen enjoyed the latest *TUARP Times* issue dedicated to Tom and reminded us of Ralph Heintzman's book on Tom entitled *Tom Symons: A Canadian Life* (University of Ottawa Press, 2011). Stephen pointed out that while Tom was central to the formation of Trent, Tom also had a stunning range of activities outside of Trent – both national and international, and especially related to the Commonwealth.

What was Tom's "secret sauce"? A prime feature of Tom was his approachability and his respect for students. In his 1963 speech given at the formal opening of Trent, Tom did not use the term "Oxford on Trent" because he knew Oxford couldn't be duplicated, but Tom did believe in an educational system in which faculty and students intermingled on a daily basis and lived their lives together. Tom believed in firstly, creating a multi-interdisciplinary education which produced a cohort of students trained in different ways of thinking, and secondly, he believed in the college system and its tutorials.

Stephen acknowledged that Trent has gone through an evolution over time and we will never get back to the way things were in those early days. He talked with Tom in the last few years and while Tom was proud of what he had created, he knew the original vision was now unrealistic and financially impossible. Nevertheless, he was greatly encouraged now that the administration, colleges and students were now coalescing around the colleges and multidisciplinary. Tom believed Trent was coming back to the original vision he once had.

When the Nassau campus was re-named the Symons campus Tom was not keen on the move because he believed at that time Trent was moving away from his vision and the college system was becoming lost. But things are now changing back. Witness the fundraising initiatives based on colleges and the re-establishment of the colleges' friendly rivalry. Stephen said college students now love their college principals and each college is establishing its own traditions.

Tom was a remarkable man. While personally reserved, he could be spontaneous – witness his famous plunge into the Otonabee River off the steps of Champlain College. The legacy he created in the 60's almost disappeared but is coming back in a new way.

At Trent there is a pervasive sense of the multidisciplinary approach. For example: Trent includes a course on Indigenous studies as mandatory for all students. That inter/multidisciplinary influence shows up in other disciplines like environmental and business studies. One specific example was the development of the Native Management and Economic Development Diploma Program.

What makes Trent students different? They have a unique way of thinking and take a multidisciplinary and cross-cultural approach. They are adaptable, flexible, curious, and compassionate and have a different way of thinking about the world. This legacy of Tom Symons is ongoing and reinforced by the Trent community.

The Tom Symons "secret sauce," said Stephen, is the Tom Symons Trent system.

Gina thanked Stephen for this wonderful talk.

12. Community Announcements: a) The Heart of the Trent is this afternoon via Zoom at 3p.m. b) Gina reported that the Peterborough Regional Science Fair took place virtually on [April 6-9](#). Local winners will go to the Canada Wide Science Fair which will be held virtually in May.

13. Any Other Business:

- a) Danielle Britton described [Trent Day](#) – a day to celebrate the official signing of the Trent Act – April 3, 1963.
- b) Roger Jones commented on the disappointing conditions at the Wildlife Sanctuary Area. He said the paths have been taken over by dog walkers and their pets who are leaving "deposits"

behind. The presence of these pets is disturbing the wildlife so that those who want to see wildlife cannot do so. The situation has disturbed the Peterborough Field Naturalists who have in the past contributed funds to support trail costs. Roger urged people to forward concerns to Julie Davis who now has responsibility for Trent lands.

c) P.J. Lewis asked TUARP members to remember the late Dick Sadleir – an early member of Trent’s Academic Planning Committee which set up the basis for Trent.

d) Gina reminded people we still need a Faculty Co-Chair for the TUARP Executive.

e) Julie Crook, our Social Convener, reported on the tentative Christmas Tea to be held Wednesday December 8 at Bagnani Hall. This event is of course depending on the state of Covid situation.

f) Danielle reported that major changes have taken place near the water side of Champlain College. Trees have been removed due to damage caused by the trees and their roots and erosion of the river bank has taken place. She will make photos of the area available.

g) A number of people talked about memorabilia associated with Trent like the upside-down tie and it was decided that the memorabilia will be a theme for an upcoming social event.

14. Adjournment at 11:50: moved Julie Crook and seconded by Winnie Janzen.