

Volume 44 — October 2023

TUARP TIMES

Trent University Association of Retired Persons

Editor: Tony Storey '71 tonystorey71@gmail.com

Faculty Co-Chair: To be named

Staff Co-Chair: Gina Collins 2022 - 2024

<https://mycommunity.trentu.ca/tuarp>

tuarp@trentu.ca

Mailing Address: TUARP, Trent University, 1600 West Bank Drive, Peterborough, ON, K9L 0G2

A Partaking of Pensioners

By Tony Storey

In the past several months I have attended four university events at which I was struck by the presence of retirees. It is pleasing to meet with former colleagues and be at the coal face of Trent today while bringing our irreplaceable memories and experience of the Trent era we enjoyed.

I was fortunate to play a small part in the Otonabee College 50th Anniversary. There was a receptive and welcoming appetite by current college leaders, led by Interim Principal Dr. Jessica Becking, to hear about the past of the college and include retirees in meaningful roles.

Retirees bring a wonderful blend of insight and recherche to these occasions.

In this edition of TUARP Times, we will dive into three university events that linked the past

to the present: Otonabee 50th, the Jalynn Bennett Amphitheater opening and the TUARP Riverside Garden Party.

The Editor invites suggestions for a collective noun that would aptly describe a group of pensioners. I had hoped the internet might provide inspiration but found only "senior citizens, aged and elderly".

Elder perhaps, but not elderly.

*"Oh, well, a touch of grey
Kind of suits you anyway
That was all I had to say, and
It's alright."*

- A Touch of Grey, Jerome Garcia & Robert Christie Hunter

O-T-O. O-T-O. NABEE: The 50th Anniversary of Otonabee College

We began Saturday May 13 being greeted with a souvenir bag of goodies in the Wenjack Theatre foyer. OC retirees, alumni, students, faculty and staff converged with participants from a parallel event for the Classes of 1967 through 1970. I soon spotted TUARP stalwarts David Morrison and Alena Heitlinger. We would share parts of the overall day's itinerary, while also enjoying distinct activities.

The opening plenary session was moderated

by Chancellor Stephen Stohn and featured three Then and Now presentations. Professor Gordon Johnston took us back to the early 70s when the Canadian literary scene was bursting into bloom. Trent was well positioned through its college system to welcome Canadian poets and writers and others who were warmly embraced. It was interesting to hear the poet AJM Smith referred to as Arthur and to see photos of him along with WO Mitchell, Al Purdy, Margaret Laurence and

others.

Deborah Berrill was our tour guide for the beginnings of the Teacher Education program and later, the School of Education. She compellingly demonstrated the meteoric growth of the initial Concurrent Education partnership with Queen's University and then the development of a Trent School of Education. We also learned of her current passionate involvement in the Trent World University Services Canada Student Refugee Program.

The third speaker was alumnus Dan Longboat who connected the dots beginning with the founding of Indian and Eskimo Studies to today's Enweying First Peoples House of Learning.

One interesting thread that surfaced during all of the speakers' remarks, including the Chancellor, was how at some point, and in some way, Tom Symons played a role in all of the areas being showcased.

Following the plenary there was an opportunity for a refreshment break. The Otonabee

section offered tours while the Alumni reunion made their way to the Archives and Champlain College.

During the break I was in an informal huddle with Pat Gage, Gordon Johnston, Paul Wilson and Gary Reker. Gary asked if I remembered the Otonabee Song he composed to the tune of the Mickey Mouse Club theme song. It is the Editor's immense pleasure to share his 'adapted for the anniversary' version.

Now it's time say hello

To old Otonabee.

O-t-o. O-t-o. nabee.

Otonabee, 50 years

Otonabee, 50 years.

*Forever let us hold our banner high, high,
high, high.*

Come along and sing this song

And join our company.

*O-t-o. O-to. n---a---b----e----e (repeat, but slower
with last 5 letters)*

OTONABEE!

In the many special events I helped organize during my career, we would refer to the U factor. U stood for Unknowable. It might be the arrival of an unexpected attendee or a sound system that wouldn't work or a speaker that took far more time than anticipated. It wasn't normally a welcome moment.

The Otonabee 50 celebration had such a moment. But this was a welcome and happy development and it was triggered by a retiree, Professor Gary Reker, leading those in the Wenjack Theatre in a stirring rendition of the Otonabee Song during the afternoon session. There was an enthusiastic distribution of college scarves and a summary of the Heads of College and their contributions to the development of Otonabee through the years. Although he was away due to travel, Professor Ian Storey had put together this welcome summary beginning with Robert Carter. There was a particularly moving video clip of the late Bob Annett talking about the importance of Otonabee during his time as Principal.

A fine dinner brought the two parallel groups back together, followed by a revival of the Cat's Ass pub.



Dr. Jessica Becking, Interim Principal of Otonabee College.



Paul Wilson and Marilyn Burns at the Otonabee College 50th Anniversary Celebration.



Gary Reker wearing his 1970s Otonabee College hockey jersey.

Grand Opening of the Jalynn Bennett Amphitheatre, Traill College

On an unseasonably hot day at the end of May, members of the Trent and Peterborough communities gathered for an arts and culture showcase to celebrate the opening of the new Jalynn Bennett Amphitheater at Traill College.

Jalynn Bennett studied at the University of Toronto with former president John Stubbs. She was a talented Canadian businesswoman who joined Trent's board in 1987, going on to chair it in 1994. Her estate gift of \$1.3 million along with support from the federal government Canadian Heritage department and the City of Peterborough enabled the construction of the new outdoor performance space. Jalynn Bennett's will exhorted the university to be 'audacious' in deploying her generous bestowal.

Traill College's location in downtown Peterborough opens the door for the Amphitheater to be

a hub for music, theatre, culture and education in a unique setting.

Over a hundred people braved the baking sunshine aided by a well-stocked refreshment tent, seat cushions and loaner umbrellas. Once again, our retirees were well represented by David Morrison and Alena Heitlinger, former Traill leaders Heather Avery and James and Lynn Neufeld, Molly Blyth and Ian Storey. The Indigenous performers Unity, who have performed the Honour Song at countless Convocations, presented Southern Oklahoma Sunny Song, which seemed apt given the weather. Unity includes four alumni including retirees Brenda Maracle O'Toole and Barb Rivett.

Dr. Michael Eamon, Principal of the college, oversaw the proceedings including a show-concluding rendition of Stand By Me.



An attendee sports a Traill t-shirt.



Dr. Michael Eamon addresses the crowd.



Traill College commemorative cake



Unity performers Barb Rivett, Brenda O'Toole.

The TUARP Summer Garden Party

The strongest turn-out of our retirees since the pandemic took place in my riverside backyard on August 23rd.

Almost forty people took part including several university officials: President Leo Groarke, Vice Presidents Julie Davis and Michael Khan, Chancellor Stephen Stohn & Momentous Campaign Co-Chair Linda Schuyler, Associate VP Philanthropy Sherry Booth and Traill College Principal Michael Eamon.

I was particularly impressed with the breadth of university departments represented: Anthropology, Ancient History & Classics, Athletics & Recreation, Alumni, Bata Library, Biology, Chemistry, Cultural Studies, English, Environmental Science, Geography, History, Political Studies, Physical Resources, Security & Parking, Sociology.

Mother Nature went along with our plans to be outside comfortably, with the exception of the occasional breeze blowing over the bud vases.

The Garden Party was an early opportunity for TUARP to wish Leo Groarke well as he begins the final year in the office of the President. He will join the Philosophy department following administrative leave. This inspired the Plato Players, better known as Paul and Gillian Wilson to recite The Philosopher's Song by Monty Python, a moment of fun amongst the pleasure of everyone's company.

David Morrison, who has held multiple leadership roles at Trent, deftly led us through a sum-

mary of Leo's accomplishments over the past nine years. Stabilizing the university's finances, strengthening student recruitment by tethering it to Communications & Marketing, the revitalization of the Colleges, shining a light on the significance and importance of the humanities while deepening Trent's programs at its Ontario campuses and forging unique partnerships with universities around the world.

Congratulations to Leo and his colleagues for making a great deal happen in less than a decade.

Good parties require good volunteers, in this case Julie Kelly overseeing catering, dishware and set-up, Janice Matthews who supported Julie and left me two splendid floral arrangements following the event and Janice Millard who continues to contribute to TUARP above and



Chris Huxley, Alena Heitlinger, David Morrison.

beyond her role as Secretary.

I was also grateful for the bar services delivered by alumnus Will Pearson, who oversees the Research for Social Change Lab at Trill, designs TUARP Times and is the Publisher of [Peterborough Currents](#). Crucially, Will also figured out how to get the sound system working.

It was a true pleasure to host everyone who came but I want to mention three retirees who went out of their way to be with us: Fred Helleiner drove from Presqu'île, Chris Huxley from Toronto and Bob Stairs who resolved that he could begin his drive to Kingston with a quick appearance at the party.

Molly Blyth sent me an email the day after the party, "your garden party was such fun and with all the right people- those who care about Trent and have been its 'institution builders.'"

Both Molly and I shared the sentiment that we very strongly felt the presence of Tom Symons.

He would so greatly have appreciated the good-spirited collegiality on display.



Stephen Stohn and Linda Schuyler.



Fred Helleiner, Colin Taylor, Gillian Wilson



Sue Robinson and Judy Pinto.



Molly Blyth and Michael Khan.



Mary Snack and Julie Crook.

Co-Chair's Remarks

By Gina Collins

Greetings fellow retirees. We hope that this edition of the TUARP Times finds you well. This past August, Tony Storey and the executive committee, hosted a Garden Party at Tony's home. I was unable to attend but hear it was a successful event. (See Tony's article). Our May meeting included a Zoom call. It was great to see P.J. Lewis and Bruce Cossar, and we hope to have this available at future meetings. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM on October 25th. Please note the off site location, the Peterborough Museum and Archives, hosted by alum and Museum Director, Susan Neale '79.

Fall TUARP General Meeting: Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mark your calendars, the **Fall TUARP General Meeting** will be a field trip to the Peterborough Museum & Archives hosted by alum and Museum Director, Susan Neale '79. Following a brief meeting, members will have the opportunity to chat with Susan Neale and tour the featured exhibit, To Honour and Respect: Gifts from the Michi Saagiig Women to the Prince of Wales, 1860.

Together We Can: Trent's United Way Campaign

From now until November 18, Trent University is coming together once again to support the vital work of the United Way through our annual workplace campaign.

As the largest workplace campaign in our region, Trent's impact is great, and the United Way's partner agencies rely on us. Since our humble beginnings in 1964, together we have contributed more than \$2.5 million to the United Way. These funds have played a pivotal role in making a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our community.

With your support, Trent is aiming to raise \$100,000.

Join Team Trent by donating today through

the United Way @ Work online giving page and effortlessly make a local impact. (Reminder: United Way is a registered charity, so your gift will be tax deductible.)

Prizes!

- Retiree Draw: Donate for your chance to win a gift card for the newly opened Railway Cafe in East City.
- Early Bird Bonus: Donate by September 22 to be entered to win a Trent hoodie.

For more information or to get involved with the campaign, please contact unitedway@trentu.ca.

Together, we can continue making a positive difference in Peterborough and Durham.

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

Annual Dues Notice

Voluntary TUARP dues payment of \$10 is invited. Members may pay at the meeting or by Interac banking transfer.

Add TUARP to your banking app list of payees and send to tuarp@trentu.ca.

Reminder to Update Contact Information

Don't miss TUARP newsletters or meeting notices – remember to keep your contact information up to date! If you have moved, changed

phone numbers or email addresses, be sure to update your profile by visiting <http://www.mycommunity.trentu.ca/myprofile> or emailing advancementservices@trentu.ca

Contribute to the next issue!

The Editor warmly invites submissions for the next issue, with a deadline in spring 2024. They may be sent to tonystorey71@gmail.com.

Past issues of TUARP Times are posted on the TUARP website: <http://mycommunity.trentu.ca/alumni>.

TUARP Executive

Staff Co-Chair: Gina Collins gcollins@trentu.ca

Faculty Co-Chair: to be determined

Secretary: Janice Millard jmillard@trentu.ca

Treasurer: John Casserly jcasserly@trentu.ca

Social Convener and Administrator: Julie Crook jcrook@trentu.ca

Newsletter: Tony Storey tonystorey71@gmail.com

TUARP acknowledges with thanks the financial assistance of Trent University.



The Editor and Pat Gage at the OC 50th Anniversary. Tony and Pat were side by side colleagues in the early 1980s.