



NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Number 1, February 2016

**Advance Notice of Annual General Meeting
University Hall, MacDonald Building
Dalhousie University
Thursday, 28 April 2016 1:30 - 3:30**

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***NOTE: If you change your e-mail address, postal address, or telephone number,
please send an e-mail to ADRP@dal.ca, or call ADRP Tel: 902-494-7174 to alert the Membership Chair.***

From the Editors

This issue of the ADRP Newsletter contains abbreviated, though no less important reports from the Board and its Committees. Included is a report of the Nominating Committee that is seeking volunteers to serve in open positions on the ADRP Board.

The ADRP has no paid help, only volunteers. We all benefit when our fellow members are willing to step up and willingly take their turns at the business of the organization. When that happens, I suspect that they find the work is not usually onerous but it is definitely interesting. Meetings, which tend to be monthly (Sept – June), are efficiently run and friendly to attend. Much of the business is carried out via e-mail as well. Keep in mind that organizations such as ours generally benefit from having some ‘new blood’ injected now and again, some different points of view to add to the discussions, or some expertise that can help to make us more efficient and effective in the work that we take on.

Mind you, some Committee work may be a bit tedious at times perhaps, such as in having to track down members who have forgotten to pay their annual dues to remind them to do so. I feel quite sure that we would all agree that the amount of dues is quite reasonable so if you pay by cash or cheque, maybe pay it forward a few years.... think positively! You can do this in person at the Annual General Meeting, or via the mail. For those pensioners who are able to pay by monthly dues deduction, you are a blessing!

Under The SCANS Report and Notices and Opportunities, you will see other possibilities to for volunteering your energies and great brains as well.

Denise Sommerfeld, Co-Editor

Editorial Policy: The ADRP intends to publish the newsletter every three months. We hope the newsletter will serve the following purposes: To provide pertinent information; To provide a forum for the free exchange of views on issues relevant to our membership; and to serve as a documentary record of matters relating to the ADRP. The Editorial Board, under the ultimate direction of the ADRP Board, takes responsibility for the contents of the newsletter. Signed contributions will take the form of short articles and letters to the editor; these will normally represent the opinions of the author, and need not represent the views of the ADRP. Anonymous material will not be considered for publication. The Editorial Board retains the right to edit or reject contributed material and to elicit similar and opposing views surrounding any issue raised.

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President's Report, February 26, 2016

Randy Barkhouse

The February 11, 2016 report to our Retirees Benefit Advisory Committee (RBAC) from our consultant, Kirk Shand, is a convincing document on the value of the ADRP to its members. It included a table of the cost to the surplus fund of premium holiday options for health benefits by year of birth from 1919 forward.

You will recall that several years ago the ADRP was finally successful in a quest led by our fellow ADRP members Philip Welch, Mike Bradfield, and John Barry to partially recover decades of overpayments by pensioners for drug coverage which they were not eligible to receive. Their tenacity led finally to the transfer of nearly \$800,000 to a fund that has since been used to cover premiums for those subject to the earlier excess charges. The premium holiday has been in effect for several years now and projects to cover premiums for those declared eligible for several more years. To put this into a perspective, the annual savings on the single rate for those eligible members is almost twice the annual ADRP membership fee, and on the family rate almost four times.

Further to that success, concurrently convincing the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) to raise a grievance on behalf of early retirees won further financial savings. That included rebates of roughly \$200,000 in excess health plan premiums, and a major reduction in annual premiums subsequently.

I mention these past and ongoing savings in the context of the recent NS Seniors Pharmacare revolt. Although a small ripple in the tsunami of protests, a number of your ADRP Board members lobbied the NS Health Minister, the Premier, and local MLAs for reconsideration of the proposed new table of charges. It was helpful that we had had some prior education on seniors' pharmacare in the September 2015 ADRP Newsletter article entitled ***Canada Needs a National Pharmacare Program – URGENTLY***, contributed by Philip Welch.

Your ADRP representatives have also been influential voices on the Pension Advisory Committee, keeping the issue of missing pension indexation in the forefront. The past two years of discretionary catch-up indexation is some evidence of that effort.

This newsletter is another example of what the ADRP Board provides for its members.

Several members of that Board have served for many years, and are now ready to turn over their responsibilities to others. The following Nominating Committee's Report lists the several positions open for nominations. I strongly encourage members to favorably consider serving when contacted. You will find it much more rewarding and interesting than you might suspect.

To close, I have an update on the status of the ADRP Bursary, established at the April 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM). It has a target of \$25,000 before bursaries will begin to be awarded, and was seeded last summer with a donation of \$10,000 from our accumulated surplus. The total of contributions at mid-February was \$17,500. While we

are still short of the target, with the generosity of members we should reach it by Dalhousie's 2018 Anniversary Celebration.

Nominating Committee, February 28, 2016 **Randy Barkhouse**

This year the ADRP Board members collectively are acting as the Nominating Committee for next year's Board. ADRP members are fortunate to have several of their fellows already willing to offer for the next year. So far we have been fortunate to have volunteers in place for the four Member-At-Large, the President, and the Treasurer positions. Also Chairs have been secured for the Benefits Committee, the Pension Advisory Committee, Membership Committee and Communications (Website and Newsletter).

Volunteers/nominations continue to be sought for the very important position of Secretary, and for the three Vice-President (VP) positions. Please give serious consideration for serving if contacted, but you need not wait for that call; rather, make the call. Volunteers would be enthusiastically welcomed.

If you have questions about duties of the positions, or you wish to make a nomination or to volunteer, please send an e-mail to adrp@dal.ca, or leave a voicemail at 902-494-7174.

Report of the Benefits Committee (BenComm), February 19, 2016 **David Tindall, Chair**

This brief report contains highlights from the recent Retiree Benefits Advisory Committee (RBAC) meeting. A fuller report will be presented to the ADRP Annual General meeting (AGM) in April.

Changes in composition of the Retiree Benefits Advisory Committee:

- Jenny White has replaced Darryl Warren (Board appointee);
- Peter Wallace (ADRP) has replaced Mike Bradfield (and was elected secretary);
- Dianne Pothier (ADRP) was elected Chair, effective the end of the meeting (succeeding David Tindall);
- Chris Patterson (Board) who attended as Observer is expected to replace Lee Crowell when he retires in August.

Medavie Blue Cross Premiums (as of April 1, 2016):

- Medavie Blue Cross (MBC) premiums have increased 12.8% to \$21.45(Single) /\$42.93(Family);
- The Plan now includes foot-care by a nurse on same basis as Physio/Podiatry etc. (i.e. 80% up to a combined \$500 per annum per person);
- SSQ Travel Insurance premiums up 31% to \$17.29(S)/\$34.74(F) (rationale given: the lower CDN \$).

"Pre-September 2009 Surplus" Fund and Premium Holiday Eligibility:

- About \$400K remains in the "pre-September 2009 Surplus" available for premium holiday payments. **Decision:** Those born in 1937 or earlier will still be eligible as of April 1st. (Cutoff backed up one year, removing 12 members from the Premium Holiday)
- Estimated cost to the surplus for the upcoming year is \$77K;
- There remains about 5 years of "Holidays" in the fund;
- Of 390 members in plan, 120 will still be on premium holiday as of April 2016.

The BenComm members:

Randy Barkhouse, John Barry, Michael Bradfield (Secretary), Grace Paterson, Dianne Pothier, David Tindall (Chair, until AGM 2016), Peter Wallace (Chair after AGM) and Philip Welch.

The ADRP nominees to the RBAC: Dianne Pothier (Chair), David Tindall and Peter Wallace (Secretary).

From the BoG: Lee Crowell (Vice-Chair) and Jenny White, with Chris Patterson (Observer) and Kirk Shand (Mercer) as advisors.

Communications Reports, February, 2016

Newsletter – Denise Sommerfeld

We have received a suggestion to include in our newsletter, articles related to our travel experiences enjoyed in retirement. As retirees we may have more time to travel for frequent or occasional, short or extended travels to parts of the world where getting back to our Dalhousie responsibilities is no longer a worry. Other CURAC-related associations have tried this approach in their newsletters and the articles seem well received.

We invite our members to submit such articles (about 1000 words), describing some memorable feature of a recent travel excursion. It may be a positive highlight or perhaps one that is not so positive. Think about those tidbits that perhaps you wish you had known about or prepared for ahead of time and were thrilled, or maybe disappointed with the end experience. What would you suggest to others planning a similar journey? Mind you, with the decline of the Canadian dollar, our travels may be somewhat curtailed for now, but one never knows what can be imagined and accomplished.

We look forward to your contributions which can be sent to Newsletter Co-Editor, Joanne Clovis: j.clovis@dal.ca

Webmaster Report - Randy Barkhouse

New links added to the adrp.dal.ca website recently include:

1. **Pharmacare Program in Each Canadian Province** – a page summarizing the pharmacare system in each Canadian province. This page provides a means to judge the next proposal for NS seniors against what is available in other provinces. Those other jurisdictions are changing also as witnessed by the recent Ontario budget.
2. **Donating Online to the ADRP Bursary Fund** – instructions on entries to make in order to donate online to the ADRP Bursary Fund.
3. **McMaster Optimal Aging Portal** – an extensive set of information on health conditions and healthy aging maintained by the Optimal Aging Knowledge Translation Enterprise at McMaster University, funded by the Labarge Optimal Aging Initiative.
4. **Report of the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Supported Dying** – the Canadian Senate/Commons report co-authored by former Acadia president Senator Kelvin Ogilvie

Members are encouraged to check the site regularly for announcements. An archive of past ADRP newsletters is maintained on the site, as is the list of current Board members.

Membership Committee Report, February 28, 2016 **Colin Stuttard, Chair**

The Association's rolling membership master file covering the years 2013-2016 holds **508** names (earlier records are archived and include names of former members who no longer receive ADRP communications). In addition to members in good standing, the master file includes names of **47 delinquent members who have not paid dues since 2013, and 18 who last paid in 2014**. These folks will soon get gentle reminder notices in the mail in hopes of their continuing membership.

The list of members currently in good standing (the Current file) has 462 names, including **414** paying dues by monthly deductions from their Dalhousie pensions; another **24** who have paid dues for 2016 by cash, and **16** who have not yet paid. So any dear readers whose dues are in arrears, please send us a cheque as soon as possible (ADRP mailing address is on Page 2 of this Newsletter); or, if you're not sure of your status, call **(902) 494-7174** or send an email via the ADRP website <<http://adrp.dal.ca>>

To any pensioner members who have not yet registered for the **memory-free dues-payment method**, please seriously consider doing so (a copy of the monthly deductions application form is at the end of this Newsletter). **You only need to do this ONCE.**

For members without a Dal pension, paying dues (still \$20) before the end of the first quarter of each year will ensure your membership is in good standing (rather than

delinquent); the fiscal year of the Association is the calendar year.

Reminder: Membership dues paid to the ADRP are not income-tax deductible because the ADRP is neither a registered charity nor an employee union.

Pension Report, February 27, 2016
Randy Barkhouse

Dalhousie pensioners have now received two months of their 2016 pensions, enhanced by a second tranche of catch-up indexation, the first instance in several years of automatic indexation, and for many, a reduction of 1.5% of income tax on pension amounts exceeding \$45,000 annually.

None of those boosts to our pensions is likely to occur again next year. The income tax reduction was a one-time measure of the federal government. Recent returns on assets in the Retirees Trust Fund (RTF) are unlikely to achieve the threshold required for any automatic indexation in January 2017. Further catch-up indexation would require a new actuarial valuation to be done, and none is required before March 31, 2017; that valuation would also have to show an adequate surplus in the RTF for the trustees to award further catch-up indexation. The nearest date for any further catch-up indexation is likely to be January of 2018.

In spite of the downturn in nearly all markets in the last year, the RTF did have a positive return of 0.74% for the period July 1, 2015 to November 30, 2015. That positive return in Canadian dollars for the most part reflects the decline in our currency against the U.S. dollar.

Assets in the RTF increased in that period from \$457.6 million to \$480.4 million, but most of that was due to the transfer of funds from the Pension Trust Fund (PTF) to cover the pensions of those newly retired as of July 1, 2015. That \$480.4 million is just over 42% of the \$1.139 billion in the Dalhousie Pension Plan as of November 30, 2015.

At the June 30, 2015 year end, the RTF was estimated to have a surplus of \$35 million and the PTF a deficit of \$75 million for a consolidated going-concern deficit of \$40 million. That deficit requires the Board to pay about \$7 million annually in special payments from the operating budget to amortize the deficit.

Clearly both the operating budget and pensioners would benefit from an upswing in plan returns.

CURAC Report, February 26, 2016 **Randy Barkhouse and Grace Paterson**

The Board and Committees of the College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC), our national association, continue to work diligently on behalf of its members across Canada. CURAC president, Ken Craig, from the UBC retirees association, and CURAC secretary, Edgar Williams, of the Memorial University retirees association, are the two pillars of the CURAC Board, marking the span between the east and west coasts.

CURAC lobbies both the federal and provincial governments on topics of seniors health care, and also pensions, with papers drafted by the health and pensions committees. The expertise that retirees on those committees have, both from their education backgrounds and from decades of experience, is a huge advantage. Indeed, few organizations have the depth of expertise that exists within CURAC.

ADRP Treasurer Grace Paterson serves on the CURAC Health Committee, and President Randy Barkhouse chairs the CURAC Pension Committee.

Linkages with organizations such as the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP), the Canadian Medical Association, and the U.S. Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) provide access to further expertise and influence.

The CURAC web site at www.curac.ca provides access to resources developed for members including the newsletter which is published four times per year.

CURAC holds an annual conference hosted in turn by member associations across Canada. The 2016 conference will be hosted by the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, May 25 - 27. The theme will be "The Changing Post-Secondary Institution."

Carleton University will host the 2017 annual conference of CURAC on May 24-May 26, 2017. The 75th anniversary of Carleton University and the 150th anniversary of Confederation also occur in 2017 which should provide a rich context for the 2017 CURAC conference.

Any member of a CURAC association may attend a national conference. Each member association nominates an official delegate to the annual general meeting.

Following this Report, is a Bulletin from the CURAC Health Policy Committee, that was circulated recently and will be of interest to ADRP members. In it there is mention of the Naylor Report, entitled "Unleashing Innovation: Excellent Healthcare for Canada"; it is available at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/innovation/index-eng.php>



**College and University
Retiree Associations
of Canada**

**Associations de retraités
des universités et collèges
du Canada**

BULLETIN No. 11 January 2016

Sunny Days for Health Care? □ Reflections from the CURAC Health Care Policy Committee

By Linda Kealey: Chair of the Health Care Policy Committee of the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada.

With the change of government at the federal level, health care professionals and provincial governments, as well as social activists, have begun to push for urgently needed reforms and increased funding. Federal contributions to Medicare have gradually declined over the decades from 50% of costs to the current level of 20%, leaving more fiscal responsibility at the provincial level and little national direction. With the current federal-provincial agreement about to end in 2017, the time is ripe for at least a rebalancing if not a thorough overhaul of health care policies and priorities as Canada confronts an aging population, high drug prices and a system that seems geared more to the needs of health care professionals than patients.

Groups such as CARP, the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions have all issued calls for transformative change: CARP's press release (20 January 2016) argues that "the most fundamental change is perspective—design the health care system to serve the needs of the patients not the hospitals and doctors." The opportunity for transformative change appeared in the report from the Advisory Panel on Healthcare Innovation chaired by David Naylor and shelved by the Harper government. All three groups stress the need for a national plan that would coordinate action so that universal access to quality health care is available no matter where you live or how much you earn. Like the Council of Canadians, the CFNU argues for a new Health Accord but one that includes a Social Accord that pays attention, not just lip service, to the social determinants of health. More than the other two groups the nurses place strong emphasis on a national strategy for aging which includes increased access to community and home care for the elderly and those who need mental health services (CFNU, 20 January 2016).

CARP urges that a pharmacare plan should be more than bulk buying; it should include a national formulary and affordable pricing. The Council of Canadians goes even further not only demanding universal access and first dollar coverage but also a publicly administered plan and an "evidence-based national formulary drawing on the best clinical and economic facts." Health care should also be "carved out" from international trade deals and a mechanism put in place to evaluate the impacts of such deals on health care. (Brent Patterson, Political Director, Council of Canadians, 21 January 2016) This is an important point, given the discussions now underway about the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal.

But sunny days for health care also require changing the ways the system works, as the new Minister of Health stated at the end of the meetings with provincial and territorial health ministers. A new era of collaboration, sharing ideas and best practices, seems to be in the works promising innovation in health care delivery. The provinces, health care groups and social activists are however, also insisting that the federal government contribute at least 25% of health care costs by 2025. That may be a key ingredient in whether we will indeed see sunny days in Canadian health care in the future. Given the demographics of aging, such reforms are

CURAC/ARUCC (www.curac.ca) is a non-profit federation of retiree organizations at colleges and universities across Canada. Its primary aim is to coordinate activities that promote communication among member organizations, to share information, provide mutual assistance, and speak publicly on issues of common concern to its more than fifteen thousand members across Canada.

Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS):Feb. 28, 2016
ADRP Liaison: Colin Stuttard (President of SCANS)

SCANS (an almost all-volunteer organization) will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 10, 2016 at 13:00 h in the Capt. William Spry Community Centre, Spryfield, Halifax, to consider annual reports and elect the new Board for 2016-17. To date, there are nominations for two officers (Stuttard and Hazelwood for re-election as President and Secretary, respectively) and ten Directors at Large (including three new candidates). Further nominations may be made before and at the AGM. Candidates are needed for two officer positions: Vice-President and Treasurer. The immediate Past-President is automatically an officer of the Board, and the ADRP Board can appoint one of its members to the SCANS Board. Current bylaws prescribe a minimum of twelve and a maximum of twenty board members.

If there are ADRP members who are also SCANS members and would be prepared to serve as VP or treasurer (no direct past experience necessary), or know of such individuals, please tell any member of the SCANS Nominating Committee as soon as possible (see your past emails). Documents with information about the AGM can be found at <http://www.thescans.ca> under "Resources" - "Documents".

Despite the excellent work of the SCANS' current Treasurer, who has declined to offer for re-election, SCANS' financial situation is precarious. Last summer the board took a leap of faith that increasing membership numbers would continue and agreed to increase the length of the paid Office Manager's work week, recognizing that the College had grown beyond the capacity of volunteers to handle. However, the strongly upward trend in memberships (the sole source of the College's regular funding) from the winter of 2013 (465 members) peaked (temporarily we hope) one year ago at 673 members and this term stood at 629. This has resulted in a projected operating deficit of close to \$10,000 for the coming year. The College has a reserve that would cover this amount, but the situation is clearly unsustainable. In addition, we urgently need funds for a new website.

There are some obvious possible strategies to solve the financial problem: recruit and retain another 74 paying members; raise membership fees (say \$15 to bring the annual fee to \$150 + HST); cut the number of courses offered (currently about 45 courses in Halifax, and 24 in the four smaller chapters) and save perhaps \$500 per course; find a sponsor organization to donate funds or facilities (a local learning establishment, perhaps?); or any combination of these. If SCANS members within the ADRP have suggestions, I'd very much like to hear from you (c.stuttard@ns.sympatico.ca) preferably before March 10.

NOTICES & OPPORTUNITIES

AN INVITATION TO NOMINATE “DAL ORIGINALS”

from

Catherine Bagnell Styles, Assistant Vice-President - Communications and Marketing

Our 200th anniversary provides a tremendous platform for us to tell many stories of Dal’s history, as well as talk about our ambitions for the future. It provides a rich opportunity for us to shine a spotlight on the Dal people who made their mark.

One of the initiatives we’re excited to share with you is called The Dal Originals. Throughout 2018, we’ll tell the stories of 52 Dal Originals — one each week — building a rich mosaic of Dalhousie people who have shaped the university and our world. The stories will also form the foundation for an oral history repository for Dalhousie Archives.

What makes someone a Dal Original? The Dal Originals are the people who influenced, inspired, challenged and strengthened Dalhousie, from its earliest days to today. They are the people whose stories should be remembered, honored and shared.

On behalf of the Dal Originals working group, we’re inviting you to get involved now. While the anniversary may still seem a long ways away, we’re well on our way with planning and identifying; recording and writing these stories starts now. You are invited to take part in two ways. First, we want you to identify and nominate your Dal Originals. Think about the many alumni, faculty, staff, retirees, students, and friends who made Dalhousie what it is – people like Kathryn Sullivan, the first American woman to walk in space; James Robinson Johnston, the first Black Nova Scotian to graduate from university; Arthur McDonald, Nobel Prize winner; L.M. Montgomery and Ernest Buckler, writers who influenced generations; Bertha Wilson, the first woman appointed to Canada’s Supreme Court, and the list goes on and on.

If you know someone who deserves to be recognized as a Dal Original, submit a nomination now. Nominations will be accepted until March 31, 2016. For each nomination, you’ll be entered to win some ‘yet to be developed but sure to be fabulous’ 2018 swag.

Secondly, we’re also looking for 10 – 12 people to be part of our Dal Originals interview team. We’ll provide the training, and you’ll get to meet some great Dalhousie people and really get involved in the story telling.

*A Dal Originals working group, including **Randy Barkhouse, Dalhousie Association of Pensioners and Retirees**; Kim Brooks, Law; Kevin Hewitt, Senate; Ryan McNutt, Communications and Marketing; Michael Moosberger, Dalhousie Libraries; Gail Tomblin Murphy, Nursing; and, Shirley Tillotson, Arts and Social Sciences, will develop specific criteria to use in selecting Dal Originals for interviews.*

Learn more, volunteer and nominate your Dal Original today. Remember, nominations close March 31.

As always, questions, comments and suggestions are very welcome and please, share this invitation broadly. This is one of the first opportunities for you to be involved and there will be many more. I invite you to stay up to date on 200th anniversary planning by visiting dal.ca/200years.

From ADRP member Mary Somers of The Halifax Women's History Society:

There will be a special presentation, *"It's Time for a Woman on the Waterfront,"* which will be presented by **Janet Guildford** at Government House, 1451 Barrington Street in Halifax on **International Women's Day, Tuesday, March 8, 2016**. The presentation is part of the *Evenings @ Government House* series. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the talk begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free of charge but registration is required at: <http://lt.gov.ns.ca/news-events/evenings-government-house/2016-03-08/'it's-time-woman-waterfront'-presented-janet> or phone 902-424-70012.

Janet Guildford is the Chair of the Halifax Women's History Society. Before her retirement, she taught Canadian women's history at Mount Saint Vincent University. She is the co-editor of three collections of essays on Maritime women's history in the 19th and 20th centuries and is a co-author with Judith Fingard and David Sutherland [both ADRP members] of *Halifax: The First 250 Years*.

Janet also will be speaking during the lecture series of the **Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS) on Thursday, April 28, 2016**. This lecture is open to SCANS members, who must register for the event. More details at SCANS (www.thescans.ca) over the next several weeks.

Volunteers being sought: The Halifax Women's Society is also seeking volunteers interested in becoming part of its unique project to erect the first monument to women in Halifax by its target date of November 2017. In particular, volunteers in the critical areas of fundraising, administration and communications, as well as those with managerial and administrative experience are being sought. For more information: womenwaterfront@gmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM

[Ed. Note: Content for the "In Memoriam" section of the ADRP Newsletter is taken from obituaries published in local newspapers and/or funeral home websites, from notices on Dal's Notice Listserv, and on occasion from the deceased's family members.]

We regret to announce the passing of the following of ADRP members. We extend our sincere condolences to their families, colleagues and friends.

Jean B. Duplisea died peacefully on December 18, 2015, in QEII Health Sciences Centre, surrounded by her three children. She was a founding member of the ADRP. Jean was born in 1933 in North Sydney, grew up in Sydney Mines and made her home in Halifax - a city she loved. She enjoyed a fulfilling career, most notably as faculty of the Maritime School of Social Work, Dalhousie University from 1968-1998. Her life was enriched by years living in London, England and Inverness, Scotland. She loved music, books, travelling, nature, art and enjoyed swimming along the shores of spectacular Nova Scotia. She is fiercely missed, deeply loved and fondly remembered. Jean was predeceased by her beloved husband, Onslow Evans 'Dupe' Duplisea, and her sisters, Mora Oxley and Margaret Duval. She is survived by her loving children, Rachael, Sarah and Daniel and her adored grandchildren, Thomas and Madeleine Jean, Ottawa; James Roberts and Rachael; Marguerite, William and Ewan, Grand-Mtis; Annik Gagnand Daniel; brothers, John, Peter and Norman Ross and son-in-law, David

Kadlec. She was loved by many dear friends and family, including Bob, Kate and Mary Oxley.

Dr. Eldon Archibald Gunn, Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering, passed away on February 11, 2016. Born July 13, 1949 in St. Stephen, N.B., Eldon received a BSc(Hon) in Mathematics from Mount Allison University in 1971, a MSc in Mathematics from Dalhousie University in 1975 and a PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1981. He joined the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) as an Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering in 1980. Eldon was instrumental in building and developing the Industrial Engineering Department through a strong research program, and establishing the Master of Applied Science and PhD in Industrial Engineering. He was the Head of the Industrial Engineering Department from 1996-2004 and 2007-2010, and was primarily responsible for the growth and success of the TUNS/Dalhousie program. He supervised many students at the Master's, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral level, and many undergraduate design projects. Eldon published widely in operational research, focusing on manufacturing control, forestry management optimization, mine operations, fisheries operations, tidal power and optimization techniques. He was the founding Chair of Nova Forest Alliance, Nova Scotia's Model Forest and served as Chair of the NS Department of Natural Resources Minister's Technical Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest Management. He served as president (1991-92) of the Canadian Operational Research Society (CORS); served on several committees of NSERC; was a registered Professional Engineer with Engineers Nova Scotia, a member of INFORMS and the Mathematical Programming Society, and a senior member and Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers. Eldon will be remembered for his insistence on "doing the right thing," and his meticulous attention to detail in his teaching, research and graduate supervision. He was equally at ease in the woods in Lunenburg County, fly fishing on the river, or presenting his research at an international conference. Left to mourn are his loving wife of 44 years, Holly (Turner), Dartmouth; his daughter, Heather Gunn McQuillan, and her husband, Jarrod, Morell, P.E.I.; his son, James and his wife, Erika, Moncton, N.B.; beautiful grandchildren, Finlay Gunn McQuillan, Emma Gunn McQuillan, and Jack Gunn.

Mary Gertrude Agnes Knox, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2016. She was born May 3, 1920, in Herring Cove. Mary attended the College Street School, Saint Thomas Aquinas School and Saint Patrick's High School. She served in several parishes of the Roman Catholic Church and was a member of Saint John the Baptist Church Choir for 25 years. During her career, Mary was a Credit Investigator with the Halifax/Dartmouth Credit Exchange, was a Manager of Sears Credit Office in Kentville, and retired after 29 years from Dalhousie University, serving in the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Arts and Science at the time. Over many years, Mary was active in music, having sung solos at weddings and funeral services, as a member of the Dalhousie Choral, The Halifax Choral Society, The Bluenose Belles Chapter of the Sweet Adeline's Inc., and several church choirs. She volunteered with the Metro Food Bank Society, Melville Lodge Nursing Home, and the Paraplegic Society. Mary was a very generous and compassionate lady who will be greatly missed. Mary is survived by her sons, Karl J. (Jeanette), and Terry D. (Mary); she was predeceased by her ex-husband, Karl R. Knox; her only daughter, Pauline Ruby Mountain (Wayne); sons, David Wayne, Anthony Rosaire. Mary will be missed by her 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren, and one great, great-grandchild.

Dr. John A. McNulty, 81, died December 5, 2015 at Victoria General Hospital in Halifax. A Professor of Psychology (1963-1994) and Associate Professor of Medicine (1984 -1994) at Dalhousie University, he was born in Moncton, NB. Following graduation from Moncton High School, he attended the University of Toronto, where he received a BA (1956), Master's (1960), and PhD (1963) degrees. He taught at the University of British Columbia in 1962-1963, before joining the faculty of Dalhousie University in 1963 where he served as Secretary of Senate (1971-1972 and 1980-1983), and as Chair of the Department of Psychology (1972-1974). Besides serving on many University committees, he was active in teaching, taking pride in the accomplishments of his students. He authored several scientific publications, and served on several professional and scientific boards and panels. He had been a member of the National Research Council Canadian National Committee on Psychology, the Scientific Advisory Council for the XXVI International Congress of Psychology, the Task Force on University Diving and Hyperbaric Facilities and Programs for Memorial University of Newfoundland, the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology, and served as President of the Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia (1971-1972). He was an Honorary Life Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association and had been a member of the American Psychological Association, the New York Academy of Science, The Underwater Association for Scientific Research Limited (UK), the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society Inc., and the Dalhousie Society for the History of Medicine. Following retirement from Dalhousie University in 1995, he maintained a *pro bono* appointment until 1999 as an Affiliate Scientist in the Department of Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, where he continued to do research on aspects of hyperbaric medicine. John had coped with the effects of multiple sclerosis since first being diagnosed in 1981. Surviving are his wife, Georgina Thorpe; daughters, Jan McNulty of Blenheim, ON and Jill Craven of London, ON; step-daughters, Gillian Thorpe of Halifax and Shona Dolson (Dana) of Virginia; granddaughters, Kathleen Vince, Heather Vince, Rebecca Craven, Laura Craven and step-grandchildren, Tristan Thorpe and Dena and Carmen Dolson; great granddaughter, Kaylei and his brother, Edward of Victoria, BC.

On the Lighter Side.....

[Ed. Note: The item below was e-mailed to me (DS) by a good friend. I quite like it. It reminds me of the understated sense of humour of my dad who died at age 91, 15 years ago. Alas I do not know where it originated exactly, and you may be familiar with it already, but if so, I hope you will enjoy another read.]

The following is a story of an aging couple as told by their son Michael Gartner, editor of newspapers large and small and president of NBC News. In 1997 he won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. It is a wonderful story and a few good chuckles are guaranteed.....

My father never drove a car. Well, that's not quite right. I should say I never saw him drive a car.

He quit driving in 1927, when he was 25 years old, and the last car he drove was a 1926 Whippet.

"In those days," he told me when he was in his 90s, "to drive a car you had to do things with your hands, and do things with your feet, and look every which way, and I decided you could walk through life and enjoy it or drive through life and miss it."

At which point my mother, a sometimes salty Irishwoman, chimed in: "Oh, baloney, he hit a horse!!"

"Well," my father said, "there was that, too."

So my brother and I grew up in a household without a car. The neighbors all had cars – the Kollingses next door had a green 1941 Dodge, the Van Laninghams across the street a gray 1936 Plymouth, the Hopsons two doors down a black 1941 Ford --but we had none.

My father, a newspaperman in Des Moines, would take the streetcar to work and, often as not, walk the 3 miles home. If he took the streetcar home, my mother and brother and I would walk the three blocks to the streetcar stop, meet him and walk home together.

My brother, David, was born in 1935, and I was born in 1938, and sometimes, at dinner, we'd ask how come all the neighbors had cars but we had none.

"No one in the family drives," my mother would explain, and that was that.

But, sometimes, my father would say, "But as soon as one of you boys turns 16, we'll get one."

It was as if he wasn't sure which one of us would turn 16 first.

But, sure enough, my brother turned 16 before I did, so in 1951 my parents bought a used 1950 Chevrolet from a friend who ran the parts department at a Chevy dealership downtown.

It was a four-door, white model, stick shift, fender skirts, loaded with everything, and, since my parents didn't drive, it more or less became my brother's car.

Having a car but not being able to drive didn't bother my father, but it didn't make sense to my mother.

So in 1952, when she was 43 years old, she asked a friend to teach her to drive.

She learned in a nearby cemetery, the place where I learned to drive the following year and where, a generation later, I took my two sons to practice driving. The cemetery probably was my father's idea. "Who can your mother hurt in the cemetery?" I remember him saying more than once.

For the next 45 years or so, until she was 90, my mother was the driver in the family. Neither she nor my father had any sense of direction, but he loaded up on maps -- though they seldom left the city limits -- and appointed himself navigator. It seemed to work.

Still, they both continued to walk a lot. My mother was a devout Catholic, and my father an equally devout agnostic, an arrangement

that didn't seem to bother either of them through their 75 years of marriage.

(Yes, 75 years, and they were deeply in love the entire time.)

He retired when he was 70, and nearly every morning for the next 20 years or so, he would walk with her the mile to St. Augustine's Church. She would walk down and sit in the front pew, and he would wait in the back until he saw which of the parish's two priests was on duty that morning. If it was the pastor, my father then would go out and take a 2-mile walk, meeting my mother at the end of the service and walking her home.

If it was the assistant pastor, he'd take just a 1-mile walk and then head back to the church. He called the priests "Father Fast" and "Father Slow."

After he retired, my father almost always accompanied my mother whenever she drove anywhere, even if he had no reason to go along. If she were going to the beauty parlor, he'd sit in the car and read, or go take a stroll or, if it was summer, have her keep the engine running so he could listen to the Cubs game on the radio.

In the evening, then, when I'd stop by, he'd explain: "The Cubs lost again. The millionaire on second base made a bad throw to the millionaire on first base, so the multimillionaire on third base scored."

If she were going to the grocery store, he would go along to carry the bags out -- and to make sure she loaded up on ice cream. As I said, he was always the navigator, and once, when he was 95 and she was 88 and still driving, he said to me, "Do you want to know the secret of a long life?"

"I guess so," I said, knowing it probably would be something bizarre.

"No left turns," he said.

"What?" I asked.

"No left turns," he repeated. "Several years ago, your mother and I read an article that said most accidents that old people are in happen when they turn left in front of oncoming traffic.

As you get older, your eyesight worsens, and you can lose your depth perception, it said. So your mother and I decided never again to make a left turn."

"What?" I said again.

"No left turns," he said. "Think about it.. Three rights are the same as a left, and that's a lot safer. So we always make three rights."

"You're kidding!" I said, and I turned to my mother for support.

"No," she said, "your father is right. We make three rights. It works."

But then she added: "Except when your father loses count."

I was driving at the time, and I almost drove off the road as I started laughing.

"Loses count?" I asked.

"Yes," my father admitted, "that sometimes happens. But it's not a problem. You just make seven rights, and you're okay again."

I couldn't resist. "Do you ever go for 11?" I asked.

"No," he said " If we miss it at seven, we just come home and call it a bad day. Besides, nothing in life is so important it can't be put off another day or another week."

My mother was never in an accident, but one evening she handed me her car keys and said she had decided to quit driving. That was in 1999, when she was 90.

She lived four more years, until 2003. My father died the next year, at 102.

They both died in the bungalow they had moved into in 1937 and bought a few years later for \$3,000.

(Sixty years later, my brother and I paid \$8,000 to have a shower put in the tiny bathroom -- the house had never had one. My father would have died then and there if he knew the shower cost nearly three times what he paid for the house.)

He continued to walk daily -- he had me get him a treadmill when he was 101 because he was afraid he'd fall on the icy sidewalks but wanted to keep exercising -- and he was of sound mind and sound body until the moment he died.

One September afternoon in 2004, he and my son went with me when I had to give a talk in a neighboring town, and it was clear to all three of us that he was wearing out, though we had the usual wide-ranging conversation about politics and newspapers and things in the news.

A few weeks earlier, he had told my son, "You know, Mike, the first hundred years are a lot easier than the second hundred." At one point in our drive that Saturday, he said, "You know, I'm probably not going to live much longer."

"You're probably right," I said.

"Why would you say that?" He countered, somewhat irritated.

"Because you're 102 years old," I said..

"Yes," he said, "you're right." He stayed in bed all the next day.

That night, I suggested to my son and daughter that we sit up with him through the night.

He appreciated it, he said, though at one point, apparently seeing us look gloomy, he said: "I would like to make an announcement. No one in this room is dead yet."

An hour or so later, he spoke his last words:

"I want you to know," he said, clearly and lucidly, "that I am in no pain. I am very comfortable. And I have had as happy a life as anyone on this earth could ever have."

A short time later, he died.

I miss him a lot, and I think about him a lot. I've wondered now and then how it was that my family and I were so lucky that he lived so long.

I can't figure out if it was because he walked through life, or because he quit making left turns.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets.

So love the people who treat you right.

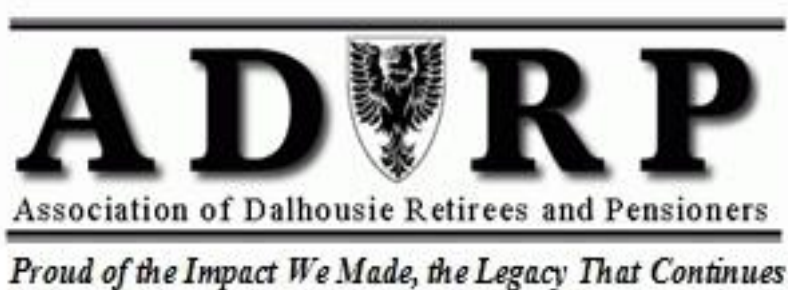
Forget about the one's who don't.

Believe everything happens for a reason.

If you get a chance, take it and if it changes your life, let it.

Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would most likely be worth it.

Enjoy life now - it has an expiration date and don't make left turns!'



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Mission

- To facilitate and promote the dissemination of information of interest to Dalhousie Retirees; and
- To enhance and promote the sense of continuing membership in the Dalhousie Retirees' family.

Formal Objectives

- To represent the interests of retirees from Dalhousie University, their spouses and beneficiaries;
- To further the understanding of the retirement pension and benefits;
- To cooperate with other groups that have similar objectives; and
- To provide a conduit for information, when necessary, between the university and retirees.

Informal Objectives

- To promote social interaction among its members;
- To investigate and negotiate group benefits that a significant number of members may desire;
- To provide information to its members about general and specific retirement issues; and
- To pursue other issues as the membership directs.

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