



LCAR
LANGARA COLLEGE
ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES

This issue of *And By The Way, Retirees*, was assembled and edited by Martin Gerson, Dave Lidstone and Roy Sinn, with valuable help from Gail Bremer, Heidi Rahnumah, Jessica Sanchez, as well as Judy Boxler, John McBryde, Diane Bradley and Susan Weber.

The editors encourage all LCAR members to submit suggestions, articles, announcements for inclusion in future newsletters.

We also encourage others to join the editorial team. Please write to newsletter@lcar.ca

And By The Way, Retirees.

Newsletter of the Langara College Association of Retirees
Volume 1 / Issue 2 / April 28th 2022

RETIREE TRAVEL VIGNETTES

Have you had noteworthy experiences from your travels, either before or after retirement, that you would like to share? If so, please consider writing a short piece for publication here and send it to newsletter@lcar.ca. We look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Boxler (Computer Science) originally wrote the following vignette in response to a "writing assignment" on the topic of creative problem solving, set by Sheryl MacKay, host of CBC-BC's North by Northwest. It was among the stories Sheryl chose to read on air as part of her "Mugshot Contest".



In 1972, my husband and I drove my VW camper van through Mexico and Central America to Panama. The trip took about 3 months. One of the necessities of life is laundry. At that time there were few laundromats, so I ended up washing sheets and clothing in rivers and lakes alongside the local women. Washing, rinsing, wringing, hanging up to dry. What a pain.

A year later, we settled down in Switzerland. Many of our friends had lived in Australia and had wonderful stories of their overland trip back to Switzerland. In 1977, we decided we were still too young to really settle down. So, we started planning our overland trip to Australia.

"However," I said, "I'm not doing laundry in rivers anymore!"

We envisioned a water container mounted on the front of the van: Put dirty clothes and water and soap in the tank; drive over a rough road for several hours, and voila! clean clothes.

But where to find such a container?? We found it in a sport fishing store. In order to keep freshwater fish alive, fishermen were carrying a 20-liter, metal tank filled with water and live fish. Perfect for a washing machine.

The fish tank on the front of our van washed our laundry for 18 months!

The picture above is a perfect "laundry" road in Afghanistan.

MORE RETIREE TRAVEL VIGNETTES



And the following travel vignette is from **Dave Lidstone (Math/Stats)**:

Oh, how I have missed the travel that I enjoyed during the early years of my retirement, especially my visits with musical pals in the Denver, Boulder and Lyons areas of Colorado. My favourite memory from such trips was a visit to the town of Gold Hill in the mountains north west of Boulder. Gold Hill was founded during the mining rush of the mid 1800's and then refounded during the rush for alternative creative lifestyles during the mid 1900's. The exceptional character of the place is summed up on its welcome sign which was created by country blues artist Washboard Chaz during his tenure as town mayor.

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

LCAR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Katie Eliot (Office of the Division Chairs), Stephen Bett (English), Peter Baker (Computer Science), Kevin Craib (Math/Stats), Tomo Tanaka (Professional Photography), and Rob Dykstra (Journalism).

ASHLEY DERMER



Our thanks go to Ashley's good friend and active LCAR member, John McBryde, for passing along the following sad news.

It is with a heavy heart that I bear the sad tidings of our long-time friend and colleague, Ashley Dermer, passing away on Monday 7 March 2022. He died peacefully following a short illness from a very aggressive cancer.

Ashley's first term of teaching Mathematics at the College was in the Spring of 1968 when it was still Vancouver City College at 12th and Oak. His last term before retirement was the 1999 Summer term at Langara College. Since 1999, Ashley was an active Langara Retiree, participating in social activities including the regular Chinese lunches and other gatherings such as the annual College Christmas Dinner and Retirees Send-off functions.

Ashley's wife, Jane, has advised that Ashley was cremated, and had expressed the wish that there be no obituary and no formal service. Sometime later in the Spring, a small number of family members and close friends will gather to celebrate Ashley's life.

AND ON 49TH

THE GAIL SPARROW INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AWARD

Gail Sparrow, Musqueam Special Advisor to the President of snəwəyəl leləm' Langara College, celebrated a big milestone birthday in March. In recognition of her birthday and the many years of dedication to snəwəyəl leləm' Langara College, Indigenous Education Services and the Foundation launched a tribute appeal to create an award in her name. **The Gail Sparrow Indigenous Education Award** will be given annually to an Indigenous student in financial need, with preference to those of Coast Salish background.



Gail is a Langara alum and a former Chief of the Musqueam Indian Band. In her role as Special Advisor, she helps to guide the work of Indigenization and decolonization. Gail plays a key role in strengthening the connection between Musqueam and the College, educating the Langara community on the history, culture, and teachings of the Musqueam and the land on which the College is located.

Happy Birthday, Gail!

Hy'chka.

CONVOCATION

After two years, the College is very pleased to announce that, this year, we are planning to return to in-person ceremonies and have secured the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on June 21, 22, and 23.

If you would like to volunteer at this event, please email convocation@langara.ca.



CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

On April 6, 2022, the Foundation and the Financial Aid Department hosted the Spring 2022 Celebration of Excellence with a private online screening, celebrating and honouring both student scholarship and award recipients and donors who support these awards. Over 180 students were recognized for outstanding academic achievements in Athletics, the Faculties of Arts, Management, Nursing, Science, Social Sciences and Community Programs, and Continuing Studies.

The Foundation and Financial Aid thanked donors, many of whom are Langara retirees, who continue to positively impact the lives of students and enrich their learning experiences.

NEWS FROM OUR AFFILIATES

LCAR is a member of or affiliate with CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada), COSCO (The Council Of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC) and CPPR (The Association of BC College Pension Plan Retirees). This section of *And By The Way, Retirees*. is intended to bring news from these organizations that may be of particular interest or relevance to LCAR members.

CURAC

CURAC, which normally holds an annual in-person conference in May, will be holding that event online for the second year in a row, following the complete cancellation of the 2020 conference. The **CURAC/ARUCC 2022 Virtual Assembly** will be held on **Thursday May 19** from 9:30 to 1:00 pm PDT, co-hosted by the University of British Columbia Emeritus College, University of Victoria Retirees Association and Simon Fraser University Retirees Association. The program will focus on “Faces of Wellness and Well-being,” a topic that has been a major area of research strength at the three organizing universities. The Assembly is offering an amazing virtual program with distinguished presenters including Dr. John Helliwell, Dr. Angela Brooks-Wilson, Dr. Gloria Gutman and Dr. Anne Martin-Matthews. Since LCAR is a member of CURAC, Langara retirees are eligible to “attend” this exciting virtual event. To view the full program, you can link to the website here: <https://emerituscollege.ubc.ca/CURAC2022>. Information regarding registration for the Assembly will be forthcoming at that website.

COSCO

COSCO has been addressing a number of public issues of particular relevance to seniors. Most recently it has begun a campaign to lobby the provincial government to permanently remove parking fees from hospitals. These parking fees had been dropped as a measure during the Covid period, but have now been reinstated.

CPPR

CPPR received a letter from the Chair of the College Pension Board of Trustees, advising that the BC Investment Management Corporation (BCI) [which manages investments for both the College and Municipal Pension Plans] has announced publicly that it started selling its holdings in Russian securities prior to the invasion of Ukraine and is actively working to sell the remaining Russian securities from its clients' portfolios. This includes the plan's investment fund. You can read the statement on the BCI website here: <https://www.bci.ca/bci-is-actively-working-to-sell-remaining-russian-securities/>.

Also, a committee led by LCAR member Susan Weber looks forward to launching a new look for the CPPR website this summer.