



KPURA News

Issue 1,
November,
2017.

KEEPING CONNECTED OVER THE YEARS

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

KPU is Coming of Age

by Carol Barnett

Since the separation of Douglas College and Kwantlen in the seventies, Kwantlen College, Kwantlen University College and finally Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) has expanded and evolved. Hundreds of faculty, staff and administrators have supported thousands of students over the past almost four decades. Many Kwantlen employees spent the best part or all of their career years at this institution.

The newly formed Kwantlen Polytechnic University Retirees Association (KPURA) is poised to continue the KPU-employee relationship in retirement. In August 2016, Dr. Alan Davis, President of KPU, contracted Roger Elmes, long time KPU administrator now retired, to prepare a report which detailed the benefits and activities of other post-secondary education retiree associations across Canada. The interim report was completed by the end of October 2016 and is available at www.kpu.ca/retirees.

The report summaries survey data from 50 associations into a number of benefits of establishing a retiree association for both the host institution and their retired employees. From this extensive analysis many recommendations for KPURA were documented.

On the 28th of March 2017 at the Richmond Campus over 60 KPU retirees attended the founding meeting of KPURA. There was general consensus from the attendees that KPURA establish legal status by registering as a 'society' under the BC Societies Act. A comprehensive list of purposes for the new association was discussed. This list will become KPURA's constitution is found on page 7 of this newsletter, and will shortly be published on our website at www.kpu.ca/retirees.

A Steering Committee was struck to work through the recommendations listed in the [interim report](#). (See article on page 2)



Backyard Vineyard

August Social Event Notes by Tally Wade

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Pitt Lake Wilderness Tour

A water outing for eleven of our members that included dramatic expanses of the lake and petroglyphs along the shore. (Photo by Richard Floyd)

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Backyard Vineyard

by Tally Wade
August 30, 2017



I can't think of a better way to enjoy a warm summer afternoon than sharing a glass of wine with friends. An enthusiastic group of about 20 from KPURA descended on Backyard Vineyards in Langley to enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting, conversation and food. It was a very nice way to get to know folks in a casual, easy summertime setting.

The time passed far too quickly, but the fledgling group vowed that this was the beginning of a great association of colleagues and friends.

Thank you to Roger and Marie-Claire for arranging this successful social activity and for providing everyone nametags so we could get to know

each other once again! I'm looking forward to many more future events.

UPCOMING EVENT IDEAS

We are looking for you to tell us what you want to participate in when it comes to KPURA events.

KPURA EVENTS COMMITTEE NEEDS MEMBERS

<http://www.kpu.ca/retirees>

mcroger@shaw.ca

Steering Committee Work

by Carol Barnett

A Steering Committee was struck to work through the recommendations listed in the [interim report](#). The committee's achievements to date are as follows:

- I. Membership categories have been edited and are presented below:
 - a. Full voting membership for retirees of KPU
 - b. Associate non-voting membership available to the spouse or partner of a full voting member
 - c. Associate non-voting membership available to a retiree of another post-secondary institution who lives in the Greater Vancouver area
 - d. Associate non-voting membership available to any KPU employee planning to retire within 12 months.
- II. An edited draft of the Association Bylaws has been completed and will be reviewed by KPU Legal.
- III. Two KPURA social events have taken place (see stories in this newsletter) and a list of future activities and destinations has been discussed.
- IV. A Facebook page, exclusively for KPURA members, has been set up. Currently, access to the page is limited to the steering committee. However, access will be part of the KPURA membership package as soon as the association begins accepting memberships.
- V. A KPU library [Lifetime Borrower Card](#) is available to all KPU employees. Enquire at any of the KPU campus libraries. (Note that this card has been available to retired employees for some time.)
- VI. KPURA will join the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) <http://www.curac.ca/> and the Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education <http://arohe.org> as soon as funds are available.
- VII. Roger Elmes has liaised with KPU IT to establish a 'kpu.ca' email account for KPU retirees. Further information will be posted when available. The retiree email address will differ from the standard employee address. This will include access to event and other notices in Today@KPU.
- VIII. We will seek to coordinate our lecture activities with Third Age Learning at Kwantlen ([TALK](#)). See the article on p. 4.
- IX. We will seek to expand the existing practice on [tuition fee exemptions for senior citizens](#), specifically to exempt KPURA members having to renew their eligibility each semester for this tuition fee waiver.

Pitt Lake Wilderness Tour

by Roger Elmes

Once we have registered as a BC society we will hold our first general meeting and select the first board of directors. Saturday September 23rd, eleven intrepid KPU retirees and some spouses ventured up the Fraser and Pitt Rivers to Pitt Lake, a hidden gem of the greater Vancouver area. The Fraser River is more than a boundary between the Douglas College and KPU regions; it is a working river that encompasses the histories of all those who have lived along its banks and used its resources. Moving from the Fraser to the broad delta of the Pitt River we had the first glimpses of the stunning beauty of the mountainous backdrop to the lake. Along the river we were treated to the sighting of a mother bear and her two cubs.

And signs of historic mining and logging.



Richard Floyd photo

Exploration of a region that was new or seen from a different perspective, a wonderful lunch buffet, and seeing old friends and making new ones characterized our six hour day. Since the cruise is run by a commercial organization it was fully booked about 10 September, and four other KPU retirees were unable to join us.

Photo of the Explorers

Back Row l to r: Richard Floyd, Peter and Kate Robbins, Geoff Dean, Marie-Claire Rucquoy, Anne MacLachlan and Harry Woodman.

Clustered center left: Verian Farnsworth, Colleen McGoff-Dean and Judith McGillivray.



Peter Robbins photo

As well as a great blue heron.



Richard Floyd photo



KPU RETIREES ABOUT TOWN



Jim Adams

"A well-known and well-loved Surrey-based artist."

Jim Adams (FINA) was on his way to the founding meeting of the KPU Retirees Association when he got a call from the Surrey Art Gallery to review the contents of the catalogue for his upcoming exhibition (April 8th - June 11) and to discuss the final layout of the works in the gallery space.

Jim, in 1970 a founding member of the "Fine Arts Department of the newly created Douglas College...stayed with the department when [in 1981] it became part of what is now Kwantlen Polytechnic University. He remained there until his retirement in 2000." "The exhibition explores five decades' worth of Jim Adams' artmaking in Jim Adams: The Irretrievable Moment. His paintings often combine historical events with speculative futures, real people in imagined situations, and mythological people in contemporary scenarios."

Pictures and more information at <http://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/22633.aspx>



Jim Adams painting

Third Age Learning at Kwantlen

by Roger Elmes and Alice Macpherson

Third Age Learning at Kwantlen (TALK) was created in 1998 by a group of Kwantlen faculty and has offered a wide range of lectures and programs starting in the Spring of 1999 and continuing through until now. Roger Elmes met briefly with them in the Fall of 2016 and agreed to the principle of cooperation so that KPURA and TALK activities would be complimentary rather than competitive. TALK's calendar of reasonably priced courses and activities for Fall 2017 is now available at their website <http://www.kpu.ca/talk>.

Robin Heath, the Chair of TALK, invites KPU retirees to serve on their Board and Program Committees. She can be contacted at robiheath@gmail.com

You are also invited to join TALK (\$10 annual fee). At their last AGM on October 21 the province of BC Seniors' Advocate Isobel Mackenzie provided "current evidence that busts many of our assumptions about aging". More details are available on their website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This is the first Newsletter of the KPU Retiree's Association and we are planning to put out more. Some of the ideas that we have brainstormed are:

- KPURA Governance
- Events – Upcoming and Past
- KPU Retirees in the News and About Town
- History of KPU
- Remember When?
- Special Days (sharing from members)
- Upcoming Community Events,
- Recipes, Vacation Stories
- Commentary, Essays,
- Links to other related organizations
- What's New at KPU
- Employment opportunities at KPU (in case you want to get back to work)
- Anything else?

We are interested in what you would like to see in the KPURA Newsletter as well as anything that you would like to contribute. Let us know!

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Your Newsletter Committee

– who would welcome more input, members, articles and photos.

KPURA News

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OREG Reunion Group



It is my great privilege, honour and delight to be a member of the Office of the Registrar Reunion group that originated from the time we worked at Douglas College in the 1970's. Who would have known that this group of people who worked hard together, occasionally socialized together and even fought together would become one of the most cherished group of people I know. One of the things I love most about this day and age is that there are so many forms of communication. There are telephones, cell phones, emails, Messenger (Facebook) and even Events (Facebook). Those are just a few I use. I know there are hundreds of others. No one seems to be too sure who originally thought we should have an OREG reunion but we all know it started with telephone calls and emails back then and now. Every few years, someone will decide it is time to meet. A restaurant is chosen and the email invitations go out. One person generally keeps record of the responses so that the restaurant booking is fairly accurate. Along with the invitation will be the request to pass the information on to anyone who has not been copied. I know a few of us have kept email addresses but occasionally someone will change theirs and so they are happily called in with a phone call or an email from someone who knows their address has changed. My daughter creates Groups of people on Facebook and then creates an Event.

The call goes out and people can accept, decline, not acknowledge or say maybe. The Event program regularly sends out reminders to those who have not confirmed and to those who have confirmed. This is a great tool if everyone is on Facebook.

We tend to meet in restaurants because we like to keep it simple. No one panics over a home not being cleaned, no one has to organize a meal or a potluck. Better yet, there is no cleanup. Occasionally we will go from the restaurant to a home but most of the time we all just head home with wonderful memories.

Our ages now range from early 60's to early 80's. There are usually around 20 people who are able to meet for our reunion at one time. Several people were picked up and brought to the event this time because they could no longer drive and several were not able to make it. Some people live in the Fraser Valley, some in the interior and some on the islands. Some years we are able to attend, some years not. The important thing is that we want everyone to come if at all possible.

We bring old photographs, and share them electronically. One person will share a story others have forgotten and we all enjoy the memory and have good laughs and occasionally tears. These are the people I have grown up with. We have shared important moments in our lives, all the important things like dating, marriages, births, divorces, deaths.

After fearing retirement for so many years because I didn't know what I would do (life after employment), I now know I have this wonderful group of people I can talk to, visit, share ideas with, work with, and occasionally have a reunion. These people know and care about each other. We have a collective memory and all of us look forward to sharing the future together. Suddenly the future looks like the adventures we share together, will continue to be exciting.

Maureen Moore

The pictures below include: Linda Coyle, Louise Shephard, Madeline Brandt, Alice Boyd, Naomi Stuart-Chiu, Rita Heany, Maureen Moore, Eva MacDonald, Carol Simpson, Sheila Wallace, Mary Thwaites.



An Oral History of Kwantlen

by Roger Elmes

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue

There is something old – KPU. If we accept that Earl Marriott, the Superintendent of the Surrey School District in the 1960's and a major force behind the creation of a new college on the Fraser, favoured a college called Kwantlen South of the River; and that the provincial government decreed that there would be one college for both sides of the Fraser and that it would be called Douglas; then Kwantlen, by another name is coming up to its 50th anniversary in 2020 - a celebration of 50 years of providing post-secondary education to the South Fraser region. Or if we accept 1981 as the launch of Kwantlen College, then Kwantlen is coming up to its 40th anniversary in 2021. In either case, Kwantlen, if not truly old, is at least middle-aged.

There is also something new – the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Retirees Association (KPURA – pronounced Kay Poora – as in Que sera, sera).

The something borrowed is the idea of creating an oral history of Kwantlen; borrowed from SFU which in its middle age, began recording its own history by tapping and taping the memories of its founders. The something blue comes from one of Kwantlen's early logos.

Roger Elmes will start by videotaping the recollections of the founders from the Kwantlen/Douglas era of the 1970's.

This was a very different period in B.C.'s economic, political and social history.



WAC Bennett and the Social Credit Party were in power and launched the two-year college system in the 1960's.

The Macdonald report on Higher Education in British Columbia and a Plan for the Future (1962) "advocated the establishment of two year colleges ... chiefly modeled upon California and found favour locally primarily because of their cost saving implications, not pedagogical considerations". Amendments to the Public School Act (1963 s. 251) allowed school boards to establish colleges following successful referenda in various parts of the province.



"School District 36 Superintendent Earl Marriott wasted little time in striking a committee and drafting a report in October 1964 calling for a college to be located in Surrey. Within six months Marriott's committee had expanded to include school board representatives and municipal officials from Delta, Richmond and Langley."

Thus post-secondary education arrived in 1970 in the South Fraser region. The trunks of faculty cars served as personal lending libraries.



There were no buildings or classrooms, only space borrowed after hours from the school districts. After a few months portables began to arrive in fields of mud,



sometimes with enroute challenges. And the Surrey campus did get its first "cafeteria".



But the college grew over the next decade. By 1979 Kwantlen/Douglas "had become unwieldy"...and as "BC.'s largest college with 5,900 students, serving eight municipalities containing a third of BC's population – it still lacked a permanent central campus. Faculty complained about commuting between scattered [temporary] campuses and dispersed student services."

Oral History of Kwantlen Project continues on next page.



In March 1980, the Board voted to split the college in two along the Fraser River – what the local communities had initially asked for. The South Fraser side chose the name they had initially sought – now with the permission of the Kwantlen First Nation.

The new Kwantlen College began in 1981 with “a core of seasoned staff, faculty and administrators” and a variety of owned “portable campuses” and rented, converted warehouses and commercial buildings.

Roger will seek out staff, faculty and administrators here at the time of the split, and those who arrived in 1981 and the years immediately after.

Two other areas of interest will include interviews about the transformations of Kwantlen into a degree-granting University College in 1995 and into a Polytechnic University in 2008.



It's quite a story - from the car trunks of about 70 faculty teaching in some borrowed schools serving hundreds of students in the fall of 1970 to portables and rented, converted warehouses of the 1980's to over 1 million square feet of permanent buildings on four modern, high-tech campuses in Surrey, Richmond, Cloverdale and Langley, housing 1,400 faculty and staff serving over 20,000 students – and we want to tap your recollections. Contact Roger Elmes mcroger@shaw.ca if you would like to share your memories. He recalls that in 1970 the thirteen-step faculty salary scale ran from \$8,500 to a grandiose \$15,700; but you could buy a decent house for about double your annual salary.

Quotations are from Tom Thorner, *"South of the River": A Review of Kwantlen's Archives and History* (May 2002).

KPURA Purposes

The purposes of the Society are:

- (a) To encourage fellowship among retirees by maintaining existing and promoting new friendships;
- (b) To organize social events for university retirees;
- (c) To facilitate continued engagement with the university,
- (d) To facilitate the free exchange of information and discussion of topics of interest to members;
- (e) To advocate on issues and topics agreed to by the association; and
- (f) To represent the members of the society to Kwantlen Polytechnic University and other entities.