



# KPURA News

Volume 2  
Issue 3  
May  
2019

## Keeping Connected Over the Years

## Event Highlights

### KPURA Society - Updates

#### Board Notes from the AGM May 13, 2019

It has been a busy year for the KPURA Board and members. We are happy to announce that we have sorted out our financial arrangements and can now accept membership dues to cover the costs that are incurred by our incorporation and activities. Member benefits include access to travel insurance through our affiliation with CURAC

Since 2017 when we became active 70 faculty and administrators and nine staff members have attended at least one event. In total 101 individuals including guests and spouses have participated to date. We are always open to tour and other event suggestions for 2019 and beyond. Send us a quick email with ideas.

Our website (<http://kpu.ca/retirees>) now has a number of pages for KPURA business and activities, including: Board of Directors; Reports; Membership Information for both Full and Associate memberships; Newsletters Current and past; Links of Interest; KPURA Events – Upcoming Social Activities; Community Activities

– Members in the Community; KPU History Project – ongoing research led by Roger Elmes; and In Memoriam – to remember those who are gone.

Please check out these pages and send information to add.

#### Your Board of Directors:

Chair – Yale Shap,  
Vice-Chair – Carol Barnett,  
Secretary– Alice Macpherson,  
Treasurer – Roger Elmes  
Members at Large –  
Geoff Dean, Sandra Carpenter

We thank Robert Wood for his time on both the Steering Committee and the Board as he steps down to pursue other endeavours.

We have two summer social events scheduled:

**June 27, Vancouver Downtown History Walk with John Belshaw**  
**July 3, A Berry Nice Visit to Krause Berry Farms**

We hope to see you at one or both.



Magnolia bud in the rain

#### Country Vine Winery Tasting UBC Botanical Garden Tours

Notes and pictures from our tours in February and April.

Pages 3 & 4



#### Upcoming Events

Vancouver Downtown History Walk, June 27  
A Berry Nice Day at Krause Berry Farm, July 3

Page 5

## 2019 AGM Speakers

We were fortunate to have two knowledgeable speaker present on the BC College Pension Plan and

Norah Andrew and Al Valleau spoke about the BC College Pension Plan status and governance; the BC Association of College Pension Plan Retirees (CPPR); and the Health Benefits/Insurance plan.

Norah is Secretary of the newly incorporated CPPR since 2014, and prior to that a member of the Retirees group since around its genesis, approximately 20 years ago, as a creature of the GEU and CIEA. She was formerly Director of Finance and Analysis at BCIT, and then VP Finance and Administration at UFV, Business School faculty at UFV, and then sessional faculty at UFV, sessional faculty at Royal Roads, BCIT, and JIBC.

Al was a long-time faculty member of the English department at Kwantlen, has served several years as treasurer of CPPR and compiled a report on Health Benefits/Insurance plans.

Background material for the presentations can be found in:

- A 2018 article by the BC College Pension Plan Executive Director in *Benefits Canada* which provides helpful historical background and context for the current governance model  
<https://www.benefitscanada.com/pensions/governance-law/governance-lessons-from-b-c-s-public-sector-pension-plans-117981>
- Paul Ramsey's 2018 trustee's report to the CPPR which includes useful information and highlights of the plan up to that time  
<http://bccollegepensionplanretirees.ca/images/pdfs/agm2018/Trustee-Report-to-CPPR-Annual-General-Meeting.pdf>
- The 2017 Annual Report on the BC College Pension Plan (pp. 8-15)  
<https://college.pensionsbc.ca/documents/1225177/1233847/%28PDF%29+2017+Annual+report/a17f4ee3-do6a-45d8-aofd-d60c2c9dde58>

## History Belongs to Everyday People - History Project

by Roger Elmes

A thought. The history of everyday life in a college belongs to the everyday people.

*It is said that history belongs to the victors, but only in the besting and triumphant sense, the grand gestures of conquest and acquisition. The history of everyday life in a time and a place belongs to the everyday people, passed along in vessels as fragile as alabaster or as sturdy as oak chests. Their offerings strengthen our trees of knowledge, fertilize the deep tap roots of personal and cultural identity. This is where we come from. This is what we do. This is what we know. This is what we believe in.*

*This is who we are.*

*(Sylvia Taylor, Beckoned by the Sea: Women at Work on the Cascadia Coast, Heritage House 2017, pp. 129-30)*

In other words, we would like to chat with former Kwantlen employees from all areas of the college/university, as well as students and board members. Don't be shy. It's a painless and rewarding process.

So far, we have chatted with 4 students; 12 faculty; 4 deans; 2 VPs; 2 presidents; and 1 board member.

Drop an email to Roger Elmes [mcroger@shaw.ca](mailto:mcroger@shaw.ca) or to Alice Macpherson [alicemac@telus.net](mailto:alicemac@telus.net)  
Let's chat.

## KPU Day 2019 at Richmond



Making New History – Roger, Alice, and Yale staffing the KPURA table at KPU Day 2019 on the Richmond Campus. Many more people were invited to join us.

*photo by Bob Fuhr (future retiree)*

# Country Vine Winery Tasting Event

**February 16, 2019**

**by Carol Barnett**

On February 16 a group of ten KPURA wine enthusiasts spent an informative and tasty afternoon at [Country Vines Winery](#), located at 13060 Steveston Highway in Richmond. The wine store is located on the family property of Richmond Country Farms, right next door to their farm market. This market is a very popular place to purchase seasonal produce grown on the farm and is particularly known for sweet corn in season.



There is also a lovely deck and picnic area on the south side of the location that provides covered seating for those that wish to enjoy the farm view while supping a glass of wine. Patrons can bring their own picnic or enjoy pizza from the outside pizza oven (only available on specific days, check the website for details).

A short stroll from the deck visitors will encounter a small farm yard housing several animals and a display of vintage tractors.

Cheese and crackers were provided by KPURA and went well with the wines.



The grapes are grown on their Richmond farm with a second vineyard in the Okanagan. The tasting area is located in the original farm house, which has been in the family since it was built.

Eric Urquhart was our very knowledgeable wine host who answered all questions with accuracy. He introduced everyone to seven different wines produced by Country Vines over an hour with commentary on production for each one.

The grapes are grown at their vineyards in Richmond and the Okanagan. The quality of the wines is extremely good and most of the wine tasters took their favorites home to enjoy over dinner.

The atmosphere was warm on such a cool day with lots of good conversation about wine and other things.



Although the weather was a bit too cold for comfortable outside seating on the day we went, the KPURA Event Committee is considering another visit to Country Vines to take advantage of the beautiful patio in warm weather and the nearby farm market. Stay Tuned!

*photos by Alice Macpherson.*

# UBC Botanical Garden Tour

April 11, 2019

by Alice Macpherson

It was pouring rain when we arrived and gathered in the UBC botanical Gardens Gift Shop but spirits were high. After assembling and meeting our guide, we zipped up our rain gear and headed out into the garden.

The UBC Botanical Garden, at the University of British Columbia, was established in 1916 under the directorship of John Davidson, British Columbia's first provincial botanist. It is the oldest botanical garden at a university in Canada. The original mission of the garden was research into the native flora of British Columbia. Over the past 100 years, the mission of UBC Botanical Garden has broadened to include research, conservation, teaching and public display of temperate plants from around the world.



We walked through a number of groves of trees including many magnolias and rhododendrons in magnificent bloom. Then on to a guided visit in the food production garden which serve both for demonstration purposes and to supply their produce to the local food bank.

Another fascinating area was the Physic Garden with traditional medicinal plants. Some of them are quite poisonous and we were cautioned about touching.

We returned through the Alpine Garden with many succulent plants. Even in the cool weather they were showing a wide variety of form and leaf colour.



On this tour we paid particular interest to the native plants that were in bloom such as the native red flowing currant (photo above), shooting stars (photo below), and other flowering bulbs.



Our tour was completed back at the Gift Shop where some of us indulged in a bit of 'retail therapy' for souvenirs of our delightful visit.

*photos by Alice Macpherson.*

## Upcoming Events

### Vancouver Downtown History Walk with John Belshaw

**June 27, 2019**

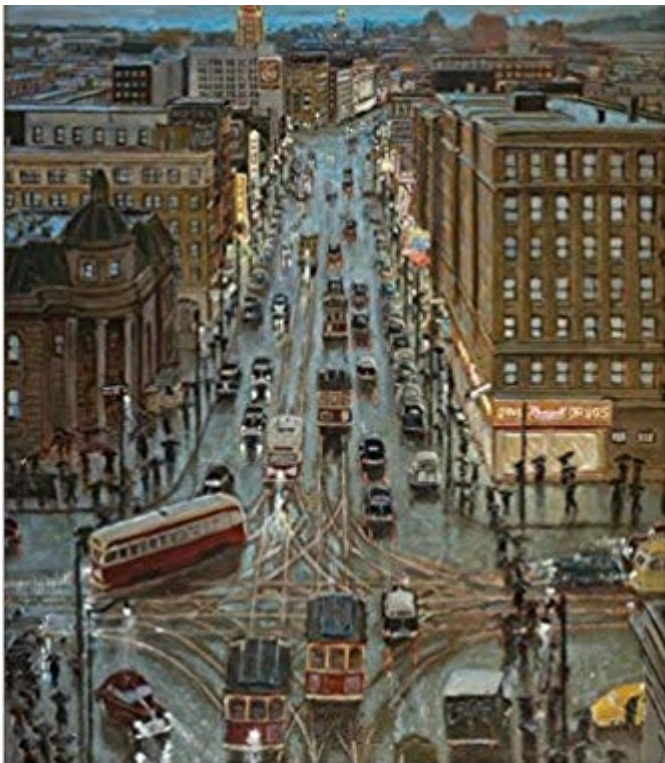
After our excellent Vancouver Noir Walk with John Belshaw we are engaging him for another event. This time we are heading further west to delve into more Vancouver history. This walk promises more of the downtown core and John's insights into historic life in Vancouver. Not to be missed! We will start at 11 am (location will be determined shortly) and finished in around 2 hours with options for lunch nearby.

John was a contributor and the editor for *Vancouver Confidential*, a collaborative project involving more than a dozen writers, filmmakers, and artists. He also co-authored (with Diane Purvey) *Vancouver Noir*, the theme for our last walk with him.

You will pay \$20 (\$15 for KPURA full and associate members) when you arrive.

Please pre-register (max 15 due to our ability to hear and John's ability to yell) with an email to

[KPURA.Events@gmail.com](mailto:KPURA.Events@gmail.com) with the subject Vancouver History Walk.



### A Berry Nice Day at Krause Berry Farm

**July 3, 2019**



Join us for a great outing to connect with Kwantlen colleagues and their / your families of all generations.

Krause Berry Farm is a Working Destination Farm Since 1974 with U-Pick Berry Fields, Market, Bakery, Estate Winery, and Places to Enjoy Farm Fresh Food

<https://www.krauseberryfarms.com/>

There will be several types of berries for picking, the option of lunch in the onsite restaurant, a great bakery, and a children's area. The winery is open for tasting as well.

You will arrive at 10:30 am and stay as long as you like.

If you wish to partake in a wine tasting there will be cost when you get there. Otherwise you are on the hook only for your own pickings and choosing.

Let us know if you can join us for this social event so we can let the Farm know we are coming. Register by sending an email to [KPURA.Events@gmail.com](mailto:KPURA.Events@gmail.com) with the subject Berry Farm Day

## KPU Retirees About Town

### Service Above Self

#### Lindagene Coyle

There will be few people who do not remember Linda Coyle as she has been woven into the life of Kwantlen from the beginning to her retirement. She remains fully active in Rotary and beyond. Here is a little bit about her.



In 1972 she began her working life in Vancouver at - Opportunity Rehabilitation Workshop (ORW), an assessment and vocational training centre for persons with disabilities. Her job was to contact employers to determine their willingness to hire persons with disabilities. She moved from that position to Douglas College in the counselling department as an Educational Planner in 1973.

Over the years Lindagene held several increasingly responsible positions at Douglas and then Kwantlen. Lindagene retired from Kwantlen Polytechnic University where she was Vice President and was honoured with Vice President Emerita status. Currently she is on the Board of TALK-Third Age Learning at Kwantlen.

As an active community member Lindagene has sat on many volunteer boards including Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Business and Employment Action Committee of Surrey, Surrey Social Policy Advisory Committee, BC Labour Force Development Board, the Coalition of Visible Minority Peoples of BC, and Canadian Club of Vancouver to name a few. She was the founding (1991) and now current president of WPSE-Women in Post-Secondary Education and a Protocol Officer during the 2010 Winter Olympics.



Before retirement Lindagene joined the Rotary where she became secretary, treasurer, president, Paul Harris Committee chair and held other director positions in her club. In 2012, she moved to the Rotary Club of White Rock Peninsula, and was Assistant Governor to the five South Surrey clubs. She is a faculty member for the Rotary Learning Institute; trained incoming club presidents (PETS); coordinated the revision of the PETS curriculum; and is the incoming trainer for PETS facilitators.

Lindagene has been on three international projects to deliver wheelchairs and experienced the emotion of putting people in their first wheelchair: people who had spent years in a hammock or on a bed unable to get around. She visited Mayan villages to determine their needs and returned to see the difference a water tower can make to a remote community.

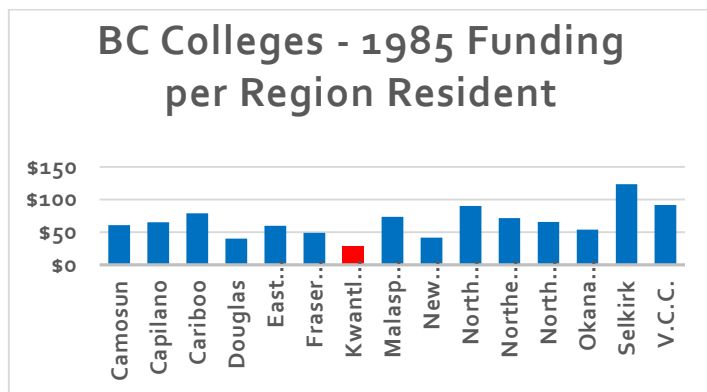
When asked what does she do she states proudly that she is a full-time volunteer.

# Still Shortchanged

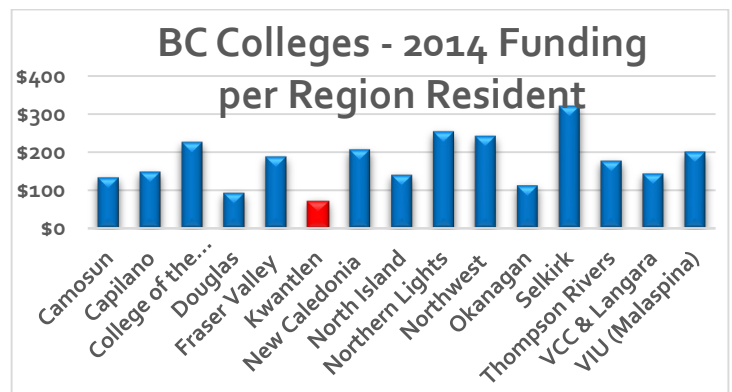
by Geoff Dean

As Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote in 1849, “plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose” - the more things change, the more they stay the same. At Kwantlen, there’ve been many changes – from being part of Douglas College, to becoming Kwantlen College in 1981, to becoming a “university college” in 1995 and then a “polytechnic university” in 2008. We’ve had many Presidents over that time, and many different provincial governments. But important things remain the same: on the positive, our region still has many people who can, and do, benefit from the programs Kwantlen offers, and Kwantlen’s legislated mandate to serve its region by offering a range of programs – in adult basic education, English language training, trades, career, and academic programs – hasn’t changed (except that it was authorized to offer bachelor degree programs in 1995). On the negative side, the extreme shortchanging of Kwantlen by the provincial government hasn’t changed either: as in 1985 and before, KPU is still only funded to offer half the number of FTE student seats, relative to the size of our region’s population, compared to the rest of B.C.’s regional post-secondaries.

Here’s how it looked in 1985:



And here’s how it looked in 2014:



In 1985, after meeting about this with our MLA, Rita Johnson, I wrote a report about it – Shortchanged – and sent it to her and to all our region’s school trustees (who, until just before then, had been part of the Kwantlen’s governance.) Here are a few paragraphs from the conclusion of from that report; unfortunately, all of these quotes are still relevant today, as the provincial government has done nothing to fix this extreme inequity:

*The shortchanging means that fewer adults in these regions will be able to train or retrain for more productive employment. Fewer high school graduates will be able to get specific trades or career training. Fewer school dropouts will be able to achieve a grade 12 equivalency and go on to further training for a job. Fewer laid-off workers will be able to get retraining for the jobs that are available. Fewer people on welfare will be able to get the education they need to become self-supporting.*

*There is also a very crass economic effect. The dollars spent on a college are spent again by the employees of that college - spent at the local hardware store, the supermarket, and so on. The \$25 million dollars allocated to Douglas and Kwantlen Colleges becomes, through that multiplier effect, an addition of \$50 million to the cash flow of the regions. But if Douglas and Kwantlen received the average per capita funding of \$61.05 per person, the two colleges would be allocated just over \$48 million dollars. The multiplier effect would mean that over \$96 million would be added to the cash flow of the regions. Thus as a result of this shortchanging, the Douglas and Kwantlen regions are more than \$46 million poorer.*

*The social impact of the shortchanging means that the promise of the community colleges - to provide equal access to post-secondary education - cannot be fulfilled in these regions. .... In fact, residents of these regions are poorer both by that missing \$46 million and for the lack of educational opportunities that the colleges should be and could be providing. The people of the Kwantlen and Douglas regions are truly being shortchanged.*

I wrote this in 1985. A few years later, when the provincial government made several other regional colleges into university colleges, Kwantlen asked to be allowed to become one too, even tho’ the government told it that it would not be given any further funding. And so, in order to offer 3rd- and 4th-year courses, Kwantlen’s support of its adult basic education, English language training and trades programs no longer matched its region’s needs – compared to all the other regional post-secondaries in B.C., KPU offers only one-quarter the number of ABE FTEs, per person in its region without a grade 12

diploma, only one-fifth the number of ESL FTEs, per person in its region whose native language isn't English, and only one-third the number of trades training FTEs per person in its region.

The fact that the provincial government has not fixed this in over 30 years is the most distressing part of "things remain the same". I've even heard that KPU's management was told by Treasury Board staff at the most recent provincial budget sessions that they didn't want to hear any more about this inequity. I hope that we Kwantlen retirees, as people who tried to serve this region well, will be able and willing to bring this issue to the attention of our MLAs. Let's each of us write to or talk to our MLA about this issue, and ask them to push the government to revise the funding formula for B.C.'s regional post-secondaries so that each institution's funding is a direct function of its region's population.

## Other Affiliated Groups

# TALK

---

## Third Age Learning at Kwantlen

TALK is a participatory learning experience with no quizzes, grades or prerequisites. The learning process is lively, full of discussion, controversy, humour, insight and wisdom. In addition to participating in courses, you can become a course facilitator, plan curriculum, identify speakers, prepare newsletters, recruit new members, help organize special events or promote TALK. For further information on being a TALK volunteer, contact Chair Robin Heath at [robiheath@gmail.com](mailto:robiheath@gmail.com).

There are many courses available to enjoy. Check out the selection at: <http://www.kpu.ca/talk/courses> We hope this will inspire more retirees to put together a course of your own.

TALK also loves having current and previous faculty offer courses. Home page: <http://www.kpu.ca/talk>  
Please LIKE us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/kpu.ca.TALK>

Or join the group page to comment:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/697127260390288/>



**College and University Retiree Associations of Canada**  
**Associations de retraités des universités et collèges du Canada**

CURAC and the University of Guelph Retirees Association (UGRA) held their annual conference and AGM from May 22-24, 2019 at the University of Guelph.

Report on Benefits for Member groups, of which KPURA is one included the affinity agreements signed this year with Medoc and the Retired Teachers of Ontario/ Les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario (RTO/ERO). The task now is to make sure that information about these plans gets to every member association and through them to individual retirees.

The 2020 conference will take place in UBC and the 2021 conference is planned for McGill.

CURAC planning committee for 2020 Conference is looking for KPURA members to join the Planning Committee for UBC. Alice Macpherson, Sooz Klinkhammer volunteered and were confirmed.

<https://www.curac.ca/>

## KPU Retirees Travel

# Bound for Heaven

by Lee Woodson

We had an adventure in Switzerland and thought we would share it with you.

Early in the morning on Saturday, when the sun is already beaming through the windows and the puffy white clouds float in a deep blue sky, Monique turns to me and says.

"Are we catching the 9:35 train to Bern?"

(A plan we had discussed the day before.) I note that it is 9:20 and near a ten minute walk to the train. She doesn't respond so I get up, dash into the shower, a quick old fashion military shower, water on, soap on, scrub, scrub, rinse and hit the towel. Grab my clothes, put on my hiking boots and back pack. Grab a bottle of water and stand in the doorway.

In the meantime, Monique seeing me scurrying around hurriedly puts on her hiking shoes and is headed out the doorway, two seconds behind me. We are off, at a quick step, to the train station, arriving at the ticket booth with at least two minutes to spare. The train pulled out with two people taking a deep breath and it was 9:37

We had caught the train from tiny Fleurier to the nearby city of Neuchatel, a forty five minute ride and then with a connection on to the capitol of Switzerland, Bern, which is a very large city by Swiss standards.



When you arrive at a station and have a connection it is always a good idea to check the departure board in order to confirm the time and the track number of the connecting train. So after arriving in Neuchatel, off we go to the departure board, which is located on each track platform.

"Ah, look there are two trains to Bern, one at 11:59 which is the TGV express from France on track # 2 and then

wow, look at that, it is followed at 12:03 by the local Swiss train over on track # 1. Hmmm, I guess it is because the TGV is an express and doesn't have any stops. Let's jump the French express. How about a coffee or something as we have a good twenty minute wait?" Lee allows.

Monique replies, "Okay, that sounds good."

A little while later...while standing on platform 2, Lee notes, "I dunno, the TGV should be here if it is leaving in two minutes and look over on track # 1, the Swiss train is already there."

"Well it is after noon and no TGV, what do ya think, should we jump the Swiss train? Look here on the departure board, at the end of the listing for the TGV express train. What does the little code letter b stand for...hmmm, what does it say Monique?" (Lee not being able to read French.)

"Ah, it says 'doesn't run on Saturdays'."

"Grief, let's move we have to catch that Swiss train!"

The sound of shuffling feet as we scamper the stone steps down to the passageway and scurry along the underground tunnel to track one. Up the steps two at a time, ah there is the train, doors closed.

"Quick, push the open door button!" Monique shouts.

Arumph the sound of a click and the door seems to lurch a wee bit as I push the button. But alas, too late, the train is moving; the doors do not open once the electric goes to the overhead connectors. The train quietly pulls away as we stand there at first in disbelief and then slowly starting to laugh at our plight. We missed the train by literally seconds. Ah, well.

"Would you like another cup of coffee dear, out on the deck of the station house?"

Forty five minutes later we board the next Swiss train for the short one hour ride to Bern.



We finally arrive in the early afternoon and set about to find a tourist office for walking maps etc.

**Bern:** It is a city built on a peninsula of land surrounded by a river and has a medieval area with huge stone buildings that still function as offices and apartments.

A trip to the rose garden was the best part of the visit, as it was located atop a huge hill which required a good half hour climb in the scorching sun, but we were richly rewarded at the top with our refreshments, a baguette and a bit of cheese to go with our water, that we packed with us and a bit of time spent sitting on a bench in the shade with a nice breeze cooling our now damp backs from the backpacks that we carried.

While we sat there we could hear alp horns being played somewhere in the distance. We felt like it was the first

time that we heard alp horn sounds resounding over the hills and mountains of Switzerland.

We spent the best part of the day sitting and then walking about the city, enjoying viewing the architecture and the raging jade green water of the Aare River that runs around the old city centre like a giant letter U.

Later, exhausted from hours of hiking around the capitol, we go to the Bern "Gare" (train station) to head back to Neuchatel. After finding ourselves in a large crowded building we finally located the track number on the departure board and we hurried off as soon as we read that it was located on the farthest track. Track 13 (sector C in small print.)

*Adventure to be continued ...*

*photos by Lee Woodson*

## The KPU Retirees Association

has come together for the purposes of:

- Encouraging fellowship among retirees by maintaining existing and promoting new friendships;
- Organizing social events for university retirees;
- Facilitating continuing engagement with the university;
- Facilitating the free exchange of information and discussion of topics of interest to members;
- Advocating on issues and topics agreed to by the association; and
- Representing the members of the society to Kwantlen Polytechnic University and other entities.

**Become a member. \$25 per year. More information at: <http://kpu.ca/retirees>**

## BENEFITS OF KPURA MEMBERSHIP

1. Newsletter 3 times a year– *KPURA News* – keeping us connected with news of retirees':
  - a. travels,
  - b. community-based activities,
  - c. research and scholarly activities,
  - d. social activities.
2. Reduced fees for KPURA-sponsored activities such as wine tastings, local boat, streetcar, and walking tours, lunches.
3. Keeping connected with colleagues and friends – with the "Kwantlen Family".
4. Maintaining friendships and creating new ones.
5. The exchange of information.
6. Intellectual engagement.
7. Ongoing support from and to the university.
8. Representation of their interests as retirees.
9. Access to benefits of the College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC)
  - 42 member associations (including KPURA) embracing some 16,000 retirees
  - Benefits [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca) :
    - a. Discounted travel
    - b. Discounted home and car insurance
    - c. Discounted pet insurance
    - d. Extended health insurance – in some aspects better than our group pension health insurance – rates are not age-banded
    - e. Two different travel/trip cancellation plans – one is not age-banded
    - f. Quarterly Newsletter
    - g. Annual National Conference

## For More Information

Thank you for reading Newsletter #6 of the KPU Retiree's Association.

We are interested in what you would like to see in the KPURA Newsletter. We look forward to your memories and your contributions. Let us know!

Alice Macpherson, [alicemac@telus.net](mailto:alicemac@telus.net)

Your Newsletter Committee,  
who would welcome more input, members, articles and  
photos – [kpuranews@gmail.com](mailto:kpuranews@gmail.com)

# KPURA News

12666 – 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Surrey, BC, V3W 2M8

## How About You?

Do you have a photo or story to share of your early days at Kwantlen? How about your travels or current adventures before or after retirement? The newsletter is always looking for pictures and stories. They can be about your adventures at Kwantlen and beyond into community activities or travels near and far. Please feel free to join in with an article of up to 500 words with pictures to illustrate.