



**University  
of Victoria**

## Welcome to New Members

**Giles Hoga**, Theatre,  
Faculty of Fine Arts;

**Vance Johnson**,  
Computing and Systems  
Services;

**Mary Theresa Nixon**,  
Faculty of Education;

**Adrienne Thomson**,  
Physical Education,  
Faculty of Education;

**Angus McLaren**,  
History, Faculty of  
Humanities;

**Ronald Nash**, Associate  
Member, St Francis  
Xavier University  
(Anthropology)



# GREY MATTERS

University of Victoria Retirees' Association

Volume 02/08

UVRA Newsletter March 2008

*Oh, to be in England now that April's there* – the poet got it wrong!!! Victoria is the place to be – spring truly is our splendid season of the year. Go anywhere in the region and enjoy the abundance of flowering trees and spring flowers and a quick walk around Finnerty Gardens is all you need for a spring tonic. Still it was nice to take off for an extended stay in Arizona during the first two months of the year and leave behind the damp, grey winter of the Pacific Northwest. One of my favourite activities is hiking in the desert around the Phoenix area and this year because I extended my visit I had the bonus of seeing the desert in “full bloom” – what a display of yellow poppies, all sorts of blue, orange and red wildflowers, plus the cacti with colourful new growth. Also I was able to witness the desert come to life as small animals and lizards made their appearance with the warming days. Fortunately the weather was still cold enough to keep the snakes sleeping – a mere 80 degrees is not quite enticing enough for the reptiles. Many thanks to Victor Neufeldt for stepping in to edit the newsletter and also to Judy for her usual first-class work on layout and production.

**Important Date:** The date of the AGM has been set for Wednesday, June 18 at 10 a.m. in MacLaurin, D111. This is the day you can come and have your say – what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong, your concerns, your beefs. We welcome all members and refreshments will be served. Come and meet your board and other members.

### Reminder:

#### Masterminds

It's not a quiz show, but a chance for you to learn from a lifetime of research, creativity, and involvement by active University of Victoria retirees. The UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging—with support from the university—are presenting five lectures (April to May, 2008). **Each lecture will take place at 7 p.m. in the Hickman Building, room 105. Please register by calling 472-4473 and plan to arrive early, because seating will be limited.** There is a \$2 charge for parking in all campus parking lots during evenings and on Saturdays. For more information visit [www.uvic.ca/masterminds](http://www.uvic.ca/masterminds).

### UVRA Executive Board 2007-08

**President**, Lyle Robertson

**Vice-President**, John Schofield

**Secretary**, Marie Elliott

**Treasurer**, Beth Watton

**Past President**, Victor Neufeldt

**Benefits**, Tom Cleary

**Communications**, Judy Cryderman

**Membership**, George Smith

**Newsletter Editor**, Helen Kempster

**Program**, Isobel Dawson



## In Memoriam

**Reidun Anderssen**, August 23, 1924 – March 12, 2008. Reidun worked for many years in UVic's Language Lab and was a faithful volunteer in the UVRA office. Reidun leaves her husband Per and a large extended family.

**Ian Leonard Bradley**, August 11, 1925 – February 21, 2008. Dr. Bradley was born in Auckland, New Zealand and came to Canada in 1955. He devoted his life to teaching music and was a respected organist and choir director in Vancouver, Victoria and Phoenix, AZ. He retired from UVic after many years teaching music education in the Faculty of Education. Dr. Bradley leaves his wife Patricia, three sons, grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**Gerald Edward Dirks**, 1942- February 28, 2008. Dr. Dirks overcame blindness to graduate from UBC and go on to complete an MA from Queens University and earn a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. After a career teaching in the Politics Department at Brock University, Dr. Dirks took early retirement and returned to BC in 2002. In addition to his professional achievements, Gerry made a significant contribution to the CNIB both as a volunteer Board member and, for a short period in 1984-85, as Executive Director of the Ontario Division. He played a central role in the establishment of Voiceprint in Canada and worked to improve the lives of the blind in other parts of the world through his involvement in the World Blind Union and his support of the World Braille Foundation. Gerry is survived by his wife, Pat and large extended family.

### **April 9: Paved Paradise for a Parking Lot: Why Victoria's Past is Crucial to Its Future**

Dr. Nicholas Russell, retired sessional instructor of UVic's writing department, is senior editor of a four-volume series *This Old House: Victoria's Heritage Homes* and is publisher of *Media* magazine. He is president of the Hallmark Heritage Society and a volunteer researcher for the Victoria Heritage Foundation. His lecture will highlight heritage buildings and their importance to Victoria.

### **April 16: From Exclusion to Inclusion: Canada's Chinese and Japanese Citizens**

Dr. Patricia Roy, professor emerita of UVic's history department, is the author of a number of books on the history of Japanese and Chinese Canadians. Her lecture will discuss the conclusion of discrimination against Chinese Canadians and Japanese Canadians in Canada.

### **April 23: Reminiscence Theatre: Remembering the Community**

Prof. Juliana Saxton, professor emerita of applied theatre in UVic's theatre department, serves as an adjunct professor for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and as university orator. Her lecture will focus on using applied theatre techniques to prompt, and find meaning within, memories.

### **April 30: Playing It Safe: Keeping Victoria Beautiful without Pesticides**

Dr. Paul West, professor emeritus in UVic's chemistry department and a former director of the School of Environmental Studies, currently chairs a CRD working group on Pesticide Use Reduction Education. His lecture will discuss pesticide use and alternatives for home lawns and gardens.

### **People in the News:**

Congratulations to **George and Dot Smith** on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. George and Dot received a trip to Cuba courtesy of

their family who joined them for the celebration.

**Dr. David Sanborn** Scott (May 7 Masterminds lecturer) will be heard on CBC Radio One *IDEAS* at 9pm on April 9 and April 16. On April 23 Dr. Scott can be heard in discussion with Norman Rubin of Energy Probe.

### **Special Interest:**

Local history buffs, especially during the 150 anniversary celebrations for BC, will be interested in *South Park School – Memories through the decades* written by Debbie Marchand and Linda Picciotto, longtime South Park teachers. The book was just awarded the 2008 Hallmark Society Communications award.

The oldest building in Western Canada that has been in continuous use as a school (since 1894) the book outlines the history of South Park School. Through photographs (mostly from the school's own archives and contributed by alumni) and, more importantly, through memoirs written by former students the book gives readers a "flavour of the times".

The book places the school's history in a wider setting through the interesting and often-entertaining "Facts and Events" sections in each chapter, which list events that happened locally, nationally, and in the wider world. The cost is \$25 (including taxes) and can be bought either at South Park School (508 Douglas St) or from Linda Picciotto (598-3450). Also the book's website is [southparkbook.ca](http://southparkbook.ca). A must read!

### **Call for volunteers: Convocation**

volunteers are needed to help robe the graduating students. The dates for Spring Convocation are June 3, 4, 5 and 6. Please contact Tracy Arden in the Ceremonies and Events Office at 721-7445 for more details

**Survey participants** are needed for a University of Victoria Study titled "**What do older adults think about strength**"

**training?"** We are looking for individuals aged 65 plus, who live in the community and are able to participate in physical activity. We are particularly interested in talking to people who do not regularly participate in strength training and/or physical activity. Separate focus groups (2 hours maximum) will be held with men and women. A \$20 honorarium will be provided to all participants. For more information please contact Rachel Dean, [RNDEAN@uvic.ca](mailto:RNDEAN@uvic.ca) or (250) 472-4588 (lab); (250) 746-4056 (home).

**Change of date:** UVic's annual plant sale normally scheduled for the first Sunday in May will be held on Sunday, May 11 from 10 a.m. Yes, we know it is Mother's Day but what better time to get mum a special plant and help a great cause. Come early as plants go quickly.

**Invitation: *Calling all retired faculty and staff of Social Sciences.*** Peter Keller, Dean, invites you for a tour of the new Social Sciences and Math Building. Following the tour, Dr. Keller will give a short presentation about what is new within the faculty. Seating is limited to 20 people. Lunch will be served. If you have mobility concerns, please note the tour will involve stairs. For more information and to register your interest, please contact Barb Roberts, 721-6044 or by email [broberts@uvic.ca](mailto:broberts@uvic.ca).

## Keeping the Mind Active

UVic Continuing Studies may have something for you. Check out their full range of offerings in their Spring 2008 course brochure. Visit

[www.continuingstudies.ca](http://www.continuingstudies.ca)

and search by subject. Under Health Wellness, for example, a course on **Transitions: New Beginnings (HPHE199)** covers how transitions in life can be a potentially rich and rewarding time. This course is offered on April 15 from 7-9 p.m.

**If you have items of interest to our members for inclusion in the newsletter send them along to Helen Kempster at 592-4748 or drop them off at the office.**



## Event Calendar

### UVRA Upcoming Events:

**April 16 – Day trip to Jeanne Simpson Field Studies Resource Centre at Lake Cowichan.**  
\$5 per person.  
Registration by April 11.

**May 13 – Visit to Merridale Estate Cidery, Cobble Hill,**  
Cider tasting and lunch.  
\$25 per person.  
Registration by May 9.

**June 17 – day trip to Piers Island.**  
\$15 per person.  
Registration by June 13.