

ARFL NEWSLETTER

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University

Website: <http://yuarfl.org>



2014 ARFL AGM & Presentation
November 14, 2014

*Senior Common Room
Founders College
Annual General Meeting
Meeting: 10:30 am to Noon
Lunch: Noon to 1 pm (catered)
Presentation: 1 pm to 3 pm*



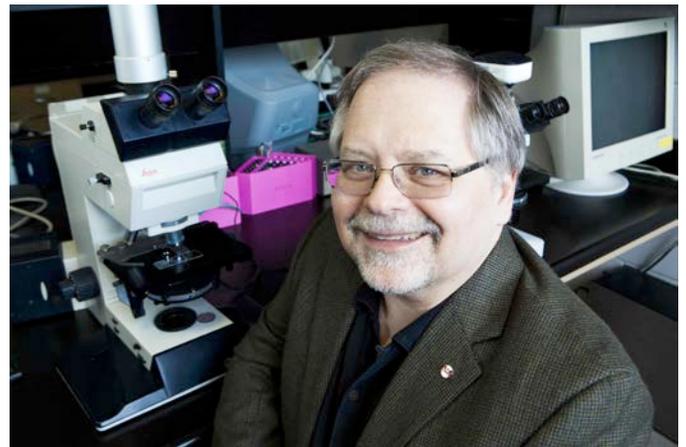
***PLEASE NOTE THE
LOCATION AND TIME OF
THIS IMPORTANT MEETING***

OUR FEATURED SPEAKER!

JOHN P. SMOL, The Man

Agenda – 2014 AGM

Call to Order
Amendment/Acceptance of the Agenda
Election of ARFL Executive
President's Report
Vice-President's Report
Treasurer's Report
YURFL Trust Report
ARFL Scholarship Report
ARFL/YURA Report
Other Business
Our Featured Speaker



JOHN P. SMOL, OC, PhD, FRSC is professor of biology (cross-appointed with the School of Environmental Studies) at Queen's University (Kingston,

Ontario), where he also holds the *Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change*. Smol founded and co-directs the Paleocological Environmental Assessment and Research Lab (PEARL), a group of ~30 students and other scientists dedicated to the study of long-term global environmental change, and especially as it relates to lake ecosystems. An *ISI Highly Cited Researcher*, Smol has authored ~500 journal publications and chapters since 1980, as well as completed 20 books. Much of his research deals with the impacts of climatic change, acidification, eutrophication, contaminant transport, and other environmental stressors. He has led research on circumpolar Arctic lakes for over 3 decades. Smol was the founding Editor of the international *Journal of Paleolimnology* (1987-2007) and is the current Editor of the journal *Environmental Reviews*. Since 1990 Smol has been awarded over 45 research and teaching awards and fellowships, including the *2004 NSERC Herzberg Gold Medal* as Canada's top scientist or engineer. He has won 10 teaching, mentoring and scientific outreach awards, and was named by *Nature* magazine, following a nation-wide search, to be *Canada's Top Mid-Career Scientific Mentor*. He is currently Chair of the *International Paleolimnology Association* (IPA). Recently, John was named an Officer of the *Order of Canada*, the country's highest civilian honour.

The Presentation

Tracking the environmental effects of oilsands development in both space and time

The Athabasca oilsands (Alberta, Canada) are the world's 3rd largest oil reserve. Controversy has characterized the intense development of this remote region. However, the absence of systematic monitoring requires indirect approaches to determine pre-impact conditions and trajectories of pollution impacts. In this seminar I will summarize how we have used paleolimnology (i.e. lake sediment analyses) to track the history and sources of contaminants (e.g. polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)) and biological indicators (i.e. algae, cladocerans, chironomids) in a strategically selected set of study lakes. Increased PAH concentrations and composition are consistent with the timing and expansion of oilsands operations. Our multi-proxy data, collected on a broad spatial and temporal scale, reveal how paleolimnology can be used to enhance monitoring programs, providing crucial data previously absent.



ARFL President's Report

Bob Drummond

When I was approaching retirement, I was nervous about the prospect because most of the colleagues I knew who had retired seemed considerably busier in retirement than when they were fully



ARFL Treasurer's Report

Stanley Jeffers

This is a summary of the current financial situation. A balance sheet and a statement of revenue and expenses as of June 30 2014, the end of our fiscal year will be posted on our website (<http://yuarfl.org>) together with the other reports from executive committee members for discussion at the forthcoming AGM.

At its last meeting on September 30, the executive agreed to donate \$1000 to what is now known as the ARFL Lee Lorch Memorial Award in support of aboriginal students at York. After this payment and the payment of our dues to YUFA (\$5 per member), we currently have in our chequing account \$7439.77. Our total invested in GIC's is currently \$17,841.16. We currently have some 206 members who are current with their dues for 2014, an increase over last year as some effort was made to re-enroll members who had allowed their membership to lapse.

For the forthcoming year, we hope to have significant savings as we move to e-mailing out our newsletters. Only a handful of members have so far indicated a preference for receiving printed copies. We will also be sending as e-mailed attachments scanned copies of receipts for dues paid resulting in further savings.

employed. Some were mostly engaged with gardening and grandchildren, to be sure, but several were continuing the academic pursuits that had been their calling and not just their job. I assume that is still the case today. In this edition of the Newsletter, you will find a shameless piece of self-promotion from my fellow Executive member Betty Sabiston and myself. We have included it not (or at least not only) for ego gratification, but in the hope we may persuade others to let us know what they are doing to preserve their intellectual lives, so that we may include it in future Newsletters. And if you have elected horticulture or indulging your favourite members of the next generation, we'd be happy to hear about that too.

The other thing I noticed in retirement was that I no longer had the support of a staff such as I enjoyed in the Dean's Office in Arts. The consequence is that I don't get around as quickly as I should to some promised activities. I believe I suggested in the spring that I would urge departments that do not yet do so to include lists of emeritus/emerita colleagues in their faculty lists on their web site (assuming people agree that they would like to appear there). I haven't got around to that one yet, but it remains on my to-do list.

Finally I should note that your Executive has conveyed to YUFA our hopes and dreams for retiree benefit improvements in the coming year's contract negotiations. We will continue to monitor progress in that regard and will keep you apprised as best we can.



In Memory of Lee Lorch

Stanley Jeffers

On June 23, a memorial event was held in Winters Dining Hall for Lee Lorch. It was more a celebration than a commemoration of Lee's life. The attendance of more than 100 exceeded the expectations of the organisers with many messages sent in from those who could not personally attend. Lee was fondly remembered for his principled stance against racism in the US and the price that he and his family paid for their activism in support of African-Americans and other minorities.

Lee, as is well known, was effectively fired from a total of four US universities for his activism and lived long enough for two of them to finally acknowledge their mistake and award him honorary degrees!

As many speakers acknowledged, Lee campaigned on many social justice issues including support for racial minorities, women (in particular the rights of women mathematicians), against the threat of nuclear warfare, support for Cuba etc. His contributions to mathematics were recognised earlier in the day in a seminar held in the mathematics Department. Lee touched the lives of an extraordinary number of people and was remembered for his uncompromising defence of his core principles, his personal courage, warmth, wit and wisdom.

The event was co-sponsored by YUFA and ARFL). Lee was a staunch supporter of both of these organisations. ARFL, with matching funds from the Province,

established a scholarship to support aboriginal students at York a few years ago. The ARFL executive committee recently named it for Lee. It will be known as the ARFL Lee Lorch Memorial Award.

If you wish to make a donation to this scholarship in support of aboriginal students at York, you may do so by cheque payable to “York University” and mailed either to-Abbey Black, Division of Advancement, West Office Building, York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto, M3J 1P3 or to ARFL, c/o YUFA , 240 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3 Alternatively you may donate on line by typing the following into your browser “giving.yorku.ca/inmemoryof/leelorch “ or clicking [here](#).

The memorial event was professionally videoed and can be viewed [here](#) (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=478C-nJ4y4>). More recently, on September 19, the American Mathematical Association held its own commemorative gathering. This can be viewed [here](#) (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fp4xwdF2LU>). It is appropriately entitled “Social Justice, Mathematics and the Legacy of Lee Lorch”.



Pluri-Culture et écrits migratoires/Pluri-Culture and Migrant Writings

Elizabeth Sabiston and Robert Drummond have co-edited *Pluri-Culture et écrits migratoires/Pluri-Culture and Migrant Writings* (Sudbury, Ontario: The

Human Sciences Monograph Series, Laurentian University, 2014, 560 pp.). The editors acknowledge the generous support of a SSHRC grant.

The history of the human race is a history of migration. Migration South-North, East-West, voluntary, forced, across nations, cultures, religions, languages. In our time immigration has been increasingly problematized in the global village we inhabit.

This collection of thirty-three essays, originating in the bilingual international conference, “Pluri-Culture and Migrant Writings: An Interdisciplinary Approach,” held at York University, Toronto, in May 2012, organized by the Canada-Mediterranean Centre (CMC), and supported by a SSHRC grant, focuses on a variety of discourses, both oral and written, in order to address key issues of migration.

By stressing the cultural baggage the immigrant brings with him/her, and its interaction with the host country, the writers analyze Pluri-Culture in all its manifestations, both “high” and popular. The aim of the collection is to create cultural dialogue, a bridge between similarity and difference, which may mitigate the “clash of civilizations.” By utilizing the tools of both the humanities and the social sciences, the collection underlines the ways in which humans *create* their own cultures, and hereby present a model of tolerance, understanding, and Pluri-Culturalism.

An ambitious opening section focuses on the creative and critical work of Professor Emeritus Hédi Bouraoui (French Studies), founder of the CMC,

who has pioneered cross-cultural studies, or what he calls “Transculturalism.” Contributors to the volume are truly international (France, Italy, Spain, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Sénégal, Cameroon, Lebanon, China, as well as Canada and the United States). York authors include Lesley Higgins and Marie-Christine Leps, Kay Li, Olga Stein, Allan Weiss, Hernán Humána and Wally Dyba. Elizabeth Sabiston wrote one essay and the Introduction, and Robert Drummond the Conclusion.

A book launch will be scheduled at York later in the fall (details forthcoming). While the book only appeared in May, some reviews have already come to the attention of the editors. Here are two comments received to date:

“ . . . a striking work in its richness and diversity . . . a profound and unified scholarly work . . . to be read and reread.”

Rafik Darragi,
Professor Emeritus, Université de Tunis

“What emerges from this book is the importance of these writings in our time, for two reasons: on the one hand the phenomena of migration, whether chosen or more or less forced, are more and more numerous, and one could go so far as to say they characterize our time; and on the other hand more and more writers feel the need to speak about it. The originality of these writings is that they do not restrict themselves to developing the theme of exile, but are engaged in reflections that one could call essential or existential. . . . The very strong feeling that emerges from these

passionate analyses is that such efforts at adaptation and reciprocal respect . . . cannot be lost. In fact, they are our future.”

Denise Brahim, Professor Emerita, the Sorbonne, Paris

The book is available at the York University Bookstore (\$35).



THE AGONY OF KEEPING SECRETS

by A. Saber M. Saleuddin

This new novel tells the fascinating tale of seven friends whose lives and loves interweave over the course of 25 years and across three continents and several religions. We see the friends relocate to advance their careers, fall in and out of love, and suffer successes and tragedies.

There is Kamal, the brilliant pre-med student with a passion to become an eye surgeon to help the poor of Bangladesh; Rebecca, the beautiful daughter of a Jewish family living in Bangladesh, the first love of Kamal; Amir, Rebecca's brother, whose secret is revealed after he suffers a horrible fate; Gita, who finally convinces her parents of her love for Roshan; and Roshan, the womanizer, who secretly marries Gita in London, unknown to his parents, who threaten to disown him.

The story all begins with Kamal, who was driven by his passion to cure the eye diseases of the poor in Bangladesh. With much of the action set in medical facilities

throughout the world, we get an insider's view of what goes on behind hospital doors. And throughout the story of the seven friends runs the agony of keeping secrets.

(399 pages. \$29.95 Canadian. Published by York University Press. Available at <http://www.bookstore.yorku.ca>)



NEWS FROM YURA – October 2014

Sandra Pyke

For the time being, the YURA office is still located at 101 Central Square although the Retirement Planning Centre has moved to Human Resources in the Kinsmen Building. Functions that How Chee (now retired) used to perform are being carried out by personnel in the Kinsmen Building including the administration associated with the annual membership renewal which is currently underway.

An exciting trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake was held on Oct. 1 and a number of YURA members enjoyed a tasty lunch at Queen's Landing followed by an excellent rendition of Shaw's "The Philanderer".

YURA's AGM took place on Friday, October 24, preceded by a lunch at the Underground.

Plan to attend the annual Showcase event including bake sale and the attic treasures table which takes place on Tuesday November 4 in Central Square. Proceeds from Showcase support the three student awards funded by YURA.

A joint seminar with ARFL on the topic of diabetes is being planned for the new year.



2014 CURAC Conference

Al Stauffer

The 2014 CURAC Conference was held in Hamilton in May, jointly sponsored by McMaster University and Mohawk College. Our own Sandra Pyke, who is President of CURAC, did an admirable job of overseeing the proceedings.

It is always very instructive to find out what retiree associations at other universities and colleges are doing. There were three sessions of Sharing Best Practices and I passed on a number of ideas that I thought ARFL could implement such as regular meetings with the administration, using our newsletter to highlight the contributions of retirees to the enhancement of York's reputation through their research and community activities and financial support for retiree research beyond the PER.

For me, the highlight of the conference was a series of presentations by McMaster researchers on their work related to the older members of our communities. There is a website www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org which provides links to much useful information on aging, in particular, how to stay healthy and active in our later years.

One of the best presentations dealt with hearing loss and the development of improved hearing aids, including low cost models. While most hearing aids are adjusted for hearing loss at a range of

individual frequencies, the McMaster group investigated hearing responses to more complex sounds and used auditory models to develop hearing aid design to compensate for overall hearing loss. These ideas are being commercialized by Vita Sound (vitasound.com).

One of the most serious consequences of aging is the possible loss of access to a car resulting in social isolation and reduced activity. There are many issues related to driving that seniors face such as decreased vision, restricted range of motion and slower reaction times. Perhaps the most worrisome is the development of dementia such as Alzheimer's. Researchers at McMaster are attempting to develop valid methods to determine medical fitness to drive as well as retraining methods after a serious medical incident such as a stroke.

Another lecture dealt with Fostering Resilient Aging Through Social Participation. It considered a range of alternatives such as social networks in neighbourhoods and various living arrangements including co-housing. Help to 'age in place' is an important component of this support. There is a website, secondjourney.org, which offer several publications detailing these ideas and offering alternatives for our later years.

There is an ongoing study of the effect of an aging population on the labour force and our standard of living. Many of the dire predictions are overblown if one includes the older populations in the labour force via longer working lives and higher participation rates. There is also a need to recognize changes required to

accommodate an aging populations such as our social security system and health care services.

McMaster researchers are also involved via the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging which is following 50,000 participants for at least 20 years. The findings of this study are part of the McMaster Optimal Aging Initiative and are available on the website quoted above.

The next CURAC conference will be held in May 2015 at Queen's University in Kingston.

ARFL Website: yuarfl.org
ARFL E-mail: yuarfl@web.net



A note about payment of Membership dues

ARFL dues are now payable for 2014-15. A dues form can be found below (both electronic and hard copy versions) for those who haven't yet paid. **For your (and our) convenience, we continue the option of paying your ARFL dues by credit card via the web. We would like to urge those renewing for the current year to do so on line at**

<http://eventbrite.ca/event/13544178001>.

Please note that no personal information is retained by this provider and that your window of opportunity for payment on line closes on November 14, 2014. If you want to pay at eventbrite online for two years, just order two "tickets".

Payment can also be made by sending a cheque along with the dues form to the address indicated below or by paying in person at the AGM. **Also, please note that, in future, receipts for dues paid will be scanned and e-mailed to you as an attachment unless paper copies are specifically requested.**



2013/14 ARFL Executive Members

President - Bob Drummond
(robertd@yorku.ca)

Past President - Al Stauffer
(stauffer@yorku.ca)

Vice-President - Saber Saleuddin
(saber@yorku.ca)

Secretary - Fred Fletcher
(ffletch@yorku.ca)

Treasurer - Stan Jeffers (stanj@yorku.ca)

Newsletter Editor - Joe Green
(joe_green@rogers.ca)

Pre-Retiree Member - Georges Monette
(georges@yorku.ca)

Members-at-Large -

John Crozier (jcrozier@yorku.ca)

Vivienne Monty (vmonty@yorku.ca)

Marianne Rogers
(MRogers@osgoode.yorku.ca)

Elizabeth Sabiston (sabiston@yorku.ca)

YURA rep- Sandra Pyke
(spyke@yorku.ca)

YURA alternative - Margo Gewurtz
(mgewurtz@yorku.ca)

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians (ARFL): 2014/15 Membership

Enclosed is my cheque for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (or 2016 if 2 year)

\$25 Regular membership \$50 Regular membership (2 year) renewal/new

\$10 Associate membership (available to pre-retirees) renewal/new

I would like to contribute \$_____ to support ARFL in its continuing work on behalf of York's retired faculty and librarians

I am willing to undertake occasional work in ARFL

NAME (please print) _____

Address: Street & # _____

City/Town _____ **Province/State** _____

Postal Code _____ **Country** _____

Home Phone _____ ****E-mail** _____

Please mail to: ARFL c/o YUFA, 240 York Lanes,
York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada.

** Requested to facilitate communications to members

Apple Canada recently ceased offering educational pricing through Data Integrity. You may buy any other make of computer through Data Integrity but not Apples. For the numerous Apple fans at York, this can be quite an inconvenience. If you are faculty or retired with access to funds, you can still buy Apple products but have to go through Sm@rtBuy.

Here are the steps you have to follow to make your purchase:

1. Go to: <http://www.yorku.ca/yorkweb/fs.htm> and log in with your Passport ID; 2. Click on the link: Sm@rtBuy on the right corner down; 3. Click Apple Window; 4. Please select the item and click submit; 5. An EProcurement Document will be created; 6. Click Continue; 7. Click Proceed to Checkout; 8. Additional information is required such as: Shipping Address etc.; 9. Click on Billing and enter the Accounting codes such: fund and cost centre; 10. Please enter all the required fields; 11. Click on Final Review and submit.

If you use your personal funds, you have to go off campus to make your purchase. Apple stores will offer the educational discount.

York students who want or need to buy Apple computers can do so at any Apple store at the educational discount price (modest but better than nothing)