



**University
of Victoria**

**Retirees
Association**

Office: R -Hut , Room#125
In Institute on Aging and
Lifelong Health Building

NOTE: Office visits are by
appointment. Please email
UVRA to arrange.

Website: uvic.ca/retirees
Email: uvra@uvic.ca
Phone: (250) 472-4749

Grey Matters!

FALL 2024



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OCTOBER 2024

The Joseph Conrad Free House sketched by Stephen Brodsky
(See page 8 for a transcript of the annotation on the illustration.)

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Notes from the President

Greetings fellow retirees. We hope that everybody had a wonderful summer. The weather was amazing, and it was so great to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. I punctuated my time by moving and experienced the joy of packing/unpacking and the adventure of a new home – now if I could only find that box?

First, I want to welcome our newest members. We encourage you to participate in UVRA and to pass along any ideas that you have.

I want to remind everyone that October 1st is the UN International Day of the Older Persons. This designation is in its

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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its 34th year and on October 7, 2024, the United Nations commemorates an hybrid event entitled “Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older People Worldwide”. Our demographic is growing. According to the UN, the proportion of those aged 65 years and older globally will increase from 9.3% in 2020 to 16% by 2050.

I wish to mention the recent passing of James Pearce, who was a long serving member of the Board of Directors of UVRA. He made a lasting and valuable contribution to our organization. Prior to his retirement he spent 21 years at UVic and led the UVic Department of Facilities Management.

As you know I am always looking for more information on everything!! This, of course includes reading different perspectives on retirement. I heard about a new book written by Kaye Manson Jeter entitled “Transitioning to Retirement: You Can’t Ride a Camel for the Rest of Your Life”. Another book you say...why? Well, this one is written by a retiree whose career was in higher education and its perspective is on personal growth and well being. I have not had a chance to fully read it as yet, still too much unpacking, but just thought you might want to peek at it and let me know if you like it.

I want to close my message this edition, with an important topic...UVRA and its board. As I have mentioned previously, there are several openings including a number on the Executive. Currently there is no Vice President, and I have returned for an interim period as President so this is a great time to view the role and its activities. For example: UVRA is focused on revising and upgrading the MOU with UVic – think of the insight you could provide to your organization if you joined us and shared your input and encouragement. The Secretarial spot is also vacant and this role keeps us on track as a key member of the team. The current board has a number of experienced members who are eager to assist. I cannot express too forcefully how important it is that we have some folks join us. You and UVRA will both benefit from your involvement either on the board or as a volunteer for other activities.

If you want to hear more – please contact uvra@uvic.ca or uvrapres@uvic.ca with questions and comments. Enjoy the fall. Keep safe.

Margaret Klatt

September 2024

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you very much to the members who replied to my call for sending me their stories, pictures, ideas, and comments. The membership's involvement makes our newsletters more interesting, informative, and relevant. To those of you who have yet to submit, please do consider it.

Cecilia sent one of her short stories about unwanted visitors in her back yard. I suspect that some readers will relate to her predicament because they, too, are experiencing the same problem. What I did not know is a new-to-me way of getting rid of it. Hopefully, Cecilia will submit more of her interesting stories for future editions. (6)

After reading G.W. Stephen Brodsky's illustrated article about Joseph Conrad, I was left wanting to know more about why he decided to write his last book at a time in life when writing and publishing is definitely not on most nonagenarians' bucket list! Also why Conrad? So, I asked him some questions which resulted in my sharing our illuminating conversation with the readers. (7-13)

Don Lovell is a retired architect who enjoys drawing graphic illustrations. In this edition, Don introduces readers to the graphic historical novel he wrote and illustrated about the son of James Dunsmuir. From what the reviewers have to say about *The Dunsmuir Ring Part One*, it looks like this is the kind of book one cannot easily put down. (14-15)

McMaster University Optimal Aging Portal is now offering free micro e-classes. One learns something new in a few minutes each week. How? By subscribing via email to the course(s) presently offered. For a set number of weeks (amount varies), subscribers receive their course material via email. (17)

Members and their guests are invited to attend UVRA's Christmas Buffet Lunch to be held on December 11, 2024 at the University Club. Full details will be sent by email to members when available. (16)

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Zulette Gordon

From August 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024 :

BOODLE, Robin (Robert)

Facilities Management

GRAHAM, Chris

Gustavson School of Business

KELLER, Peter

Geography

LAM, Newman

School of Public Administration

LUIS, Hillary

School of Social Work

STEWART, Rosa

Hispanic and Italian Studies

VAN DER FLIER-KELLER, Eileen

Spousal

UNIVERSITY CLUB REPORT

University Club Report

The following is a list of upcoming events:

- Thanksgiving Dinner, **Saturday October 12th** Menu & Price TBA
- Kids Halloween Event, **Saturday October 26th** Menu & Price TBA
- Kids Xmas Brunch, **Saturday November 30th** Menu & Price TBA
- Member Xmas Dinner Dance (**With BackBeatBand**) Menu & Price TBA
- Holiday Lunch Buffet, Served **December 2nd-18th** \$49.95

Contract negotiations with unionized staff are ongoing, with a finalized new contract expected in the near future.

Richard Chappell

UVRA Club Representative

MEMBERS' CORNER- CECILIA

THE UNINVITED GUESTS

Yesterday, a young buck with fuzzy antlers was munching on the grass beside the moat (rock-lined ditch). I went out on my deck, 15 feet from him, and waved my arms above my head making myself look big and scary. He took a look but my bigness was obviously not big enough because I wasn't fooling him. He could see that I was an old 5'1" woman (having shrunk 3" recently) and went back to his grazing. He may be young but he's not stupid; he knows which flowers to clean off the yard.

I don't want the deer on the property. Though they are an elegant animal, they poop all over the yard and carry ticks and Lyme's disease and other unfriendly germs. I knew I wouldn't win in hand-to-hoof combat.

I would have liked to chuck a rock at him - not to hurt him - but to let him know he can't mess with me - but the rocks were beside him and he knows how to kick. Then I remembered someone told me deer don't like dogs that bark. So when he looked up again I tried a weird woof. (I will have to practice a more dog-like woof.)

And lo & behold, Master Buck pranced off down the field on his skinny legs. I didn't need a rock or bigness, I just needed a woof. Who knew? Then 5 minutes later, his girlfriend came along on the same route. I went out and again did a poor impression of a dog. She barely looked up before strolling off to a quieter part of the field.

Then, having decided I was not really a threat, Master Buck came back and I went bashing out there. He glanced over as he wandered past, clearly declaring that I don't have dominion over this beast.

I hope my kids don't find out that I am barking at the deer.



Cecilia

MEMBERS' CORNER –FEATURE ARTICLE

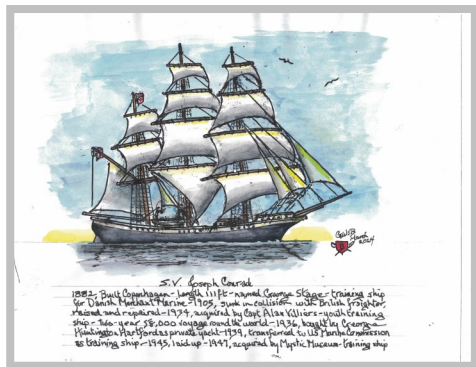
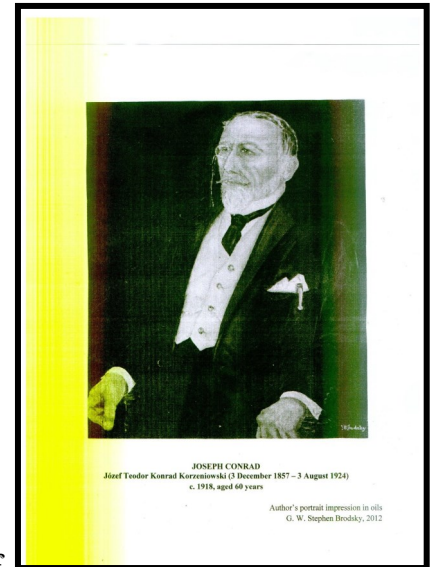
G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

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JOSEPH CONRAD - A CENTURY LATER

Not even the main bulk of the scholarly community, let alone the general reading public, may have noticed that 3 August of this year marked a century since the death at age 66, of Jozef Konrad Teodor Korzeniowski, the Pole who came up from the sea to become the great British author Joseph Conrad. It is more likely that nonagenarian litterateurs may know something about him, but less likely, and positively indecent,

that one of that hoary dwindling rocking chair crew should write a book in honour of that event.

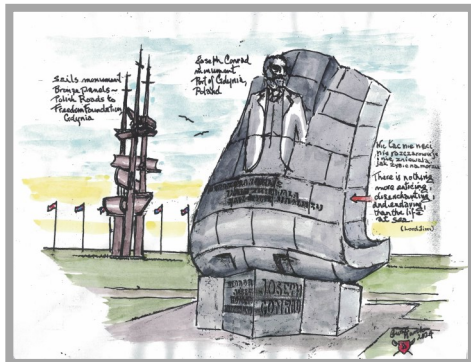


But, I sorrow to confess, that is what has happened.

My draft proof of *Intimations of Joseph Conrad: A Century of Sightings and Citings of Conrad's Presences in Print, Crafts, Media and Monuments* is currently undergoing the

final production phase at Walgrave Macmillan's academic branch. The "unspeakable rites" in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* are quite benign compared to the electronic proofing system used by that esteemed institution.

Despite that crime against letters, the publication release date is expected to be fall 2024, when readers may find out how echoes of Conrad, explicit and implicit, have kept popping up in books by many recently and currently popular authors such as John Le Carré and Ian MacEwan.



Stephen Brodsky

Ed: The next page provides transcripts of the annotations on the illustrations, and on the oil painting, shown on this page. The following two pages contain four of the annotated images appearing in *Intimations of Joseph Conrad*.

MEMBERS' CORNER –FEATURE ARTICLE

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

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TRANSCRIPTS OF THE ANNOTATIONS ON THE INK AND WATERCOLOUR IMAGES ON THE FRONT PAGE AND ON PAGE 7

SKETCH OF JOSEPH CONRAD PUB ON THE FRONT PAGE:

Joseph Conrad pub, Lowestoft Suffolk. Conrad first set foot on English soil when *Mavis* docked at Lowestoft on 18 June 1878. He soon joined the crew of *Skimmer of the Seas* commanded by Isaac Munning of Lowestoft.

PAINTING OF CONRAD:

Jozef Konrad Teodor Korzeniowski, (3 December 1857—3 August 1924) C. 1918 age 60
Author's portrait impression in oils — G.W. Stephen Brodsky, 2012

S.V. JOSEPH CONRAD:

1882- Built Copenhagen—Length 111ft—named Georg Stage— training ship for Danish Merchant Marine.

1905 - sunk in Collision with British Freighter, raised and repaired.

1934 - acquired by Capt. Alan Villiers, [Ed: renamed *Joseph Conrad*] a youth training ship two-year 58,000 voyage round the world.

1936 - bought by George Huntington Hartford as a private yacht.

1939 - transferred to US Maritime Commission as a training ship.

1945- laid up

1947- acquired by Mystic Museum as a training ship.

MONUMENT OF JOSEPH CONRAD AT THE PORT OF GDYNIA IN POLAND

“...there is nothing more enticing, disenchanting, and enslaving than the life at sea...”

(*Lord Jim*)

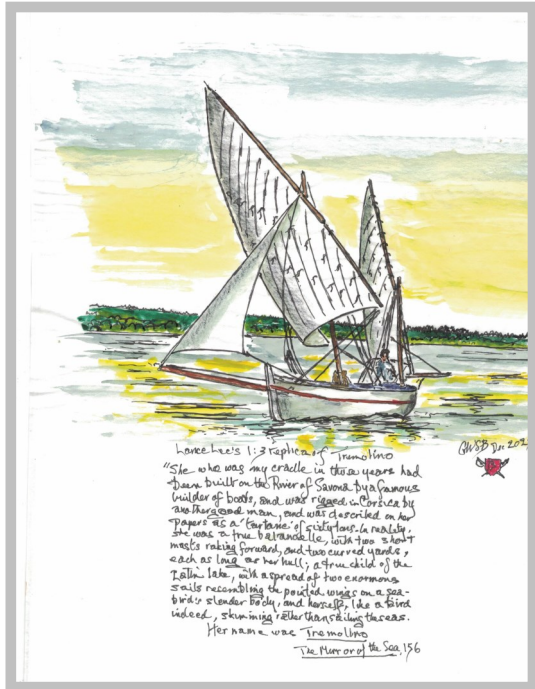
THE SAILS MONUMENT

Bronze panels, Polish Roads to Freedom Foundation, Gdynia.

MEMBERS' CORNER –FEATURE ARTICLE

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

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Lance Lee's 1:3 replica of the *Tremolino*.

"She who was my cradle in those years had been built on the River of Savona by a famous builder of boats, was rigged in Corsica by another good man, and was described on her papers as a 'tartane' of sixty tons. In reality, she was a true balancelle, with two short masts raking forward and two curved yards, each as long as her hull; a true child of the Latin lake, with a spread of two enormous sails resembling the pointed wings on a sea-bird's slender body, and herself, like a bird indeed, skimming rather than sailing the seas.

Her name was the *Tremolino*."

The Mirror of the Sea, 156

Figurehead carving of Joseph Conrad on the prow of the youth training vessel *Joseph Conrad* permanently moored at Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic River, Connecticut, USA, its bowsprit removed for refit.



MEMBERS' CORNER –FEATURE ARTICLE

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

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“Her name was the *Tremolino*. How is this to be translated? The *Quiverer*? What a name to give the pluckiest little craft that ever dipped her sides in angry foam! I had felt her, it is true, trembling for nights and days together under my feet, but it was with the high-strung tension of her faithful courage. In her short, but brilliant, career she had taught me nothing, but she has given me everything.”

The Mirror of the Sea

Wreck of *Otago*, Iron Barque built Glasgow 1869.

Capt. John Snadden Dec. 1887. Joseph Conrad appointed Captain January [Ed:1888] at Bangkok. Ports of call Singapore, Sydney, Melbourne, Mauritius, Adelaine (home port). Conrad resigned command March 1889. *Otago* sold 1903, converted to coal lighter. July 1905 beached as hulk. January 1931 sold to shipbreaker, dismantled 1937, more 1957. Remains are on East Shore of Derwent River near Hobart, Tasmania (*Otago Bay*).

Sic transit gloria mundi.



The Shadow-Line: A Confession (1917)

“My ship! She was mine, more absolutely mine for possession and care than anything in the world, an object of responsibility and devotion.... At first glance I saw that she was a high-class vessel, a harmonious creature in the lines of her fine body, in the proportioned tallness of her spars..... She was one of those craft that, in virtue of their design and complete finish will never look old.”

MEMBERS' CORNER –FEATURE ARTICLE

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

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G. W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

Special Lecturer (retired), Royal Roads Military College, Canada, is a historian of military culture in literature, including the *szlachta* tradition encoded in the Conrad oeuvre.

He is author of:

Gentlemen of the Blade: A Social and Literary History of the British Army
Greenwood/Praeger 1988),

Joseph Conrad's Polish Soul
(MSCU/Columbia UP, 2016), and

Intimations of Joseph Conrad: A Century of Sightings and Citings of Conrad's Presences in Print, Crafts, Media and Monuments (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024).



His articles on Conrad and reviews of Conradian authors' and editors' works have appeared in *Conradiana*, *The Conradian*, *Joseph Conrad Today*, the *Jagiellonian Yearbook*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Conrad: Eastern and Western Perspectives*, and *Zwischen Ost und West: Joseph Conrad im europäischen Gespräch*.

INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR

After reading Stephen Brodsky's article, and admiring his sketches, I was left wanting to know more regarding what motivated him, in his nineties, to write an illustrated book about Joseph Conrad. So, believing that other readers would also like to know, I asked him some questions which he graciously answered.

Our correspondence is reported in the next two pages.

MEMBERS' CORNER –FEATURE ARTICLE

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

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Lou: The fact that you chose to write your last book in your nineties is rare - not something most persons that age would do. I strongly believe that readers - me included - would like to know more about why you chose Joseph Conrad to research and write about over the years - not just for your last book. Why not Hemingway, or Thoreau, or...?

Steve: Serendipity, I suppose. I came to Conrad studies by a long tortuous path. I still wore the Queen's tweeds in those days, and had been posted to Royal Roads Military College. After a Master's thesis in Renaissance Drama, I was distracted from my proposal for doctoral research in that field by Conrad's oeuvre, and diverted from it by Professor Gerald Morgan (now emeritus, deceased), a former Master Mariner and latterly a Conrad specialist, who had, as it were, come ashore by degrees: "You're a soldier, aren't you? Write about Conrad and honour." Soldiers are—or at least were—obsessed with honour (alas, too often in the breach). So, I did. I discovered my mentor in the UK: Professor Jacques Berthoud (also now emeritus, deceased). An outstanding Conrad scholar, he became my dissertation supervisor. But all that is history many decades in the past.

Lou: Is there something in particular that attracted you to Conrad?

Steve: I guess his art made a deep chord resonate. Not just Relevance—a trite, hackneyed, dun word standing for what was, is now, and ever shall be. Conrad, Jozef Konrad Teodor Korzeniowski, Pole and Englishman, is all about the timeless paradoxes of fidelity, betrayal, honour, and their conflicting claims. As my paternal surname may suggest, I was soon to acquire a profound consciousness of congruences, even points of intersection, of our families' histories, encoded in Conrad's novels. The profound cultural and historical resonances of an immortal atonal music are to be heard in today's enormities in Ukraine, Israel, Sudan. The eternal humanly inhuman experience Conrad knew, understood, wrote about—*Heart of Darkness*, *Lord Jim*, *Nostromo*, *Under Western Eyes*, *The Rescue*, *The Rover ...etcetera, etcetera*.

MEMBERS' CORNER –FEATURE ARTICLE

G.W. STEPHEN BRODSKY

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Lou: Why did you decide to write this last book? Are there some reasons that you would want to share with your readers? I assumed that you had some - perhaps most- of the research done, but even if this is true, going from material to writing to publishing is monumental work - it is quite an accomplishment for writers of any age to achieve.

Steve: Like most sub-disciplines in academe, Conrad studies in Canada and the US are supported and advanced by a journal, *Conradiana*, and others in the UK and Europe, an association, the Joseph Conrad Society of America, and its newsletter, *Joseph Conrad Today (JCT)*.

Aside from papers for conferences and peer-reviewed journals, for several years as a rather light *jeux d'esprit* I contributed to "JCT sightings" of Conrad in recent and current novel literature and other media, by such stalwarts as John Le Carré (whose work at last is being seen to transcend the genre spy novel), Ian MacEwan, and many others. Conrad's Modernist influence and reception has left its mark on them and so many other great authors still extant--his narratology, the poetry of his prose, syntactic and semantic style, world view—implicit in their work, and often explicitly acknowledged.

Nearing the end of a scholarly life, I conceived the idea a couple of years ago, of collecting these sightings under one cover. A sort of *Selbst-Festschrift*. (Or, it may have been the newsletter's editor Professor Mark Larabee who suggested this. I don't think we know which.) The "sightings" contents seemed to sprout other branches as chapters multiplied and grew, and the publisher's readers approved of the result. It remains a minor opus, suitable as the consummation of an equally minor literary life.

A couple of other odds and ends are with other editors—a chapter for a book of collected critical essays and a review for a journal, then, as Conrad's headstone reads, sleep after toyle, port after stormie seas....Ironically, spoken by Despayre in the *Faerie Queene*. But no, it's simply time to open a decadal last chapter.

MEMBERS' CORNER

DON LOVELL

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The Dunsmuir Ring Part One

The Summer 2021 Grey Matters! edition contained an article about my autobiographical graphic memoir titled: *Gramps... Was your hair always grey?* <https://www.uvic.ca/retirees/assets/docs/summer-newsletter-2021.pdf>

Only one page of my memoir concerned the two years I spent as an Officer Cadet at Royal Roads Military Park, but I have long been fascinated by the history of Royal Roads, the magnificent setting of Hatley Park, and the splendor of the Dunsmuir family home. So, when several of my Military College mates suggested I do a graphic book about life as a cadet, the challenge that writing this book presented to me would be to combine these two disparate aspects.

I had a valuable research foundation having been a long-time member and President of the Friends of Hatley Park. I also served on the Military Heritage Committee of Royal Roads University for 15 years. Presently, I am a current member of the Colwood Heritage Commission. The coherent glue for my historical novel is James Dunsmuir's son, James, who was the only Dunsmuir with military service.

The Dunsmuir Ring Part One tells the story of 21-year-old James leaving Victoria for service in the First World War but perishing on the *Lusitania*. Part Two will outline the collapse of the Dunsmuir estate and the transformation of Hatley Park into a military training facility. A mystery following James' drowning will be solved in Part Two by an Officer Cadet. Part Two is expected in 2026.

Copies of *The Dunsmuir Ring Part One* are available for \$30 at Munro's Books and Bolen Books and, at the Craigdarroch Castle Gift Shop. <https://thecastle.ca/collections/book/products/book-the-dunsmuir-ring-part-one>



Don Lovell

(Manager Design/Campus Planning, UVic 1990-2007)

MEMBERS' CORNER

DON LOVELL

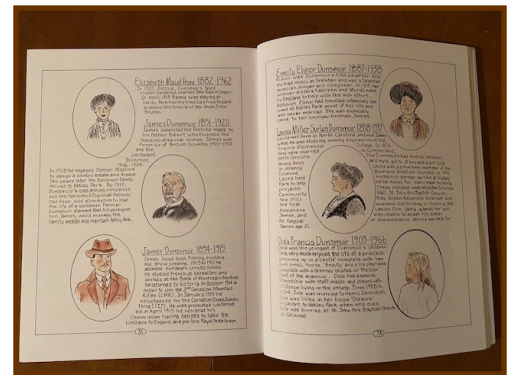
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REVIEWS OF *THE DUNSMUIR RING PART ONE*

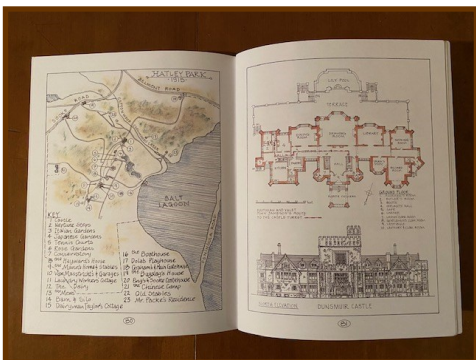
The Dunsmuir Ring Part One is reviewed in the Fall 2024 *British Columbia History Magazine*.

"In *The Dunsmuir Ring*, Don Lovell powerfully captures the most pivotal moment in the history of a great British Columbia family." Bruce Davies (Curator, Craigdarroch Castle)

"As well as an engaging story-line Lovell introduces the reader to the complex architectural sociology of a well-known Edwardian West-Coast manor house and estate. We follow footman Mr. Jameson on his early-morning tour of the house as he encounters the inhabitants on his way to hoist the flag on the turret of Hatley Park castle. The architecture comes alive along with the Dunsmuir family and their servants. And for those who doubt the veracity of the people and setting there is an extended appendix in which we find schematic plans of the house and gardens. A series of biographical vignettes introduce us to the Dunsmuir family, the estate staff and the colourful cast of characters met as the story unfolds including Sam Maclure, the architect of Hatley Park, and others of the Canadian business and military elite. This is a graphic novel that brings history to life." Martin Segger, Author of *The Buildings of Samuel Maclure*.



"Imaginative and engaging take on the last voyage and sinking of the Cunard liner *Lusitania*, centering around the story of one of her first-class victims James Dunsmuir. Beginning at his home in Victoria, BC, we follow Dunsmuir through his departure and travels to New York to join the ill-fated liner. After nearly completing her crossing of the Atlantic, *Lusitania* is torpedoed by the German submarine U-20 with the loss of about 1,200 passengers and crew, including Dunsmuir. The sinking shocked the world and changed the course of history. Lively story telling complete with end notes and appendices, including brief biographies of the characters. Well done and thoroughly entertaining." Eric Saunder, author of *The Unseen Lusitania*





Christmas Lunch 2024

Where? University Club

When? December 11, 2024

Time? 11:30am to ?

Registration: Starting at 11:00am

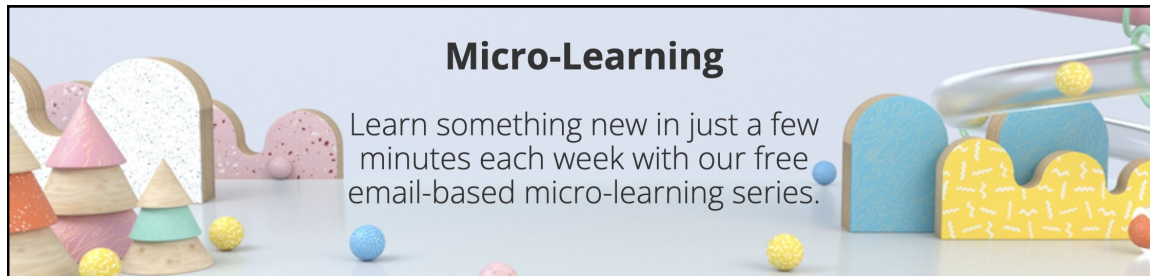
Lunch: 11:30am

Further information will be provided
to the membership via email.

Questions? Please email: uvra@uvic.ca

McMaster

OPTIMAL AGING PORTAL



Micro-Learning: Our [email-based series](#) deliver the latest information about important health topics directly to your inbox.

NEW! Anxiety disorders: Learn what anxiety is, the signs and symptoms, the different types of disorders, and how it's assessed, diagnosed and treated. [Sign up](#) for this 4-week series.

Dementia risk reduction: Get tips on how to promote brain health and reduce your risk of developing dementia. [Sign up](#) for the 12-week series.

Depression: Learn about the causes and risk factors and how depression is diagnosed and treated. [Sign up](#) for this 5-week series.

Editor's note: The above information was taken verbatim from McMaster University, Optimal Aging Portal, September 26, 2024. If you are interested in signing up for one or more micro e-courses, please click on, or copy/paste, the following link:

<https://www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org/e-learning/micro-learning>



This might interest you

There's a lot going on behind the scenes for members of the UVRA board.

Among the items currently occupying our agenda are:

- creating more established criteria for encouraging retirees to assist the University in its mandate, e.g. on academic committees, supervision of graduate students, community outreach, or mentoring new faculty and staff;
- encouraging the University to support retirees who wish to continue their research and hence continue to increase the University's national and international profile;
- improving liaison between retirees and their former departments, for example to take advantage of retirees' networks and experience, or advise pre-retirement colleagues;
- ensuring continued equitable access for retirees to the library, email, fitness facilities;
- arranging events for our members and friends, such as tours and celebratory dinners;
- helping UVRA beat another annual target for our United Way contributions.

There's one slight problem in working towards these goals, and continuing our efforts to support and represent our members — **there aren't enough of us!** In particular, we would welcome retirees who would bring their more recent experience and network of contacts to the table.

UVRA urgently needs to find nominees for President, Vice President, Benefits Chair, Events Coordinator, Board Secretary, MasterMinds Lead, and United Way Representative. The current incumbents will be happy to show you the ropes.

(Our bylaws allow us to appoint new members to the board, subject to their ratification at the next AGM.)

If you see yourself as a candidate for these positions, or just to join us in some of the efforts I have listed above, please contact me.

Peter Liddell

Chair, UVRA Nominations Committee
My email is: pgl@uvic.ca



The UVRA Graduate Scholarship was developed with the intention of helping graduate students pursue their goal of conducting research on the many factors related to aging and health outcomes within the rapidly growing 55+ age group. For the 2023-2024 academic year, Poonam Sehgal and Sanjit Roy each received a \$1,500.00 scholarship.

UVRA scholarships are given to academically outstanding graduate students, with preference to PhD students, whose area of study is focused on adults aged 55+ and who are working with the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health. Selection of each recipient will be based on a statement that explains the intent and impact of their research (max 500 words).

Preference is given to students who have received no other awards or whose total award funding in the academic year does not exceed \$5,000.

Approval of each recipient is made by the Faculty of Graduate Studies Graduate Awards Committee upon the recommendation of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health.

You are strongly urged to contribute to this worthy initiative which will have long term positive effects on furthering the research on aging.

To contribute simply click on this link:

<https://extrweb.uvic.ca/donate-online/UVRA>