

Volume 32, Number 2

December 2024

[www.ualberta.ca/association-retired-academic-staff](http://www.ualberta.ca/association-retired-academic-staff)

# Epilogue

ARAS Executive

**President**

Walter Allegretto  
780-439-7452

**Past President**

Gordon Rostoker  
780-434-4270

**Vice-President**

Walter Archer  
780-988-9833

**Secretary**

Don Carmichael  
780-433-1037

**Treasurer**

David Cooper  
780-438-0975

**Directors at Large:**

Beverley O'Brien  
780-481-4384

Vivien Bosley  
780-439-3215

Ken Roy

780-434-0067

Richard Young

780-438-6815

Linda Ogilvie

780-430-9221

--

**Presidential  
Appointees:**

**Epilogue Editor:**

Ruth Gruhn  
780-434-6586

**University of Alberta  
University Terrace  
Suite 6-30  
c/o Dept. of Family  
Medicine  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2R3**

**Phone:  
780-492-2914**

[emirhse@ualberta.ca](mailto:emirhse@ualberta.ca)

*Association of Retired Academic Staff – U Alberta*

## Editor's note

As I write this, the week has brought winter – ice pans floating in the river, a foot of fresh snow on the ground, and sub-zero temperatures with wind chill of January scale already. Christmas house lights in my neighbourhood have been on since Remembrance Day. We ARAS members can look forward to a nice Christmas Brunch at the University Club, the time to meet with old friends. I've lost a few this year, so I am looking forward to the gathering of those still with us.

In this issue you will find an account of the speaker's presentation at the November Lunch With ...., the President's Report at the October AGM, the *In Memoriam* box, with happily fewer names than in the September issue; and an old column by the late Keith Smillie on the history of Tim Hortons.

*Ruth Gruhn*

## Notices

The Lunch With ... schedule for the Winter Term events is January 28, February 25, and March 25. Speakers and topics to be announced in future online newsletters. Lunch With ... events are now held in classroom 1-38 in the University Terrace building. The meals are catered by the restaurant Upper Crust; and at \$20 per person, will feature soup, sandwiches, and dessert squares. So that we know how many meals to order, please indicate your plan to attend at least two days in advance of a date to [emirhse@ualberta.ca](mailto:emirhse@ualberta.ca).

The traditional **Christmas Brunch** will be held at the University Club on **Saturday 14 December**, at 11 am in the Saskatchewan Room on the first floor. Guests are welcome. The cost of the brunch this year is \$42. Please notify us in advance if you plan to attend. Payment in advance is requested; by mail if the Canada Post strike is over, or by Interac transfer to [emirhse@ualberta.ca](mailto:emirhse@ualberta.ca). In case of a guest's cancellation, the cost paid will be refunded if two days' notice is received.

## Reports

### **The Lunch With ... event of 27 November**

On 27 November, Dr. Florence Glanfeld, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming and Research) spoke eloquently of the University's current and future programs in the realms of teaching and research, in the aim to fulfill goals of the Trust and Reconciliation Commission. An Indigenous-oriented curriculum will include such topics as the history of residential schools, Indigenous people's essential relationship to the land, and ethical research with Indigenous communities and organizations. The audience was very impressed.

### **President's Report to the AGM, October 2024**

Although we are now well settled into our new office in University Terrace, there are still new matters that arise that must be dealt with. We are thankful to External Relations for renewing our grant at the same level as last year. We now have to pay for insurance for the office in University Terrace, but we have been able to cover that in our External Relations grant while still being able to pay the salary of our Office Assistant. Speaking of Office Assistants, David Raagas, who filled that position ably in the last two years, has graduated and is now employed in Calgary. After a couple of months with your President filling in, we hired a new Office Assistant, Damdini Nanayakkara, who has worked for ARAS since the middle of August. She is in the office from 2:00-5:00 pm on Mondays.

Another major change has been to move the locale of our Lunch With...events from the Papaschase Room at the University Club to a room on the first floor of University Terrace. The University Club raised the cost of the use of the Papaschase Room and demanded a minimum number of attendees (which we could never guarantee). It was decided to still use the University Club (the Saskatchewan Room) for our annual Christmas Brunch, which takes place on December 14 this year.

As you may remember, last year the University asked us if we would take over managing the list of Professors Emeriti and Emeritae, which, over the past many years, has been part of the University Calendar. We agreed to do so, and this list can now be found on the ARAS website; and is as error free as it has ever been.

We still are experiencing a decline in our membership. As you will see from the financial report to be delivered by our Treasurer, David Cooper, we have 75 paid members. We have a number of new members, thanks to Jan Murie being able to address new retirees at a session familiarizing them with what is involved in the retirement process. Our inability to know who is going to retire, and making new retirees fill out a consent form so that we can approach them, inviting them to join ARAS, is an impediment. One other concern is that most of our new members, while having paid their dues, do not seem to involve themselves in any of our programs. Recognizing this situation, your Executive arranged for a picnic to try to get new and old members to meet one another in a relaxed environment. While the first attempt, a rainy day in late April, had to be cancelled, the second attempt in September was very successful.

Our programs are stable in number and doing well. Dining Out, organized by Peggy Allegretto, has flourished. The Book Club, organized by Vivien Bosley, continues to have a strong membership. The Current Affairs Salon overseen by your President continues to meet monthly via Zoom. The Travel Group, which had been run by Don Bellow for many years, after a lengthy hiatus was taken on by Ken Roy; and had several sessions last year. Due to needed surgery, Ken has not been able to run the Group since Fall, but the Group will resume activities when he has recovered. Our Lunch With.....program continues in its new home in University Terrace thanks to the efforts of Richard Young and Vivien Bosley.

The ARAS Executive Committee has worked very hard to bring a good program of activities to the membership. While most of the members of that committee will be staying on, Marion Allen will be stepping down after some years of important contributions to the Association. Thank you, Marion!

ARAS sends out a weekly Newsletter. Along with notifications about interest group meetings, our Vice-President Walter Archer (who is also President of CURAC) provides information on webinars of interest. ARAS also continues to provide the quarterly publication, *Epilogue*, edited by Ruth Gruhn, who also attends monthly meetings of the AASUA Council and keeps us informed of what is going on in the University. Members are encouraged to provide content for *Epilogue* in the form of stories or articles of interest. I am now stepping down to become Past President of the Association, but that will not end my involvement with ARAS. I will continue managing the listing of Professors Emeriti and Emeritae on our website, along with assisting in the production of the Newsletter. And when my term as Past President expires, I will no doubt retreat to my old appointment of Technical Advisor. I just need some younger member with more modern computer skills to take over as the world of AI and high-tech envelopes us.

*Gordon Rostoker*

### **In Memoriam**

<b>Scott Beesley</b>	Economics
<b>Jim DeFelice</b>	Drama
<b>Dhara Gill</b>	Environmental Sociology
<b>Anne Kernaleguen</b>	Clothing and Textiles
<b>Alec McPherson</b>	Oncology
<b>Wynne Rigel</b>	Orthopaedic Surgery
<b>John Scrimger</b>	Medical Physics

## Mousing Around

*Keith Smillie*

### 62. Tim Hortons

A person cannot go far in Edmonton - or probably any other Canadian city - without seeing a sign for a Tim Hortons outlet, whether it be a sit-down restaurant, a drive-thru, or a coffee bar. I have known for some years that the first stores were in Hamilton, and that Tim Horton was a hockey player who was killed in an automobile accident. Not long ago I consulted Wikipedia for more information; and was surprised, “overwhelmed” might be a better word, to find a 19-page article with 106 references. What follows are a few facts that may interest people who, like myself, enjoy a cup of Tim Hortons coffee.

The first Tim Hortons store was opened in 1964, and was managed, as were the first few stores, by Tim Horton, who played hockey for the National Hockey League for 25 years until his death in 1976. The chain was then taken over by his partner, Ron Joyce, who bought the family share for a million dollars. The history of Tim Hortons since then has been one of aggressive expansion, partnerships, and mergers, especially a merger with Wendy’s, a restaurant chain, which lasted from 1995 until 2006. Finally in 2009 the company’s reorganizations resulted in Tim Hortons becoming a Canadian public company.

The stores, initially called “Tim Horton’s Donuts”, sold only coffee and doughnuts until 1976, when they introduced “timbits,” which were bite-sized doughnut holes and came in 35 different varieties; and were extremely popular as they still are. Because of the continued introduction of new products, the name was shortened to “Tim Horton’s”; however, in Quebec the apostrophe was considered to be breaking the provincial signage laws; and the chain was subsequently known everywhere as “Tim Hortons”.

Timbits represented the start of a long line of new products that the company has introduced. In the 1980s muffins, cookies, croissants, and soups and chilis were added; in the 1990s sandwiches, bagels, and a number of specialty coffees; and in the 2000s a chicken salad wrap and a hot breakfast sandwich were two of the items added. The latest product is the grilled panini, which comes in the form of several special sandwiches.

The first Tim Hortons stores were in Ontario and Atlantic Canada; then the chain expanded across Canada and into the northeastern United States. Other outlets outside of Canada include about a dozen bordering the Persian Gulf. There have been Tim Hortons outlets in a number of Canadian Forces Bases including one .in Kandahar, Afghanistan,

which opened in July 2006 in a 40-foot trailer. The staff were selected from the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency and received training in case of a threat of a nuclear or biological attack. The outlet closed in November 2011, after having served an estimated four million cups of coffee and three million doughnuts.

As of July 2012 there were 4071 Tim Hortons stores, including 3326 in Canada and 734 in the United States. There are over 90 outlets in Edmonton, with four or five on the U of A campus, including two on the ground floor of the Central Academic Building only a few yards from each other. The busiest store in Canada is in Yellowknife.

Each March the company holds a “Roll Up the Rim to Win” contest, in which winning paper coffee cups are indicated under the rim which may be rolled up. There is “Roll-up-the Rim” key ring with a plastic wedge to aid in rolling up the rim. Most of the 31 million prizes are store products, but a few television sets and vehicles are given away. One year a legal dispute arose when two schoolgirls found a cup awarding a Toyota SUV as the prize. The dispute between the girls’ families over the ownership of the cup was finally settled when the company stepped in and awarded the prize to the girl who first found the cup in the waste bin.

The company has a Tim Horton Children’s Foundation, which has sponsored many thousand underprivileged children from Canada and the United States to go to one of six quality summer camps located in Ontario, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Kentucky. There is a Camp Day in June when all proceeds from coffee sales in most stores are donated to the Foundation.

Tim Hortons stores appeal to a wide variety of persons, including mothers with young children, high school and university students, young professional people, and working men and women. Since WiFi facilities were recently introduced, many customers may be seen contentedly using their laptops. There are also groups of retired persons, and one suspects that Tim Hortons may be, for some of them at least, about their only source of social life.

For many persons Tim Hortons is becoming a Canadian icon. This view is not universally held; and, for example, Rudyard Griffith, director of The Dominion Institute, wrote in the *Toronto Star* in July 2006 that “Surely Canada can come up with a better moniker than the Timbit Nation”. However, we shall give the last word to Pierre Burton, who wrote in the *Ottawa Citizen* in March of the same year that “In so many ways the story of Tim Hortons is the essential Canadian story. It is a story of success and tragedy, of big dreams and small towns, of old-fashioned values and tough-fisted business, of hard work and of hockey”.

---