

ARAS Weekly Newsletter

Association of Retired Academic Staff



June 01st, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

Please mark your calendar for an ARAS social event to be held from 4 to 6 pm on **Thursday, September 17**. It is an opportunity to socialize and to welcome new members. This event will be indoors on campus and replaces the annual picnic. Details to follow in August.

CURRENT AFFAIRS SALON



The next Current Affairs Salon will take place via Zoom at 2:00 pm on **Thursday June 4**. The topic will be the state of higher education in Canada and the discussion will be led by Walter Archer. The Zoom coordinates for this meeting are

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83008835534?pwd=aKONPxDaAey#success>

Meeting ID: 830 0883 5534

Passcode: qn35hU4h

CURAC

[CURAC May 2026 Newsletter](#)

Humanities and Social Sciences

Big Thinking Summit 2026: Inflection Point

June 9 to 11, Edmonton Convention Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

The Federation's Big Thinking Summit: Inflection Point will bring the humanities and social sciences (HSS) to the forefront. Together, we must draw on historical, linguistic, cultural, and practice-based perspectives to open new possibilities for a Canada at the crossroads. Questions of legitimacy — who produces knowledge, whose voices are amplified, and how authority is recognized — are pressing to the fore. As public trust in postsecondary institutions is tested, shifts in cross-sector partnerships must reshape how research connects with policy and community priorities. Innovations in teaching, inquiry, and knowledge sharing must redefine scholarship and how it circulates across all of society.

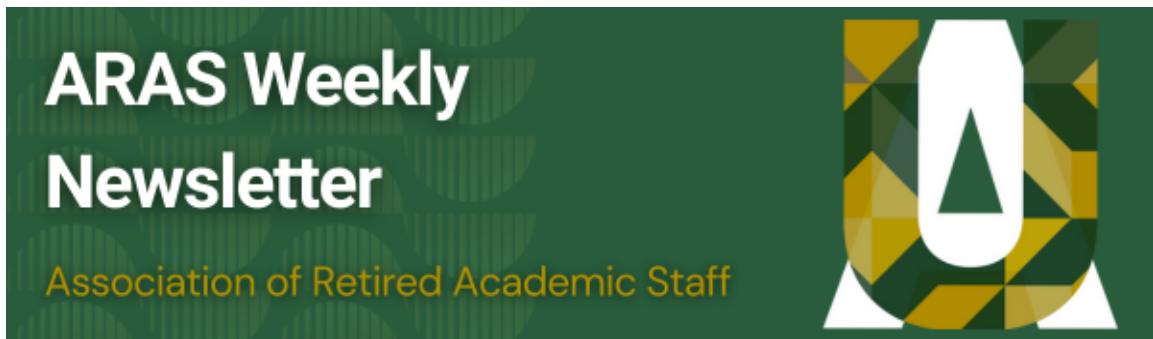
Calling on academics, community partners, and policymakers from across Canada to forge new collaborations and tackle these critical questions at the Big Thinking Summit: Inflection Point.

[Register](#)

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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June 08th, 2026

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EPILOGUE

Please find attached the most recent issue of Epilogue for your reading pleasure.

CURAC

ARAS Member's report on CURAC AGM(Peter Blenis)

On May 20, I had the pleasure of serving as the ARAS representative (by Zoom) at the 2026 CURAC/ARUCC Annual General Meeting, held in New Westminster, which was chaired efficiently and with good humour by our own Walter Archer. The format was innovative in that it began with a preliminary, informal discussion before moving into the formal meeting. Items considered during the informal discussion included possible changes to the funding of annual conferences, as well as membership fees. No votes were taken during these discussions, but the CURAC/ARUCC Board will consider the input they received as they deliberate on future policies.

Then the regular, formal meeting began. The reports from the Treasurer and Finance Committee were followed by the Nominating Committee report, which presented the names of the new members of the Board of Directors who will replace those retiring. Most of the meeting was devoted to committee reports, beginning with the awards committee. Of note was the announcement that our own Gordon Rostocker is among the eight individuals from across Canada who will be receiving a Tribute Award, "which is presented to an individual member of a CURAC/ARUCC Retiree Association who has contributed exceptional service to his/her local association or to the wider community over a minimum of five years". Anyone familiar with ARAS would agree that Gordon, who has done so

much for our association in so many ways over the years is a most deserving recipient of this recognition!

The remaining committee reports provided insights into the many dimensions of CURAC/ARUCC. I was especially impressed by the high degree of collegiality among participants and the keen desire that the Association embrace bilingualism and encourage greater participation by Quebec colleges and universities.

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Association of Retired Academic Staff



June 15th, 2026

DR.GORDON ROSTOKER



It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Gordon Rostoker, PhD, Professor Emeritus (Space Physicist). He was an invaluable member of the Association of Retired Academic Staff (ARAS) and a friend to all of us.

Dr. Gordon Rostoker's contributions to our association were exceptional. In May of this year, he was awarded a CURAC Tribute Award where his outstanding contributions to our Association, since 2002 until the present time, were recognized.

His numerous contributions included participating as a member-at-large from 2002-2007, Vice-President 2007-2010, President 2010-2014, and Past President 2014-2016. He was appointed Technical Advisor in 2016-2024, when he was again

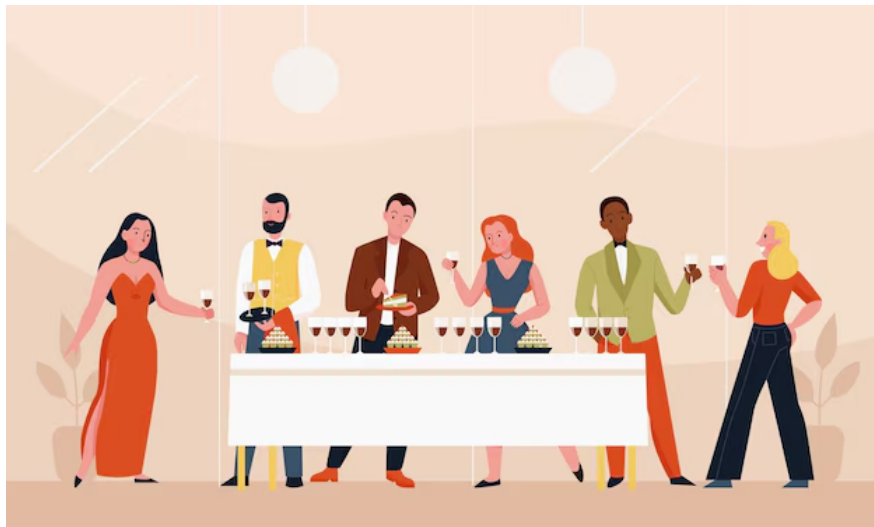
elected as the President for a one-year term and served as past President in 2025.

For the past 20 years Gordon Rostoker presided over PowerPoint presentations for various Association activities such as the popular “Lunch With....” lecture series for members, Annual General Meetings, and additional Interest groups as required. He took over the organization of the Current Affairs Salon and continued to convene monthly meetings for that group. In addition, for more than 10 years he was chair of a committee that reviewed scholarship applications for I.O.D.E.

He managed the list of Professors Emeriti from 2002-25 and supervised the work of our Office Assistant in the production of the Association’s weekly Newsletter.

Our thoughts are with Gordon's wife Gillian and their family. We are aware of the huge role that Gordon played in our association. He will be missed. A celebration of Gordon's life will be planned.

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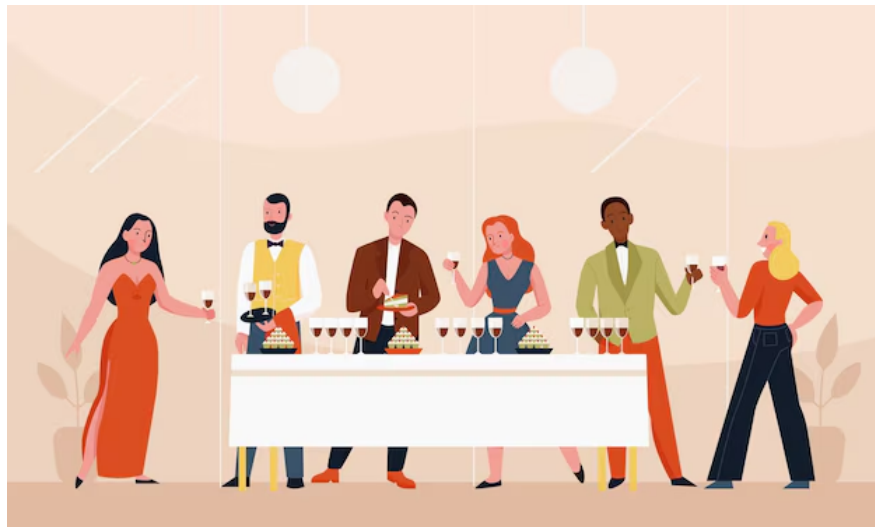
ARAS Weekly Newsletter

Association of Retired Academic Staff



June 23rd, 2026

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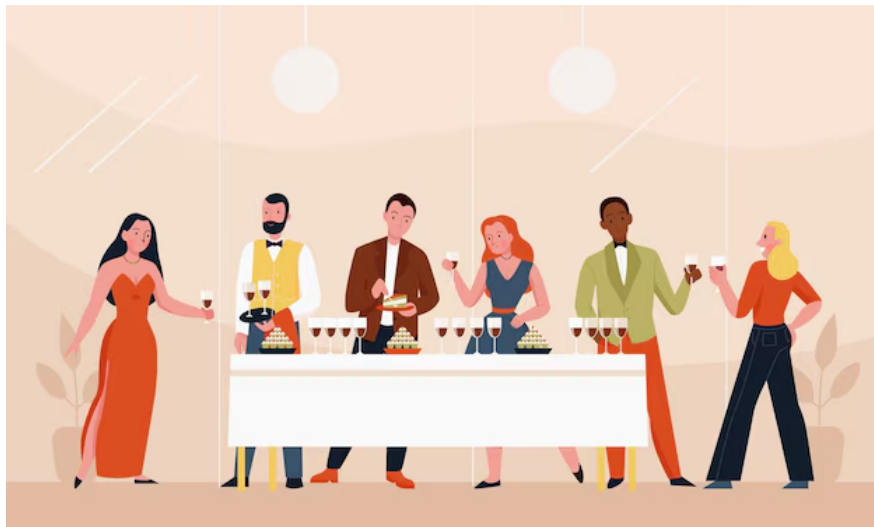
ARAS Weekly Newsletter

Association of Retired Academic Staff



June 29th, 2026

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