



Celebrating **40** Years of Volunteer Service

WORLD REMEMBRANCES

Every year, many gather at the south side of Soldiers' Tower at Hart House on November 11 to commemorate Remembrance Day, or Armistice Day as it was apparently originally called. The day is marked around the world by countries that were once or are now members of the British commonwealth; however, some of these have an additional day of remembering, and many other countries have other days of commemoration.

Our neighbours to the south, the United States of America also halt on November 11 to mark Veterans' Day to honour those who served in conflicts, but also have Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May. This began as Decoration Day in 1868 after the American Civil War. The Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union soldiers, established it as a time to decorate the graves of the Union War dead with flowers. Now it has become a day to honour all who died in military service. Often now, an American flag is placed on the grave.



The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. commemorates the 54,246 Americans who died in that war. A unique feature of the memorial is the 19 stainless steel statues. They are approximately 7-feet tall and portray an advance party walking through a rice paddy. The troops wear ponchos covering their weapons and equipment.

Australia and New Zealand's additional day of remembrance is Anzac Day. Anzac stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, who fought at Gallipoli against the Ottoman Empire during World War I. The objective was to capture Constantinople, but the Allied troops were met with fierce resistance and



The Australian War Memorial, Canberra

the goal was not met. The loss of life was huge: 21,255 from the United Kingdom, 10,000 from France, 8,709 from Australia, 2,721 from New Zealand. Those last two numbers were astronomical considering the small populations of the countries. The day on which the corps landed, April 25, is when the sacrifice is commemorated. The National War Memorial in Canberra has the names of the Australians who have given their lives in conflict carved in its stone walls.

The number is astonishing.

European countries also have additional days of remembrance. The Netherlands hold Dodenherdenking on May 4. This is to commemorate those who have died in conflicts during and since WWII. A strict two minutes' silence is observed across the country at 8pm, including the stoppage of public transportation. The Dutch royal family attend a ceremony at the National Monument on Dam Square in Amsterdam.

Germany's Volkstrauertag is a solemn honouring of the dead in armed conflict on the Sunday nearest November 16th. The ceremony takes place in the Bundestag, where the President traditionally gives a speech with the Chancellor, the cabinet and the diplomatic corps present. Local parades march from a church service to a war memorial. It was first observed in its modern form in 1952.

The Defender of the Fatherland Day is celebrated on February 23rd and is dedicated to veterans and members of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. It is also known as Men's day, and has been in place since 1918. Russian women began observing their day earlier, in 1913 on the last Sunday in February, but now on March 8th. Victory Day on May 9th celebrates that over Nazi Germany and also remembers those who died in order to achieve it. It is one of the biggest Russian holidays. Flowers and wreaths decorate wartime graves and parties and concerts are organized for veterans.

Armistice Day was the beginning of our Remembrance Day. King George V inaugurated the practise in 1919 with a ceremony on the grounds of Buckingham palace. The war had ended formally at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. We still pause for two minutes at Soldiers' Tower at that time for our ceremony, which I hope you will try to attend. It begins at 10:15am.

*Maureen Somerville
past-president, SAA*



Senior Alumni Volunteer Opportunities

One of our objectives is to provide opportunities for senior alumni to serve the University. We hope you will try one of these opportunities.

Volunteering at the University Health Network

Are you retired and/or looking to get involved in something meaningful? Come and volunteer with us at the University Health Network, where you can meet new friends and gain a different experience while making a positive difference in someone's life. We have a lot of opportunities in the areas of patient support, clinical support and administrative support across our hospital sites. In addition, we offer the following specialized programs:

Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) – Volunteers' involvement allows elderly patients to stay physically and mentally active during their time at the hospital through activities, mobility exercises and communication with the healthcare team. This ensures patients receive the best care possible.

Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) – Volunteers assist patients as they transition through multiple points of the recovery after colorectal surgery.

Healing Beyond the Body (HBB) – Volunteers contribute to patient care by offering enhanced emotional support and system guidance at every stage of the cancer journey.

Contact Ivetka Vasil, 416 603-5800 ext. 2362 or visit: http://www.uhn.ca/corporate/ways-help/Volunteering_UHN/Pages/default.aspx

Healthy Participants Needed for Driving Simulator Study (St. Michael's Hospital)



St. Michael's Hospital seeking **healthy control subjects** to participate in a driving simulator study **aimed to understand how disorders of the brain affect driving abilities**. You may be eligible if you meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- You are 50 or older.
- You have a valid Ontario G class driver's license.
- You have NOT had a history or past diagnosis of a neurological or psychiatric condition.
- You live in Toronto or the GTA.

The study will require you to undergo behavioural testing (including driving simulator and cognitive tests), and possibly return on a separate day to complete driving simulation in an MRI scanner for approximately one hour.

You will be compensated for participation if you are eligible. A phone screening will be required to determine eligibility. The study will be conducted at St. Michael's Hospital.

If you are interested, please contact:

The Cognitive Neuroscience Lab
Email: cognitive.neurolab@gmail.com
Phone: 416-864-6060, ext. 77342



Events



Stained glass windows in Soldiers' Tower dedicated to various services in the Second World War. Left: those who served in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service; centre: members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps; right: members of the Canadian Merchant Navy.

Service of Remembrance

Friday November 11, 2016, 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Soldiers' Tower, 7 Hart House Circle

The university community will gather at the foot of Soldiers' Tower to remember the faculty, staff, alumni and students who fell in the First and Second World Wars and other action. A reception in the Great Hall of Hart House follows the service, and the Memorial Room museum in Soldiers' Tower is open for visitors. All are welcome to attend.

Contact Kathy Parks, 416-978-3485 or soldiers.tower@utoronto.ca



... More Volunteer Opportunities

Community representative on U of T animal care committees

The University of Toronto upholds the highest ethical standards for animal research. All research must undergo rigorous review by animal care committees, which are made up of members of both the University community and the community at large.

The University is currently seeking volunteers for the position of community representative on several animal care committees across the three campuses. Interested candidates should have no current formal affiliation with the University, good communication skills, compassion for living beings and a commitment to contribute to the advancement of research at U of T.

We encourage interested alumni to consider serving as volunteer community representatives. Meetings are usually 2-3 hours long and are held monthly during regular business hours. For more information, please contact:

Mr. Rhain Louis
 Animal Care and Use Program Manager,
 416-946-0836 or rhain.louis@utoronto.ca

“Quotable Quotes”

People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.

– Maya Angelou, writer

President's Corner



For many years now, The President's Corner has featured a *recent* picture of the current SAA president. Of course, *recent* is a *relative* term. However, at some point, *recent* simply becomes *old*. I must confess that I was a bit pressed for time as I was laying out the September/October issue of the SAA News and didn't have a recent photo of myself handy. I always seem to be at the other end of the camera and I'm pretty sure you didn't want to see a picture of me in a flimsy pink raincoat on the Hornblower Cruise at Niagara Falls! I

suppose I could have gotten away with the previous photo (see below), which was taken in about 2003. Except for the SAA executive committee and the SAA AGM, most of you wouldn't recognize me on the street. But now that I'm attending the Canadian Perspective Lecture Series (CPLS), I thought I'd come clean with a recent photo (late September, 2016 in my brother's back yard in Burlington, after the last issue of the previous newsletter had been printed. Too much information?).



And speaking of the CPLS: what can I say except *WOW!* At the time of printing, we're almost half way through the series of seven lectures and they have been nothing short of spectacular. Every one of them! A lot of the credit goes to Kristine Thompson, the chair of the CPLS committee, and committee members Laura Cooper, Dianna Craig, Irene Devlin, Dagmar Falkenberg, Maureen Somerville, Ken Ward, Kathlene Willing, and Brian Yawney. They always find engaging speakers who deliver outstanding lectures. For several lectures we even had to bring in extra chairs to accommodate everyone. If you'd like to come to some of the remaining lectures, simply pay at the door. The lectures are held at the Carlton Cinema. You can see the schedule of remaining lectures at <http://alumni.utoronto.ca/alumni-groups/senior-alumni/canadian-perspectives-lecture-series/>.

I always think of the November/December issue of the SAA News as the "Remembrance Day" issue as we always have a front page story regarding Remembrance Day. This year, Maureen Somerville reminds us of the global impact of war and how—and on what day—other nations remember those who have fallen. The University of Toronto will be holding a service of remembrance on November 11, starting at 10:45am in front of Soldier's Tower. I hope all of you will attend.

...Wendy Talfourd-Jones, our archivist, continues to struggle with getting the SAA's historical record into some sort of order. She's extracted a bit of our history on page 4. The renovations at Alumni Hall have robbed her of desk space so she is suspending work until the new year. She has occasionally wondered, out loud to me, if anyone appreciates her work. I have assured her that history will be kind to her. And what more can an archivist hope for?

Ihor Prociuk, president, SAA
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A Woman of No Importance: Wilde Makes Us Think!



On Friday, September 30, a dozen or so SAA members joined one of Mary Morton's Tours to Niagara-on-the-Lake so see Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*. Wilde has always been a man whose plays and life have fascinated and entertained me. He still has a way of sticking pins in inflated egos! In this play, the woman in question has had an illegitimate child by a man whom one could only call a bounder. This has tainted her life as she raised a son who is about to be employed by the man who is his father, unknown to the son.

The action takes place at a weekend house party in the country on the estate of Lady Hunstanton. There is a lot of sometimes deliberately humorous conversation with the participants showing their ignorance and prejudices. The first half of the play was rather static, with characters mostly seated as they establish relationships and set the plot rolling. The second half became much more active as the plot resolved itself and Lady Arbuthnot keeps her head high and defends her own honour against Illingworth. Indeed, the last line of the play, when she is asked by her son who had just been visiting, is a man of no importance!

I always enjoy the work of Fiona Reid, and as Lady Hunstanton, she was lively and humorous. Fiona Byrne, as Lady Arbuthnot, portrayed strength and dignity as a woman wronged and scorned. Martin Happer as Lord Illingworth was brilliantly villainous. The supporting cast were all good in their roles. Lighting and set and costumes were all very well-done. I would question the decision to change the setting from Victorian times to the post World War I era. The strict morals of the earlier time were considerably loosened by the 1920's.

Our tour was made enjoyable by the excellent driver and efficient escort supplied by Mary Morton Tours, and the lunch at the Prince of Wales was served in an elegant surrounding. The weather co-operated, allowing those of us who wished to do so to browse the shops on the main street before the play began.

Keep watching for next year's tours!

Maureen Somerville
past-president, SAA

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The Faculty Club: Not Just for Faculty!

The known history of the land that the Faculty Club of the University of Toronto stands on goes back approximately 225 years when William Wilcocks was granted the land in the early 1790s upon his arrival from Cork, Ireland. In turn, he bequeathed the property to his son-in-law, Dr. William Baldwin, after Baldwin's marriage to his daughter, Margaret Phoebe Wilcocks in 180. Dr. Baldwin and his son Robert are historically recognized as principal architects of responsible government in the late 1840s, a vital step in Canada's evolution from colony to nation. Over the ensuing years, it was occupied by Sir Adam Wilson, a partner in Baldwin's law firm and a municipal councillor and provincial cabinet minister in the 1880s who then sold the house in 1888 to Elizabeth Prudence Campbell who lived there until her death in 1916.

The building was bought in October, 1919, by The Primrose Club (originally founded as the Cosmopolitan Society in 1907) which was a private meeting place for Jewish professional men. The 41 Wilcocks residence was redesigned through merging it with Nos. 37-39 Wilcocks by prominent Jewish architects Benjamin Brown and Arthur W. McConnell. The resulting Georgian Revival-style building featured an elegant lounge, dining room and ballroom that placed it among the most prestigious clubs in Toronto.

The building was acquired by the University of Toronto for its new faculty club in 1959. Until 1960, the University hosted men's and women's clubs in separate locations. German scholar Barker Fairley and his wife Margaret offered the new club an impressive collection of Group of Seven works (located now in the Barker Fairley Lounge) on the condition that it welcome members of both genders. For the past 56 years the Faculty Club has served as one of the most successful university clubs in North America.

Although the name, Faculty Club, still stands, membership in the Club is not at all limited to just faculty. All alumni, UofT staff, grad students as well as community members are welcomed. The University Women's Club and the Senior College are also based at the Faculty Club. Weddings, bar & bat mitzvahs, anniversary and birthday celebrations, educational seminars, and numerous other business and educational functions are held at the Club. 'Themed' menus, seasonal buffets, Winterlicious and Summerlicious are all celebrated in the dining rooms.



One delightful 'tradition' the Club has created is a proper Afternoon Tea on Tuesday afternoons—but with a difference. Although they provide the familiar 'sweets, sugar and finger sandwiches' tea, the Club also provides a wonderful alternative—a savory High Tea with shrimp, prosciutto, smoked salmon, and other healthy (and gluten-free) delectables.

If you are already a member, and haven't visited recently, do drop by. If you are not, the Club offers a 50% membership discount for senior retirees. Contact Peter Patterson at 416-978-6325, Ext.4, or go to www.facultyclub.utoronto.ca

*Wendy Talfourd-Jones
events chair*

Flashback: 40 Years of SAA

1998: Retirees Study Computer Science – Courtesy of the SAA

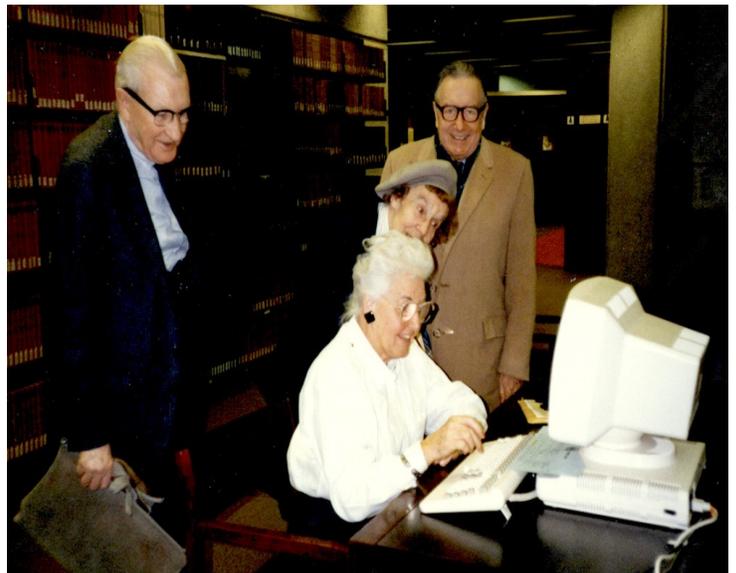
In January of 1998, a group of UofT alumni seniors, 55 plus, took advantage of an unusual offer and stepped into the world of the computer for the first time in their lives. They registered in a course of six weekly lectures and became far more deeply involved than they had thought possible. Sponsored by the SAA and given by its president, Ilmar Talvila, the program covered almost every phase of the field.

In each class, there was considerable explanation with ample questions and answers. Ten workstations in the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories, where the courses were held, allowed for plenty of hands-on experience and the development of a feel for the game. They learned to manage the mouse, to handle the Internet and to catch a glimpse of the World Wide Web. Even before the first set of lectures had ended, other senior grads were signing up for a second course.

As one senior 'student' put it: "Now I not only have a grasp of the computer, but when friends break out with references or use computer lingo, I know what they're talking about. I'm not on the outside looking in anymore."

1976: Robarts Tours

Since its inception, the Senior Alumni Association Volunteers (known at that time as Alumni Talent Unlimited (ATU)) was involved in guiding orientation tours of Robarts Library for students. In the early years, learning the library cataloguing system (Felix) was part of the training. Note the "antiquity" of the Felix computer!



Audrey Hozach (seated) showing the Felix system to Jim Whytock, Mary Carter and Harold Agget of the Senior Alumni Executive.

40 years later, under the stewardship of Ihor Prociuk, the current SAA president, the Senior Alumni Volunteers (SAV) still provide this volunteer service to first-year students as well as new incoming international students.

*Wendy Talfourd-Jones
SAA archivist*