



# Academy News

February 2009

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## ALL Offers Financial Help to Mature Students

The Academy is involved with two bursary funds at the University of Toronto, both designed to help mature students. The first of these, which amounts to some \$70,000, was begun in 1997 and recognizes our long association with Victoria College. The second is a more recent commitment, undertaken in the spring of 2008 to celebrate our renewed association with the School of Continuing Studies (SCS). At that time we contributed \$4,000 to the School's recently launched student awards and bursary program.

SCS is attempting to raise more than \$500,000 for its endowment fund in order to help adult learners overcome the financial barriers that many of them face. **Nory Siberry**, the Senior Development Officer at SCS, has recently written to say that the School hopes to have raised enough funds in this new bursary program to begin making awards in the next year or so.

In the meantime, our Victoria College bursary funds are helping two students this year. In the fall we received a letter from **Angela Prediger**, the Manager of Student Awards at Vic, describing the two recipients:

“One recipient is a mature student in his early thirties who is studying Economics, Environmental Economics and Statistics. His wife is also a full-time student and cannot contribute to his education. He is relying on government assistance and earnings from part-time employment to pay his living and academic costs.

He was granted a bursary of \$1,300 towards his outstanding fees. The other recipient is a female student in her late twenties. She is a hardworking student specializing in Bioethics. Her single-income family is supporting three dependents, and therefore unable to provide any financial contributions to her education. The student works part-time and receives government assistance to finance her academic year. However, she recently had to move which resulted in an increase in her living expenses. Victoria College assisted her with a bursary of \$1,000 towards her outstanding tuition fees.”

Both Vic and SCS expressed their appreciation for the support and generosity of the Academy. •

## From Our New Editor

by **Joan McCordic**

Picking up a newspaper these days can be a depressing experience. The world is struggling with intractable social and political problems, the economic outlook is worrying and the weather forecasts won't be worth reading for another two months.

The Academy emerges as a beacon of positive thinking in this pessimistic scenario. As your new editor, I promise that our Newsletter will continue to reflect the inquisitive spirit of our members and the interesting activities of our Academy. My predecessors have set a high standard.

As winter courses and forums give way to spring talks and walks, we'll soon be recruiting facilitators, studying a new calendar of challenging courses for the fall and electing a new board – all of which is good news – and you'll read about it first right here! Unless you saw it first on the website . . . •

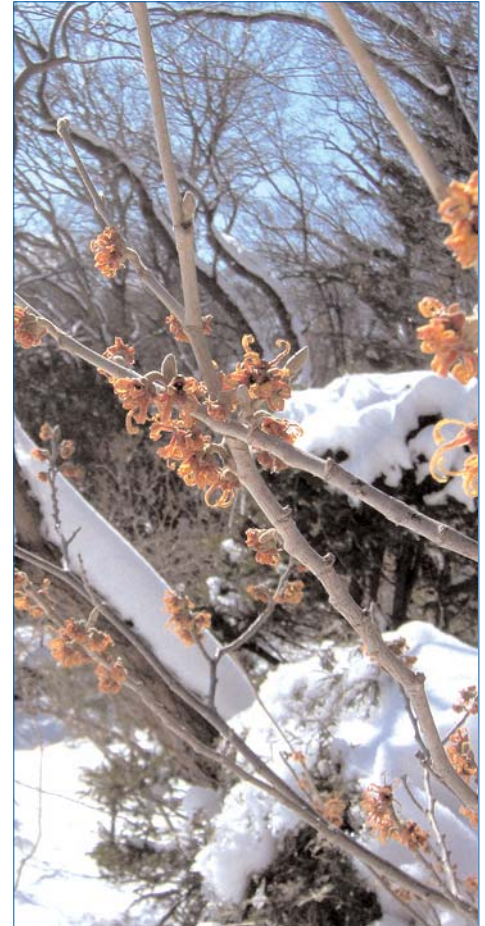


PHOTO: JOSIE SZCZASIUK

**February Fireworks** Witch hazel 'Jelena' opens up on a sunny afternoon.

## Events Calendar

Mar. 16	Spring Luncheon, Faculty Club
Mar. 20	Board Meeting
Apr. 3	Workshops End
Apr. 6	Facilitators' Forum
Apr. 15	Spring Talks Begin
Apr. 17	Board Meeting
Apr. 21	Academy Walks Begin
Apr. 24	Volunteers' Luncheon
May 11	Mailing to Members
May 15	Board Meeting
May 20	Spring Talks End
May 25	Mailing to Members
Jun. 10	Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Academy's **Spring Talks!** April 15 to May 20 See enclosed brochure.

## A New Member & Friend



PHOTO: MARGARET ROBERTSON

**Harvey Frankel** and his Labrador Retriever, Gala, are new members of the Academy who attend the **Events of the Week** workshop. Unlike the other participants, however, Gala spends much of her time at the workshop sleeping under the table. It's not easy, being a guide-dog.

Harvey, a lawyer, was forced to retire early from his profession due to failing eyesight, and Gala is his first-ever dog. They learned to work as a team during an extensive residential training program that matches guide-dogs and their visually impaired owners.

Last winter Harvey attended the Senior Alumni Lecture Series at U of T, where he happened to hear about the Academy, with its emphasis on participation. Harvey felt that the reading requirements would preclude his involvement in some of the workshops, but because he listens to lots of radio and TV, he's right up to speed on current events. Starting this fall,

Friday afternoons have found Harvey and Gala making their way by bus and subway from their home in Richmond Hill to Knox College. Harvey tackles the news; Gala takes a snooze. •

### What's New at allto.ca

**For ALL members:** Check the Winter schedule of Academy Forums.

**Of special interest to all presenters and facilitators:** Showing a DVD or making a Powerpoint presentation? Consult the new step by step instructions and photos demonstrating how to set up the AV equipment for a trouble-free presentation.

## On the New Zoomer Magazine

*CARP Magazine* was promoted as a vehicle for the Canadian Association of Retired People. The archly derogatory acronym, *CARP*, brought to mind an aging group of nay-sayers, interested primarily in lower insurance rates and shorter hip-replacement times.

Suddenly these grumpy grey-heads have become Zoomers, with a new, positive image and a magazine to match. We asked two of our board members to comment.

**Sheilagh Hickie** says: "The last issue of *Zoomer* magazine is an obvious commercial success at 162 pages. It may have trouble keeping this size as advertising becomes harder to get but for now, as a former ad salesperson, I can say it's a dream. The design is great, paper stock good and photos are excellent.

I have some trouble, however, with content. Perhaps it's the fact that zoomers now start at 45; good grief, I considered myself a kid at that age! What a 45 wants to read and what I want to read are

literally years apart. The magazine lacks "think" pieces. It could look at seniors (make them over 60 please) learning new subjects (like we do at the Academy) or working as volunteers in all kinds of organizations, or thinking about the meaning of their lives, or their families or friends.

I'm probably so old fashioned that maybe I can't see a winning publication and I really wish *Zoomer* well but "thems are my thoughts" at this point."

**Sandra Hoshooly** says: "Just when I thought I was at the leading edge of the Boomer pack, I find that I am in the middle of a Zoomer pack. My pals under 60 are not thrilled at being lumped in with the folks collecting OAS, but I'm okay with it now that I have just turned 65. Where's my cheque?

When Moses Znaimer recently bought my radio station AM740 and announced there would be changes, I was ticked: why change a good thing? Then he bought *CARP* and announced we were

Zoomers and that the magazine would change – I was really ticked!

The Founder's Message in the first edition of *Zoomer* really resonated with me. Moses acknowledged that he had received a lot of negative reaction – but then said that most of it came before the first issue hit the stands. He said, '...stereotypes can go two ways and can be equally damaging... Enough of words like geezer, fogey and biddy etc. But equally, seniors should try to govern their snap reaction, delay their rush to judgment, and not behave like the crotchety, cranky, irritable and impatient old farts popular culture would make them out to be.' I guess he told me!!!

The second issue of *Zoomer* arrived and I decided to read every article, look at each ad, and be thankful that there were only two pull-outs in the whole magazine. I quite enjoyed all of the articles and found myself discussing them with my friends (even the young ones). OK, I guess my new resolution not to be so ticked with change might be working." •

## Holiday Luncheon by Julia Matthews

At the Holiday Luncheon, (1) **Jean Iverson, Karen Melville and Betty Williams** as well as (2) **Gabriele Dankert, Joseph Kessel, Wilma Spence and Bill Hall** anticipate the success of the 60's quiz devised by Karen and **Madeline Grant**. The winning table had a perfect score!

As usual, this popular event (3) was sold out. Apologies to all those who did not get to attend. Did you make new friends at this delicious and happy occasion? •



PHOTOS: NORAH SMITH

## Student Activists: Then and Now by Julia Matthews

Student radicals of the 40's, 50's and 60's, among them from L, (1) **Joe Casse, Ralph Garber, Grace Scheel and Eveleen Armour** were joined by current U of T activists (2) **Azad Sayed Rahi** and (3) **Ryan Hayes, Thomas Brown and Farshad Azadian** at the first winter forum. A big audience heard about aims and tactics over the years and shared in the spirit of social justice. •



## Pub Night at the Tranzac

by Carol Farkas

Jazz in the early evening was enjoyed by twenty one Academy members on Friday November 21st at the Tranzac.

Gathered in the intimate setting of the Southern Cross Lounge, we enjoyed the live band and vocalists, liquid refreshments and nibbles, sing-along oldies and Down Under humour.

The band performs every Friday night between 5 and 7 pm and would get any weekend off to a good start. •





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### Academy Walks Spring 2009

Starting April 21, join us every Tuesday morning 10 am sharp for walks exploring Toronto. For more information see the enclosed brochure or visit [www.allto.ca](http://www.allto.ca).

Introduce your friends and family to the Academy.

See our website at [www.allto.ca](http://www.allto.ca) for more information on workshops and events.

Phone: 416-946-5185  
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## Where Volunteers Come From

The Academy currently has 344 members and the blue bars on the chart show the years in which they originally joined.

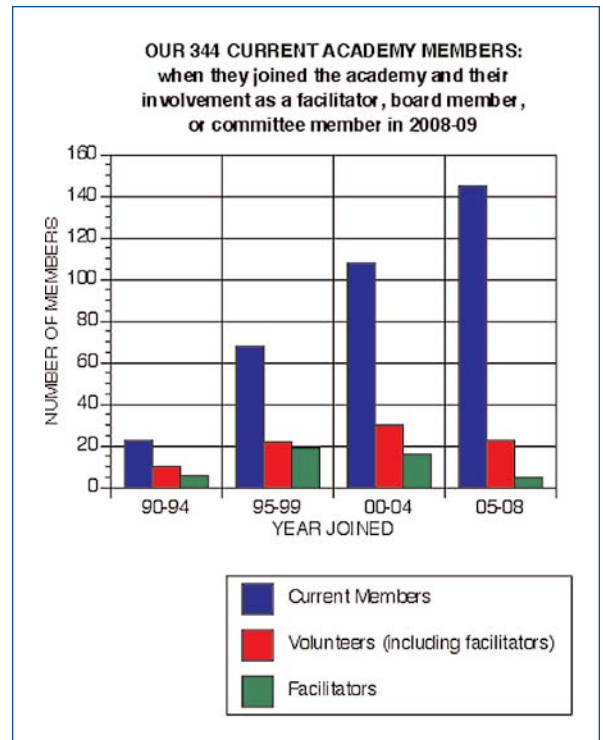
Eighty-five of these 344, or 25%, are volunteers in 2008-09 and are represented by the red bars. Volunteers include board members, committee members and facilitators. Some individuals are represented in all three categories.

Of the eighty-five volunteers, 46 are facilitators. These are shown by the green bars, although as volunteers, facilitators are also included in the numbers represented by the red bars.

It can be seen that as time passes, members do drop out. The Academy had around 150 members in 1994 but only 23 of them are still members today. Among this 23, it is notable that almost half are involved this year as volunteers in one capacity or another. This is a greater proportion than in any of the other five year joining periods and perhaps indicates that volunteer involvement engages members who might otherwise decide to move on.

The chart also highlights the importance of involving newer members quickly. Our greatest number of volunteers is drawn from among those who have joined since 2000, while our facilitator pool is slightly skewed towards those who have been members for a longer period.

Overall, it can be seen that in order to keep the Academy functioning well, it requires about a quarter of the total membership in any year, to handle the administration and the workshop facilitation that we all depend on. This is a significant proportion and while the chart may appear to indicate that three-quarters of the membership are not involved, it should be noted that the chart shows only volunteers in 2008-09. It does not recognize the volunteer roles of the rest of the members who may well have served as facilitators, board members or committee members in prior years. •



GRAPHIC: MARGARET ROBERTSON

## New Facilitators Welcome!

Want to share your special interest in a workshop? The Curriculum Committee would like to discuss your ideas with you. Consider joining the ranks of our 46 facilitators, some of whom share responsibility for a workshop. It's fun and you would be adding to the variety and richness of the Academy experience.

Please contact **Lisa Avedon**,  
 lisa@avedon.org 647-438-9357 or  
**Ann Mummenhoff**,  
 amummenhoff@rogers.com 416-785-0004.

## Car Key Care: A Cautionary Tale

One of our members made the mistake of leaving his car key in the pocket of his coat, which he hung on the coat rack in the foyer at Knox.

When he retrieved his coat after a class and went out to his car, guess what? It wasn't there! Someone had surfed through coat pockets and found the key. Assuming the car was nearby, they went out to St. George Street, flashed the car fob, identified the car and took off. It was subsequently retrieved, but no-one wants to go through this! Moral of the story: do not leave keys in distant pockets. •