



Spartans Newsletter Winter 2006-2007

The Spartans rendez-vous on November 30 was once again an occasion to enjoy a drink and luncheon in a relaxed atmosphere with old colleagues and friends. Although several regular attendees had left for warmer climates to escape Montreal's usually harsh winter, the addition of first time visitors kept attendance close to the restaurant capacity.

It was a pleasure to welcome new members and first time visitors and express the hope that they will join us again.

John Elvidge (60-77)	Chuk Mok (73 - 06)
Peter Oswald	Denise Arsenault (Leo's wife)
Richard & Marietta Lubelsky	

In his usual cheeky manner, Richard Lubelsky replied to the luncheon invitation saying: " I plan to pay the annual dues at the lunch. Stuffing a ten dollar bill into an e-mail is more technology than I can handle"

We were pleased that **Gil & Wilma Branchflower**, joined us again from Maryland, and more locally, **Adam Mercik**, after missing several luncheons. Unhappily, new members **John Runeckles**, **Keith Ruthman**, and **Bruce Aikenhead** were not able to join us.

Keith inquired tentatively from BC: "Rick Allen sent me the form to join the SPARTans. Can a West coast recent retiree with many years at RCA, SPAR and MDA join? Hope things are going well for you. I'll forward the application and the \$10 soon by snail mail". Keith's quirky and irreverent humour would be welcome at any future luncheon.

Bruce Aikenhead commented by e-mail from Salmon Arm BC: "Hello Lorne: While walking the dog in the nearby woods this morning I began reminiscing about "the old days" which triggered a view of the old St Henri RCA factory. I actually saw it from the nearby highway during a brief visit to Montreal about a month ago". This note triggered a lively exchange of e-mails, surprising but pleasing to me, as in my previous phone call to get his e-mail coordinates, he told me that he had considered but declined to own a computer and so, e-mail capability. During the luncheon news report, I recounted with relish my astonishment that an aerospace pioneer, recognized by an Order of Canada, did not own a computer. I expanded the story by pointing out that after leaving RCA, Bruce joined the Canadian Space Agency as head of the newly formed Astronaut section. The first person he hired was our previous distinguished guest and space pioneer, Marc Garneau. How's that for closing the circle?

1) **Housekeeping**

Items covered by secretary **Al Lawson**, and treasurer **George Larder** included a report on slowly growing membership, and creeping inflation that slightly increased luncheon costs.
(George and Al, please expand)

2) **News Items**

- **Ed Eve** noted the obituary of **Barbara Stimpson** in the Gazette and informed the Spartans. At the funeral home **Bill Corless** met family members and learned that she had



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enlisted in the RCAF in the early 40's and that she and her husband had brought up 4 sons, each successful in their respective careers.

- **John and Jacqueline Burrows** reported that their friend **Wally Smith** is ill in France. Wally is an ex-RCA employee who worked in the sixties on the ISIS scientific satellite program with several current Spartan members.
- **Dean Collis** reported that **John Stewart** is seriously ill in Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital. John and Pierette are well known to the Spartans and have attended several past luncheons.

We hope for a speedy and full recovery for former colleagues John and Wally.

3) Honorary Members

By consensus of the organizing committee, it was decided to create the category of Honorary Member, characterized by the waiver of member dues. The current list is:

- **Ross Way**
- **Roy Machum**
- **Curtis Ingerville**

Ross and Roy are unable to attend for health reasons, and Curt is being recognized, not only for his steadfast attendance at luncheons, but for providing several of his highly prized hand crafted mantle clocks for fund raising.

4) Regrets

- I will be working in Ottawa so will not be able to make it on Nov. 30th. Thanks for keeping me in mind. **Ian Edward**
- I will not be able to attend the SPARTans Festive Season Luncheon, we are leaving for Florida the November 12 for 5 months. I will be back April 18, 2007. I wish you a nice Winter. **Cécile Pagé.** (How considerate of Cécile)
- **Henri Raymond** was pleased to receive the luncheon invitation. He is awaiting hip surgery in the near future, and will be unable to attend the luncheon.
- Thank you for your kind invitation to the season luncheon but unfortunately due to illness, we will not be able to attend. Please give our best regards and Seasons good wishes to the attendees. **John & Pierette Stewart**
- **Andy & Susan Szyk** With a Panama address?
- **Eila Talon** still trying to keep her husband from climbing the roof while he recovers from his bicycle accident
- **John Pauch**, now living in Burnaby BC, was pleased to receive the Directory and other SPARTans communications.
- Regretfully, I cannot make the luncheon on Friday. Please extend my wishes to everyone, and hope that they have a wonderful holiday and all the very best for 2007. Take care and kindest regards, **Wanda Daniel.**
- Also sending regrets

Al & Dinny Evers	Evelyn Feehan	Mike Boysen
Dean Collis	Harold Linke	Lloyd & Betty Martin
John Runeckles	Roger Rak	Sim Shek



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And finally from Nanaimo BC, one of our most reliable and entertaining correspondents writes: "Thanks for the update. I would really love to join you all at the dinner, but \$800 is a lot to spend on airfare. I wish my broomstick was working, but you can't count on these tools anymore. Maybe I'll have enough air miles with AC to make one of these affairs." She sent along her picture saying: "Maybe you can post this along with those MOST WANTED posters. At least everyone will know that I'm still alive and living well on the West coast."

Regards to all. **Ruth McWhinnie**

Your correspondent, Lorne Keyes