

UWRA President's Report to the Annual General Meeting – May 2021

My first term as the UWRA President coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and significant public health restrictions. The activities of the UWRA Board remained very active. It is clear to me that the UWRA successes are due to the efforts and creativity of our Board members. I highly value their support and willingness to work within the limitations of a virtual world to provide our members with online UWRA presentations on a variety of topics, representation on UW committees and updating them with important UW news. We are looking forward to holding in-person social events when permitted in the future.

UWRA Board members have provided detailed annual reports for the Annual General Meeting. I have provided a summary of activities below:

President Feridun Hamdullahpur and I signed [The University of Waterloo Retirees Association and University of Waterloo Memorandum of Agreement](#) on July 13, 2020. The agreement outlines the official relationship between the UWRA, which is the official voice for UW Retirees and UW, and relevant responsibilities and commitments. My thanks to Alan George and Sue Fraser for their advice, Karen Jack, University Secretary for her contributions including overseeing the review process with several UW administrative units. Over the past year a number of items identified in the MOA have been implemented including *Access to a University of Waterloo Email Address* in [Retiree Privileges](#) in the *University of Waterloo Guidelines*.

I would like thank our Board members Jim Frank, Jim Ashworth, Paul Eagles, Stewart Forrest, Sue Fraser, Peggy Day, Jim Marshall and member at large nominee Rose Vogt for their work to coordinate [UWRA presentations in 2020-21](#):

Dr. Stuart McGill, Professor Emeritus, an international expert on causal mechanisms and rehabilitation of back pain spoke on: *Back pain as we ripen into older adults*. This Zoom presentation was held on November 19, 2020.

UWRA Board members Jim Ashworth, Paul Eagles, Stewart Forrest gave a presentation on *Outdoor Recreation and Health During the Pandemic*. The Zoom presentation was held on March 17, 2021.

Lectures on the topic: *The University of Waterloo in the year 2050* were presented by Dr. Mark Seasons, School of Planning and Dr. Paul Eagles, Distinguished Professor Emeritus. The Zoom presentations were held on April 21, 2021.

The UWRA Wellness Workshop provided by Dr. Rob Green of Price Health and The Fit Club will focus on *Tips for Healthier Retirement*. The Zoom presentation will be held on May 25, 2021.

Many thanks to Alan George, WATtimes editor-in-chief, Board members Bob Hicks and Ron Champion, and to Brandon Sweet and colleagues in University Communications for the newsletter content and production. Both issues over the past year kept our community updated on events and provided inspiration and interest on diverse topics. Our very best wishes to Alan as he steps down from his position as WATtimes editor-in-chief and Board member.

My sincere thanks to Mary Thompson and Stewart Forrest for their representation of retirees on the Pension and Benefits Committee and related working groups.

I am grateful for the ongoing support of Board members Jim Frank, Vice-President and Keystone fund representative, and UWRA scholarship and bursary program, Sue Fraser, Vice-President and our representative on the Honorary Member of the University Committee, Ian Fraser, Web site Manager, David Matthews, Treasurer, Jim Marshall, Membership Coordinator and Pam Van Allen, Executive Secretary.

Sue Fraser and Peggy Day are continuing their relationship with the University of Waterloo Staff Association social committee to share news on activities and future joint events.

I look forward to working with Board members in the coming year. David Taylor and Rose Vogt are nominees for our 2021-22 Board. Both David and Rose have long associations with UW and their contributions to the UWRA will be appreciated.

Our thanks have been extended to UW President Feridun Hamdullahpur for his support of retirees and congratulations on completion of his term this year. We look forward to continuing a strong relationship with President Designate Dr. Vivek Goel.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer!

Lynn Judge
President
University of Waterloo Retirees Association