

## UWRA Annual General Meeting - May 15, 2024 President's Report

The UWRA has had a very active year! Having survived the pandemic, we stepped up our efforts to better serve our members through improvements to our communications, expansion of social events and University representation.

**Communication.** We have made significant effort to improve communication with members. Several sections of the UWRA website have expanded to offer more information on learning opportunities and discounts for members; these sections include News, Events, Learning Opportunities and Resources and Related Sites. Improvements to our membership records have allowed more accurate and timely communications with members. The Spring and Fall issues of WATtimes continue entertain and inform members.

**Social Events.** The UWRA hosted 7 events over the past year, including the spring and fall luncheons. We experimented with a greater range of venues in order to contain the cost of luncheons and to accommodate the needs of presenters. Each of these events attracted 20-100 participants, with the December Holiday Social drawing the highest attendance. Topics ranged from local author readings to whiskey appreciation to treatment of shoulder injuries.

**UW Representation.** The UWRA is your voice on campus. We continue to represent retirees on the Pension and Benefits, Honorary Member of the University and the Faculty, Staff, Retiree Giving Committees. Over the past year, we also lobbied the University on issues of concern to members including the Bill 124 Staff Salary Increase, new parking rates and GreenShield claims. The UW Senior Administration continues to be sensitive to our concerns and has addressed these when possible.

**CURAC Waterloo 2024 Conference.** The most ambitious undertaking over the past year was planning the College & University Retirees Association of Canada/Associations de Retraités des Universités et Collèges (CURAC/ARUCC) 2024 conference. The conference, titled ***Thriving in Retirement***, will be hosted at the University of Waterloo May 22-24, 2024. To date over 100 participants have registered for the conference which promises inspiring and informative presentations, lively discussion and, of course, fun! We are thankful for the generous support of the University of Waterloo's Office of the Provost, the many speakers who have donated their time and expertise, as well as, our sponsors and volunteers. Special thanks to Ron Champion, UWRA Vice President and Conference Co-Chair, who has been the driving force behind the planning of this exciting conference.

This year concludes my term as President. I have had the honour and pleasure of working with an incredibly talented, dedicated and energetic group of Board members. Fortunately, all Board members have agreed to continue! Thank you for keeping UW retirees informed, entertained, connected and ***Thriving in Retirement!***

Jim Frank, President