

***Report: Social Programs for AGM 2024 – May 15, 2024, submitted by James Ashworth and Sue Fraser.***

**The History of Blackberry** – UWRA Fall Luncheon held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at the Columbus Conference Centre (Knights of Columbus) Waterloo. 49 people registered for this event. The presenter was **Chuck Howitt**, a newspaper reporter who covered local technology companies for years and authored the book “**Blackberry Town**”. The event was scheduled for two hours beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a buffet luncheon followed by Chuck’s presentation on the history of Blackberry. The cost for UWRA members was \$30.00 and \$45.00 for non-supporting members. The movie “Blackberry” can be sourced on the “Prime” streaming channel for those interested.

**The Funny Side of University Politics** – UWRA Spring Luncheon held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at The Village of University Gates’ Ruby Room. 51 people registered for this event. The presenter was Kevin Crowley, an award-winning journalist and contributor to the CBC who also spent several years as an employee at Wilfrid Laurier University and has authored the book entitled “**The Funny Side of University Politics**” (this book is available at local libraries if anyone is interested). The event was scheduled for two hours beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a buffet luncheon followed by Kevin’s hilarious presentation and take on University life. The cost for UWRA members was \$30.00 and \$45.00 for non-supporting members.

We have been trying to find new venues with a view to reducing cost of these events to the membership, which have been successful. Attendance has been filled to capacity. The presenters were well received and were very entertaining. A small honorarium is given to the presenters. All this has been done with help from our UWRA expert team in charge of Receipts and Communications, thank you Rose Vogt and Christine Wagner.

The locations booked for these events included free parking at both facilities for attendees.