

UWRA 2023 AGM Report for Bob Hicks

I am retiring from the UWRA Board after serving 5 years. It has been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated board members.

It has been a challenge for most organizations, including UWRA, during Covid. Communicating in virtual meetings and seminars helped to keep in touch, as did newsletters like WATtimes. It was great that the recent UWRA Spring 2023 Luncheon well attended, and the speaker Dr. Ken Shonk was excellent. I am looking forward to reading his book.

I have really enjoyed helping with WATtimes. Working with Alan George and Ron Champion has been fun and a learning experience for me. I was mostly involved in technology during my career, so writing and helping to edit a newsletter was a new experience for me. WATtimes is such an important newsletter for our retirees to help stay connected to the university.

We are fortunate to have an impressive group of new UWRA boards members starting in 2023. The future is bright for UWRA. Joining the College and University Retiree Association of Canada (CURAC) is new for UWRA. We will learn a lot from this collaboration.

I find it hard to believe that I have been retired for 6 years already. Most of my career involved meeting with colleagues on campus, collaborating on IT projects, offering training and seminars. Very different and difficult to do those things the last 3 years. There are new tools like Teams, but it's not the same as meeting in person. Social events either didn't happen or were scaled back. Many people have retired. Going forward I can imagine that building strong working relationships on campus will be a priority.

Looking ahead, I plan to continue my hockey "career", playing mostly with retirees in the community. I look forward to playing more golf this summer, and best of all spend a lot of time with family in Muskoka. I can sit and stare at a lake all day.