

UGRA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe, but we are past the half-way point in the year for the Executive. It's perhaps time to take a step back and look at what has occurred and what we have accomplished so far and what is planned for the rest of this year and beyond.

Regrettably, two members of Executive (T. Crowley, R. Downey) resigned during the fall because they felt overcommitted in their many retirement endeavours. As Past President and chair of the Nominations Committee, Dale Lockie is searching for replacements. Anyone who is interested in joining us - please contact Dale!

This loss in the number of Executive members has led me to look at the UGRA constitution and realize we probably should fine tune it further. Now that Executive members are elected for two year terms, do we want a replacement to finish the full term of the resigning member (which is Executive's current interpretation of what the constitution states right now) or be appointed until the next AGM, at which time the appointee could be elected for a two-year term. Also, the constitution states that a quorum for the Executive Committee is 7 members (which is 50% plus one in the case of 12 members); we may want to change the wording to 50% plus one of the currently serving members, so that with only 10 members (such as after resignations) the quorum would be 6. I will be proposing amendments to the Constitution in the Spring, 2012 Newsletter to be decided upon at the AGM.

As many of you may recall, the UGRA Executive has been looking at entering into a formal agreement with Alumni Affairs & Development, which would be similar to their agreements with the various alumni associations. After spending much time on this issue for the past two years, the Executive decided not to enter into such a formal arrangement, but rather to continue to informally cooperate with AA&D on matters of



mutual interest. I met with Joanne Shoveller, Vice President Advancement, and Patrick Abdul, Development Manager Annual Giving, this past summer to explore ways in which we could slowly develop such a mutually beneficial, informal relationship. The article by Patrick in this Newsletter is an example of the outcome of the talks - we agreed to have AA&D write an occasional piece for our newsletter where the topic would be of interest to retirees.

The Executive invited Don O'Leary, the new Vice President Finance and Administration, to our November meeting to continue our practice of open communication with the university administration. We had a cordial meeting with Don and discussed matters of common interest. He outlined differences between Trent University (his previous position) and the University of Guelph in his task as V-P finance and administration, and commented in general terms on what he sees as his challenges at Guelph. He emphasized that he wishes to keep open the lines of communication and work with UGRA. The issue of the closed Non-Professional pension plan was raised with him and he agreed to meet with UGRA later to discuss the issue further. In the discussion about pensions and benefits for retirees as the University seeks solutions to its pension solvency deficit problems, he reiterated that the solutions would not affect current retirees and their pensions. It is clear to me, however, that the UGRA Executive must continue to engage in discussions with the administration prior to

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UGRA

any changes to the pension plans and, especially, to benefits. To further this purpose, the Executive has invited Don to be our guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting in June, 2012.

The Executive has been busy planning a second Forum for April 12, 2012 – brainstorming possible topics, approaching speakers, and planning the afternoon. I'm pleased to say that we now have two speakers who will talk on wills and powers of attorney and about issues in moving to condo living. Based upon feedback we received from the previous forum, the Executive decided to reduce the number of speakers from 3 to 2 in order to give each of the speakers more time. Also, the format will be changed; with a question and answer period right after each speaker and a break in-between the two speakers for refreshments and socializing. See the Announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter for the details and please note the date, time and place. This is the last Newsletter prior to the Forum. It is your final notice; unless, of course, you have provided UGRA with your e-mail address. I will send out an e-mail reminder shortly before the Forum.

I am also happy to announce that the Executive has started to plan for a Fall Forum, which is tentatively being set for sometime in October, 2012. We will tell you more about that event in the Spring Newsletter.

Currently, the Executive has the Annual

General Meeting planned with Don O'Leary as our guest speaker and will likely be proposing the constitutional amendments already mentioned. But we are also thinking about and discussing possibilities and ramifications of trying to put on a smaller version of what was known as the (U of G) President's Luncheon prior to 2008-2009, which had been held the same day as the AGM (see the article on the Lost Luncheon elsewhere in this Newsletter).

As the CURAC Representative for UGRA, I can also report on what is occurring there. Under the leadership of the new CURAC president, George Brandie (Queen's University), a major thrust is to increase knowledge sharing across the member organizations. To this end, he is still attempting to get more university retiree associations to reply to a survey (which was initiated by the previous president) on their "best practices" and is hoping to complete a compilation of those data. Also, he circulated a questionnaire to members on practices "unique" to each organization, which may give us additional ideas for the UGRA. Currently in progress is a request for all member organizations to produce a one page document that describes themselves, all of which will be posted on the CURAC website for easy reference.

In another initiative, Brandie is trying to encourage the development of regional college and university retiree associations which would have their own mini

conferences for sharing information. This makes some sense because Universities in a particular region/(province operate in similar environments. One region that has had a successful organization for the past 5 years is the Atlantic region. The proceedings of the recent Atlantic conference (accessible on the CURAC website) illustrates the potential usefulness of such organizations. Here, in Ontario, the Colleges already have a provincial organization. At the present time, the Ontario University retiree associations (along with the Colleges representative) are starting down this path. The first meeting will be held in the Fall in Toronto. It will be interesting to see how many problems we have in common and how other Ontario University retiree associations are addressing them.

The above topics (best practices and regional conferences) are on the agenda of the Annual Conference of CURAC, which is being held a month earlier this year (to get better rates) on April 18-20 in Victoria, BC. Also on the agenda will be discussions on ways of communicating with members in our organization, alternative living for seniors, implications for seniors of the upcoming revisions of the Canada Health Act (possible CURAC position paper), and the level of activity needed to keep a healthy mind and body. I will report on this conference in future Newsletters.

Gary Frankie, President, UGRA

UGRA FORUM SPRING 2012

Preparing for Change: Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Condo Living.

Speakers: **ROBIN-LEE NORRIS**, a partner with Miller Thomson LLP, is a lawyer with extensive experience dealing with estate planning and administration. The title of her talk is, "Where There's a Will, There's a Way."

KIM COULTER, President of Coulter Building Consultants and member, Board of Directors, Canadian Condominium Institute. The title of his talk is, "The Move to the Condo."

Date/Time: April 12, 2012 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Place: Arboretum Center, University of Guelph

There is no fee for this event but we will have a table set up to receive membership contributions. Refreshments served.

ANOTHER INSURANCE BENEFIT FROM UGRA'S MEMBERSHIP IN CURAC



Through the UGRA's membership in the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada (CURAC), all U of G retirees are eligible for group rates for both automobile and property/home insurance through Waterloo Insurance. In most cases, these group rates are considerably cheaper than non-group rates.

Waterloo has just announced that it has provided Second Medical Opinion coverage for all holders of its CURAC associated property/home insurance policies. This coverage, offered through The WorldCare Consortium, allows policy holders to obtain additional medical opinions from over 17,000 specialists. Their aim is to support the work of your attending physician in finding the most accurate diagnosis and treatment plan for your medical condition.

If you are interested in this benefit, contact Waterloo Insurance at 866-247-7700. Be sure to mention Code 6262, which identifies the CURAC code group.

A REMINDER ABOUT THE UGRA SCHOLARSHIP

The University of Guelph Retirees Association established a \$1,500 scholarship in 2007 to provide support for an in-course student who is the child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a University of Guelph Retiree. The scholarship is provided annually to an undergraduate student with a minimum cumulative average of 75%. Recipients cannot hold this scholarship and another scholarship greater than \$1,500 at the same time.

If you have a child, a grandchild or a great-grandchild, remind them to apply by May 15th to Student Financial Services with a letter indicating the name of and the relationship to a retiree of the University of Guelph.



Annual General Meeting for 2012

University of Guelph Retirees Association

Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012

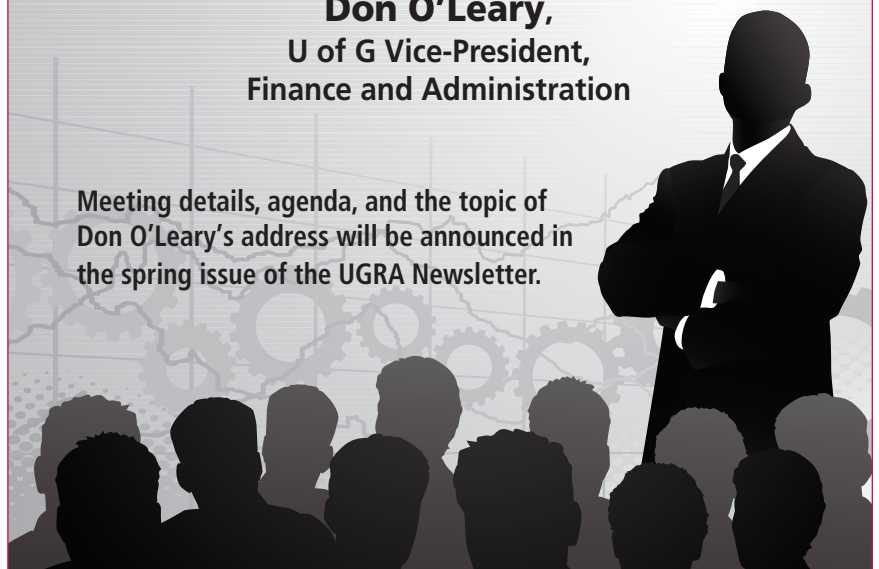
Time: 10 am to Noon

Place: Arboretum Centre

Speaker:

Don O'Leary,
U of G Vice-President,
Finance and Administration

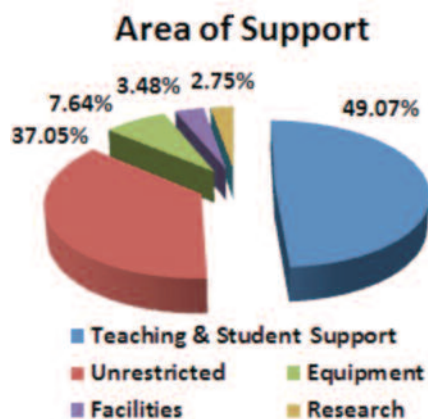
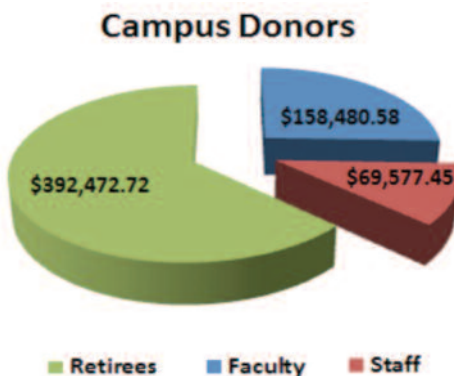
Meeting details, agenda, and the topic of Don O'Leary's address will be announced in the spring issue of the UGRA Newsletter.



RETIREE COMMUNITY GIVES BACK

Retirees continue to play an important role in supporting student life at the University of Guelph. In the fiscal year 2010-2011, campus donors (faculty, staff, and retirees) gave a total of \$620,530 to the University. The primary areas of support included teaching & student support, equipment, facilities, and research; the most popular designation being teaching & student support. Particularly significant is the strong support shown by retirees, who gave 63% of the total from the campus community. These results demonstrate the commitment of the retiree community in supporting student success and building the ever-increasing profile and reputation of the University of Guelph.

Patrick Abdul,
Alumni Affairs and Development



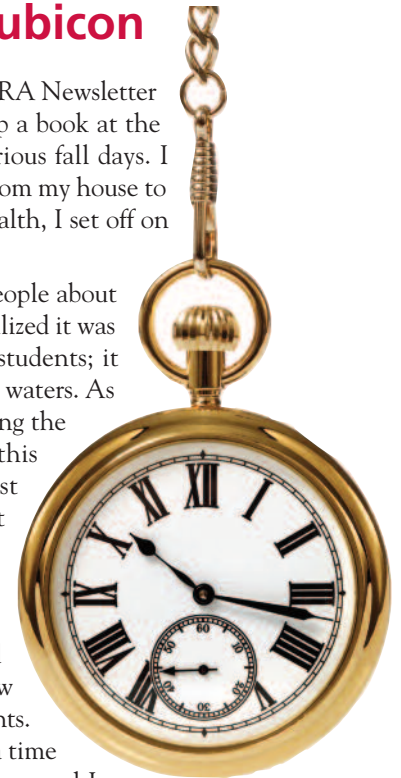
Crossing Another Age Rubicon

Several weeks ago, just after the fall issue of the UGRA Newsletter had gone off to the print shop, I needed to pick up a book at the U of G library. It was a Sunday, one of those glorious fall days. I decided to walk. After all, it was only 20 minutes from my house to the library. So, in the interests of sustaining my health, I set off on foot.

When I approached the campus, I noticed more people about than I would have expected on a Sunday. I soon realized it was one of the visit-the-campus days for high school students; it was recruiting time and the visitors were testing the waters. As had been the case for many years, I noted how young the students-to-be looked. I can still recall when this feeling first came over me, the time when the first year students started to look astonishingly young. It meant that I had moved on and into a new age category. I was no longer a young man. I recall regretting this at the time.

But I was not prepared for the next shock provided by this walk to the library. I was amazed to see how young looking were the parents of these to-be students. It had been several years since I was on campus at a time when parents were also there in significant numbers and I guess I had lost track of the aging that goes on beyond age 25. Honestly, some of the mothers looked to me like older sisters. Perception sure is a funny psychological process and it easy to not notice things happening from day to day. It really only hits you when, after a gap in exposure, you see large numbers of similarly aged people together in a group. As I walked home with my library book in hand, I mulled over what I had just experienced. This was an age shock I had not expected. What comes next? Maybe, in time, I will be amazed at how young the students' grandparents look.

Bruce Ryan
Editor, UGRA Newsletter



HOLD THE DATE

2:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012

Retiree's Social and Tour of the recently renovated
ALEXANDER HALL

Please join President Alastair Summerlee for an afternoon social to reconnect with friends and hear what's new and changing at the university. There will also be an opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have about your retirement benefits.

Further details will be available in the Spring UGRA Newsletter.

KYLIE EVERS: THIS YEAR'S WINNER OF THE UGRA SCHOLARSHIP

Kylie is a second year Biological Science student who intends to enroll in the Ontario Veterinary College where she plans to become a small animal veterinary surgeon. She is the granddaughter of Floyd Roadhouse, who taught Analytical Chemistry at the University of Guelph before his retirement in 1985 after 42 years in the Chemistry Department. Kylie says that he actually taught her high school chemistry teacher.

Kylie told the UGRA that the scholarship has been put towards paying for her (very expensive) science textbooks and that she

has saved some of it to use towards her textbooks in the future.

Regrettably, just a couple of weeks before the Newsletter went to press, Floyd, at age 92, had a serious heart attack and passed away while he and his wife, Mildred, were in their winter home in Florida. Right up until then, Kylie tells us, he had been in excellent health. He and his wife, Mildred, would go on long hikes and bicycle rides together all year round while in Guelph in the summer and Florida in the winter. The UGRA extends its deepest sympathies to Kylie and her family.



UGRA Scholarship winner Kylie Evers receives her award from UGRA Treasurer Peter Landoni

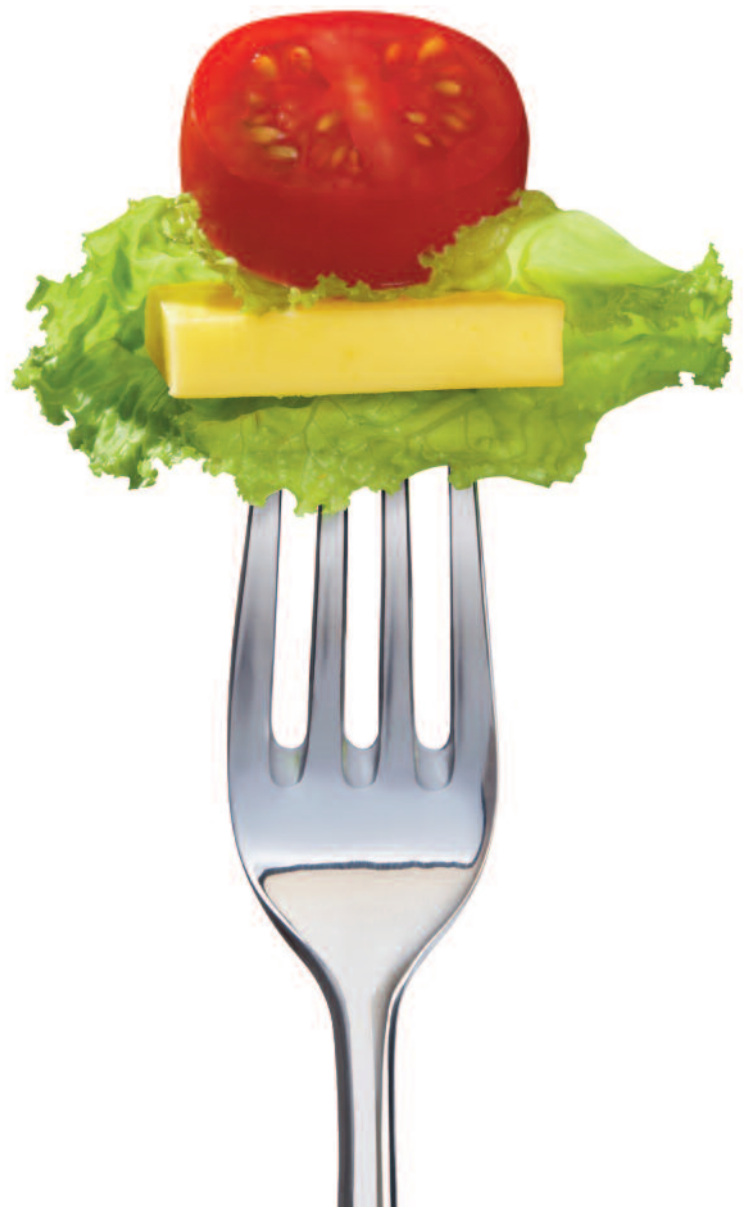
THE LOST LUNCHEON

Some of you recent retirees may not know this, but the University used to mount an elaborate President's luncheon yearly in June to recognize the contribution the retirees made to the university. In fact, the UGRA AGMs were coordinated with the President's Luncheon so that members could attend both events. Because of the economic climate of 2008 and its effect on the University, the event was cancelled and replaced by the President's Social in late August – early September. (See announcement in this Newsletter for Fall, 2012 Social). The President's Social did have an increased attendance last fall compared with the two previous Socials, but still it does not seem to totally fill the void for a social event for retirees who looked forward to the luncheon.

Now that plans are well underway for producing two Forums a year to provide educational and social events, your Executive has been investigating the possibility of putting on a luncheon in the future; perhaps, but not necessarily, in association with the AGM. A survey by Dana Paramskas of neighbouring University Retiree Organizations shows that many do have luncheons, even as often as once a month. However, these events are not elaborate like the former University of Guelph President's luncheon and the costs, which are often about \$20 per person, are born by the members attending the event. If the UGRA were to put on a luncheon, there are many factors to take into consideration (timing, costs, who would oversee the event, ...?) and it would require a lot of effort from the Executive Committee.

So, before proceeding much further, the Executive Committee is seeking input from the membership on your wishes. Do you desire a luncheon, what form should it take, i.e. sandwiches-cooked entrees, what time of year would be best, are you willing to pay \$20 for a buffet with cooked entrees, etc.? Please give us some feedback on your thoughts on the issue. E-mail ugra@uoguelph.ca

The UGRA EXECUTIVE



UGRA Archives

Shortly after I retired in 2001 I was approached by Bob Logan, a very active member of the executive of UGRA, to serve on the Board as a member of the Pensions Committee. During my stint on this Committee I realized that no one was collecting any documentation about UGRA, so I set about collecting and archiving the “history” of the organization.

This material is now housed in the University of Guelph Library Archives area under call number RE1 UOG A2015 and consists of seven boxes of documents dating back to 1990. There is some material from much earlier that, although not specifically dealing with UGRA, historically bears on pension and benefit matters at Guelph.

The following is a sample of the file headings: History, Constitution,

Correspondence, Executive Minutes, Fact Sheets, Presidential Task Force on Pensions (1991), Presidential Task Force on Benefits (1994), Civil Service Supplement (1977-2005), Advisory Committee on Pensions and Benefits (1993-2002), Pension Plan – General, CURAC, United Way and Scholarships.

Documents are still being added to this archive; if anyone has material that they think might be a useful addition to this collection, please contact me at dchull@rogers.com or 519-821-9972.

Most of UGRA’s archived material is open to the public – for access enquire in person at the office in the basement of the McLaughlin Library, or phone (519-824-4120 x52090) or email (libaspc@uoguelph.ca).

Dave Hull, UGRA Archivist



Recent Retirees

Oct 1, 2011

Mark Evans	Land Resource Science
Anna Fecowicz	Physical Resources-Custodial
Gary Ferris	Security Services
Mary Hamilton	OVC-HSC Administration
Maria Hilts	Student Health Services

Nov 1, 2011

Lucy Lin	Office of the CIO
Gary McEachern	Physical Resources-Electrical

Dec 1, 2011

Sheila Watson	Pathobiology
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Jan 1, 2012

Valerie Davidson	School of Engineering
Susan Emery	LSD-Animal Health Labs
Bonnie Gregg	Student Health Services
Laima Kott	Plant Agriculture
Lois Parker	LSD-Animal Health Labs
Michael Tessari	OVC-HSC Clinical Support
Nancy Williamson	Physical Resources-Custodial



Passings

Maurice Dobson	October 1, 2011
Sheila Godfrey	October 9, 2011
Bruce Hunter	October 19, 2011
John P Walker	November 12, 2011
Calvin Chong	November 26, 2011

FREE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

Don't get too excited. This free lifetime membership in the University Club applies only to retirees who, at the time of their retirement, were fully paid-up members of the University Club. For those among us who fall into this category, it means that they will retain their Club member privileges without having to pay current the monthly Club dues of \$28 for the rest of their lives. Retirees with a lifetime membership can eat and drink at the Club whenever they wish and still only pay member prices.

The arrangement, generously made possible by the Club's Board of Directors, is particularly useful for the many retirees (mainly faculty) who remain on campus to carry on their research programs or work with graduate students on an unpaid basis. The privilege is also extended to retirees who are hired by the University on a part-time basis or for sessional teaching. It does not apply to retirees who are hired back on a limited-contract, full-time basis although the privilege is restored once the work contract is completed.

Many retirees will recall that access to the Club (earlier known as the Faculty Club), was

by membership only or as a guest of a member. Guests had to be signed in. This restriction was a condition of the Club's liquor license and was subject to audits by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. Non-members may be pleased to know that these restrictions no longer apply.

Several years ago, the Club gave up its independent license and placed itself under the University's general license. This means that anyone can go to the University Club to eat and drink. The advantage of the membership is in the price difference between what members and non-members pay for their food. A rough rule of thumb is that if a person eats lunch at the Club four times a month, it pays to be a member.

Retirees who are not lifetime members can join the club if they wish by calling Joe Barth, the current Club President, at 519-824-4120 ext. 54867. New retiree members will be required to pay dues, at \$28 per month, for not less than six months in advance. Cheques would be payable to the University Club of Guelph. Members receive discounted pricing on food and if a second meal is purchased within the same week, it is free.



University of Guelph Retirees Association (UGRA) Contributing Membership Form (2011-2012)

YES! I want to help promote the welfare of retirees and to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between retirees and the University. Please accept my contribution to the UGRA's administrative costs.

Name..... Date.....

Address

City/Province Postal Code.....

E-mail

Amount of your contribution:

I would like to receive more information about serving on the Executive of the UGRA or on one of its committees. Yes No Maybe Later (Please circle one)

If Yes, please provide a phone number:

Please make cheques payable to: University of Guelph Retirees Association

Mail this form with your cheque to: University of Guelph Retirees Association
University of Guelph
Guelph Ontario, N1G 2W1

UGRA

Winter 2012

Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA (2011-2012)

All retirees are automatically members of the University of Guelph Retirees Association, but our capacity to operate effectively on behalf of retirees depends on members volunteering to become Contributing Members. This money covers the costs of the newsletter, scholarships, meeting room rentals and support for a member of the UGRA to attend the annual meeting of the College and University Retirees Association of Canada.

Please use the attached Contributing Membership Form to send with your Contributing Membership payment. We have asked for a contribution of \$20 but always appreciate those members who add some extra funds to help us carry on the work.

We have also provided a place on the form for those who might wish to contribute more actively to the UGRA either by a willingness to serve on the Executive or by working on a committee or task group to carry out short term projects.



THE UGRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEEDS FEEDBACK

The UGRA Executive Committee is supposed to be acting on behalf of the interests of University of Guelph retirees. Without input from our members, we operate partly in a vacuum where we try to imagine what retirees see as important issues and concerns. To do this job well, it helps to have more information. So, please take the opportunity to let us know what you are thinking about.

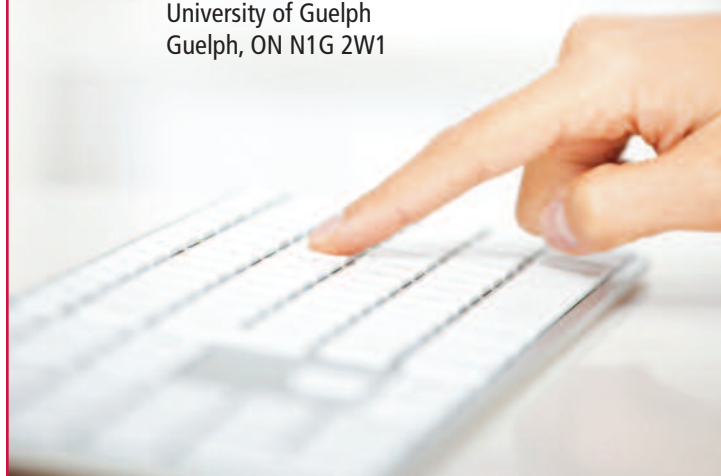
Here are the ways you can contact us:

By Email: president@ugra.ca

Via the 'Contact Us' tab on the website: www.ugra.ca

By Phone: 519-824-4120 x52197. This is phone mail only.
Just leave a message.

By Letter: University of Guelph Retirees Association
P.O. Box 48-4916
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1



PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40064673

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO: ITEMS TO
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 4916
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
GUELPH, ONTARIO
CANADA N1G 2W1

