

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

UGRA has grown in influence and strength under the guidance of previous Presidents and Executives. The present Executive and I have large shoes to fill to continue to represent our members and to move forward. We have no official bargaining power with the university nor with associations representing employees. We have no mandate to involve ourselves in academic, research administration or physical activities and workings of the university. Nevertheless, we are the living, recent archives of the university and UGRA will come to represent present employees, retirees-in-training. How can UGRA rise to those roles and continue to serve the university's retirees?

UGRA is progressing with renewed vigour to establish our worth to the university and its daily activities. President Vaccarino at his receptions this year, and in the past, has stressed his enthusiasm to engage retirees. UGRA is pressing his invitation with the administration, particularly aligning itself with the Vice-President External, Daniel Atlin and his team. This year's first task, following last year's overtures, is to develop a document of understanding (DoU) to define positively and clearly how a broadly-based synergy between UGRA and the university can evolve. We expect our draft of that DoU to be open to discussion with the President's office and Daniel this Fall. You will be invited to comment as the DoU unfolds.

UGRA is committed to being available to university employees who are approaching retirement or are newly retired. An UGRA event is being considered. Ideas anyone? UGRA continues its Fall and Spring Forums on subjects of interest to retirees (p. 2). Let us know what you would find useful!



Peter Kevan

Last year, UGRA ventured into organizing extramural events, bringing members together for informative and social gatherings. The successful dinner cruise on the Grand River was primarily social. The excursion to Sudbury (members joined Guelph's Third Age Learners) to explore how restoration had progressed from moonscape to thriving greenery was a great success. Then, the ambitious adventure to Churchill, MB has adventurers still raving (p. 5). More such events are planned. All we need are ideas and volunteers. Please step forward!

Last year, UGRA made great strides to raising funds for its scholarship. We still need contributions to make that fully endowed (p. 2). The university has recognized our outstanding contributions (over 10% of the university's total contribution) to United Way and we remain an important part of the campaign. How can we do more?

The thorny issues of pensions and benefits are priorities on UGRA's agenda. Major changes are in the offing and our voice is being heard. Our Executive will be opening further discourse with other bargaining units on the serious matters likely to confront them and us. They represent employees who will retire while we represent those who have retired. The link is clear.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Professor Emeritus Jamie Snell who passed away this summer (p. 4). He was our Newsletter Editor for two years. We will miss him. I welcome and thank UGRA's present Executive committee whose tireless volunteer efforts make UGRA what it is and what it will become. We thank Human Resources for their continuing support in communications with retirees. The Arboretum continues to provide for our meetings.

Peter Kevan, President, UGRA

In this issue

- P2 UGRA Fall Forum
 - Honours and Awards
 - UGRA Scholarship Fund
 - Recent Retirees
- P3 UGRA Annual General Meeting
 - CURAC Conference Newsletter
 - Travel with CURAC
- P4 The New Athletics Centre
 - Retirees Social
 - Passings
 - Jamie Snell
- P5 UGRA Churchill Adventure
 - Travel Survey
- P6 Did You Know? (New Feature)
- P7 Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA
- P8 United Way Campaign
 - The UGRA Executive Needs Feedback

Editor: Charlotte McCallum

www.ugra.ca

UGRA Fall Forum

Food for Thought... And for Health!

Arboretum Centre
Thursday, Nov. 16, 1 to 3 p.m.
Doors Open and
Refreshments at 1:00
Talks begin at 1:40

Peter Kevan, Introductory Remarks

Andrea Buchholz (FRAN), Excellence in Food and Nutrition: University of Guelph Innovations

Janis Randall Simpson (FRAN), Vitamins and Minerals from A to Z

Alison Duncan (FRAN), Functional Foods for Healthy Aging



Honours & Awards

Congratulations to the following on being invested as University Professor Emeritus:

Laurent Viel
Mansell Griffiths
Peter Krell
Jacek Lipkowski

UGRA Scholarship Fund

As many of you know, the UGRA scholarship supports a close relative of a retired U of G employee with an award of \$1,500. Thanks to special fundraising efforts last year, and a matching gift from Dr. Frances Sharom, there were enough funds to start an endowment to partially fund the award. An additional \$8,000 is needed to fully support the scholarship and to get the endowment to \$45,000. We're nearly there! To find out more, or make a donation, please visit <http://ugra.ca/scholarship/donate> or contact Jayne Whitfield, 519- 824-4120 ext. 56695.

We are happy to announce that Kylie Evers, **twice a recipient of the UGRA Scholarship**, and daughter of Sandy and Joe Evers, has graduated with distinction from the Ontario Veterinary College, as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Winner also of the American Academy of Veterinarian Dermatology Prize and the Kievit Memorial Prize in Surgery, she is now Associate Veterinarian at the West Brant Animal Hospital in Brantford. Congratulations Kylie!

Recent Retirees

May 1, 2017

Helen Gazzola	Student Health Serv.
Ann Hewson	LSD - Animal Health Lab.
Michael	
Kupferschmidt	Mackinnon Bldg. Mgmt.
Martin Madden	Office of the CIO
Sandra McIntyre	CCS – Director's Office
Jane Miller	Health and Perf. Centre
Jeffrey Overton	Registrarial Systems
Alexandra Smith	Food Science
Debra Trask	Student Health Serv.

June 1, 2017

Patrick Case	Political Science
Karen Ferraro	Chemistry
Sally MacLachlan	OVC Shared Services
Nicholas Murray	Phys. Res. Custodial
Hugh Smith	CCS – Director's Office
Nancy Stanlick	Office of the CIO
Xiao-Min Lily Zhou	Human Resources

July 1, 2017

Robert Baldwin	Counselling
Linda Bissell	Land Resource Sci.
Mary Elliott	Population Medicine
Julie Hutchins	Student Housing Serv.
Tanya MacLaurin	Hosp. and Tourism Mgmt.
Peter McCaskell	CCS – Director's Office
George Perry	Phys. Res-Refrig. Cont.
Daniela Zadro	Office of the CIO

August 1, 2017

Wray Hutton	Psychology
Sharon Quiring	Office of the CIO
Karen Shiell	Chemistry
Brian Steed	Phys. Res.- Grounds
Anthony Vannelli	CPES – Dean's Office

September 1, 2017

Sheldon Crites	KC-Cont. Education
Sharon Fox	Phys. Res. – Grounds
William Gardner	Sch. of Computer Sci.
Jeanette Laws	Parking Admin.
Linda McCorkindale	AVP Research
John Miles	AVP Fin. Serv.
Kate Revington	University Secretary
Fern Rooke	LSD – Animal Hlth. Lab.
Alan Watson	Land Resource Sci.

UGRA Annual General Meeting

The 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on June 15 at the University of Guelph Arboretum Centre with some 31 in attendance and Robin Davidson Arnott presiding. The draft minutes of the business meeting of the AGM may be viewed at <http://ugra.ca/about-us/ugra-annual-general-meetings>

The business meeting ended with the election of the following 2017-2018 Board:

Executive

Peter Kevan – President
Roselyn Stevenson – Vice President
Cathy Ralston – Treasurer
Janis Randall-Simpson – Secretary
Kent Percival – Past President

Members at large

Doug Badger
Betty Clyde
Charlotte McCallum
Dana Paramskas
Frances Sharom
Glenn White
Sue Wi-Afedzi
Vikky Tremblay

Before the business meeting, Daniel Atlin, University of Guelph Vice-President



(External) gave an informative talk. His job is to advance the university's reputation as an academic leader at local, provincial, national and international levels. As such, He is deeply involved in community relations, such as with UGRA. He described recent achievements and capital projects of the university: the Strategic Renewal Framework, increases in enrolment, major research grants and gifts and the installation of the new Chancellor. From his own area, he described the Communications and Brand Alignment projects. Finally, some recent projects and initiatives of direct interest to retirees were mentioned: the Canada 150 events, Healthy Workplace Initiative and work towards a Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan (JSSP) which would start with the



Universities of Toronto, Queen's and Guelph. The JSSP collaboration is expected to help sustain the pension plans at participating universities.

A relaxed and enjoyable luncheon followed the AGM. If you missed this, do try to include the luncheon for the next AGM – the university food service is good as ever and the company convivial.

CURAC Conference Newsletter

UGRA is a founding member of CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada), a federation of post-secondary retiree associations at colleges and universities across Canada. CURAC celebrated its 15th anniversary at its recent annual conference held at Carleton University this year. Besides being a great social opportunity for retirees, the conference featured discussions about the role of CURAC and member retiree associations and an impressive set of speakers covering a number of topics, including retiree health and well-being.

Read about the Conference in the recent CURAC Post-Conference Newsletter at <http://www.curac.ca/newsletter-post-conference-edition/> and the invited speakers' bios and presentations at <http://www.curac.ca/newsletter-post-conference-edition/#speakers>



Kent Percival

Travel with CURAC

CURAC has now had two successful years of partnership with Collette Travel. Members planning future travel may wish to check out the broad range of tours available to them at:

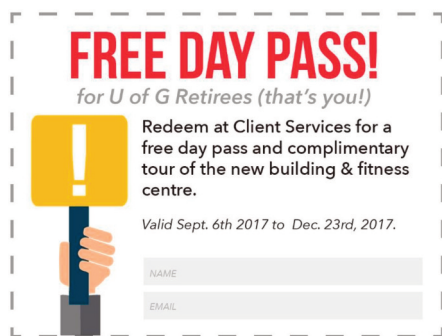
<http://www.gocollette.com/en-ca/landing-pages/2015/partner/curac>

The website lists better than 160 tours to destinations worldwide at a broad range of departure dates. CURAC members enjoy savings on bookings, benefit from professionally planned itineraries and the services of a Tour Manager, and enjoy other perks on certain tours, e.g., roundtrip home to airport sedan service.

Inquiries about tours, or bookings, can be made by calling 800-468-5955. Alternatively, bookings can be made through your local Travel Agent. Make sure to mention your membership in a CURAC association for additional savings!

Check out Ken and Sydney Craig's account of the CURAC organized European river cruise in 2016 in the Fall 2016 CURAC/ARUCC Newsletter. Ken has promised an account of his and Sydney's "Shades of Ireland" 2017 CURAC tour in a forthcoming issue.

The New Athletics Centre



In case you missed the Retirees Social, Athletics has opened a new state-of-the-art athletics facility that is arguably the best on a university campus. Features include: spacious lobby and social space, including the UGAA Student Lounge; rock climbing wall; bright new change rooms; a 22,000 square foot Fitness Centre; new programming rooms for over 100 Fitness Classes a week; an Event Centre that features a 4-sided video board that adds an amazing entertainment element to our home basketball and volleyball games; a suspended run/walk track that overlooks the Event Centre; a VIP suite; and much more!

A special reminder to U of G Retirees – you receive the same membership subsidy benefits that permanent full-time staff do. So, there is nowhere in the City of Guelph where you can get so much for so little! If you have questions about this benefit, please call your HR Consultant or the Supervisor of Client Services in Athletics at 519-824-4120 ext. 54001.

You can arrange a tour by calling the Supervisor of Client Services at 519-824-4120 ext. 54001 or visit <https://fitandrec.gryphons.ca/> for more information. It is our pleasure to provide above a free day pass that you can use from now until December – just cut it out and bring it in to Client Services. Come for a swim, walk the track, attend a class, use the new Fitness Centre ...there are many possibilities!

Maureen Mau
Associate Director of Programming &
Facilities
Department of Athletics

Retirees' Social

A very pleasant time was had August 30 at the Retirees Social at the brand new Athletic Centre and hosted by the Department of Athletics. It was well attended and offered a great opportunity to meet and mingle with old friends and colleagues. After UGRA President Peter Kevan said a few words, University President Franco Vaccarino introduced Scott McRoberts, Director of Athletics, who gave an interesting talk about his role at the university and the development of the new Athletic Centre. His extensive background in university athletic programs and facility development elsewhere now enriches the University of Guelph enormously. The Whole Person approach the university takes plays out in many ways across the campus, but especially in athletics. Under his direction, the use of the facilities by students, the broader university community - and well beyond – has increased substantially. Sound minds in sound bodies indeed!

After the presentation came a tour of the new facility, led by Scott McRoberts and other staff members. No one could fail to be impressed. We re-convened for further refreshments (delicious!) and socializing. Read on for more detail on this marvelous athletics facility and how you can take advantage of it too.

Passings

Diana Kormendy	April 14 2017
Vladimir Rasper	April 16 2017
James Black	April 19 2017
Anne Gould	April 27 2017
John W. Ketcheson	May 2 2017
Joanne Fountain	May 8 2017
Sylvia Watson	May 20 2017
Harold Chapman	May 21 2017
David Jordan	May 28 2017
Jacobus Poll	June 1 2017
Antonio Baldasso	June 1 2017
Doreen Nicklin	June 10 2017
Rita Godin	June 27 2017
Brent Hoff	June 29 2017
Keith Ronald	July 6 2017
Stanley Redwood	July 7 2017
Elsie Hunter	July 20 2017
Douglas C. Maplesden	July 24 2017
Dean Reynolds	July 25 2017
Horst Flint	July 30 2017
Gwendolyn Detweiler	August 10 2017
James Snell	August 15 2017
F. Maurice Campbell	August 24 2017



Jamie Snell

The UGRA lost a stalwart supporter this August with the passing of Jamie Snell at the age of 77. A retiree since 2005, he was persuaded in the Spring of 2015 to be nominated for a position on the UGRA Executive to replace Susan Evers as Newsletter editor. During the two years he served he produced six issues of the newsletter, including the Spring 2017 edition, which was carried out after the diagnosis of the cancer from which he died. During this time he continued to attend Executive meetings and those who were at the AGM in June will remember that he was there, as cheerful as ever despite the oxygen tank he had to drag along. The two years that Jamie served coincided with my terms as President and then Past President of the UGRA and I remember with great fondness his humour, his sense of community and his readiness to volunteer whenever there was a job that needed doing. You can find more information on Jamie at: http://uofg.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=2171&pg=entry

Robin Davidson-Arnott

Didn't we have a time! The UGRA Churchill Adventure, August 2017

Twenty-four intrepid UGRA adventurers (and at least as many cameras) explored the Churchill area from August 22 to 29th on an expedition brilliantly planned by Peter Kevan and expedited by Vikki Tremblay's travel planning. We flew to Winnipeg and then took Calm Air to Rankin Inlet in Nunavut before continuing to Churchill and the Churchill Northern Science Centre (CNSC). It was actually a course on *Environmental Studies on the Boreal-Arctic Transition*, but it was also a "whale" of an UGRA trip. We needed bear guards when we were outside – and saw enough polar bears (12!) to realize the caution was warranted. In their move to the coast in late summer in wait for seals once the sea-ice forms, some

come into town and end up doing time in "bear jail". One morning our CNSC driver spotted a helicopter delivering a bear to the "hoosegow", so we got a front row seat ... from a safe distance.

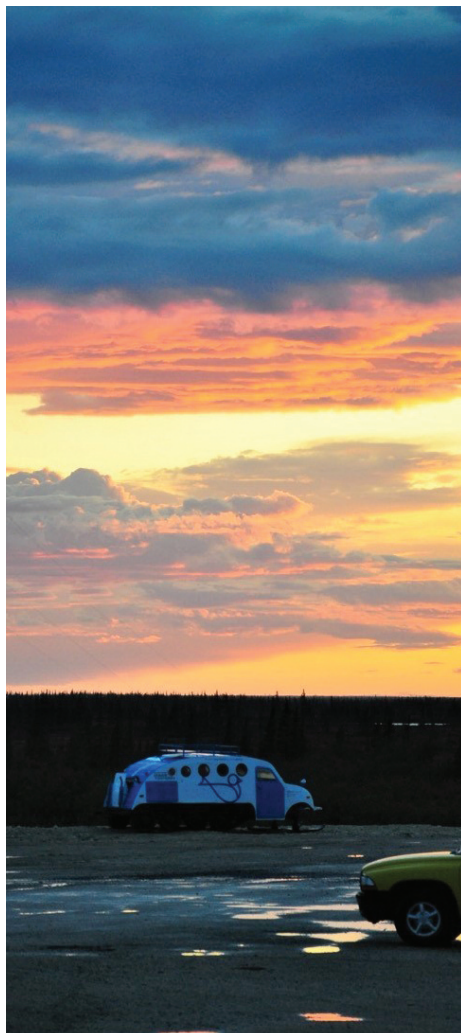
There were hundreds of beluga whales in the Churchill Estuary, not to mention caribou, tundra swans, ptarmigans, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, tiny wood frogs, snow geese, Canada geese and the Hudsonian godwit. Plant life too: plumes of mountain avens and red fireweed, reindeer lichen, blueberries, brilliant orange rock lichen, and the characteristic coastal evergreens facing the wind with branches flying like flags.

Our days were packed. We explored the massive rocks on the coast, the taiga inland, got our boots wet in the peat fens and stayed up a night for the Aurora Borealis. There were visits to the old

rocket range, to town and Itsanitaq (Inuit) Museum and to the old fortifications at Cape Merry and Fort Prince of Wales to hear the history of The Hudson's Bay Company trading posts in the 1700s. We saw the Port of Churchill and went beluga watching (and listening) by ship, took dog cart rides and had a day out in a tundra buggy. There were talks at night that helped us understand more about sea ice, polar bears and the disturbing story of the relocation of the Sayisi Dene people. We were fortunate to be at the CNSC for its 40th anniversary gala and a talk by Sheila Watt-Cloutier, author of *The Right to be Cold*. There was so much more - just ask us! And when UGRA sets up another adventure, you will want to be there!

Roz Stevenson

(with thanks to Roz Stevenson and Glenn White for the Churchill photos)



Travel Survey



Following the great success of the trip to Churchill, your UGRA Executive wants to hear from you about a possible next trip. Here are a few ideas, with prices per person:

Cruise the Cook & Society Islands:
7-11 nights, \$4,600-\$5,000,
including airfare

Guided tour of China: 14 days,
\$2,000-\$3,200, including airfare

Guided tour of Iceland: 8 days,
\$4,000- \$4,600, including airfare

Amazon River Cruise: 8 days, starting
at \$1,500, not including airfare

**Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway or
Mississippi River:** \$2,500-\$3,500

For information and to take the survey contact Vikki Tremblay
greatescapesbyvik@gmail.com or visit
the UGRA website www.ugra.ca

UGRA

Fall 2017

Did You Know? (a new feature!)

Two little known **Retiree Benefits** described in the retirement booklet are: **in-home nursing services**, covered up to the overall maximum of \$25,000 per insured person per calendar year of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN). Sun Life will require your physician to complete a Referral Form and may assign a registered nurse to complete an in-home assessment. Contact Sun Life to obtain a Referral Form. The company's official website is at: <https://www.sunlife.ca>

For those in a **licensed nursing home**, under the supervision of a physician there is a benefit up to \$20 per day for room and board and normal nursing care. Again, your physician must complete a Referral Form, obtainable from Sun Life, to confirm your requirements. Sun Life will then evaluate the completed form to determine the amount and level of coverage to be provided.

You can review the **retirement booklet** online by going to the university's website <https://www.uoguelph.ca> and clicking on Search tab in the left hand menu. Then select Current Opportunities (HR), which will take you to Human Resources where you click on the Retirees tab. You do not need to have an

email address at the university to do this.

Apart from benefits such as pensions and insurance, there are a number of **Retiree Privileges** you may access. For a description of these privileges visit <https://www.uoguelph.ca/hr/retirees/retiree-privileges>

One example is for low cost membership in the Athletic Centre - visit https://ca.apm.activecommunities.com/uofg/Membership?package_id=304

There is always something interesting happening at the University of Guelph, from scholarly lectures open to the public, to student theatrical productions, to varsity games at the Athletic Centre, to the Thursday at Noon music recitals. From the university's home page at <https://www.uoguelph.ca> click on the **News/Events** tab to navigate the happenings.

One set of happenings is the **Canada 150** initiatives and event series, which has been taking place throughout the year. The sesquicentennial celebrations continue with:

Building Canada Lectures at the Guelph Civic Museum, the second Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

Canada 150 Symposium, October 27-28 on food security, borders and Indigenous resistance

Guelph Chamber Choir Ontario/Canada 150 Concert, November 4 at the River Run Centre

Join the Club!

The **Royal City Men's Club** welcomes those from the Guelph area who are retired from full-time employment to join its 75 current members. Since 2006, we have encouraged life-long learning through presentations on a wide variety of topics and issues. Some recent talks were by: Dr. Tuuli Kukkonen on *Aging and Sexual Arousal*; David Macdonald on *Wounded Warriors*; and Brian J. Patterson on *Safe Winter Driving*; and Brian Orend on *Cyberwar or Happiness*. If you are interested in meeting and making new friends, please visit www.royalcitymensclub.ca

Third Age Learning is another great way to keep the life-long-learning habit for those in and near Guelph. Upcoming morning sessions are on *Issues in Social Justice*. The afternoon sessions are on *Canadian Art: Coast to Coast to Coast*. Visit www.thirdagelearningguelph.ca for registration and payment details.

Guelph's **Evergreen Senior's Community Centre** is a wonderful resource for retirees in and around Guelph, offering recreation, social and educational programs. For more visit www.guelph.ca/venue/evergreen-seniors-community or call 510-823-1291

Elections Canada is looking for returning officers for Kitchener-Conestoga. For more visit christine.cantin@elections.ca www.elections.ca/home.aspx

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Contest closes March 31, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. ET (earlier closing dates for some prizes). ©2016 Economical Insurance. All rights reserved. All Economical intellectual property, including but not limited to Economical[®] and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Economical Mutual Insurance Company and/or its subsidiaries and/or affiliates and are registered and/or used in Canada. All other intellectual property is the property of their respective owners.

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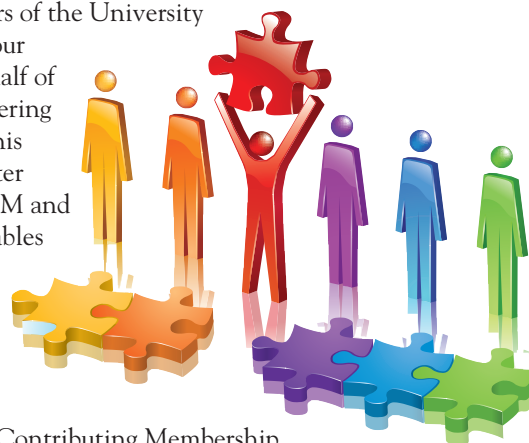
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519-836-5770

Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA (2017)

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 cost of the newsletter and meeting room rentals for the AGM and the spring and fall forums. It also enables the UGRA to send a representative to the annual meeting of College and University Retiree Associations of Canada.



Please use the attached Contributing Membership Form to send with your Contributing Membership payment. In line with the resolution passed at the 2015 AGM we suggest a contribution of \$25 but we welcome contributions of any size whether smaller or larger.

Meetings are held from 1:30-3:30 on the first Tuesday of the month from September to June. A full Board is important for the full and proper functioning of the Association. If you are interested in working on behalf of your fellow retirees and have some time to contribute, please consider letting your name stand, and complete the contact-us form at <http://www.ugra.ca/contact-us>.

University of Guelph Retirees Association Contributing Membership (2017) Form

☐ **YES!** I want to help promote the welfare of retirees and to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between retirees and the University by contributing to the UGRA's administrative costs.

My contribution is \$.....

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

Address.....

City/Province..... Postal Code.....

Email..... Phone.....

(Note that the email address will be used for UGRA communications only.)

Please make cheque payable to the University of Guelph Retirees Association.

Mail this form with your cheque to:

University of Guelph Retirees Association • PO Box 48-4916 • University of Guelph • Guelph Ontario, N1G 2W1

Electronic Payment

Instead of mailing in a cheque you can now make a secure donation to UGRA electronically using PayPal and your credit card on our web page at: <http://www.ugra.ca>



UGRA

Fall 2017

The United Way Campaign

Once again, the United Way Campaign is on. You should have already received your letter and donation form by mail. The money raised goes toward 54 service agencies and their 88 projects in the Guelph Wellington Dufferin region. The university places a great importance on this campaign and UGRA and its members can be proud of their ongoing commitment, as recounted by President Vaccarino in his glowing letter of July 31 to UGRA President Peter Kevan.

Catherine Carstairs and Peter Routledge are the Co-Chairs of the campus campaign and Antonette (Toni) Pellizzari is the UGRA rep. The university's goal this year is to raise \$620,000... and beyond. With your help, it can be done.

For more information about the campus campaign visit
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/unitedway/>

To learn more about the United Way and its local impact visit
<https://unitedwayguelph.com>



United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

The UGRA Executive Committee Needs Feedback

The UGRA Executive Committee acts 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 our job well, we could use more information, so please take the opportunity to let us know what's on your mind.

Here are the ways you can contact us. Please provide your name, address and phone number. This will enable us to follow up on requests promptly.

By Email:

president@ugra.ca

Via the 'Contact Us' tab on the website:

www.ugra.ca

By Phone:

519-824-4120, Ext. 52197.

This is phone mail only, so please leave a message with your name and phone number.

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

