

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome back to the "roaring twenties," 2020 style! It is also the Chinese Year of the Rat. My wish is that 2020 brings with it much happiness and good health to all our members. Our warm Fall weather has moved into Winter with its ever-changing weather – snow one day and rain the next. I'm sure the worst of it is yet to come!

It has been a busy Fall for your UGRA Executive. Some of us traveled to China in October and we had some wonderful adventures seeing a country that is steeped in history. Canada, in comparison, is only a baby considering the thousands of years of history China has experienced. A description and a few pictures are in this issue and I hope you had a chance to see more of the wonderful pictures of the trip on our website. Thanks to Sue Wi-Afedzi for putting the pictures together along with some background.

With two guest speakers, the November Fall Forum was a great success. Tom Reitz shared images from his extensive collection of photographic postcards, exploring garlands of Christmas in people's homes, churches and schools from the early 1900s. He is a former history museum curator and he shared his passion for Christmas. It wasn't difficult to get into the Christmas spirit as Tom's enthusiasm was definitely contagious.

After a brief refreshment break, Kyle Smith, Activity Programmer at the Wellington County Museum and Archives brought us back to the Fabulous 50s and Sensational 60s. I'm sure we all remember them well. Attendees were encouraged to wear their best outfits from that time era. Some were definitely "far out!" Kyle shared a series of fantastic photographs and artifacts from the Wellington County Museum & Archives collection. It was great fun to go back in time to enjoy our inner hippy!

Once again, we are very grateful to our members for their generosity in funding the UGRA Scholarship. It is fully endowed and is continuing to increase. We are hoping it will continue growing so there will be enough in the scholarship endowment to fund another award. Since this award goes to a deserving student who is a child or grandchild of a retiree, please continue to contribute to this



worthy scholarship so we can achieve this goal.

We also appreciate all of our contributing members of the UGRA for giving \$25 or more each year. These gifts help fund us in improving our services and holding events by covering the cost of room rental, A/V, hospitality and speaker fees. It makes our Fall and Spring Forums possible. On behalf of the UGRA Executive I offer my thanks for your continued support. We can do great things together.

The UGRA represents all retirees of the University of Guelph and wants to continue to keep in touch with everyone through our events, forums and adventures. It is so important to stay connected to our fellow retirees. We are working on a number of new projects this Winter, including improving our service to you, our members. It is a busy time but we always have time for our members. Happy 2020 everyone and we hope to see you at the Spring Forum April 23, 2020.

Vikki Tremblay



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# UGRA

Editor: Charlotte McCallum

[www.ugra.ca](http://www.ugra.ca)

# UGRA Spring Forum

## Animal Welfare ♦ Food Waste



**At the Arboretum Centre**  
**Thursday, April 23, 2020**  
**Doors Open: 1:30 p.m for refreshments and socializing**  
**Program: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

Not to be missed! Mike Von Massow will be presenting a double header for us about: Animal Welfare and Food Waste, two hot button issues of our day. Prof. Mike von Massow, Department of food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, is OAC Chair in Food Systems Leadership.

(P.S. the road into the Centre from College Street is now paved!)

## Seeking New Board Members



The UGRA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on June 11. An important part of business is the election of a new board.. The UGRA board meets at the beautiful Arboretum Centre's boardroom on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month (except in summer). Here we do the business of the association, plan for events and hob nob with members of the university administration. If you are a retiree of any sort, and have time, interest and talent in this domain, why not consider putting your name forward for the June meeting? Your ideas and energy would be much appreciated by all. Contact information is on page 8.

### Recent Retirees

<b>October 1, 2019</b>	
James Burgess	CCS IT App
<b>November 1, 2019</b>	
Guntis Obrascovs	Athletics
Olga Polnitsky	CE-Open Learn
Margaret Thorburn	Pop Medicine
<b>January 1, 2020</b>	
Linda Bellai	Human Res
David Bilyea	RC-Academic
John Bullock	Phys Res Blg Mech
David Chiu	School Comp Sci
Serge Desmarais	Psychology
Sally Humphries	Soc & Anthr
Mary Lake	LSD Anim Health Lab
Stephen Marshall	Env Sci
Valerie Wilson	Psychology
Larry Shuh	Budget Office
<b>February 1, 2020</b>	
Yu-Chen Chow	Office Uni Librarian
Maryann Kope	Office Uni Librarian
Janet Shapiro	LSD Anim Health Lab

### United Way 2019

The United Way Campaign for 2019 has now been finalized and I want to share with you the closing numbers. The University campaign raised \$627,598. This is down from last year's amount, but still a remarkable number. Now the statistics for the Retirees: we raised a staggering \$86,594! This is about \$10,000 more than last year's total and the highest amount ever raised by the Retirees; making up almost 14% of the total amount!



Thank you ever so much for your generosity. Without donors like you this would not happen. Our University raises the most funds for the United Way of any in the province. I think it would be fair to surmise that our Retirees also fall into this category. I look forward to representing the Retirees again for the 2020 campaign.

*Julie Hutchins*

## We Get Questions: Travel & Health; Off-campus Library Access



URGRA does its best to answer questions from retirees about issues of concern. Two such during the Fall were about: 1) the impact of changes to Ontario's health plan coverage for out-of-country emergency costs, and 2) changes to retiree off-campus access to on-line library resources.

1) Ontario's health plan now gives very minimal coverage for out-of-country emergency medical costs, so you do need (and always did need) other medical travel insurance when you head out on your adventures. That extra insurance may be coverage through the U of G retiree extended health insurance you may have purchased through SunLife, or from other insurance companies. Otherwise, costs will be right on your credit card. A column by Rob Carrick in the Globe and Mail on January 9, 2020 (p. B11\*) provides a good analysis of what you should be checking before you pack. The link is <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/personal-finance/household-finances/article-provincial-health-plans-should-not-help-snowbirds-cover-their-out-of/>

2) The off-campus Library access questions were a bit complicated, not least because there doesn't seem to be a central source of information that ensures retirees are correctly listed on the CCS uoguelph.ca campus directory. The October message about the changes to access to library resources went to many retirees, including a good many University Professor Emeriti and College Professor Emeriti, who continue to be very active in their academic areas. Some departments had updated CCS on information for retirees, noting names of people who were still in active association with the department and thereby are eligible to retain off-campus access to library on-line journals purchased under license from use by registered students, faculty and staff. If this applies to you, the key thing is to make sure you are listed, not as a "retiree," but as an eligible user of off-campus log-in. The best approach is to be proactive and make the request to your department. More information can be found at <https://lib.uoguelph.ca/news/changes-retiree-library-privileges-coming-2020>

Please continue to send us your questions, even if the answers are not simple.

The UGRA Board

## UGRA Travel Adventures... to China!

In October, 27 University of Guelph retirees, family and friends, took a guided tour of China, from Shanghai to Beijing and back. Over 17 days we travelled by bus, train, boat and plane, seeing some of China's great places. A four-day cruise on the Yangtze River began at the Three Gorges Dam. We proceeded upstream between the hills of Sichuan province, past its huge cities and beautiful scenery. Shore excursions included a challenging climb to the Ghost City of Fengdu and its fascinating depiction of the perils of the underworld. Twice we travelled by the very comfortable Bullet Train, which can reach speeds of 350 km per hour, viewing the countryside and its lush vegetation.

The five-star hotels did not disappoint, each offering its unique touch; a German brewery, extensively landscaped grounds, or beautifully appointed washrooms, for example. All provided wonderful breakfast choices, including Western food. The food was delicious and some of us even mastered the chopsticks. We were exposed to the food specialties of the various provinces through which we travelled, such as the hot pot meal of Chengdu and the delicious dumplings from Xian.

And of course we saw the famous sights. We visited the Panda Research Station at Chengdu, where we laughed at the pandas draped over the tree branches in the most languid poses, and marveled at the tiny babies in their incubators. The Terra Cotta Warriors near Xian date back more than two thousand years. They are amazingly detailed and truly proportioned. Try to imagine the work that went into the making of these more than eight thousand statues! (cont'd on pg 4)



## China Adventures (cont'd)



We saw an incredible number of sights on the trip, all in a relatively short time. Twelve of the group were able to make the trek along the Great Wall of China to the Twelfth Fortress.

There, we were rewarded with a glorious view of the surrounding countryside. I could go on and on about Beijing's Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the tea plantations, or the silk factory.

China is a fascinating country, with an ancient culture that is in the throes of major change as it rushes to overtake the progress of the Western World. It was well worth the visit. Do stay tuned for news of our next UGRA Travel Adventure and plan to come along!

*Sue Alfedzi*

## Fall Forum 2019

As Vikki writes in her President's Message, a great time was had at the Fall Forum last November with the retrospectives on domestic Christmas decorations and the Fabulous Fifties and Sixties.



## Passings

Dorothy Blacklock	Sept. 28, 2019
Tereza Gyuro	Oct. 3, 2019
Dolores McLachlan	Oct. 7, 2019
Ida Chaloner	Oct. 11, 2019
Stella Rose	Oct. 11, 2019
John Brown	Oct. 11, 2019
John Fillion	Oct. 16, 2019
John Lochhead	Oct. 20, 2019
Ken Brown	Nov. 2, 2019
Wayne Thompson	Nov. 2, 2019
Colin Kelly	Nov. 3, 2019
Beryl Beaumont	Nov. 16, 2019
Debra Robinson	Nov. 18, 2019
Marcel O'Brien	Dec. 1, 2019
J. Harold Reed	Dec. 3, 2019
Marshal Matson	Dec. 8, 2019
Hilda Mann	Dec. 11, 2019
Marion D. Cameron	Dec. 20, 2019
Susan Lollis	Dec. 20, 2019
Helene Ilsley	Jan. 7, 2020
Andor Tari	Jan. 9, 2020



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- **College Royal** - March 21,22 (Guelph campus)
- **Deadline for Spring Newsletter content and advertisements** - March 27
- **UGRA Spring Forum** - April 23 (see announcement this issue )
- **UGRA Scholarship application deadline** - May 15 (see announcement this issue)
- **UGRA Annual General Meeting** - **June 11** (forenoon, Arboretum Centre)

## The UGRA Scholarship

Children, grandchildren and, dare we say, great-grandchildren of members of UGRA who are students at the university may be eligible to apply for the annual UGRA Scholarship, carrying a value of \$1,500. The deadline for the Fall award is May 15, 2020. For all details, contact Student Finances on the campus, or visit [www.ugra.ca](http://www.ugra.ca) and click the Scholarship tab, or visit [uoguelph.ca/registrar/studentfinance/apps/awards?id=10569](http://uoguelph.ca/registrar/studentfinance/apps/awards?id=10569)

# Thanks again to our 2019 CURAC Conference Sponsors:

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# Ontario Agricultural College Retirees: Where are they Now?



With so many of UGRA's events and member activity associated with the main campus in Guelph, it only seems fair to give a shout out to all those members who worked at the other campuses and research facilities of the University. I lately visited René Van Acker, Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC), to chat about UGRA members who once worked in the outlying locations. He provided good insight into the very complicated relationships and connections which resulted from a major rearrangement of the entire agriculture, food and some life science units associated with, not only the College, but the University and the Province, through the special relationship the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

Until fairly recently, OAC maintained teaching and research campuses in Kemptville and Alfred as well as Ridgetown, which alone is still in operation. As well, there are a surprisingly large number of research and test facilities elsewhere in the province, such as at Vineland, New Liskeard (shown in photo), Elora, nearby Arkell, etc. which were once linked to OAC. They are now all under the U of G Office of Research, even if still staffed through OAC. Some faculty actually originated as civil servants from OMAFRA. The Office of Research now coordinates and links a large number of research activities of the university – a huge number of entities actually - and it is all very complex indeed.

But it all seems to work. The U of G is one of Canada's major research institutions. Hardly a day goes by but that news is breaking on the national network about something or other from this myriad of research units. Dean Van Acker holds that this extensive network of research and teaching is united by burning

current issues in: Food and its production; the Environment, including climate; and Animal Welfare. That is pretty wide-ranging and universal! Even UGRA's Spring Forum is about animal welfare and food, which puts us on the front burner.

Where are all those who worked outside the main campus, we now ask. Dean Van Acker reports that many who worked at Kemptville and Alfred took packages when the university left town, others moved to the main campus in Guelph to continue work. Some retired but are still working, maintaining research programs and staying in touch with OAC. "There's hundreds of different stories," says the Dean. The College keeps in touch with its alumni and arranges events for them, but, what about the former staff and faculty? Those in administrative and clerical positions at the outlying campuses and facilities tended to be locally-based. Are these retirees still in their home areas? Did the professional retired faculty settle down locally too? Do they know they are all part of UGRA? Why not shoot us a line or two about how UGRA can be a meaningful part of your retirement? Let's start a conversation! We would be very interested to hear from you.



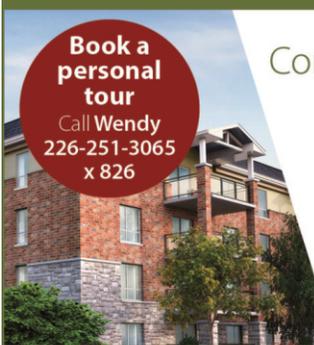
Charlotte McCallum

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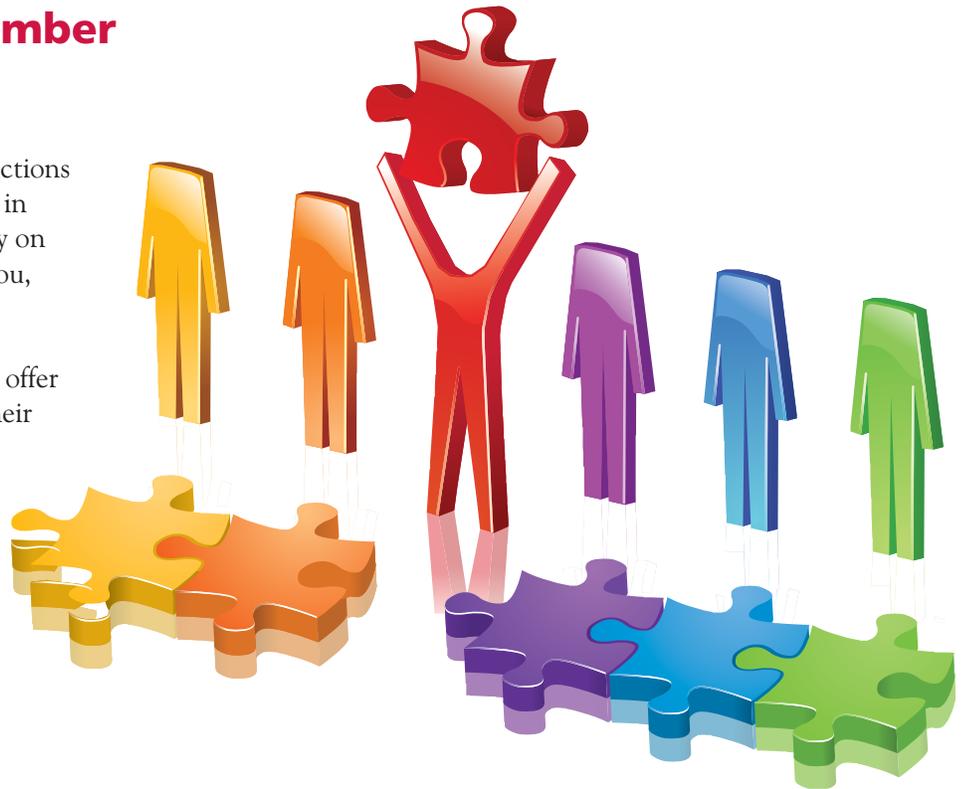
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## Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA (2020)

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, our informative website, and our various functions throughout the year. While membership in UGRA is free, we depend almost entirely on voluntary financial contributions from you, our members, to finance the Newsletter, room rentals, refreshments and other operating expenses. Our board members offer their time and talents freely, on top of their financial contributions. A contribution of even \$25 from you would go so far towards sustaining UGRA so we can continue to work on your behalf. Please use the form below or make a contribution at the next event.



### University of Guelph Retirees Association Contributing Membership (2020) 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 \$.....

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(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>.



## How to Contact Us

Don't hesitate to contact us with your questions, comments, and concerns. To advocate on your behalf, we truly want, and need, to hear from you. Here are the ways to contact us – don't forget to provide your name and contact information in your message so we can follow up promptly.

### By Email:

president@ugra.ca

### By using the 'Contact Us' tab on the UGRA website:

www.ugra.ca

### By Phone:

519-824-4120, Ext. 52197

### By Letter:

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

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## Advertising in the Newsletter

Do you have something to sell, rent, buy or announce for the next edition of the Newsletter? You may purchase space for a coloured box ad of various sizes, or a simple classified ad by contacting the Editor for prices (see page 8). The next deadline is March 27, 2020.

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### Classifieds

A lot of important Guelph issues are really complex. To understand them we need more than "sound bites" and knee-jerk ideology. The Guelph-Back-Grounder is a place where people can read the information that explains why things are the way they are, and the complex issues that people have to negotiate if they want to make Guelph a better city. No anger, just facts.

<https://guelph-back-grounder.blogspot.com/>



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