

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I sincerely hope that you and those near and dear to you are doing well in these exceptional times. Fall always seems to be a period of transition and the time to reflect and be grateful. I think that we'd all like to extend thanks to those doing the hard and at times dangerous work that provides us with some semblance of normality. Groceries (even toilet paper) have not been a problem, and even though it took a while, most of us were able to go to the gym and get our lumber purchased, teeth cleaned, pets vaccinated, and hair cut. The things that used to annoy us seem pretty trivial now. Hopefully, some of the new routines will result in improvements in our worlds. Regardless, we'll all be breathing a sigh of relief when there is less uncertainty and, hopefully, a greater chance to physically connect with others.

Turning to UGRA, I'd like to extend heartfelt thanks to the departing members of the UGRA Executive Committee: **Doug Badger, Charlotte McCallum, Kent Percival, Roz Stevenson, and Glenn White**. Their willingness to stay on for an extra 3 months was very much appreciated. Their leadership skills, encyclopedic knowledge, hard work, and the artistic, IT, and financial talents of these folks will be sorely missed! Kudos too to our continuing directors: **Julie Hutchins, Dana Paramskas, Cathy Ralston, Frances Sharom, Vikki Tremblay, and Sue Wi-Afedzi** and special thanks to our incoming members of the executive committee: **Peter Krell, Toni Pellizzari, and Pat Shewen**. Thanks are also due to the Department of Alumni Affairs and Development and The President's Office for their support during this "new reality".

For UGRA, like most organizations, 2020 has been a year of cancellations and virtual



meetings. The spectacular China trip and face to face get-togethers in the Arboretum with former colleagues seem like a lifetime ago. The Spring Forum was a scratch and although we remained naively hopeful for many months, the AGM, normally a June event, was eventually held using Zoom on September 24th. Courtesy of the Office of the President, UGRA members also had access to other online activities including a virtual community breakfast and a course on pandemics. Since the initial lockdown, the UGRA executive has also continued to meet every month on-line. We've worked on improving the website and getting relevant information to the membership by email. We've also been working on forging productive ties with the Office of the President and Alumni Affairs and Development and with the national retiree association, CURAC.

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UGRA

Editor: Cathy Ralston

www.ugra.ca

Incoming Members of the Board



We welcomed **Peter Krell**, **Toni Pellizzari** and **Pat Shewen** to the board at the AGM in September.

Peter Krell hails from the frozen north, Sault Ste Marie. He escaped to complete a BSc and MSc at Carleton University in Ottawa and then moved east to Halifax to complete his PhD in viruses of parasitoid wasps. Continuing to be peripatetic, he did postdoctoral work at Texas A&M University before becoming a faculty member at the University of Guelph in 1981, first in the Department of Microbiology to be later subsumed in the much larger and more diffuse Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. He rose through the ranks to Professor and now University Professor Emeritus, mentoring many undergraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral fellows along the way. His area of research was on molecular virology, particularly in insect viruses and collaborating with his wife Professor Eva Nagy in Pathobiology, dabbled a bit in animal virology. In the area of governance, he was President of the Canadian Society for Microbiologists and later was first Secretary, then President of the international Society for Invertebrate Pathology.

Toni Pellizzari has been retired for 5 years after 32 years of service. Most of these years were spent as executive secretary to the Dean of Biological Science. She was also an active committee member on her union executive initially known as the Exempt Group and later it became OSSTF. For many years, she was an avid volunteer for the United Way university campaign and also a board member with Big Brothers Big Sisters for several years. Her most enjoyable activities are cooking, baking, enjoying time with family and friends and a daily walk ! My advice to everyone is enjoy life to the fullest.

Pat Shewen is a UofG. alum and a retired professor of Veterinary Immunology (2011). Her areas of interest were mucosal immunity in ruminants and induction neonatal immune responses, including development of the bovine pneumonia vaccine Presponse, one of the University's most successful licensed technologies. Pat previously served on many University, national and international committees. Having recently returned to Guelph from Stratford, her hometown, she is becoming reacquainted with former colleagues and friends in Guelph and looking forward to more active participation in UGRA.S

Recent Retirees

July 2020

Jeffrey Dafeo	Environ Health & Safety
Mildred Eisenbach	Student Housing Serv
Debra Flett	Molecular & Cellular
Mark Hurtig	Clinical Studies
Angela McLaughlin	Human Resources
David Woods	OVC HSC Admin

August 2020

Lee Bennard	Res Finl Services
Eva Kuzmanovic	Hospitality Services
Judith O'Brien	RC-Academic
Elizabeth Reemeyer	OVC HSC COO Office
Owen Roberts	Research Communications

September 2020

Lucy Cremasco	Quality Assurance
Elliott Currie	Dept Of Management
John Devlin	Fac Env Des & Rurl Dev
Brian Ferguson	Economics & Finance
Larry Harder	Fac Env Des & Rurl Dev
David Josephy	Molecular & Cellular
Jennifer Lawlor	OVC HSC Admin
Katherine McPhee	Hospitality Services
Richard Moccia	Animal Biosciences
Craig Moore	Hospitality Services
Nathan Perkins	Fac Env Des & Rurl Dev
Gary Roy	Phys Res-Custodial
Donna Shutt	Hospitality Services
Robert Tims	PR/SHS Environmental

October 2020

Ilze Arness-Swegles	Office Uni Librarian
Joanne Dickson	Alumni Affairs
Craig Lonsdale	OMAFRA Research Stns

Continued from page 1

It seems unlikely that we will be able to meet in person before the fall of next year, but UGRA hopes to host a number of events and to provide links to resources to enable UGRA members to continue to connect with the University and with each other. The first of these events is the **Fall Forum** which will be held as Zoom meeting on **November 12th**. Sorry, we can't provide any coffee or snacks, but at this event we will be able to meet virtually with the President of the UofG, **Charlotte Yates** and with **Jim Mottin**. A UofG retiree from the Psychology department, Jim will present some amazing pictures and videos of animals from all over the world. It's inevitably a bit chaotic, but there will also be a bit of time for people to connect in the half hour before the meeting starts and after it ends. In the winter semester, we're hoping to have some presentations/workshops on navigating (surviving) the virtual world. Stay tuned for further announcements.

In closing, many thanks for your interest and support of UGRA activities. This organization is **all about YOU** and your fellow retirees! We always welcome your questions and suggestions. Remember to look at the UGRA website (<https://ugra.ca>) and if you are not already, please **consider being a contributing member** (<https://ugra.ca/join-us>) or contributing to the UGRA scholarship endowment fund (<https://ugra.ca/scholarship>).

Very best regards,
Jan MacInnes, President UGRA



Message about/from President Charlotte Yates

Charlotte Yates, provost and vice-president (academic), has been appointed to lead the University of Guelph on an interim basis for two years. Before joining UofG in 2015, she was dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at McMaster University. Yates is known for her research and expertise in the automotive industry, labour issues and public policy. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Winnipeg, a master's degree from Queen's University and a PhD from Carleton University.

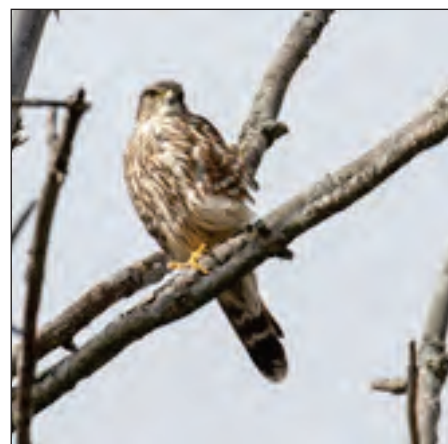
She shared the following greeting with the UGRA for the Annual General Meeting.

"Greetings to the U of G Retirees Association members. This new world of virtual AGMs is not what any of us were expecting this year, but I do hope to have the chance to connect with you in a virtual video call soon. You make up an important part of our UofG community, so while we are all operating at a distance, please know you're close to our thoughts. I have always enjoyed seeing you at the President's receptions in the past and look forward to the next chance to see you again."

Pandemic Pastimes

A few weeks into lockdown, with the guilt of having accomplished next to nothing since this began, I got an email from the Cornell Lab Bird Academy offering a discount on a course entitled "Joy of Birdwatching". I am a bird-watcher wannabe. I bought myself a pair of binoculars for my birthday last year and am still struggling to zero in on a sighting. I have friends who class themselves in the intermediate bird-watching category but compared to me they are extremely advanced – recognizing birds simply from a distant trill. Up until this COVID-19 thing we were going on hikes where they would amaze me with the variety of their bird sightings. So, I eagerly signed up for the Cornell course. It was well worth every penny. Though the course was chock full of useful information, I didn't find it taxing my dusty brain. But if I did feel overwhelmed, the fact that it was online meant I could take a break and come back with a glass of

wine when I was ready for more. The course offered strategies for identifying birds based on time of year, their various habitats and behaviours and a bit about their different sounds. The Bird Academy also offers a whole course just on identifying birds based on their songs. It also offered several activities designed to reinforce the learning. They offered two free apps (I haven't encountered any ads on either app) for bird identifying and tracking. The first app I downloaded was Merlin ID and I have used it a lot to identify birds in my backyard and the neighbourhood. The other app is eBird. Both apps are from the Cornell Lab. (And did I mention they are free?) eBird is used to track your bird-watching outings and keep a tally of your sightings. All this information can be submitted to Cornell's world-wide database as part of their Citizen-Science project collecting data for researchers to track birds and their migration patterns. Check out



<https://ebird.org/home> and see what it can do for you.

Just for fun, can you identify the bird above? This picture was taken by Marilyn White.

Bragging rights go to the first person who emails us at ugra@uoguelph.ca with the correct answer.

Hint #1: It is a little bigger than a Blue Jay

Hint #2: It is fast and vocal!

Sue Wi-Afedzi

Jim says: "I like people, but love nature more." He will share photographs from his travels to Costa Rica and several other countries.



You can fill out your pledge and mail it into the university. Or you can make your pledge online through a secure website as either a one-time donation or a monthly amount starting January 2021. A deduction through your pension payroll is no longer available. Instead, you can use a VOID cheque or a credit card. The website is <https://ecomunity.unitedwayquelp.com/UofGRetiree>



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SUCCESSFUL TRAVELLING IN A PANDEMIC

My husband and I recently travelled to the small Spanish Mediterranean island of Menorca for a month's holiday. We have spent September in Spain for many years, and last December we booked 2 weeks on the north coast of Spain, followed by 2 weeks in Menorca that we visited last year. With the rapid rise in coronavirus cases on mainland Spain, we pulled the plug on that part of the holiday in early August and decided to spend the entire 4 weeks in Menorca instead. Luckily, this involved changing the date of only one flight.

Travel right now is all about risk assessment and planning ahead so you feel comfortable. For us, the keys to a successful and stress-free holiday were as follows.

- *Book refundable plane tickets and hotels:* Premium Economy tickets on Air Canada are refundable with a reasonable fee (\$150). Expedia, and many resorts/hotels, are offering pretty much everything on a last-minute cancellable/refundable basis right now, often with no extra charge.
- *Low virus incidence at your destination:* We did our homework online, and found that Menorca, with a population of only 100,000, had a virus case load similar to that of Guelph, and there was no resurgence trend when we made the final decision. Mandatory mask wearing both inside and outside gave us confidence that we would be safe. Once there, we found that everyone, both locals and tourists, was compliant. Masks did not need to be worn at the beach or on hiking trails, where everyone stayed a good distance apart.
- *Airplane seats that allow more distancing:* We always book Premium Economy seating, which has a 2-4-2 or 2-3-2 arrangement, so if you book seats A and B, there will be no-one in the same row. Air Canada offered us a cheap upgrade to Business Class on the overnight flight to Frankfurt, which we accepted because it allowed both more distancing and flat beds to sleep. The Business Class section was about 20% occupied. Toronto and Frankfurt airports had very few travellers, so staying distanced was not an issue. The second flight from Frankfurt into Spain was also about 20% occupied. We had paid extra for seats at the front of the plane, which ensured unoccupied seats/rows around us. Air crew had minimal contact with passengers. Meals were served in closed boxes with no staff handling of the contents. The return trip was similar. Everyone was 100% compliant with mask-wearing and distancing in planes and airports. We wore surgical masks, which provide better protection than cloth masks. We took N95 masks with us in case we ran into situations that were riskier, but didn't have to use them (they are not very comfortable to wear for hours). We got a free Covid test in Frankfurt airport on the return flight, with results (negative) e-mailed to us in 24 hours.
- *Private airport transportation:* We booked private cars from reputable companies to travel from Guelph to Pearson airport (Red Car), and from Mahón airport to the hotel (Zip Transfers). Masks were worn by us and the drivers.
- *A hotel or resort that you trust:* We stayed at an adults-only hotel very close to the beach in the small village of Cala Galdana, on the south coast, where we went last year. We booked their half-board option, with breakfast and dinner included. We communicated with the hotel before we made the final decision to travel there, and they told us of their Covid protocols in detail, so we were reassured. They also said that it was very quiet in Menorca, with many hotels closed at the end of August for lack of UK visitors. We ate lunches at either the hotel poolside bistro, or small restaurants in the village, or other places around the island if we were out for the day. Spain is big on fresh air, and since most restaurants are open-air or have large terraces, people generally eat outside except in cold winter months. Tables were always well-spaced, and no smoking was allowed on terraces.



The hotel dining room was large, well-ventilated, with tables spread out, all staff wearing masks, and all guests wearing masks except when eating/drinking at their tables. You had to book a time for your meals on check-in, so the guest load was spread out. It was a very pleasant atmosphere, the friendly staff made everyone feel relaxed and comfortable, and we soon settled into the new routine. The buffet had been modified so the staff served the food you wanted onto a plate, or cooked it for you on the grill or plancha (the meat and fish at dinner, or eggs, pancakes etc. for breakfast). Guests were not allowed to touch any dishes. There was a vast selection; the hotel focusses on local food from the island, freshly prepared. Menorcan cheeses are famous, and you can see the herds of dairy cows when you drive round the island. For anyone who has not been to Spain, the food quality and freshness is very high: no mass-produced food here!



For the first 2 weeks, we spent our time mainly on the beach, swimming and walking. As it became a little cooler, we rented a small car from a local rental company in the village (it's relatively inexpensive) and went out in the afternoon to explore more of the island. Menorca has over 600 Neolithic (3,000-2,000 years old) Talaiotic villages, burial chambers and necropoli cut into the rock, many of which are spectacular. Most are free access, you just park at the end of a farmer's lane and walk in. Others might have an entry fee of 2 Euros. There are also many clifftop lighthouses around the island, set in stunning scenery. For those who enjoy hiking, a 185 km-long ancient trail, the Cami de Cavalls, completely encircles the island along cliffs and bays. It's like the Bruce Trail of Menorca, and many people hike it in short sections. Sea kayaking along the south coast that is riddled with sea caves caved out of the limestone is also popular, as are small boat rentals. The old capital, Ciutadella, on the west side of the island, boasts a historic port, cathedral, and tightly packed old town. A 45 km drive along the Menorcan main highway takes you to Mahón, at the eastern end of the island. It has the second largest natural harbour in the world, and a massive clifftop fortress, La Mola, on a peninsula guarding the entrance.

Well worth a visit!

Frances Sharom

A Message of Thanks to UofG Retiree Donors

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy. As we grapple with the continued uncertainty of COVID-19, our hearts go out to the individuals, families, and communities who are so deeply affected by the virus. We feel incredibly grateful for the ability to support our students during this time of need. I want to thank all retirees for your donations. We have been able to respond quickly with donations to our Highest Priority fund. Many of our students have been impacted; some are struggling with issues of food security and employment stability.

We reached out to retirees in the spring to ask for help to support our students in need - and you answered. Thanks to your donations, we've been able to provide emergency support. Here's what one student had to say about accessing the food bank:

"The Guelph Student Foodbank is extremely helpful to me and my family for my basic needs. Help from alumni, faculty, staff, and retirees, to me it's like support from my friends and family. They are all with me in my PhD journey. This strongly motivates me to be helpful to any good cause which helps someone in need to move forward in their life journey."
 – 3rd Year PhD candidate in Chemistry

Thank you to retirees for coming through for our students during this difficult time. I am proud to be a part of such a caring community and am impressed by the incredible adaptability of our colleagues who continue to meet the needs of our students. This includes our retirees who support our students in a variety of ways including donations to the UGRA Scholarship. Please take care and thank you for helping us improve life during these difficult times.

Jason Moreton

Passings

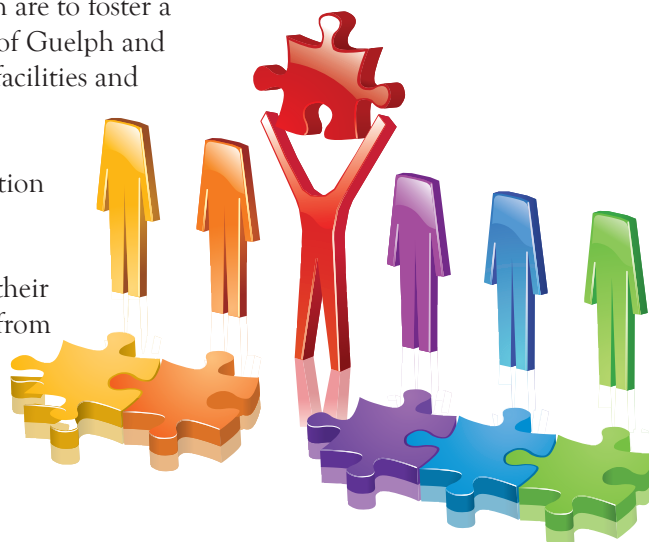
Robert G Rowberry	June 7, 2020
Wendy Woodhouse	June 7, 2020
Ralph Whitelaw	June 10, 2020
Gerald W Friars	June 18, 2020
Evelyn Bird	June 23, 2020
Helga Hunter	June 27, 2020
Judy Bretz	July 13, 2020
Kenneth Smith	July 24, 2020
Celia Webb	July 25, 2020
Janet McLean	Aug. 2, 2020
R Ross Phillips	Aug. 12, 2020
Kenneth Bridges	Aug. 22, 2020
Kathleen Harris	Sept. 3, 2020
Lila E Engberg	Sept. 23, 2020
Helen Brubacher	Sept. 24, 2020
Radhey Singh	Sept. 24, 2020
Nancy Stanlick	Sept. 24, 2020
William Bohn	Sept. 28, 2020



Did you know?

The main objectives of the University of Guelph Retirees Association are to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between retirees and the University of Guelph and to advocate for our members in matters such as access to University facilities and resources on retiree benefits. The UGRA works hard to keep our members up to date on the University community through emails, newsletters and meetings and from time to time, also shares information that is of more general interest to retirees.

The UGRA is run by a group of fellow retirees who freely volunteer their time and talents. The funds needed to run the UGRA come mostly from our members' contributions. With your support we are able to maintain an electronic presence, produce the newsletters, as well as hold the AGM, Spring and Fall Forums and other events and activities to keep you connected to the university and fellow retirees. We receive email and you can mail in contributions.



Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA (2020)

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, our informative website (<https://ugra.ca/>), and our various on-campus functions throughout the year. An annual contribution of \$25 from you goes a long way in sustaining the UGRA so we can continue to work on your behalf.

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 \$.....

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

Address.....

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

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

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

Please make your 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: <https://ugra.ca/join-us>



UGRA

Fall 2020

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:

ugra@uoguelph.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

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. The next deadline is Friday, Friday, January 15, 2021.



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GUELPH, ONTARIO
CANADA N1G 2W1