

Fall 2013

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your UGRA president for 2013-14. The executive group membership is unchanged for the coming year, and I know we will all continue to work conscientiously on your behalf. Under past president David Swayne's leadership last year, we began a partnership with Alumni Affairs and Development to raise enough funds to endow the UGRA Scholarship to ensure its sustainability. Thank you to those of you who have responded to our appeal for donations with contributions totalling more than \$6,700. A number of you who make voluntary membership contributions to the UGRA consistently give us considerably more than the \$20 we suggest. If you are among that group, we thank you and ask you to please think about directing

the additional funds to the scholarship to help us reach our \$45,000 goal.

The University of Guelph will celebrate its 50th anniversary throughout 2014 with numerous events, and at the end of June, Alastair Summerlee will conclude his second term as president and vice-chancellor. Check the University of Guelph 50th-anniversary website at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/50> regularly for details about scheduled events. The UGRA executive will be considering how we can participate in celebrating the University's rich history and recognize the contributions the president has made to it during his 11 years in office.

We do our best to keep you informed about what the UGRA is doing and need your help to do so. If you have not received any email from us in the past few months, it may be because you changed your email address and forgot to notify us, or perhaps you have never provided it to us. You can ensure that our emails reach you by sending us your current email address through the "Contact Us" link at [www.ugra.ca/contact.shtml](http://www.ugra.ca/contact.shtml).

I look forward to opportunities to meet and talk with you at the fall forum in November and at events in 2014.

Janet Kaufman, President, UGRA



Front row, from left: Robin Davidson-Arnott, Gary Frankie, Cathy Ralston, Janet Kaufman, Barbara Chance  
Back: David Swayne, Neal Johnson, Dana Paramskas, Ken Woodside, Susan Evers  
Absent: Diane Boyd, Marion Steele

## In this issue

- P2 Report on AGM  
The UGRA Scholarship  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- P3 CURAC Report  
UGRA Fall Forum  
Accolades
- P4 Retirees' Social  
Passings
- P5 Recent Events  
Retirees
- P6 Announcements
- P7 Third Age Learning  
Lecture Series  
Winter 2013
- Be a Contributing  
Member of the UGRA
- P8 Remembrance Day  
Service
- The UGRA Executive  
Needs Feedback

UGRA

Editor: Susan Evers

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

## Report on AGM

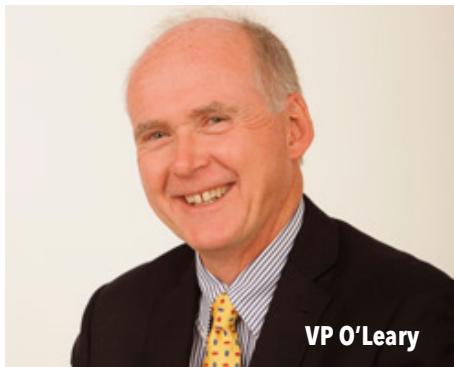
The 2013 annual general meeting was held June 20. President Alastair Summerlee gave an update on the status of the University. He noted that despite the difficulties facing universities today, Guelph continues to be successful. He said he has seen a complete turnaround in recognition of U of G and in how people react to him when he says he is president of the University of Guelph. He credited that change to the work of U of G's faculty and staff over the years. He added that the Ontario government now considers Guelph a model for other universities. The president went on to describe some of the scientific developments going on at U of G that could have a huge impact socially and commercially.

A change to the UGRA constitution to add the vice-president as a signing authority was approved.

Don O'Leary, vice-president (finance and administration), discussed some of the challenges and trends related to pensions. He focused on why it's getting more difficult to retire, the three pillars of

Canadian retirement income and the U of G situation. He noted that the government is expecting employees to contribute more to their pension, and that's happening at Guelph, with contributions going up two to three per cent in the last rounds of bargaining. Changes in University benefits are also being negotiated, he said.

The members of the 2013-2014 executive are: Diane Boyd, Robin Davison-Arnott, Barbara Chance (secretary), Susan Evers, Gary Frankie, Neal Johnson, Janet Kaufman (president), Dana Paramskas, Cathy Ralston (treasurer), Marion Steele, David Swayne (past president) and Ken Woodside.



VP O'Leary

## 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 U of G retiree. As of 2012, this scholarship is managed by Alumni Affairs and Development, which is working alongside the UGRA to raise \$45,000 to endow the award. In 2012-2013, retirees were encouraged to give directly to the UGRA Scholarship fund.

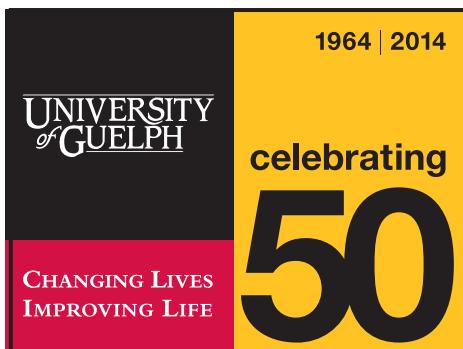
This year's scholarship recipient is Kylie Evers, a third-year biological sciences student. The scholarship terms and conditions are currently under revision and will go to Senate this fall for approval. The revisions include some standard updates and are also intended to clarify the definition of "retiree" to improve inclusivity.

Thanks to everyone who gave to the UGRA Scholarship in 2012-13; total contributions were \$6,705. There were 28 donors with an average gift of \$239.46. Following the distribution of this year's scholarship, the current balance of the scholarship fund is \$5,202.

In 2012-2013, collective giving from retirees towards student support (all scholarships and bursaries, including the UGRA Scholarship) was more than \$89,000. Clearly, this is an area that is very important to retirees. If we all work together, we can achieve the goal of raising \$45,000 to ensure that the UGRA Scholarship is self-sustaining. I encourage you to direct all or part of your donation to the scholarship. Contributions receive a tax receipt.

Gifts can be made online at <http://thebetterplanetproject.ca>.

Maureen Bolton  
Alumni Affairs and Development



Celebrate the University of Guelph's 50th Anniversary with special events, conferences, lectures and musical performances.

A few highlights are listed below.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Saturday, January 4, 2014

Official Opening of the 50th Anniversary Exhibit

*The Better Planet Project—Our lives depend on it.*

Guelph Civic Museum

January through July

Free admission and reception

### Thursday, January 23, 2014

Official Campus Community Kick-off

An afternoon celebration in the UC atrium will be followed by an evening event in Peter Clark Hall

### Thursday, May 8, 2014

Happy Birthday U of G!

Anniversary of the royal assent of the University of Guelph Act

### Saturday, June 21, 2014

Conversat Ball - Premiere Anniversary Gala Event

Dinner on Johnston Green will be followed by entertainment at multiple venues on campus each with a unique theme. Travel to a funky Space Odyssey, enjoy the sultry jazz of a Speakeasy or experience the British Invasion - Ticketed event

Watch the website for further events and details: [www.uoguelph.ca/50](http://www.uoguelph.ca/50)

# CURAC Report

The College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) held its 2013 conference and annual general meeting June 12 to 14 at Memorial University of Newfoundland. This is a brief summary of a detailed report on the meeting that can be found on the UGRA website.

Talks focused on several topics of interest to retirees: health-care and long-term-care issues, benefits for retirees and the future prospects for pensions (costs before retirement and sustainability in the face of uncertain economic times). Issues discussed included the Government of Ontario's Drummond Report on shrinking the government's size and the Morneau Report examining the consolidation of all public-sector pensions into a single administration.

CURAC is currently facing a substantial bureaucratic hurdle. The Canada Revenue Agency is issuing new regulations for federally incorporated not-for-profit

corporations (NPCs). The UGRA is a provincially incorporated NPC and will therefore not have to submit the extensive paperwork required of CURAC. The only likely impact for the UGRA is the possible requirement to notify CURAC within 15 days of any change in the composition of our executive.

CURAC is considering more use of regional conferences, something that is already happening in Ontario, the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia. CURAC's constitution requires an AGM, but the assembly of a critical mass of delegates from across Canada is problematic. This plays off against the lessened impact of regional meetings on national issues and the health of the national organization.

CURAC also affords the interaction and exchange of information among retiree/pensioner associations across the country. Many associations have a memorandum of understanding with their university/college, a practice the UGRA executive is examining this year. Many of



the associations are similar in size and complexity. A few are more engaging with their constituents.

CURAC is trying to improve its reach and influence on public policy on our behalf. Issues of sustainability always becloud a volunteer organization: costs, continuity, expertise development and maintenance. The conference was appropriately titled "Staying Connected."

David Swayne



**Date/Time:**  
**Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013,**  
**1:30 to 4 p.m.**

**Place:**  
**Arboretum Centre,**  
**University of Guelph**

**Topic:**  
**Staying Fit in Retirement**

An active lifestyle that includes regular exercise helps us maintain good health as we age. The afternoon will feature two presentations:

Jackie McLarnon, supervisor of adult fitness programs for the YMCA-YWCA of Guelph, will provide tips for older adults getting started with a regular exercise program and discuss how to create and maintain a balanced exercise

plan. Following her presentation, Ann Stallman, Erik Hay, Peter Morris and others will showcase several types of activities that are beneficial to older adults.

Michael Fall of Crossfit Guelph and Craig Tschirhart of Royal City Crossfit will demonstrate their Crossfit programs. They may be joined by representatives of other local clubs.

Registration is not required, but to help us organize the event, we ask that you please let us know if you plan to attend (send email to [president@ugra.ca](mailto:president@ugra.ca) or leave a message at 519-824-4120, Ext. 52197).

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



## Accolades

The Medal of Merit is awarded to a retired U of G professor "who has made outstanding contributions to teaching, the functioning of the University or other areas which have resulted in substantial improvement to the academic life and character of the University."

Congratulations to **Thom Herrmann**, Psychology, who received the medal in June.

# UGRA

Fall 2013

## Annual Retirees' Social

The School of Engineering atrium was the site of this year's retirees' social Aug. 29. The school, which recently completed Phase 2 of a major expansion and renovation project, has added about 140,000 square feet of space since Phase 1 began in late 2009.

It is growth such as this that president Alastair Summerlee has been excited to oversee for more than a decade, he told attendees at the social. "It has been very fulfilling to be part of the change on campus and to be part of the change with you," he said.

Summerlee, who will complete his 11th and final year as president June 30, 2014, noted that besides the numerous physical changes that have occurred on campus during his tenure, there have been major advances in technology, teaching and research.

## Passings

Marjorie Brooks	April 4, 2013
Ellis MacDonald	April 18, 2013
John Webster	April 20, 2013
Donelda McNally	April 23, 2013
Austin Fletcher	May 10, 2013
Linda Duford	May 12, 2013
Carlo D'Ulisse	May 22, 2013
Duncan McFarlane	May 24, 2013
Christine Wojtala	May 25, 2013
Charles Waywell	May 30, 2013
Stanley Sockett	June 14, 2013
Ernest Reinbergs	June 20, 2013
Douglas Hoffman	June 26, 2013
Charalambos Metaxakis	July 1, 2013
Eileen Flook	July 17, 2013
Leonard Adams	July 27, 2013
Clinton Martin	July 30, 2013
Gerrit Vandermeer	Aug. 6, 2013
Jack Eggens	Aug. 26, 2013
Gary Stahlbaum	Aug. 28, 2013
Donald Barnum	Aug. 30, 2013
Eugene Balon	Sept. 4, 2013
Linda Allen	Sept. 15, 2013



President Summerlee and UGRA President Kaufman

In support of those advances, U of G launched a capital campaign called The BetterPlanet Project three years ago with a goal of \$200 million. That campaign will wrap up next June, but the work to support the University's priorities in food, environment, health, community, and teaching and learning will continue on, said Summerlee.

The success of the campaign won't be the only thing Guelph will be celebrating next year because 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of U of G. In his final months as president, Summerlee will be on hand for a range of anniversary festivities, including the return of the Conversat Ball, which will be staged at venues across campus June 21. Ticket requests for the event are already far beyond expectations, he said.

Between now and then, however, challenges lie ahead for the University, said the president. Guelph faces a projected funding gap of \$32 million over the next few years, and a concerted effort is underway to identify U of G's academic and non-academic strengths to determine where its limited resources should be allocated, he said. "There will be a lot of changes, and some of them will turn heads. But we will probably change in ways that reflect the history of the University."

Despite the many economic and other challenges he has faced over his two terms as president, "I am truly, truly grateful for the time I've been able to spend at the

University," he said. "It's been a remarkable journey."

Over in the Department of Physics, Prof. Ralf Gellert has been on a remarkable journey of his own, one that has seen the fruits of his research travel all the way to Mars. Speaking at the social, Gellert discussed the work being done in the MacNaughton Building lab where he and other U of G members are monitoring results from a key instrument aboard the Mars rover *Curiosity*, which landed on the red planet in 2012. That instrument, called an alpha particle X-ray spectrometer (APXS), was built by an international research team led by Gellert and is designed to probe Martian soil and rock in a search for evidence of life on the planet. The Guelph team, which currently includes seven students, will continue to study APXS findings as long as the rover continues to operate, he said, but work is also underway in preparation for the next Mars mission in 2020.

The afternoon social also included a tour of the state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities in the newly expanded Thornbrough and Richards buildings. Prior to the tour, School of Engineering director Hussein Abdullah discussed the expansion project, the school's new study and lab facilities, its new programs and rapidly growing student enrolment, and its vision for the future, which includes expanding even more based on the school's strategic plan.

Barbara Chance

## Recent Events

**Alumni Weekend Library Tour.** On June 15, as part of Alumni Weekend, the UGRA and Alumni Affairs and Development co-hosted a coffee reception and library archives tour in the Florence Partridge Room of the McLaughlin Library.

U of G chief librarian Rebecca Graham hosted the reception. Archivist Melissa McAfee provided a richly detailed description and tour of the treasures in the Archival and Special Collections. She showed us many artifacts from the agricultural history and rural heritage section of the archives and noted that our Scottish Studies Collection is the largest in the world outside the United Kingdom. The library also houses the renowned L.M. Montgomery Collection. This is a remarkable resource for U of G and the entire community.

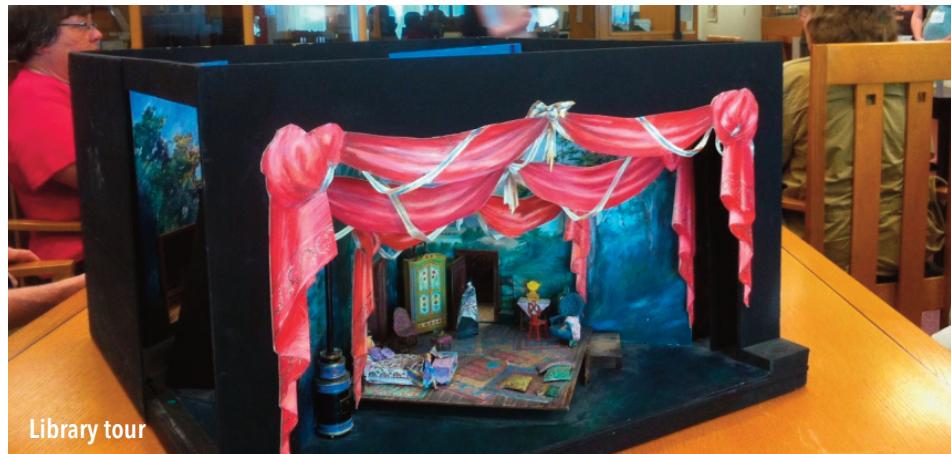
David Swayne

**World Record Challenge Food-Packing Event.** The University of Guelph and

City of Guelph communities have done it again! On Sept. 7, more than 1,500 volunteers gathered to pack some 600,000 emergency relief meals. The meals — a mixture of rice, soy protein, pinto beans, vegetables and a vitamin and flavouring packet — are headed for Mauritania, one of the poorest countries in West Africa, which suffered a recent drought and famine. The event — a third success for the U of G community — has grown over the years: volunteers packed 159,000 meals in 2011 and 318,000 in 2012.

Those who packed meals were arranged in table teams of 10 to 12. Some of the most visible teams came from the College of Management and Economics, the U of G Alumni Association, the University of Guelph-Humber and the School of Computer Science. Kinross Gold, TD Bank and Scotiabank sponsored the event and sent teams to participate. Teams were supported by “Green Shirt” event volunteers who trained food packers and ran supplies to the tables.

Stephanie Butler



## Recent Retirees

**May 1, 2013**

Barbara Aldridge	Fam Rel & App Nutr
Jean Bagg	Pathobiology
Deborah Bateman	LSD-Animal Health Labs
Kevin Chandler	Crop Science
Patricia Huether	Biomedical Sciences
Christine Mason	LSD-Animal Health Labs
Wade Montminy	Crop Science Bldg
Alfredo Pugliese	Student Housing
Ecaterina Simion	Crop Science
Linda Trouten-Radford	Animal & Poultry Science
Augie Zuccala	Physical Resources

**June 1, 2013**

Nancy Dorak	Hospitality Services
Patricia Duggan	Res Financial Services
Brenda Kenyon	Psychology
Gordon Ramsden	Physical Resources

**July 1, 2013**

Tim Bast	Biomedical Sciences
Bonnie Erdelac	Admissions
Thilagaranee Pararajasingham	Environmental Sci

**Aug. 1, 2013**

Debbie Bailey	Hospitality Services
Michael Houston	RC-Administration
Sherry Laurie	Student Health Services
Benny Quay	Student Life
Kevin Smith	Vineland
Marlene Stephenson	Student Housing Services

**Sept. 1, 2013**

Fernande Allen	Human Rights & Equity
Rudolf Dekorte	Physical Resources
Elizabeth Forbes	Continuing Education
Terence Graham	Human Health & Nutr
Janice Hall	Physics
Alun Joseph	CSAHS Dean's Office
Wai Mun Lee	Hospitality Services
Haridoss Sarma	Catalyst Centre
Maria Scorziello	Hospitality Services
Barry Smit	Geography
Jane Smith	CCS

## Announcements



### United Way

U of G's United Way Campaign kicked off Sept. 24. The University community is the biggest supporter of United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin (GWD), with U of G retirees contributing about 10 per cent of donations each year. Contributions to the United Way stay in the community and support 88 local programs and services. Needs are

growing, and to meet them, GWD has set a new overall goal of \$3.4 million. Please consider making a donation. Most retirees will receive a pledge form in the mail, which you can use to donate directly through your pension. Pledge forms can also be downloaded from the University's campaign website at [www.uoguelph.ca/unitedway](http://www.uoguelph.ca/unitedway). Local volunteers thoroughly review programs to ensure they are meeting their goals. That means you can be sure your United Way donation is working hard where it is needed most.

**Spread Your Wings!** University of Guelph Alumni Travel Program. The U of G Alumni Travel Program for alumni, faculty, retirees and friends has officially launched. The first two trips to Tanzania and the Panama Canal were well received with a total of 24 bookings. Offerings available in 2014 include a Holland/Belgium river cruise in April; a trip to Normandy for the 70th anniversary of D-Day in July; a tour of Scotland in August that includes tickets to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo; and a September trip to Sorrento, Italy. Selected

trips have a special savings offer if you book by Dec. 31. More details are available at [www.alumni.uoguelph.ca/travel](http://www.alumni.uoguelph.ca/travel) or by calling 519-824-4120, Ext. 56823.

**September 2013** U of G Pension Plans Indexation. Human Resources sent this notice to retirees in July. Not everyone received it, so we decided to include it in the newsletter.

"At this time every year, we review the inflation rate and determine, based on the terms of the University of Guelph pension plans, whether the inflation rate is high enough to warrant a contractual increase in the monthly pensions of retirees and surviving spouses of retirees. The increase in the Consumer Price Index for Canada (CPI) for the purposes of determining the increase to pensions as of Sept. 30, 2013, and calculated in accordance with the terms of the pension plans, was 1.03 per cent. Since the increase in respect of CPI is less than 2.0 per cent, there will not be a contractual pension increase at Sept. 30, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Vince Pellegrino at Ext. 56596."



Edinburgh [courtesy AAD]

● ● ●  
**economical™**  
**SELECT**

**your group advantage™**

Being a member of CURAC you have access to exclusive group rates for your home and auto insurance needs with **economical SELECT™**. In addition to your group rate, you may be eligible for extra discounts that could save you up to 60% off your insurance premiums.

[www.economicalselect.com](http://www.economicalselect.com)

Call today for a quote!

**1-866-247-7700**

If you reside in Quebec

**1-888-542-4811**

## Third Age Learning - Winter, 2014

### Arboretum Centre

The lecture series will run Wednesdays from Jan. 15 to March 5. The list of speakers is not yet finalized, but this session's themes are:

**10 a.m. The Arctic and Its Global Importance**

**1:30 p.m. Issues for Canadians**

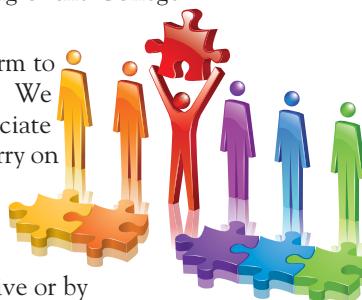
**NOTE:** For the final list of lecture topics and information on fees, visit the Third Age Learning website at [www.thirdagelearningguelph.ca](http://www.thirdagelearningguelph.ca).

## Be a Contributing Member of the UGRA (2013-2014)

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; meeting room rentals for the AGM, Spring and Fall forums; 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



As a retired staff or faculty member of

UNIVERSITY  
of GUELPH

You have access to **volume discounted**

## Group Rates

HOME & AUTO INSURANCE

**SAVE MONEY!  
PERSONAL SERVICE!  
EASY TO SWITCH!  
CANADIAN, EH!**

Your group plan is brought to you by  
**Northbridge Insurance™**, 100% Canadian  
owned and operated.

 **STAEBLER**  
INSURANCE  
Be Wise, Staeblerize

STAEBLER.COM  
1.800.321.9187

**It's simple...  
Call your Staebler's  
UofG Account Executive today!**  
**519-836-5770**

### University of Guelph Retirees Association (UGRA) Contributing Membership Form (2013-2014)

**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 .....

Email .....

(Please note that the email address will be for UGRA communications only)

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

**UGRA**

Fall 2013

# Remembrance Day Service



Monday, November 11, 2013  
10:30 a.m.

War Memorial Hall  
University of Guelph

## 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. Please provide a name, address and phone number. This will enable us to follow up on requests promptly. Thank you!

**By Email:**  
[president@ugra.ca](mailto:president@ugra.ca)

**Via the 'Contact Us' tab on the website:**  
[www.ugra.ca](http://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

