

York University Retirees Association [YURA]

A Newsletter for Members of YURA – No 2 –
March 2001

Prepared by Members of YURA Executive

This is the 2nd edition of this non-electronic medium. The 1st appeared in September 2000. Published by the ***York University Retirees Association***.

Changes in Schedule

Labour disruptions necessitated the postponement of our Fall 2000 activities and the Annual General Meeting which traditionally takes place in October. That AGM is now scheduled for April 20, 2001. We hope to resume our regular schedule of meetings and activities on campus in the Fall of 2001.

Report of Nominating Committee for the Annual Meeting on April 20, 2001

Nominations for a two-year term on the Executive Committee:

William Echard (YUFA) New
Mary Grayhurst (YUSA) New
Pearl Kroll (YUSA) Returning
Betty Peckover (YUSA) Returning
Diane Taylor (CPM) New
Graham Upcraft (YUSA) New

Theatre Excursions

RESERVE THESE DATES:

June 8 - Shaw Festival: We have booked 45 seats for Shaw's THE MILLIONAIRESS at Niagara-On-The-Lake (starring Sarah Orenstein & Nigel Williams)

Sept. 7 - Stratford Festival: We have booked 45 seats for TWELFTH NIGHT at Stratford (starring William Hutt)

You will be receiving flyers with details. ***Important alert:*** The weather will surely be glorious on June 8, and to give more time to browse before lunch

in Niagara-On-The-Lake we intend to leave York at 9:15 am. Note this new departure time.

John Warkentin

YURA Members Get Email & on the Web at No Cost

Just email Karen Reynolds at kreynold@yorku.ca or telephone the Help Desk at 416-736-5800 and ask for help. You must have a computer and a modem to use this facility. If you can, ask your faculty, department or Human Resources to forward to Karen your old employee number that will verify your status. If the system does not recognize the employee number, Karen will set up an account manually.

An email account at York would facilitate surfing the web too.

If you have an existing email address but would like to also have a York address, it is very simple to have incoming mail to your York address forwarded to your existing email address. So, join the crowd – get connected and become a “@yorku.ca”

Just a reminder – this service only applies for retirees who live in free-toll areas such as 416, 905, and the new 647/289 area codes. It doesn't work if you live in Vancouver!

Comings and Goings

In our previous newsletter we listed colleagues who had died between January and August, 2000. The following lists those who have passed away since that time.

Asta Alender – John Allen (Food & Housing) – June Awrey – George Bell (VP Admin.) – Doreen Bressington – Alieta Chiesa (DPP Glendon) – Margaret Daniels – George Dunn (Safety & Security) – Enrica Glickman – Randolph Harris – Martin Lewis (Biology) – Anthony Mouti – Marg Meikle – Stanley Pizans – Gunnar Ronka – Elizabeth Sanders – Helen Steeves – Thomas Tunney – Alreta Turner (Atkinson) – Milda Vorps – Hugh Wareham (Finance)

Unfortunately, we have not been able to research all of the department or faculty affiliations of those listed. Apologies.

A YURA Sub-Committee on Post-Retirement Benefits [PRB] (i.e. health benefits, not pensions) (Below is an extract of a letter recently sent to various employee groups at York.)

This PRB Sub-Committee includes a YURA Executive member from each of ARF (ex-YUFA), CPM, and YUSA, and Diane Taylor as a Resource

Person. With help from DHR, we're producing a spreadsheet giving brief comparative details of all PRB's available to York retirees from ALL the York unions and groups. Additionally, we think it would be constructive to collate the various health benefits available to the current employees of all York unions and groups, and as a second stage, we would plan to produce a separate spreadsheet covering this. We presently have current employee data from YUSA, and CUPE 1356, and expect to get it from CUPE 3903 once their new executive is in place. (We do have the present YUFA contract details which ends on April 30, 2001. It seems that some improvements have already been negotiated.)

Would your Executive be agreeable to a joint sharing of current in-service health benefits with YURA and the other unions/groups?

Some time ago YURA tried to initiate an "All-University Committee on Benefits" (AUCB), analogous to the existing "All-University Committee on Pensions". The University Management declined to join because they negotiate separately with each bargaining unit. In effect they suggested that we set up our own "AUCB". Since ARF, CPM, and YURA are none of them "unions", it is best to call it an "All-Group" committee. This body could have its uses even if only as an information-exchange. Please join us.

Ken Thomson

Association of Retired Faculty

Some changes in Non-Pension Post-Retirement Benefits for Faculty Members have recently been negotiated. Special Note to Readers: The non-pension post-retirement benefits are different for each employee group at York. And in the case of retired faculty members, their means of negotiating changes are a part of the formal bargaining powers of YUFA. What is set out here only affects retired faculty members at the present time.

In mid-February 2001 YUFA and the university administration signed off an agreement for a new post-retirement mini-benefits (non-pension) package.

Survivors will not be denied extended health care benefits immediately on the death of their retiree spouse and the option for survivors to remain in the plan after a two-year grace period is clearly spelt out. Detail on this change is given below.

There are also changes in deductibles in the health benefits and percent of costs covered in the dental benefits. All improved benefits are in force until December 31, 2001. By that time the full amount of money available for these benefits will be known and the program may be extended.

Survivor's Benefits:

Note: Under the previous plan (and still true for other employee groups) extended health care benefits for surviving spouses ceases the day the retiree dies. For married retired faculty members, this has now changed.

A/ Effective February 1, 2001 survivors of deceased retirees will remain members of the extended health care benefits plan to the end of the month for which the couple has paid. (Note: retired faculty members are required to pay premiums for this coverage. Other employee groups are not required to pay extra for this benefit.)

B/ For a 24-month grace period, beginning on the first of the following month, a survivor will continue to be a member of the plan, paying the same fees as other single members.

C/ Thereafter a survivor will have the option of remaining in the plan, paying in full for his/her coverage. An ARF report.

Request for News

If you would like to share an experience or some recollection of your days at York, send a note to any member of the YURA Executive Committee. See the list below.

The Executive 1999-2001

Contact any of the executive for more information about the YURA.

- Albert Tucker, president
416-691-2078; atucker@gl.yorku.ca
- Ken Thomson, past president
416-241-6331; kthomson@yorku.ca
- Pauline Callen, secretary
416-747-1660; pcallen@yorku.ca
- Heather McIndless, treasurer
416-743-5898
- Frances Bukovec * Pension Board of Trustees, 416-633-2225,
fbukovec@yorku.ca
- Pearl Kroll *
416-496-0261; pkroll@yorku.ca
- Alex Murray
416-924-1588; amurray@yorku.ca
- Betty Peckover 905-888-1291
- Virginia Rock
416-960-1794; vjrock@yorku.ca

- Joan Stewart 416-469-2971
- John Warkentin, program coordinator
416-920-0248; jwarken@yorku.ca

Ex Officio:

- John Becker, newsletter
416-932-1754; jbecker@interlog.com
- Diane Taylor, All University Committee on Pensions (AUCP) 905-936-5133

* *Also available during the day at the YURA Office in the West Office Building 416-736-2100 e.70664*

Elections to fill some of these positions will be held at the Annual General Meeting on April 20th.

Retirement Planning Centre

Karen Gray and **How Chee Un** are the helpful staff of the **RPC** and may be reached at 416-736-2100 e.66228; email <retire@yorku.ca>; C132 WOB.

They offer a wide range of programs dealing with financial planning, computer skills, recreation and many other topics.

Parking Permits

Replenish your free Parking Permits by phone and mail. Call the RPC. If you must do it in person, choose **Mondays only**.

The Hackers' Corner

YURA Web Page

is at <http://www.yorku.ca/yura/>

The Email Newsletter

is a joint effort of the Retirement Planning Centre and YURA and will be sent to anyone who leaves their email address with *How Chee Un* in the RPC at retire@yorku.ca. The editor is *Karen Gray*, Director of the RPC. It is published irregularly and topics include a range of items of interest to retired people.

The RPC Web Page

found at <http://www.yorku.ca/retire/>

The York University Pension Fund

YURA, with the help of Leona Fields in the Finance Department, is preparing a description of the governance and committee structure of the Pension Plan at York University. The aim is to produce a document which is clear, readable and concise. This will be in our hands in a few weeks.

In the meantime, below is a listing of the members of the governing committees. Most of them are representative committees. If you have questions, please contact the person who represents your employee group. That is what they are there for – to represent their constituencies.

John Becker

The Pension Fund Board of Trustees

Current Members of the Board are:

John Bankes (Chair), Eileen Mercier, Robert Martin, (3 named by the BofG); Phyllis Clark & Joanne Mcgee (2 named by the President); Walter Whitely, YUFA; Mort Abramson, YUFA; Giulio Malfatti, YUSA; Luis Figueiredo, CUPE 1356; Mike Haberlin, CUPE 1356-01; Joan Allen, CUPE 3903; Fakhry Yousof, IUOE; Lynne Macinnes, CPM; Joanie Cameron, YUSA Interim Appointment; **Frances Bukovec, YURA.** Secretary of the Committee is Leona Fields, Finance Department, York University. These may be contacted at numbers in the YU telephone book or by calling YU switchboard at 416-736-2100. Members are appointed for a 3-year period.

The Sub Committee on Investment Performance

(SCIP) is a second committee involved in the investment management of the Pension Fund. Its composition includes two BofG members, an external expert, a retired VP of the University (W. W. Small), the current VP Finance & Administration (Phyllis Clark) and Prof. Mort Abramson, current member of the Board of Trustees.

The All University Committee on Pensions (AUCP)

is a third committee but its interests are limited to the “benefits” available from the pension plan. Current members are: Anne Layton (Chair), HR Pension Office; Gary Brewer, Office of the VP Admin.; Gary Spraakman, YUFA; Giulio Malfatti, YUSA; **Diane Taylor, YURA;** Joan Allen, CUPE 3903; Slawek Mejnarowicz, IUOE; Luis Figueiredo, CUPE 1356; Mike Haberlin, CUPE 1356-01; Neil Brooks, Osgoode Hall faculty; Vacant, CPM. Secretary: Leona Fields, Finance Department. Most of these may be

contacted at numbers posted in the YU telephone book or by calling YU switchboard at 416-736-2100. Members are appointed for a 3 year terms.

A Bit of History

In the early 1970s an Atkinson College student was heard commenting on the site of the university at Steeles and Keele. He claimed that he was the last person to actually farm that land just before the university moved in with their bulldozers and shovels in 1964. He said that there was a stratum of clay under most of the fields which seriously delayed the spring run-off. He complained that he couldn't get on the land to plow until mid to late May! "Only thing that land is good for — a university", he grumbled.

(End of YURA Newsletter No 2, March 2001)