

## Charmaine Courtis receives the CURAC Tribute Award for 2023.

The 2023 CURAC Tribute Award has been presented to YURA's Past Co-President, Charmaine Courtis. The annual awards were announced at the 2023 Annual Conference of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada, held in Saskatoon May 31 to June 2.

Elected to the YURA executive in 2015, Charmaine served as Co-President (non-academic) from 2016 to 2022 and continues to serve as Immediate Past President. Charmaine has been a stalwart leader in YURA and enthusiastic participant in all our activities and endeavours.



Charmaine's primary passion has been fundraising for student awards. She created a Student Awards portfolio; initiated an annual fundraising appeal for YURA members to support student awards and campus outreach projects; spearheaded a campaign to endow three Graduate Student Awards given annually; and raised more student award funds than any other single YURA fundraising participant in Toronto Waterfront Charity Challenge events (2019-2022). The amount raised by Charmaine alone exceeded \$20,000 out of total funds exceeding \$100,000.

In addition, Charmaine has volunteered in the YURA office weekly. She standardized the YURA membership application and renewal process, which involves tracking of membership renewals, follow-ups, banking, campus mail pick-up, and deliveries to and from YURA's university staff support and our treasurer. Thanks to her efforts, the YURA membership remained at nearly 500 even during the COVID pandemic.

During COVID, Charmaine maintained YURA operations from her home, managing the YURA membership registrations and email account, and responding to inquiries.

Since 2016 Charmaine has acted as our ambassador to CURAC by attending and contributing to all CURAC AGMs and by encouraging YURA members to attend.

Charmaine has been a power house for YURA and is an inspiration to all retirees.



*Celebrating Charmaine Courtis –  
Back (L-R) Ian Greene, Charmaine Courtis, Steve Dranitsaris;  
Front (L-R) David Dimick, John Lennox, Diane Woody*