

# York University Retirees' Association

**Annual General Meeting**

**October 27, 2023**

# YURA AGM

October 27, 2023

Welcome – Diane Woody, YURA Co-President

## Land Acknowledgement:

*York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care-taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the “Mississaugas of the Credit” First Nation. This territory is subject of the “Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant”, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.*

## Guest Speaker: Dr. Eileen de Villa

Dr. Eileen de Villa is the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto, leading the largest local public health agency in Canada, which provides public health programs and services to the city's nearly 3 million residents. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto.

Dr. de Villa has actively contributed to various fields of scientific research by authoring, publishing, and presenting studies on a variety of subjects. Her research encompasses critical areas such as public health considerations in city planning and emergency preparedness, control of communicable and infectious diseases, and the development of public health policies.

She has been at the forefront of public health efforts in Toronto, including guiding the largest immunization campaign in the city's history, advising political leaders and providing residents with the tools and information to safeguard themselves and their communities.



*Questions and Comments will follow the presentation. For Zoom participants, please use the "Q&A" function.*

# Agenda

1. Remarks from Co-Presidents
2. Minutes of AGM of Oct. 28, 2022
3. Business Arising
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Allocation of Surplus Accumulated Funds
6. Executive Committee Membership 2023-2024
7. YURA Activities
  - a) Newsletter & Person-to-Person
  - b) YURA Web Site
  - c) Events
  - d) Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops
  - e) 2023 Charity Challenge
  - f) Student Awards
8. Pension Fund Board of Trustees Report
9. All University Pension Committee (AUPC)
10. YU-CARE Executive Committee Report (York University Centre for Aging Research & Education)
11. Retirement Planning Centre Advisory Board
12. CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada)
13. ARFL (Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians at York University)
14. Omnibus Resolution:  
To Approve Minutes and Treasurer's Report  
To Affirm the Allocation from Accumulated Funds  
To Accept All Other Reports, and  
To Affirm Executive Committee Membership
15. Other Business
16. Adjournment

# **1. Remarks from the Co-Presidents**

*Diane Woody and Steve Dranitsaris*

- ***Questions and comments re: any agenda item to be raised under Agenda Item 14***
- ***Online Participants - Please send questions or comments to Q & A***

## **2. Minutes of AGM of October 28, 2022**

- Any changes suggested?
- Motion to approve under Agenda Item 14

## **3. Business Arising**

- Most items arising from the 2022 AGM will be covered in the reports you are about to hear

# 4. Treasurer's Report

*to be approved under Agenda Item 14*

- **External Auditor's "Comfort Letter" for 2021-22**
- **Auditor's Note to YURA Executive for 2021-22**
- **Balance Sheet, 2022-23 (unaudited), showing 2021-22 audited**
- **Statement of Income & Expenses, 2022-23 (unaudited) showing 2021-22 audited**
- **Proposed Budget, 2023-24**

*Melody King, Treasurer*



## External Review Statement

November 16, 2022

To the Members of the York University Retirees Association

I have reviewed the accompanying Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expense for the year ended September 30, 2022. These statements are the responsibility of York University Retirees Association (YURA) management.

I have agreed the major revenue and expense items to source documents, and have reconciled the revenue and expense balances to the financial records and bank statements.

I have received satisfactory responses from the YURA management to all questions that arose during the review.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Deschamps', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Colin Deschamps, MBA, CMA

**External Auditor Supplementary Note**

November 16, 2022

The Executive of the York University Retirees Association

Separate from the external review of the financial statements for the year, I would like to make the following observation.

As a non profit organization, the Accumulated Contributions now exceed \$42k or 5 years worth of expenses in the \$8k to \$9k range.

Thanks

C Deschamps

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Deschamps', written in a cursive style.

## 2022-23 Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2023 with 2021-22 Audited Comparative Figures

	<b>Audited 2021-22</b>	<b>Unaudited 2022-23</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Alterna Chequing	\$ 23,777	\$ 24,941
Alterna Savings and Shares	6,776	7,145
Alterna Term Deposits	20,000	20,000
Petty Cash	200	200
Prepaid Expense (Courtesy Account)	633	1,499
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 51,386</b>	<b>\$ 53,785</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable		\$ 325
Deferred Revenue		
Prepaid Membership Fees 22-23	\$ 9,113	
Prepaid Membership Fees 23-24 and Beyond		8,850
Prepaid Contributions to Charity Challenge		260
	<b>\$ 9,113</b>	<b>\$ 9,435</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
Balance October 1st	\$ 39,032	\$ 42,273
Prior Period Adjustments	115	
Contributions	3,126	2,077
Balance September 30th	<b>\$ 42,273</b>	<b>\$ 44,350</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; ACCUMULATED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 51,386</b>	<b>\$ 53,785</b>

Statement of Income  
and Expenses  
for the Year ended  
September 30, 2023

		<b>Audited 2021-22</b>	<b>Unaudited 2022-23</b>	<b>Budget 2022-23</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Membership Fees	\$	11,501		\$ 11,500
Membership Fees by Cheque	<b>56 %</b>		\$ 6,762.50	
Membership Fees by e-Transfer	<b>44 %</b>		5,300.00	
Membership Fees paid as Arrears			125.00	
Savings, GIC Interest and Shares		26	778.73	
RTO Affiliation Program Rebate			112.43	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>11,527</b>	<b>\$ 13,078.66</b>	<b>\$ 11,500</b>

**Statement of Income  
and Expenses (cont'd)  
for the Year ended  
September 30, 2023**

	<b>Audited Actual 2021-22</b>	<b>Unaudited Actual 2022-23</b>	<b>Budget 2022-23</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Awards</b>			
Graduate Student Awards	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500
CEC-Access to Post Secondary	1,500	1,500.00	1,500
<b>Events</b>			
AGM	250	150.00	300
CURAC Conference		-	1,000
Charity Challenge		2,044.37	2,000
Members Events		270.07	
<b>Memberships</b>			
AROHE	154	169.93	300
CURAC	300	300.00	300
<b>Administration</b>			
Audit	150	150.00	150
Bank Service Charges		10.00	20
Gifts, Honoraria		250.00	
Liability Insurance		989.74	1,500
Office Computers (2)		2,788.00	
Office Supplies	33	33.88	500
Photocopying, Postage, Printing	941	320.73	1,200
Telephone	573	525.25	700
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,401</b>	<b>\$ 11,001.97</b>	<b>\$ 10,970</b>
Contingency			530
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,126</b>	<b>\$ 2,076.69</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## 2023-24 Proposed Budget

			<b>Unaudited Actual 2022-23</b>	<b>Budget 2022-23</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2023-24</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
Membership Fees				\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500
Membership Fees by Cheque	<b>56</b>	%	\$ 6,762.50		
Membership Fees by e-Transfer	<b>44</b>	%	5,300.00		
Savings, GIC Interest and Shares			778.73		
RTO Affiliation Program Rebate			112.43		
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$ 12,953.66</b>	<b>\$ 11,500</b>	<b>\$ 11,500</b>

2023-24 Proposed Budget  
(cont'd)

	Unaudited Actual 2022-23	Budget 2022-23	Proposed Budget 2023-24
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Awards</b>			
Graduate Student Awards	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000
CEC-Access to Post Secondary	1,500.00	1,500	2,000
<b>Events</b>			
AGM	150.00	300	5,000
CURAC Conference	-	1,000	1,500
Charity Challenge	2,044.37	2,000	800
Members Events	270.07		2,000
<b>Memberships</b>			
AROHE	169.93	300	300
CURAC	300.00	300	300
<b>Administration</b>			
Audit	150.00	150	150
Bank Service Charges	10.00	20	20
Gifts, Honoraria	250.00		500
Liability Insurance	989.74	1,500	1,200
Office Computers (2)	2,788.00		
Office Supplies	33.88	500	500
Photocopying, Postage, Printing	320.73	1,200	530
Telephone	525.25	700	700
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 11,001.97</b>	<b>\$ 10,970</b>	<b>\$ 18,500</b>
Contingency		530	
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,951.69</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (7,000)</b>

## 5. Allocation of Surplus Accumulated Funds

- In light of the External Auditor's note about YURA's accumulated surplus, the YURA Executive Committee passed a resolution to allocate \$10,000 of the Association's surplus monies (in excess of \$50,000, per the Balance Sheet) to the endowment for the YURA Graduate Student Awards. This will help ensure three awards are given annually; provide flexibility for award values to be increased in order to attract more applicants; and help draw down YURA's excessive, accumulated surplus.
- This allocation concerning accumulated surplus funds is independent of the 2023-2024 Budget which was just presented.
- The YURA Executive Committee seeks affirmation from the membership to proceed with this allocation.

*This item will be included in the Omnibus Resolution under Agenda Item #14*



# **6. Affirmation of YURA Executive Committee membership, 2023-24**

**YORK UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2023-24  
TO BE AFFIRMED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 14**

**Continuing**

Steve Dranitsaris: Co-president non-faculty (2022-24)

Rosanna Furgiuele: Member-at-large (2022-24)

Jane Grant: Member-at-large (2022-24)

Melody King: Treasurer (2022-24)

David Leyton-Brown: Member-at-large (2022-24)

Stan Shapson: Member-at-large (2022-24)

Donna Smith: Member-at-large (2022-24)

**Renewing**

Marla Chodak: Secretary (2023-25)

Agnes Fraser: Member-at-large (2023-25)

Peter Victor: Member-at-large (2023-25)

Diane Woody: Co-president, faculty (2023-25)

**New Members**

Sheila Forshaw: Member-at-large (2023-25)

Debbie Hansen: Member-at-large (2023-25)

Richard Weisman: Member-at-large (2023-25)

**For Information**

**Ex-Officio**

Anne-Marie Ambert: Editor, Newsletter & Facilitator,  
Person-to-Person

Bruno Bellissimo: Pension Fund Board of Trustees  
representative

Charmaine Courtis: Immediate Past Co-president

Fred Fletcher: ARFL Representative (Association of  
Retired Faculty and Librarians at York University)

Patricia Murray: AROHE representative (Association of  
Retiree Organizations in Higher Education)

**Retiring**

Angus Anderson: Member-at-large (2019-23)

Sheelagh Atkinson: Member-at-large (2019-23)

Bruno Bellissimo: Member-at-large (2017-23)

# **7. YURA Activities**

- a) Newsletter and Person-to-Person**
- b) YURA Web Site**
- c) Events**
- d) Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops**
- e) 2023 Charity Challenge**
- f) Student Awards**

## YURA Newsletter and Person-to-Person Bulletin

- The YURA Newsletter, published 4 times a year, is YURA's official publication. It includes:
  - The Co-presidents' report and any other report that the Executive Committee deems necessary
  - In non-COVID times, a segment *In Memoriam* as well as a list of *New Members*.
  - Material contributed by our membership or by the Editor, including a *Reminiscence* or what we call "Life as it was back then" in which members and, at times, friends, reminisce about their childhood and youth.
  - Other articles of interest ranging from travelogues, to timely articles, opinion pieces, book and film reviews
  - A small humour section
- Person-to-Person or PTP is an informal bulletin, complementing the Newsletter. Designed for YURA members to exchange information of a more personal nature, on health issues, for instance, it includes:
  - brief articles, links to scientific literature of helpful health and lifestyle topics
  - suggestions for travel and other activities
  - quite a bit of irreverent humour in the form of "chuckles" and cartoons
- The PTP generally appears once a month, occasionally twice a month. During COVID times, it has been published more frequently to include more levity in our lives. It is now published 6 times a year.
- Always looking for contributions for either publication, I can be contacted at [ambert.yorku@gmail.com](mailto:ambert.yorku@gmail.com)

- *Anne-Marie Ambert, Editor*

## YURA Web Site Report

*Steve Dranitsaris*

The YURA web site, re-constructed in 2021 using a new platform of Wordpress following York University design and accessibility standards, continues to be managed by a Web Site Group consisting of Steve Dranitsaris, Steve Glassman and Alex Neumann.

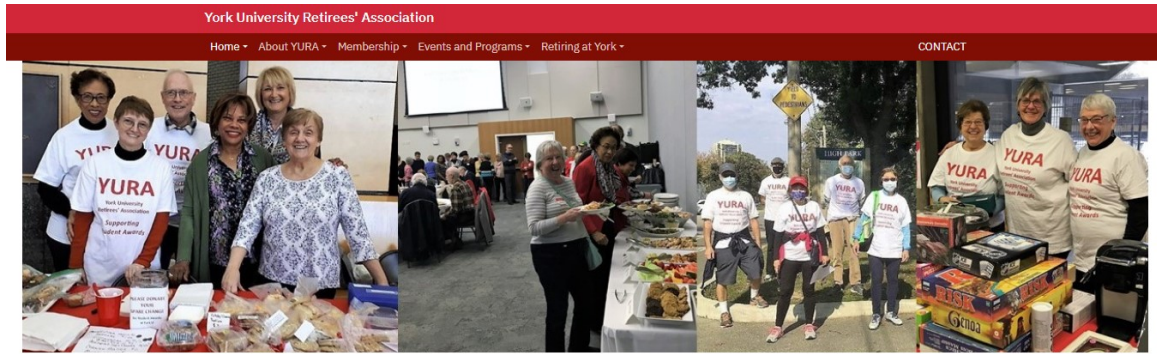
Every effort is made to update the web site on a weekly basis. The front page features announcements of interest to YURA members with appropriate links to additional details, forms and, as applicable, registration information.

During the past year, the web site has been consolidated into about 50 pages; access to event information has been enhanced through more effective use of the YURA Events Calendar on the web site's frontpage; also a frontpage link has been added for volunteer opportunities for YURA members about which YURA is informed; and the web site has active links to the up-to-date York University benefits booklets for retirees of all employee groups.

In the months ahead, we hope to update many of the photos on the web site, now that YURA has returned to in-person events.

YURA members should rely on the web site as their primary communication medium with the Association. For up-to-date news about YURA and upcoming activities, please visit the YURA web site at: <https://www.yorku.ca/yura/>

# Front Page of the YURA Web Site



[Edit This](#)

## York University Retirees' Association



The York University Retirees' Association is a voluntary group which represents retired employees from all the employee groups -- faculty, staff and managers -- who wish to maintain contact with the University and each other.

### JOINING THE RANKS OF YORK RETIREES?

*If you are a York retiree or planning to retire and you would like to receive an "info page" about the Retirees' Association (without having to surf this website), please e-mail [yura@yorku.ca](mailto:yura@yorku.ca)*

### WELCOME.... DIANE BEELEN WOODY & STEVE DRANITSARIS, YURA CO-PRESIDENTS



Diane Beelen Woody

We are very pleased to be starting our terms as co-presidents and to welcome you to the YURA website. In the past few years, much work has been accomplished to have these pages provide the latest information about upcoming events, activities, and volunteer opportunities. We strive to provide relevant information about wellness and well-being during retirement, the better to experience the joys and rewards of this stage of life, while simultaneously learning to navigate the inevitable challenges. We are proud to have one of the most active university retirees' associations in Canada, with approximately 500 retired staff and faculty members.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on our ability to plan in-person events in the past few years. We remain hopeful that 2023 will bring more opportunities to share the unique joy of being together to establish deeper connections with one another and with the York community. In the meantime, YURA has learned to hold virtual events....

[...click here to read more](#)



Steve Dranitsaris

Learn More 

[Member Privileges](#) [Join YURA](#)  
[Renew Your Membership](#)

### YURA Walkers Raise \$20,000 for Student Food Bank

Nineteen members of the York University Retirees' Association, accompanied by several members of University staff, walked 5 km around the Keele Campus on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in support of the YFS Food Support Centre. In total, more than \$20,000 has been raised to date from donations received to sponsor walk participants from retirees, friends, family and former co-workers and colleagues.

### YURA Events Calendar

10 YURA Café

# YURA Walkers Raise \$20,000 for Student Food Bank

Nineteen members of the York University Retirees' Association, accompanied by several members of University staff, walked 5 km around the Keele Campus on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in support of the YFS Food Support Centre. In total, more than \$20,000 has been raised to date from donations received to sponsor walk participants from retirees, friends, family and former co-workers and colleagues.

For the full story with more pics, [click here](#).

Donations in support of this fundraising effort can be made until the end of October... [click here to donate](#).



## York University Retirees' Association

[Home](#) [About YURA](#) [Membership](#) [Events and Programs](#) [Retiring at York](#)

[CONTACT](#)



## Scholars' Hub @ Home - Unpacking and Understanding the Importance to a Land Acknowledgement: It is not just a Script

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 12 noon ET

*Dr. Ruth Green, Associate Professor and Special Advisor to the Dean's Office on Indigenous Issues, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies*

In this talk, you will learn a bit about the history of the York University Land Acknowledgement and what it really means to the people that wrote it. Dr. Green will share about the Dish with One Spoon and the Two Row wampum as she discusses

# YURA Events Calendar


10 OCT YURA Café


11 OCT Scholars' Hub @ Home - The Role of Single Use Plastics in Promoting a Sustainable Circular Economy

14 OCT The York Circle Lecture Series - AI, Cybersecurity & Climate Warming

17 OCT YURA Executive Committee meeting

25 OCT Scholars' Hub @ Home - Unpacking and Understanding the Importance to a Land Acknowledgement: It is not just a Script

 **DATE**  
Oct 25 2023

 **TIME**  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

SHARE THIS EVENT





## YURA Café has Resumed for Fall 2023

This popular monthly coffee hour moderated by Fran Wilkinson, professor emerita of psychology, has resumed this Fall with the first online get-together on September 12. Sessions are being held the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. If you are feeling isolated, cut off from seeing friends and family, or just wanting to visit with other York retirees, this informal Zoom coffee hour allows you to get together with other YURA members to discuss topics of common interest, to chat and often to chuckle.

### Vaccinations for the Over 60 Crowd

At the YURA Café on September 12, Dr. Fran Wilkinson presented a brief overview of important vaccines for seniors and their likely availability. To view her presentation, which includes links to authoritative websites, please [click here](#).

### Upcoming at the Café

Join us for the YURA Café on Tuesday, October 10 from 10 to 11 am at which Tanya Thompson of York's Parking Office will demonstrate how to use the HONK Mobile App. Chris Russel and Jean Chan Kong of the University's Information Security office will also join us to discuss the phase out of Trend Micro, the anti-virus software which the University had been made available for use on personal devices of York community members. This, in addition to the usual conversation about recent happenings, emerging concerns, interesting things to do and read, shows to see, places to visit, and so forth.

## Here are links to Retirees Benefit Booklets:

### For YUFA Retirees

[YUFA retirees after May 1, 2016](#)

[YUFA retirees prior to May 2016](#)

### For Osgoode Faculty Retirees

[Osgoode faculty retirees after May 1, 2017](#)

[Osgoode faculty retirees prior to May 1, 2017](#)

### For CPM Retirees

Click [here](#)

### For CUPE 3903, Unit 2 Retirees

Click [here](#)

### For YUSA Retirees

Click [here](#)

### For CUPE 1356 Retirees

Click [here](#)

## Quick Links

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[York U Pension & Benefits](#)

[York University Retirement Services](#)

[A Guide to Government Web Sites](#)

[Retiree Associations](#)

[College & University Retiree Associations of Canada \(CURAC\)](#)

[Other Campus Events](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities for YURA Members](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities for YURA Members

Looking for a meaningful volunteer role? Retirees can bring experience, knowledge, enthusiasm and, yes, energy to not-for-profit organizations that rely on volunteers to deliver their services, to provide mentoring, to undertake research and/or to complete projects.

Volunteering is a good way to stay socially active, meet new people, contribute to meaningful initiatives and stay connected to York University and to the broader community.

On this page, YURA will post volunteer opportunities that are brought to our attention, some of which are for organizations looking for York University retirees specifically.

## East York Meals on Wheels

June 15, 2023

East York Meals on Wheels uses a volunteer-based model to deliver nutritious and culturally appropriate meals to people in need in East Toronto, specifically in Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park. Our dedicated volunteers are an integral part of our mission, and this year, our team delivered an agency's best 43,000 meals!

This summer, we are asking for your help recruiting volunteers through your website or social media platforms to dedicate themselves to delivering meals to seniors, new mothers, and those living with a disability. We provide meals Sunday through Friday from 11:00 am -1:00 pm. You would be surprised how much this benefits the volunteers themselves! Any support you can provide would be warmly received and will help us Feed the Need in East York this summer!

Please contact:

Rafael Granado, East York Meals on Wheels

Phone: 416-424-3322 ex. 2230

Email: [volunteer@eastyorkmealsonwheels.org](mailto:volunteer@eastyorkmealsonwheels.org)

Address: Unit#52 - 2 Thorncliffe Park Drive, Toronto, ON M4H 1H2

Website: [www.eastyorkmealsonwheels.org](http://www.eastyorkmealsonwheels.org)



May 24, 2023

The following volunteer opportunity is limited at this time to our Network universities and colleges. Kindly forward this email to the relevant faculties and

## Events & Activities – Report to the YURA AGM

*Diane Woody*

Goals of YURA activities, based on result of 2022 Survey of Members:

- i) to maintain good communications
- ii) to offer learning opportunities and
- iii) to strengthen connections amongst our members and with York University

Note: major outing (e.g., Stratford and Shaw) not undertaken, due to ongoing health concerns and inflationary cost pressures.

*continued...*



## **Events & Activites – Report to the YURA AGM - page 2**

- a) YURA Café, hosted by Fran Wilkinson
- b) Connections with York : YU-CARE, Congress, Charity Challenge Walk on Campus
- c) “Fun learning” at the Gardiner Ceramics Museum, along the Humber River and at Ward’s Island
- d) YURA Web Site promotes learning opportunities with CURAC, AROHE, York Circle and Scholars’ Hub
- e) Thanks to Angus Anderson, Sheelagh Atkinson, Jane Grant and Donna Smith

# Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops Report

*David Leyton-Brown*

- Workshops provide advanced graduate students with an opportunity to rehearse their conference presentations in conditions approximating those of scholarly meetings, and receive feedback on the substance of their papers and the effective communication of that substance from a sympathetic panel of retired faculty researchers.
- Every three-member faculty retiree panel represents a cross-section of disciplines. Two long-serving panelists, Bill Whitla (Humanities) and Ron Pearlman (Biology) have “retired” from this activity. We thank them for their terrific contributions, and call for volunteers to replace them in future workshops.
- Workshops are organized and scheduled by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) at the common convenience of all retiree participants.
- We and FGS are planning for another workshop in the spring of 2024.

*continued...*

# Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops Report

- During the 2022-23 academic year, one workshop was held via Zoom on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> with panelists Bill Whitla, Ron Pearlman and David Leyton-Brown.
- Six students made presentations, and 16 other students observed
  - Chika Maduakolam (Sociolegal Studies) on “Expanding Transitional Justice”
  - Shahpour Akhavi (Science and Technology Studies) on “Imaginary Friends for Unfriendly Imaginaries”
  - Yuly Chan (Sociology) on “The State and the Urban Question”
  - Stephanie Wai (Philosophy) on “A Limited Defense of Anthropocentrism”
  - Miranda McKee (Communications and Culture) on “Counter-Mapping: Visual Strategies for Alternative Imaginaries: User Personas, Research Personas, and Technical Persons as Methods of Sociotechnical Investigation and Influence”
  - Alexandra Creighton (Health Policy and Equity) on “Reimagining Disability Data Using Artificial Intelligence: A Transnational Disability Rights Approach”

## 2023 Charity Challenge Report

*Steve Dranitsaris*

- Nineteen members of the York University Retirees' Association, accompanied by several members of University staff, walked 5 km around the Keele Campus on October 3rd in support of the YFS Food Support Centre.
- In total, \$21,100 has been raised to date from donations received to sponsor walk participants from retirees, friends, family and former co-workers and colleagues. *(Note: Donations to sponsor the YURA team can still be made until the end of October.)*
- YURA's 5 km walk was held in conjunction with the TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon Charity Challenge, which offers a "virtual" option for registrants to do a 5 km, half marathon or full marathon run or walk on their own.
- In 2023, YURA's goal has been to raise funds to assist the Student Food Bank, given that one in four students struggles to afford food, according to a Campus Well-Being Survey conducted earlier this year. In March 2023, more than 2,500 students relied on the YFS Food Support Centre -- an increase of 1000% over the previous 12-month period. Additional funding has become somewhat critical in order to avoid a reduction in the food provided to students in need.
- Holding this year's walk on campus was intended to raise awareness about food insecurity among York students and to bring attention to YURA's efforts to help.

## 2023 Charity Challenge Report

- The 5 km event on October 3rd was organized by YURA members Sheila Forshaw, Debbie Hansen and Steve Dranitsaris (2023 YURA Charity Challenge team captain).
- Other fundraising team members were Marla Chodak, Peter Victor, Agnes Fraser, Fran Wilkinson, Diane Woody and Donna Smith.
- YURA participants who joined the team for the walk included Natasa Bajin, Gwyn Buck, Grace Chui, Theja DeSilva, Rosanna Furgiuele, Ian Greene, Fazyah Mohammed, Elsie Ramkhelawan, Anne Russon and John Wilson.
- Other walk participants included Vice-Provost of Students Nona Robinson, Marisa Barlas of the Advancement Office, Art McDonald of Athletics & Recreation and Barb Bauer of the Vice-Provost's office.
- YURA Executive members Angus Anderson and Jane Grant, along with past YURA Treasurer, Dave Smith, were also on hand to host the group back at YURA's new office in the Lorna Marsden Honour Court, following the walk.
- Thanks to the fundraisers, the participants and the donors!
- This is the fifth year that YURA has taken part in the Charity Challenge. In previous years, YURA's participation raised close to \$100,000 for the endowment of the YURA Graduate Student Awards.



## Student Awards

### *Steve Dranitsaris*

We are not able to publish the full name of award recipients without their written permission because there is a financial need component in each of these awards.

YURA continues to encourage the Faculty of Graduate Studies to promote the YURA Grad Student awards to ensure three awards are given annually.

Student Name	Program	Year	Award Amount
<b>William W. Small Award</b>			
Eugene	School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design, B.F.A. Hons., Film	2022/23	\$1,900
Kristi	Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, B. Com., Commerce	2022/23	\$1,900
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,800</b>
<b>YURA Mature Student Bursary</b>			
Sofian	Glendon College, B.A. Hons., Bilingual/French Studies	2022/23	\$1,200
Mariam	Faculty of Science, B.A. Hons., Mathematics for Education & Economics	2022/23	\$1,200
Theren	School of the Arts, Media Performance & Design B.F.A. Hons., Music	2022/23	\$1,200
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>
<b>YURA Graduate Student Award</b>			
Parsa	Faculty of Health, M.Sc. Kinesiology & Health Science	2022/23	\$1,500
Danika	Faculty of Health, M.A. Psychology	2022/23	\$1,500
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

# 8. Pension Fund Board of Trustees

*Bruno Bellissimo*

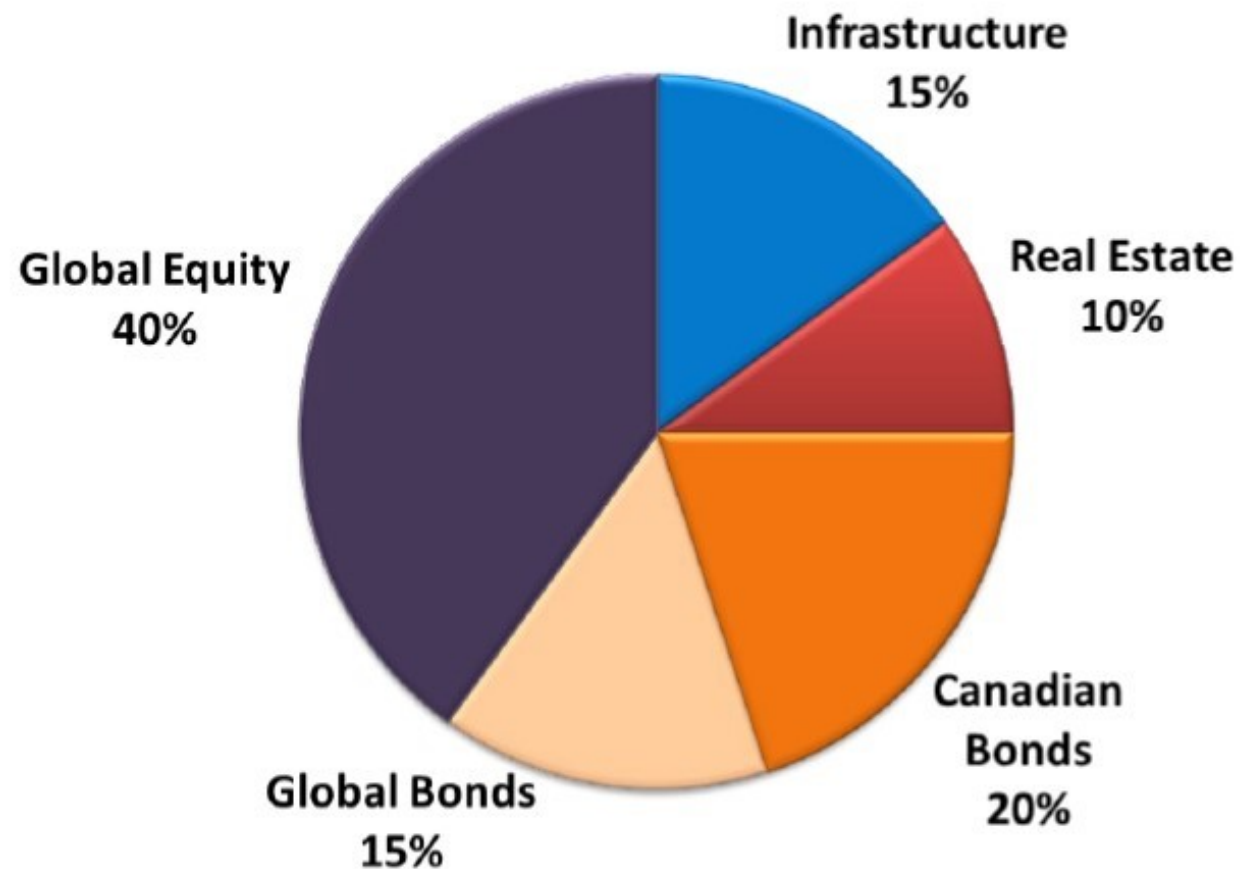
## **Pension Fund Board of Trustees (BOT)**

- Role is to oversee the investments of the Pension Fund, ensuring money is prudently and effectively deployed to give the best returns while managing risk
- Includes members of York's Board of Governors (3) and University administration (2), a YURA nominee and representatives of the following employee groups: YUFA (2), YUSA (2), CUPE 3903 (1), CUPE 1356 (1), CUPE 1356-01 (1), IOUE (1), OHFA (1), CPM (1)
- Is supported by the Pension Fund Investment Committee composed of external experts in the field of banking and investment management
- BOT meets at least quarterly to review the investment returns, to approve the hiring of investment firms and the allocation of funds, and to approve the audited financial statements and Actuarial Assessment
- Investment objective is to ensure that the fund is well diversified to obtain the best returns while withstanding volatility in the marketplace

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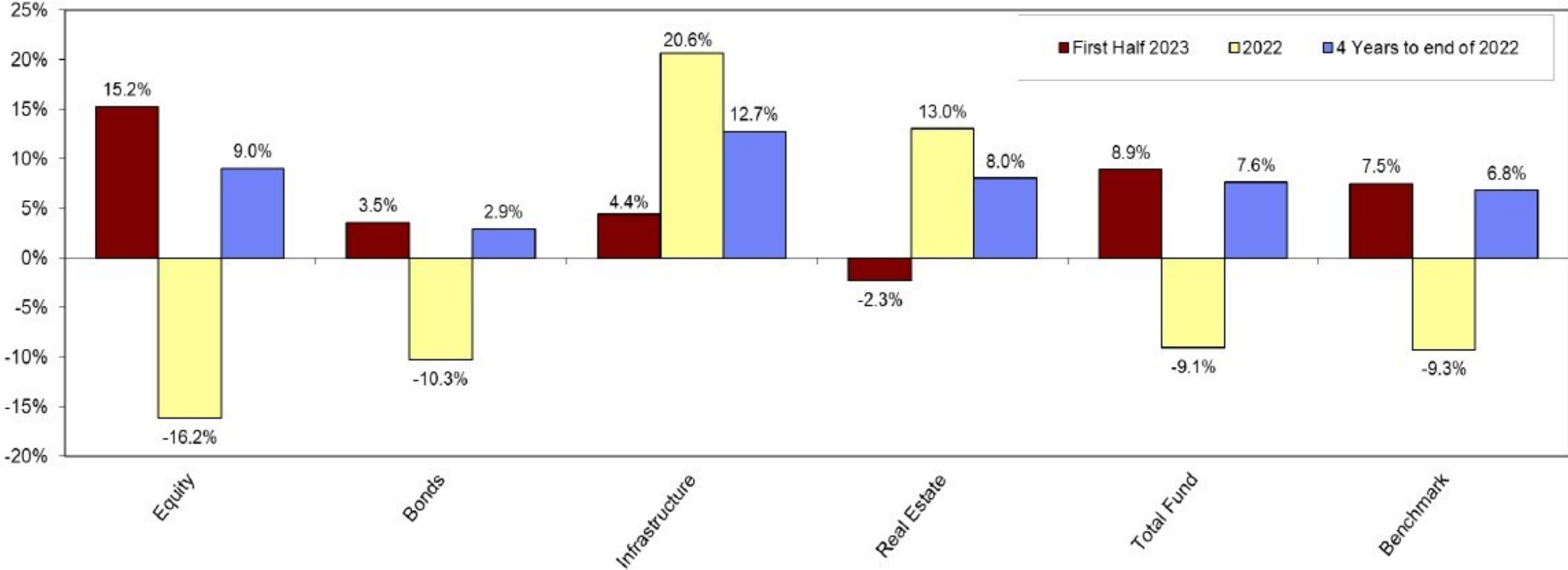


# York University Pension Fund Asset Mix Policy



\* At October 1, 2023

# York University Pension Fund Investment Performance Summary



# **9. All University Pension Committee (AUPC)**

*Donna Smith*



- **The All University Pension Committee (AUPC)** is an advisory committee to the Vice-President Finance & Administration and serves as a forum where representatives of Pension Plan members may learn about, review, discuss and make recommendations on pension benefit issues.
- The AUPC members are drawn from each employee group, York Senior Management and one representative appointed by YURA.
- AUPC met in October 2022, January and June 2023 and the next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2023.
- The Pension Plan actuary, AON, provided an update on the pension valuation at the June meeting.
- The focus of AUPC's agenda for 2023 remains the funding level of the Non-Reduction Reserve (NRR) which guarantees pensions remain constant, and do not dip below current payments received by retirees regardless of the market return on the funds in the York Pension Plan. While the University has decided not to make changes to the NRR at this time, discussion regarding the plan actuary recommendation remains ongoing.

**10. York University  
Centre for Aging  
Research & Education  
(YU-CARE)  
Executive Board**

*Rosanna Furgiuele*

## YU-CARE Report

- YU-CARE (York University Centre for Aging Research and Education) is a faculty-based Organized Research Unit that advances the profile of aging research and curriculum development and delivery within the Faculty of Health. Its Executive Board consists of several senior researchers, the Centre's director, a graduate student engaged in research and a representative from the York University Retirees' Association.
- YU-CARE offers a Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Aging that is offered to students enrolled in degree programs in the Faculty of Health.
- A variety of research is being done on understanding ageism, on aging policy, on practices to promote healthy aging, and on approaches to aging equity.
- YU-CARE invites YURA members to serve as participants in studies and research projects, and to attend the "Aging in the City" seminars on aging held throughout the year (via ZOOM).

*continued...*

## YU-CARE Report

Page 2

- The Centre hosts a variety of events throughout the year. Several noteworthy events involving YURA took place.
- **VoltAGE! YU-CARE Student Symposium**
  - This joint event, a collaboration of YU-CARE and YURA was held on May 8, 2023.
  - The theme was “Powerful Ideas to Illuminate Aging.”
  - Undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral trainees who are doing research in areas related to aging had the opportunity to share their knowledge and findings by submitting multimedia projects in various categories: infographic, podcast, short videos.
  - Prizes were awarded for the best submissions. YURA members Fran Wilkinson and Rosanna Furgiuele acted as judges.
  - It was decided that this symposium will become an annual event.

*continued...*



## YU-CARE Report

- **YURA Café**

The YURA Café of April 18, 2023 was on the specific topic of “YU-CARE and the Certificate in Aging”. The guest speaker was Dr. Gary R. Turner, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Health who is a YU-CARE researcher and member of its Executive Board. His field of research is neuro-cognitive aging, cognitive neuroscience and neuro-rehabilitation. His presentation stimulated many questions and a good discussion amongst YURA participants.

- **Future Project**

There has been preliminary discussion of another interesting project that will involve YURA members in the collection of data for research that a graduate student is conducting on an “age-friendly university global network”. The study would likely include one-on-one interviews and/or small focus groups sometime between November 2023 and January 2024. Once research ethics approval for the project has been received, a detailed description, recruitment statements and processes for the project will be shared with YURA members.

# **11. Retirement Planning Centre Advisory Board**

*David Leyton-Brown*

# York University Retirement Centre Advisory Board

- The Advisory Board is responsible to the University administration, its participating employee groups, and the York University Retirees' Association (YURA) for the development of policy to establish and maintain the retirement planning activities for the benefit of present and past members of the York University community.
- The members of the Advisory Board represent all constituents of the University including CPM, CUPE 1356, CUPE 3903, IUOE, Osgoode Hall Faculty Association, University administration, VP Finance & Admin, YUFA, YUSA/APUY, YURA and the Pension & Benefits (P&B) manager.
- The committee normally meets twice a year. The Advisory Board met on April 17 and October 17 by Zoom.
- Next scheduled meeting: April 17, 2024.

*continued...*

## York University Retirement Centre Advisory Board

Page 2

# Seminars Are Resuming

CPP – October 25, 2023

OAS – November 1, 2023

### Fall Pension Planning Series:

- Late Career- November 8, 2023
- Mid-Career- November 15, 2023
- New Employees- November 22, 2023

The Spring schedule of educational opportunities will be confirmed shortly

*continued...*

**Number of one-on-one consultations**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2016											43	14	57
2017	42	29	44	34	29	33	16	23	39	36	46	9	380
2018	25	34	24	21	24	16	24	20	15	27	32	13	275
2019	27	20	52	40	22	30	35	23	28	26	21	10	334
2020	29	25	28	5	13	15	17	6	13	24	13	16	204
2021	13	29	27	20	27	13	9	24	22	30	10	21	245
2022	20	15	29	17	15	16	19	29	15	20	20	11	226
2023	22	22	37	14	27	25	17	29	34				227

*continued...*

## Active Employees in Pension Plan by Age Group

Age Range	Number of Employees in Pension Plan
70	54
66-69	213
60-65	651
55-59	663
45-54	1474
under 45	1956

*continued...*

**Retirements**

	CPM	YUSA	YUFA / OSG	CUPE 1356	Other	Total
2023 *	32	51	36	7	20	146
2022	24	61	48	20	24	123
2021	29	65	53	13	30	190
2020	27	40	51	9	22	149
2019	29	43	45	15	28	160
2018	24	51	43	20	33	171
2017	21	37	57	13	36	164
2016	24	40	54	8	31	157
2015	18	45	50	5	47	165
2014	27	51	50	8	19	155
2013	16	25	44	11	29	125
2012	23	31	38	7	17	116
* Until October 1						

# **12. Association of Retired Faculty & Librarians at York University (ARFL)**

*Fred Fletcher*



## ARFL and YURA: Shared Priorities

- To represent to the administration the interests and concerns of York retirees
- To preserve and enhance a sense of community among York retirees
- To assist retirees in continuing to contribute to York as an institution

While ARFL emphasizes the first priority (for YUFA retirees) and YURA the second, they collaborate to promote all three. **ARFL recommends joining both.**

# ARFL Activities

- Participation in YUFA activities that affect retirees: pensions, benefits, resources, including preparation for collective bargaining (focus on post-retirement benefits)
- Lee Lorch Memorial Scholarship for Indigenous students
- Two annual membership meetings with a speaker
- Newsletters and email updates

**The 2023 ARFL AGM: Friday November 3 online.** Dr. David Newhouse, Professor of Indigenous Studies, Trent University, will speak on “**Indigenizing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Canada: Tensions, Challenges and Promises**” at 1 p.m. following the AGM. YURA members welcome. The link will be emailed to ARFL and YURA members prior to the event.



# **CURAC/ARUCC : Activities and Benefits**

**Fred Fletcher**

**Member CURAC/ARUCC Board of Directors  
2015-2023**

**[ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca)**

# CURAC/ARUCC and YURA

CURAC/ARUCC – **College and University Retiree Associations of Canada / Associations des retraités des universités et collèges du Canada** ) – is made up of some 40 retiree associations (RAs), including YURA. Its mission:

- To share best practices among its RAs and encourage their growth and development
- To monitor developments affecting RA members (pensions, benefits, insurance etc.)
- To speak publicly on issues of importance to its RAs and their 21,000 individual members
- To conduct periodic surveys of the benefits provided by their institutions to RAs and share this information with the RAs
- NOTE: The CURAC/ARUCC Board's current focus is to find new ways to serve member RAs using the increasingly user-friendly virtual options.

*continued . . .*

# CURAC/ARUCC and YURA

More specifically, CURAC's efforts include:

- **Annual conference(s)** open to all members of CURAC/ARUCC RAs to promote networking, sharing best practices and learning from expert presentations. Hybrid events (in-person/virtual) are planned for 2023-24.
- **Information sharing: website** ([www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca)), **newsletters, bulletins**, and periodic **emails** are being redesigned to serve as an integrated **information hub** on matters relevant to RA members
- A recent initiative is a monthly column on the roles and activities of academic retirees in University Affairs Magazine (online)
- **Liaison** with academic institutions (including granting agencies) and seniors' organizations across Canada and in the U.S. and Europe
- **Discounts and opportunities** for CURAC members for travel (including medical coverage), extended health insurance, home and auto insurance (and even pet insurance)
- QUESTIONS? [ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca) or [secretary@curac.ca](mailto:secretary@curac.ca)

## CURAC Tribute Award presented to Charmaine Courtis

- The 2023 CURAC Tribute Award was 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 and enthusiastic participant in all YURA 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 than any other YURA fundraising participant in Toronto Waterfront Charity Challenge events (2019-2022). The amount raised by Charmaine alone exceeded \$20,000 out of total funds of \$100,000.
- Charmaine has volunteered in the YURA office weekly for 7 years. She standardized the YURA membership application and renewal process, which involves tracking of membership renewals, follow-ups, banking, etc., etc. Thanks to her efforts, the YURA membership remained at nearly 500 even during the COVID pandemic when she maintained YURA operations from her home.
- 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 powerhouse for YURA and is an inspiration to all retirees.



## 14. Omnibus Resolution

- to Approve the Minutes of 2022 AGM
- to Approve the Treasurer's Report
- to Affirm the Allocation of Surplus Accumulated Funds
- to Accept All Other Reports
- to Affirm the YURA Executive Committee membership for 2023-2024

***For those attending online: If you oppose this resolution, please post to Q & A immediately.***

# 15. Other business





**Over the years, it has become a tradition at the YURA AGM to present a long-stem white rose to those members of the YURA Executive who will be retiring as a member of the Committee.**

**This year, there are three individuals whom we would like to recognize and thank for their service to YURA.**





# Angus Anderson

**Executive Committee,  
Member-at-Large**



YURA Executive Committee member for two terms, 2019 to 2023, providing helpful input to discussion of issues and plans.

Member of the YURA Events team; co-organized the Gardiner Museum and afternoon tea event in May.

Fundraising participant in past Charity Challenge walks and assisted with this October's event on campus.



# Sheelagh Atkinson

**Executive Committee,  
Member-at-large**



YURA Executive Committee member for two terms, 2019 to 2023, providing helpful input to discussion of issues and plans.

Member of the YURA Events team; co-organized the Gardiner Museum and afternoon tea event in May.

Fundraising participant in past Charity Challenge walks.



**Bruno  
Bellissimo**  
Executive Committee  
Member-at-large



YURA Executive Committee member for three terms, 2017 to 2023, providing helpful and often strategic input to discussion on issues and plans.

Represented YURA members and all other retirees on the York University Pension Fund Board of Trustees (BoT) for six years -- delivering insightful reports on Pension investments and returns to the YURA Executive and AGM.

Has agreed to continue as YURA's representative on the Pension Fund Board as an ex-officio appointee of the YURA Executive.



**Thank you !**

# 16. Adjournment

*Thank you for attending the  
2023 Annual General Meeting*