

# ARF NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED  
FACULTY AND LIBRARIANS  
OF YORK UNIVERSITY



Vol. 8: No. 2 (Issue 21:May,2002)

*ARF is an independent organization of retired faculty and librarians of York University, and of pre-retirees who pay membership fees. Members of ARF are Associate members of YUFA and YUFA has recognized ARF as "the representative organization for retired members" of YUFA.*



At the Annual General Meeting of October 2001, the following slate of officers was returned, including those subsequently nominated to the Executive to extend its base and representation, as the meeting agreed. The Executive will normally be printed in each edition of the *Newsletter*.



## EXECUTIVE

### *President*

Margaret Knittl [knittl@yorku.ca](mailto:knittl@yorku.ca)

### *Vice-President*

Sydney Eisen [seisen@yorku.ca](mailto:seisen@yorku.ca)

### *Past-President*

Howard Buchbinder

### *Secretary*

Elizabeth Lander

[elan@yorku.ca](mailto:elan@yorku.ca)

### *Treasurer and Newsletter Editor*

William Whitla

[wwhitla@yorku.ca](mailto:wwhitla@yorku.ca)

### *Researcher*

Duncan Cameron

### *Members-at-Large*

Michael Creal

Ruth Grogan

Barry Loughton

Alex Murray

Mary Williams on

Hugh Parry (alternate)

Mavis Waters (alternate)

## CONTENTS

1. Good News
2. From the Executive
3. Hospital Beds
4. Corrections to last Newsletter
5. Message from Howard Buchbinder
6. Caera and the meeting at the May Learned Societies Congress
7. "Thank You" to YUFA Trust Fund
8. Lost Members?
9. Have you disappeared?



### 1. Good News

**T**HE long-awaited increase of the annual cap on dental expenses from \$700 to \$1000 retroactive to Jan. 1, 2002 is now put in place and is being implemented. ARF's work through the Trust Fund have made this dental benefit improvement possible. Check to make sure your bills from the first of the year have been fully covered. If you have questions, call Great West at 1-800-263-5742. □



### 2. From the Executive

**A**RF's Executive has been meeting frequently to deal with developments concerning your pensions and benefits. The Administration has initiated a major overhaul of Pension Plan governance with the aim of clarifying the

responsibilities of its various bodies and individual officers, the procedures each follows, to whom they report, and how change is initiated and carried out. On issues this raises we have met again with a distinguished actuary, Bruce MacDonald, and with Dale Hauser, advisor on pension law, both of whom have generously provided invaluable advice. Any action we can take awaits a meeting of the All University Committee on Pensions, now set for May 21. It will be its first meeting in nearly two years! We aim, in particular, to see a mission statement inserted into the document and to establish, once and for all, where responsibility lies for timely updating of mortality tables, and how amendments to the plan can be initiated and how they are processed.

The poor performance of the stock market in 2001 brought to light a situation none of us had been aware of. Each of us has, it seems, a "shadow pension"—a device that remains inactive in good times but would lessen increments pensioners would receive following a year when the "no reduction" clause of our contract had been invoked (because the four-year running average earning had fallen below 6%). It was feared 2002 would be such a year; happily it is not, though it was a close shave. Our questions now are a) Is the shadow pension device legal under our contract? Our advisors think not. b) Is it needed, given that there is already a reserve fund set up to support the "no reduction" provision? That question we expect to see investigated in AUCP.

On the benefits front we have learned with dismay that the new benefits handbook has gone to print without consultation beyond that held in respect of the first draft.

**GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY MAY 23, 2002  
12:00-3:00**

**AT FOUNDERS SENIOR  
COMMON ROOM  
(THIRD FLOOR)**

**AS USUAL, THERE WILL  
BE A GOOD LUNCH**

**On the Agenda will be new  
information and updates on  
Pensions and Benefits**

It is indeed significantly better than the one it supercedes, but it still suffers from some troubling omissions, and is far from clear on the most important feature of the plan: that it is a capped plan. We are still pondering what to do about this. Meanwhile we continue to press the Administration to have Great West inform us routinely where our lifetime balances stand.

Finally, as always, we look for more fruitful ways of working with YUFA, YURA, and the Administration. It's not easy! □

—Margaret Knittl



### 3. Hospital Beds

PAYMENTS for private and semi-private hospital accommodation take up between 20 and 25% of our annual health and dental benefits allocation. At least for Ontario residents this may not be the best use of scarce funds. Why? We are told that Provincial funding arrangements motivate hospitals to increase semi beds at the expense of both wards and private beds. (A few hospitals have eliminated wards altogether.) Most private beds go to gravely ill patients, on doctor's orders. Wards tend to be filled by patients who lack extended health coverage. Semi beds go to those who ask for them and to anyone else for whom other space is not available. Ask for a semi and you or your insurance company pays the extra charge. For us that means the extra cost is charged against our \$25,000 lifetime limit for all medical expenses. To conserve that account it might be wiser to ask for ward accommodation, in the expectation that one would get a semi anyway. The difference in that case is that OHIP becomes responsible for the added charge.

We have research under way to verify the substantial correctness of this picture and to discover what impact a change in hospital accommodation coverage might have on members living out of Ontario.

Our fondest hope is to be able to offer individual members a choice between keeping the present coverage of private and/or semi-private beds and opting for a second package, of equal value actuarially, providing a benefit not now covered under our plan. Of course that would involve change and change is bothersome and time consuming. We can only try. You will hear more of this as time goes on. □

—Margaret Knittl



### 4. Corrections about YURA

ALBERT TUCKER has kindly corrected the misstatements in the article in the last Newsletter about ARF/YURA/YUFA. He was concerned particularly about our comments on the Administration's sponsorship of YURA, free office-space, printing, and mailing. He sent the following information, extracted from a longer interesting account of YURA's beginning:

"YURA's origins lay in the initiative of Bill Small in 1986, when he was 70 and retired. He had already played an important role in helping to form the York University Pension Plan. Now he felt the need for an organization that would give to those retirees who wished it some means of sustaining their contact with the University. He discussed his idea with Janice Newsom, then the President of YUFA, and she approved it, on the understanding that it might function in some form of conjunction with the Retirement Planning Centre, which she had already proposed through YUFA,

and which YUFA partially funded. . .

At no time has the Administration contributed to YURA's budget. Membership fees have supported printing costs, and responses from the membership to annual money-raising campaigns have made possible a modest bursary programme. Into the late 90's, the YURA Executive had no regular place to meet. The Minutes, etc. were drafted by Bill Small at home and then completed with help from the Retirement Planning Centre, whose Director, Karen Gray, agreed to cover the costs of what were then relatively small mailing. It was also she who suggested to Ken Thomson, then YURA President, that a small space within the RPC be used by YURA in preparing for the first Showcase in 1998. On Ken's initiative a couple of free, second-hand computers were also placed there for YURA members to come in and practise on.

When Pearl Kroll became involved in organizing Showcase in 1998, she did indeed see that space as a little office, and from her congenial contacts with maintenance people, she was able to find a desk and chairs. From the beginning Karen approved and gave moral support for the way in which YURA was coming to play a more vital role in helping to provide some activity and cohesion among people who had actually retired.

When the RPC moved last summer to Central Square, Karen was pleased to find that the new quarters again included a small space that YURA could use as an office. But that is the extent of university 'sponsorship'—mailing and a small space—everything else is financed from within YURA's limited resources. The Administration has never given YURA even a 'modest

budget,' nor does it have 'free printing.' With the two exceptions I have stated, YURA finances its activities entirely through membership fees. As for 'sponsorship,' the only formal contact YURA has with the Administration is through Karen Gray; any other communication must be initiated by the YURA executive as the need might arise." □

—Thanks to Albert Tucker



### 5. A Message From Howard Buchbinder

RAY Ellenwood writes:  
**R**Howard Buchbinder was president of YUFA during its early years and, since his retirement, has been active as member and executive member of ARF. He had a stroke last summer which, in the first instance, required a great deal of expensive emergency intervention, and which has left him paralyzed on one side, requiring considerable care. His reading and writing have been affected (which is why Ray Ellenwood has transcribed and conveyed this message) but his interest in the concerns of colleagues in YUFA and ARF is undiminished. That is why he wanted to make this communication, giving a personal dimension to some figures which we all may have seen without thinking much about their implications.

"This is to inform YUFA members that, after retirement, there is a one-time only, life-time maximum medical provision of \$25,000 for retired faculty. If a retired faculty member goes over the \$25,000 limit, he/she is obliged to pay all supplemental costs. Retired faculty may claim up to \$1,000 per year of medical expenses without depleting the

\$25,000 maximum; and after expending the maximum, they may claim or accumulate \$1000 per year, but in my case, the \$25,000 was quickly spent and I am now faced with substantial bills, something which YUFA members should keep in mind. Members of YUFA, along with ARF, should consider negotiating to change this provision. A \$25000 lifetime maximum can turn out to be very little." □

—Howard Buchbinder



#### CAERA Canadian Association of Emeriti and Retired Academics

will meet on  
**MAY 31, 2002, 9–5**  
 at Victoria College

at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (Learned Societies) at Toronto's Victoria College, 9–5 with a reception to follow. See the following article and the application form attached.

### 6. Caera and the meeting at the May Learned Societies Congress

**W**ELCOME to CAERA 2002! CAERA was founded in Calgary in 1994, and has met at several later gatherings of the Learned Societies (now the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences). CAERA will meet again at Congress 2002, which is being held at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University this spring. CAERA's conference, organized by a joint committee of Toronto, Ryerson and York retirees' groups) will take place on May 31, at Victoria College from 9.00–5.00, with a reception to follow at Massey College.

The lively programme features sessions on the future of

CAERA, on university/retiree relationships, and on pensions, benefits, and "best practices" in university/retiree relationships. The Plenary Speaker will be Dr. Paul Davenport, President of the University of Western Ontario. One of the most attractive features of university life is that university people hardly ever really retire. Unlike most of their neighbours in business and industry, university faculty continue to engage in research, publish, and mentor younger faculty. Retired university staff often remain in close touch as well. Retirees thus constitute a huge resource for hard-pressed universities today. Almost everywhere in Canada where there is a college or university, there is a retiree organization trying to bring this hidden resource to the attention of the administration, and an administration puzzling over what to do about this new factor in university life. Dr. Davenport's talk will address this and other issues; his topic is: "Retiree–University Relationships at Canadian Universities: A President's Perspective." We most warmly invite you to come to Toronto for this important one-day conference, which will address so many issues of urgent importance to university retirees. For those attending other meetings at Congress 2002, CAERA is society no. 258. If attending CAERA is your main objective, please use the form we enclosed to register, and please register soon, so we know how many will be attending. We extend a warm

welcome to you and your colleagues!

[Signed by:] Dr. John Dirks (Massey College) and the CAERA Organizing Committee:

Peter Russell (President), Gemaine Warkentin, Blanche van Ginkel, David Nowlan and Ken Rea

(RALUT, Retired Academics and Librarians of the University of Toronto); Allan Currie and Reg Wallace (The Ryerson Connection); Albert Tucker (President, YURA, York University Retirees Organization) and Margaret Knittl (President, ARF, Association of Retired Faculty, York University). □



### 7. A “THANK YOU” to YUFA Trust Fund

THERE is one thing we forgot in the last Newsletter and that is a warm thank you to the YUFA Trust Fund for its contribution of \$100,000 to the YUFA Retirees Benefit Trust. It makes further improvements more possible. □



### 8. Lost Members?

AS MEMBERS know, we often have trouble in keeping mailing lists up-to-date. We have had mail returned from old addresses for the following colleagues, and wonder if anyone has kept in touch and can help with their present mailing addresses. Old addresses are listed: Joseph Agassi (Israel?)

S. N. Baird, 60 Underhill Dr. Tor.  
Brian Bixley, Econ. Dept. Glendon  
Patricia Evans, 370 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Ottawa

L. L. N. Evernden, 698 Gorham  
Newmarket

Donald F. Fine, 270 Lee Ave, To  
Donald A. S. Fraser, 1 Big Pine, To  
Martin Lewis, 638 St. Clair W, To  
Fred Matthews, 1940 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, #407,  
San Diego, California

Peter McHugh, 333 East 55<sup>th</sup> St, NY  
Laura Rice, 67 Shea St, #M4

Hyannis, Maryland  
James Tenney, 54 Gloucester Grove,  
Toronto  
Nikos Tryphonopoulos, 26 Underhill  
Dr. Don Mills  
Francis J. Turner, 186 Claremont Ave,  
Kitchener

If you know where they are, please drop ARF a line, or phone Bill Whitla at 416-766-6393 or e-mail him at [wwhitla@yorku.ca](mailto:wwhitla@yorku.ca).

Many thanks for your help. □



### 9. Have You Disappeared?

SOME faculty members have pointed out that their names have been omitted from departmental lists and York phone directories, both the hard copy phone books and also from the York webpage listing faculty addresses and e-mails. Many vanished faculty continue to supervise graduate students, share a York office, engage in research, serve on university, faculty, or departmental committees, or raise funds. Other scholars, former students, or colleagues may wish to contact them but cannot. Some York Fellows of the Royal Society are dropped from the e-mail directory when they retire. On the York webpage some retired faculty are named as possible spokespersons on current affairs, including terrorism, Eastern and Middle Eastern affairs, but are unlocatable. They have disappeared, even though York highlights them as responsible scholars and spokespersons on select topics. So also it is with many others who contribute to the scholarly prestige and professional expertise of York University. Some are still listed among the faculty of their departments as professors emeriti, others are not.

Probably some disappearances are through oversight. One way to improve this situation

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are now payable for the year 2002–2003 (from June 30, 2002 to July 1, 2003). A mail-in form is attached to this Newsletter.

The Newsletter goes free to all retired faculty and librarians for whom we have addresses. As you know it contains information and articles about your pensions and benefits. But without your support we could not continue to monitor these development, report them to you, and lobby on your behalf.

Please renew your Membership.

If you have never joined, please consider supporting ARF now.

would be to ask all departments to list retirees on their web-pages even those away from Toronto—and perhaps especially those. It would also be very useful to have all retirees listed on the York e-mail index, and the who’s who search engines. That is a matter of simple inputting of information.

Meanwhile, each of us can ask that our e-mail be included in the list ourselves, perhaps another good place to start. So—check out whether you have disappeared, and if so, inform your Department’s Telephone Designate (often the Admin. Assistant), asking them to include you in the annual Internal Directory and also on the York Web-page address and e-mail listing. You might also ask them to form a list of retirees on their web-page. After all, the University continues to benefit from the career accomplishments of retirees, and we along with teaching faculty are still those from whom the University draws its strength. □

—William Whitla

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY  
AND LIBRARIANS OF  
YORK UNIVERSITY**

- I wish to join ARF, to receive its mailings and support its activities  
 I wish to renew my membership in ARF  
 I am willing to undertake occasional work for ARF  
 I am not yet a retiree, but I want to become an Associate Member of ARF
- Enclosed is my cheque for the period **1 July, 2002 to 30 June, 2003** (First Reminder that Memberships are due)  
 \$25 Regular Membership  
 \$10 Associate Membership
- Plus \$\_\_\_\_\_ as an additional contribution to help ARF continue its work on behalf of York's retired Faculty and Librarians.

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Campus Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: ARF c/o YUFA, 241 Schulich School of Business, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto ON M3J 1P3

-----  
✂ *Please cut and mail each separately*

**CAERA: Canadian Association of Emeriti and Retired Academics  
APRUC: Association des professeur(e)s retraité(e)s des universités  
canadiennes**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print out and mail completed form and your cheque to the address shown at the bottom of the form.

[Please print]

Name (last name first please) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Office: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Retired from (name of college or university): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of retirees' association: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here  if there is no formal retirees' organization at your college or university.

I enclose my cheque for \$C 40.00

OR \$C 60.00 (with reception guest)

Registration includes morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, and reception.

Make cheque payable to: "RALUT" (Retired Academics and Librarians of the University of Toronto)

Please mail **by May 20, 2002** to:

Prof. G. Warkentin, VC 205, Victoria College,

73 Queen's Park Crescent,

Toronto ON M5S 1K7

If you require further information please contact [g.warkentin@utoronto.ca](mailto:g.warkentin@utoronto.ca)