

# ARF Newsletter

Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University



## CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

1. The Acting President's Column	1
2. Highlights of the AGM	1
3. Change of address for ARF and YUFA	1
4. A Message from the Treasurer	2
5. New Parking Regulations are in Effect	2
6. Benefits Information	2
7. Phone Information from Lee Lorch	2
8. Retired Academics Database	2
9. National Survey on Benefits	3 and 4
10. Death of Howard Buchbinder	3
11. Retirees' Academic Survey	3 & attachment

### 1. The Acting President's Column *by Alex Murray*

THIS newsletter has several items of interest to members but many of them do not represent any closure of the issue concerned. For example, the Financial Services Commission of Ontario has still not made an adjudication on the issue of the "shadow pension."

The ARF executive continues to try to improve communication with the university administration, especially regarding the precise details of our benefits and how they are interpreted by our insurer. This must be done by both direct informal discussions and through working with the staff and executive of YUFA which has the formal/legal relationship with the administration. We seem to be making progress but much remains to be done. Thanks to ARF members for your continued support. □



### 2. Highlights of the AGM

*Special thanks to Elizabeth Lander's minutes*

A WELL-ATTENDED Annual General Meeting took place in Founders Senior Common Room on October 29, 2003. ARF chair, Peter Harries-Jones, commented on:

¶ A drastically reduced amount of money is available for retirees for travel to conferences, even when we are giving papers and representing York.

¶ Results of the recent negotiations between YUFA and

the Administration: thank-you to the ad hoc committee working with YUFA, Margaret Knittl, Michael Creal, and Arthur Haberman who re-assessed the costing of improved benefits for a much larger group of retirees resulting from large numbers of retirements in this past and coming three years. The result, as you know, is a raising of the lifetime cap from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and the total amount that the Administration will contribute towards benefits was also raised. The promised official plan on benefits has been made available, and the benefits year will now accord with the calendar year.

¶ Retirements from the executive included Elizabeth Lander as Secretary, and Michael Creal and Elaine Vayda as members-at-large. All were praised for their important contributions to ARF and the University.

¶ Elected as new members: Fred Morgan as Secretary, and two new members at large: Sylvie Arend and Chester Sadowski

¶ Vice-Chair Alex Murray will chair the executive and any General Meetings in the absence of Peter Harries-Jones who will be away for some extended periods during 2003-04.

¶ The Treasurer reported an accumulated surplus of \$14,310, some invested in an ING account. The Executive will establish an investment committee to deal with the surplus, and consider alternatives for using it, including keeping a reserve for possible legal fees.

¶ Two items are still being held up in various bureaucracies: 1) the shadow pension issue (see earlier *Newsletters*) is still held up in FSCO (Financial Services Commission of Ontario), and 2) the YUFA/ARF Trust which is *still* waiting for a determination on the tax status of the Trust. More on these items when we get further information. □



### 3. Change of Address for ARF and YUFA

WITH all of the new buildings going up on the Steeles campus, and the renovations to some older ones, YUFA has moved (temporarily) to the following address where ARF will pick up mail until further notice:

ARF c/o YUFA,  
5024 TEL Building,  
York University,  
Toronto ON M3J 1P3

YUFA will be moving again in the Spring or Summer, and we will keep you informed of new addresses then. □



#### 4. A Message from the Treasurer *by Ian Sowton*

ARF has numerous conscientious members who reach for their cheque books every time they receive a *Newsletter*, but please note that this *Newsletter* does NOT include a call for membership dues. Donations are always welcome but as for dues, if you are wondering whether or not you are paid up for July 2003–June 2004, you can always check with me at [isowton@yorku.ca](mailto:isowton@yorku.ca), or by mail c/o YUFA Office, 5024 TEL Bldg, or by telephone at 416-489-9120. □



#### 5. New Parking Regulations *by William Whitla*

MEMBERS of ARF who have used either the Glendon or York campuses since November will be aware of the new parking regulations and procedures, and YURA members will also have received a dozen passes in the mail for the year. Parking is certainly tight in most lots during the day and over the early evening hours Mondays to Thursdays, so be prepared to spend time searching for a spot, and then be ready to either pay or go through some difficulty in having your voucher authenticated—especially in lots without a custodian. Meanwhile, the Parking Committee, composed of ARF and YURA members, continues negotiations with the administration. □



#### 6. Benefits Information *ARF Executive*

RETIREES will have received the welcome information in December, 2003 from Human Resources about the change in the retirement benefit year that was negotiated by YUFA in the most recent contract talks. The new year began on January 1, 2004 and runs to Dec. 31. The deductible for October 1 to December 31, 2003 has been waived. Great West Life will apply the deductible when you submit your first claims in 2004.

The new booklet, however, should have included two important pieces of information:

1. There is a provision for glasses or contact lenses following a cataract operation, limited to \$100 for each eye, once only.
2. Diabetic supplies are covered, including insulin, insulin syringes, test strips, and injection devices.

Formal language concerning these provisions is currently being devised. Meanwhile, any questions may be emailed to [benefits@yorku.ca](mailto:benefits@yorku.ca) or call 416-736-2100 extension 77567. Human Resources says they will respond by the end of the next business day. □



#### 7. Timely phone information from Lee Lorch

LEE Lorch has reminded ARF members that phones registered in the names of persons 65 or older are not charged for calls to 411 (information) after due certification. Details are printed on p. 12 of the phone book. If you live outside Ontario, it is probable that your local phone company has a similar provision. This advantage to seniors is not widely known even to eligible persons, but it is certainly worth taking note of. □



#### 8. Retired Academics Database

ARF has received from Ken Rea the following notice about the Retired Academics Database (RAD) which has been sent out from our national faculty retirees association, CURAC:

##### The RAD Initiative

The RAD scheme was initially launched in September 2002, when the RAD website went live at: [www.acu.ac.uk/adverts/rad](http://www.acu.ac.uk/adverts/rad). So far we are pleased that over 600 academics and administrative staff have registered to take part in the RAD scheme.

##### RAD—The Next Stage

RAD was formally launched at the ACU's General Conference in Belfast in September 2003. We are delighted that universities from countries such as Botswana, Nigeria, Swaziland, and the West Indies have now started using RAD for recruiting academic & administrative staff. You may be approached soon by universities wishing to employ you on a short-term contract. As RAD is still a fairly new initiative, I cannot guarantee that you will be contacted by a university immediately, so your patience at this time would be greatly appreciated.

##### Spreading the Word

RAD has been devised by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to utilise the large numbers of retiring academics/administrative staff to help fill vacancies at universities in the developing world. The scheme is thus aimed at helping universities/staff in developed and developing countries alike. If you know of an organisation or individuals who would benefit from knowing about RAD's work, please send this email [or

information] to them. This also applies to any contacts you might know who are organising a meeting, conference or seminar where there might be people interested in RAD. Any help or assistance is much appreciated as the ACU is a charitable organisation, and helping us promote RAD helps many universities around the world.

Thank you for your interest in the Retired Academics Database,

Kind regards, Jocelyn Law rad@acu.ac.uk  
Project Leader, Retired Academic Database  
Association of Commonwealth Universities  
36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, UK  
RAD is supported by The Nuffield Foundation

### 9. The National Survey on Benefits

At the AGM. Peter Harries-Jones presented the attached extract from the CAUT survey on Benefits for Retirees from Canadian Universities. An "x" indicates coverage for this category, although, of course, different universities cover different items with different rates within each category (not shown here).

### 10. Death of Howard Buchbinder

HOWARD Buchbinder, a former president of YUFA, the third president of ARF (1998-2000), and a

professor of Social Science in Atkinson College, died on January 8, 2004. An obituary in the Jan. *Toronto Star* said, "His rich life was an example of integrity and commitment, as a professor, social worker, poet, activist, folk singer, rebel, WW II soldier, author, kibbutz pioneer, kibitzer, union leader, traveller, civil rights marcher, friend, husband, father and grandfather." York and ARF were well served by his gentle humour, resolute principles, and passion for justice.

### 11. Retirees' Academic Survey

WITH this *Newsletter* you are receiving a copy of a survey conducted by the ARF Executive to determine the ways in which Retirees are continuing with academic, scholarly, or other kinds of activity after retirement, such as volunteering or community work. In many of these fields the association of a retiree with York continues, and we wish to know what you are doing, how you contribute to the University's reputation, and how better relations between York and Retirees could be established to further these activities. If you prefer the Survey in French please contact the Editor of the *Newsletter*. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey and return it to the ARF office, c/o YUFA, 5024 TEL Building, York University, Canada, M3J 1P3.

*The ARF Newsletter is published by the Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University (ARF). 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. ARF is a member of CURAC (College and University Retirees Association of Canada).*

At the Annual General Meeting of October 2003, the following slate of officers was returned, including those subsequently nominated to the Executive to extend its base and representation, as the meeting agreed.

#### EXECUTIVE

##### President

Peter Harries-Jones

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

##### Vice-President

Alex Murray

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

##### Past-President

Margaret Knittl

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

##### Secretary

Fred Morgan

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##### Treasurer

Ian Sowton

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##### Editor of Newsletter

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

##### Pre-Retiree Member

Arthur Haberman

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

##### Members-at-Large

Sylvie Arend

[sarendl@gl.yorku.ca](mailto:sarendl@gl.yorku.ca)

Nicole Keating

[nkeating@glendon.yorku.ca](mailto:nkeating@glendon.yorku.ca)

Barry Loughton

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

Chester Sadowski

[chesters@rogers.com](mailto:chesters@rogers.com)

Mary Williamson

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

The Editor of the Newsletter welcomes comment, letters, or items of interest to other ARF members, but reserves the right to edit any submissions. Please send them by e-mail ([wwhitla@yorku.ca](mailto:wwhitla@yorku.ca)) or by post to ARF, c/o YUFA, 5024 TEL, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto ON M3J 1P3. Other members of the Executive may be reached by post at the same address or by e-mail.

EXTRACT FROM CAUT SURVEY ON BENEFITS FOR RETIREES

ALBERTA  
(?RYERSON)

Alberta Retired Teachers Association Plan  
Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan

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Group One. University Pays Coverage

	Family/Individual COST Per month.	HEALTH	DENTAL	VISION	LIFE	PAYEE	/RESTRICTIONS Proportion
CARLETON	Nil	X	X			Univ. 100%	Nil
McMASTER	Nil	X (E)		X		Univ. 100%	\$10K Lifetime
MEMORIAL	Nil (?)	x	x		x	50/50 (?)	Life reduced
OTTAWA	Nil	X				Univ. 100%	\$945pa. MAX
RYERSON	Nil	X		?		Univ. 100%	
WILFRID L.	Nil	X	X		X	Univ. 100%	\$30K lifetime

Group Two. Retirees Pay a Portion of Coverage

YORK	\$34 (18)	x	x			85-15	\$50K lifetime
McGILL	\$35-\$195	x	x		x	50/50	Plan choice
CONCORDIA	\$46 (24)	x		x	X	50/50 Univ. 100%	
WESTERN	\$ 75 (37)	x(E)	x			85/15	
GUELPH	\$62 \$49	x(E)		x		70/30 50/50	
TORONTO	\$ 95 (24)	x	x			75-80/25-20	
QUEENS	\$110 (31)	x				70/30	Added cost for Semi-private care
LAURENTIAN	\$66 (33)	x		?		Unknown	

Group Three. Retiree/ University Proportions Not Known  
and listed as 100% Individual

LAKEHEAD	\$106 (53) \$102 (51)	x		x		Unknown	
NEW BRUNS.	\$180	x				Unknown	
U.B.C.	\$108 (54) \$ 68 (33) \$ 60 (13)	x x		x		Unknown	
WATERLOO	\$136 (43)	x(E) x				Unknown	Additional

## York Retirees and York University

In this survey, the ARF Executive is asking a number of questions to try to document Retirees' academic contributions to York University and to society, and other on-going scholarly or other kinds of activity *after retirement*. This survey is being undertaken to document our claims that in a multitude of ways Retirees continue to advance the university's good name and reputation. Please take a few moments to answer the following questions and mail back your response. You can add additional comments to any of the questions if you wish to do so.

Many thanks for your help and co-operation.

1. What year did you retire? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you retire early? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 2. Are you within commuting distance of York? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**In the boxes below, please comment on your activities SINCE YOU RETIRED**

3. Do you maintain any formal contact with the University? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

4. Do you come to the University regularly? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_  
 Daily? \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Have you used the "free" parking formerly available through YURA? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_  
 Daily \_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do (did) you continue to teach undergraduate students after retirement? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_  
 How recently did you teach undergraduates? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many courses do (did) you teach per year? ½ \_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_ 1½ \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do (did) you teach graduate course(s)? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_  
 Regularly Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_  
 Occasionally Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

9. Do (did) you supervise graduate students?  
 Doctor's Level Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ (if YES, how many? \_\_\_\_\_) Active? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Master's Level Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ (if YES, how many? \_\_\_\_\_) Active? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Do (did) you serve on graduate supervisory or examining committees? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_  
 How recently? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many in total? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you attend cultural events or recreational activities at York? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

12. Do you now have (or have you had at any point since retirement) a research grant administered by the University?

Internal? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

External? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

13. Do (did) you attend professional meetings or conferences? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

14. If "yes" are (were) you identified as affiliated with York University? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

15. Have you received funds from York University to defray costs of attending such meetings?

Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

16. Are (were) you active in a professional association? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

As an officer or committee chair? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

As an editor or reviewer? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

In some other capacity? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

17. Are (have) you been active in the outside community? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

If "yes" are you identified as being affiliated with York University? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

18. Do (did) you make other administrative or service contributions to the University? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

Please specify (use the back page if necessary)

19. Do you receive a PEA (Professional Expense Allowance)? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_

20. Have you published (acknowledging your affiliation with York University)?

a book or books? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_

journal articles? Y\_\_\_N\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_

other (please specify what kind of publication)

21. Have you undertaken public lectures, readings, performances, or other presentations in which your affiliation with York University is acknowledged?

Please specify

22. Do you have office space at the University? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 Shared space? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 Single space? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_
23. (a) Do you have a York e-mail address? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 (b) Is it listed in York's e-mail list (<http://starcraft.ccs.yorku.ca/atlas/servlet/atlas?>)? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 (c) Is there a computer with an ether-drop in the office you use? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 (direct plug-in to York's Computer System)
24. (a) Do you have access to a York telephone? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 (b) If you're not there can someone take messages? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 (c) Do you have voice mail? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 (d) Do you pay for phone or voice mail yourself? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_
25. Can you obtain assistance from York or departmental support services? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_
26. Do you have research facilities (lab or other facility) at York University? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_
27. Do you make use of one of the York University research centres? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_
28. Do you use any of the York University libraries? Y\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_  
 How frequently? (please specify)

29. What could York University do to encourage your continuing participation in the University community?

30. Are there activities you would be prepared to perform for or on behalf of the University that are currently left undone—or which you believe could benefit from your help?

31. Are there services or functions that you think that the University could provide for you that are not currently available to you?

Please reply by February 20, 2004

Mail responses to ARF, c/o YUFA, 5024 TEL  
 York University  
 TORONTO, ON  
 Canada M3J 1P3