

York University Retirees' Association

Annual General Meeting

November 1, 2024

YURA AGM

November 1, 2024

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.

Welcoming Remarks

**Dr. Laina Bay-Cheng,
Vice-President,
Equity, People & Culture
York University**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Glen Jones

Dr. Glen A. Jones, Professor of Higher Education, and former dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, holds the Ontario Research Chair in Postsecondary Education Policy and Measurement, and is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Canadian and International Higher Education.

He is the author of more than 150 papers in the field of higher education. His research and teaching interests focus on higher education policy, governance and academic work. His recent books explore governance in higher education, international education and Canadian public policy, and the contribution of higher education and knowledge to innovation, among other related topics.

Dr. Jones is a past president of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education and a former editor of the Canadian Journal of Higher Education. He received the Distinguished Research Award from the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education in 2001 and their Distinguished Member Award in 2011. He received an honorary degree from the University of Manitoba in 2018.

He has won awards for his research from the Canadian Bureau on International Education and the Council on International Higher Education (ASHE) in the U.S. He has held Visiting Professor appointments at the University of Hong Kong, the University of the West Indies, Beijing Normal University, Fudan University and he was an Erasmus Mundus Visiting Scholar at the University of Oslo.

Glen Jones has held a range of administrative positions and has received several awards for his contributions to academic leadership. He is currently a member of the Alberta government Minister's Advisory Committee on Higher Education and Skills.



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

York University Retirees' Association

**Annual General Meeting
November 1, 2024**

Chair/Moderator: Steve Dranitsaris

Agenda

1. Remarks from Co-Presidents
2. Minutes of AGM of Oct. 27, 2023
3. Business Arising
4. Treasurer & Registrar's Report
5. Executive Committee Membership 2024-2025
6. YURA Activities
 - a) Newsletter
 - b) YURA Web Site
 - c) Events
 - d) Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops
 - e) 2023 Charity Challenge
 - f) Student Awards
7. Pension Fund Board of Trustees
8. All University Pension Committee (AUCP)
9. YU-CARE Executive Committee (York University Centre for Aging Research & Education)
10. Retirement Planning Centre Advisory Board
11. ARFL (Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians at York University)
12. CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada)
13. AROHE (Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education)
14. Omnibus Resolution:
To Approve Minutes and Treasurer's Report
To Accept All Other Reports, and
To Affirm Executive Committee for 2024-25
15. Other Business
16. Adjournment

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

1. Remarks from the Co-Presidents

Diane Woody and Steve Dranitsaris

2. Minutes of AGM of October 27, 2023

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

3. Business Arising

- Most items arising from the 2023 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 2022-23**
- **Statement of Financial Position, 2023-24
(unaudited), showing 2022-23 (audited)**
- **Statement of Revenue & Expenses, 2023-24
(unaudited) showing 2022-23 (audited)**
- **Proposed Budget, 2024-25**

Melody King, Treasurer & Registrar

To the Members of the York University Retirees Association

January 9, 2024

I have reviewed the accompanying Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expense for the year ended September 30, 2023. 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

**Statement of Financial Position
as of 30 September 2024**

	Audited 2022-23	Unaudited 2023-24
ASSETS		
Alterna Chequing	\$ 24,941	\$ 12,375
Alterna Savings and Shares	7,145	7,577
Alterna Term Deposits	20,000	20,000
Petty Cash	200	200
Prepaid Expense (Courtesy Account)	1,499	746
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>53,785</u>	\$ <u>40,897</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 275	
Deferred Revenue		
Prepaid Membership Fees 23-24	8,925	
Prepaid Membership Fees 24-25 and Beyond		\$ 7,625
Prepaid Contributions to Charity Challenge	260	620
	\$ <u>9,460</u>	\$ <u>8,245</u>
ACCUMULATED CONTRIBUTIONS		
Balance October 1st	\$ 42,273	\$ 44,325
Prior Period Adjustments		
Contributions	2,052	(11,673)
Balance Sep 30th	\$ <u>44,325</u>	\$ <u>32,652</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & ACCUMULATED CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ <u>53,785</u>	\$ <u>40,897</u>

**Statement of Revenue and Expenses
for the period 1 Oct 2023 to 30 Sep 2024**

	Audited Actual 2022-23	Unaudited Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24
REVENUE			
Membership Fees	\$ 12,062.50	\$ 11,325.00	\$ 11,500
Membership Fees paid as Arrears	100.00		
Savings, GIC Interest and Shares	778.73	931.47	
RTO Affiliation Program Rebate	112.43	133.73	
Total Revenue	\$ 13,053.66	\$ 12,390.20	\$ 11,500

**Statement of
Revenue &
Expenses
1 Oct 2023 to
30 Sep 2024
*cont'd***

	Audited Actual 2022-23	Unaudited Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24
EXPENSES			
Awards			
Graduate Student Endowment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 3,000
CEC-Access to Post Secondary	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000
Events			
AGM	150.00	4,293.39	5,000
CURAC Conference	-	1,017.20	1,500
Charity Challenge	2,044.37	610.00	800
Members Events	270.07	617.76	2,000
Memberships			
AROHE (USD \$120)	169.93	176.17	300
CURAC	300.00	300.00	300
Administration			
Audit	150.00	150.00	150
Bank Service Charges	10.00	18.00	20
Gifts, Honoraria	250.00	100.00	500
Liability Insurance	989.74	989.74	1,200
Office Computers (2)	2,788.00		
Office Supplies	33.88	181.92	500
Photocopying, Postage, Printing	320.73	86.39	530
Telephone	525.25	622.98	700
Total Expense	\$ 11,001.97	\$ 14,063.55	\$ 18,500
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES		\$ (1,673.35)	\$ (7,000)
Transfer to Graduate Student Endowments		\$ (10,000.00)	
Contributions (Statement of Financial Position)	\$ 2,051.69	\$ (11,673.35)	

2024-25 Proposed Budget

	Unaudited Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Proposed Budget 2024-25
REVENUE			
Membership Fees	\$ 11,325.00	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500
Savings, Term Deposit Interest & Shares	931.47		800
RTO Affiliation Program Rebate	133.73		
Total Revenue	\$ 12,390.20	\$ 11,500	\$ 12,300

2024-25
Proposed
Budget
cont'd

	Unaudited		Proposed
	Actual		Budget
	2023-24		2023-24
			2024-25
EXPENSES			
Awards			
Graduate Student Endowment	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 3,000	
CEC-Access to Post Secondary	2,000.00	2,000	\$ 2,000
Events			
AGM	4,293.39	5,000	4,500
CURAC Conference	1,017.20	1,500	2,000
Charity Challenge	610.00	800	500
Members Events	617.76	2,000	1,930
Memberships			
AROHE	176.17	300	250
CURAC	300.00	300	300
Administration			
Audit	150.00	150	150
Bank Service Charges	18.00	20	20
Gifts, Honoraria	100.00	500	400
Liability Insurance	989.74	1,200	1,200
Office Supplies	181.92	500	250
Photocopying, Postage, Printing	86.39	530	100
Telephone	622.98	700	700
Total Expense	\$ 14,063.55	\$ 18,500	\$ 14,300
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER (EXPENSES)	\$ (1,673.35)	\$ (7,000)	\$ (2,000)

5. Affirmation of YURA Executive Committee membership, 2024-25

**YORK UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2024-25
TO BE AFFIRMED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 14**

Continuing

Marla Chodak: Secretary (2023-25)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Renewing

Steve Dranitsaris: Co-President non-faculty (2024-26)

Rosanna Furgiuele: Member-at-large (2024-26)

Melody King: Treasurer (2024-26)

Stan Shapson: Member-at-large (2024-25)

New Members

Cathy Boyd-Withers: Member-at-large (2024-26)

Harvey Skinner: Member-at-large (2024-26)

Marc Wilchesky: Member-at-large (2024-26)

For Information

Ex-Officio

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)

Steve Glassman: Editor, YURA Newsletter

David Leyton-Brown: Retirement Planning Centre representative

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

Donna Smith: All University Pension Committee representative

Retiring

Jane Grant: Member-at-large (2018-24)

David Leyton-Brown: Member-at-large (2018-24)

Donna Smith Member-at-large (2017-24)

6. YURA Activities

- a) Newsletter**
- b) YURA Web Site**
- c) Events**
- d) Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshops**
- e) 2024 Charity Challenge**
- f) Student Awards**

YURA Newsletter Report

Steve Glassman & Richard Weisman

- **Anne-Marie Ambert** edited 49 issues over 13 years, from 2012-2024. She also created the Person to Person (PTP) 'informal' bulletin
- We commend her for her years of very valuable service to the retirees' association.
- The PTP has been retired with Anne-Marie stepping down. Does any member want to champion the return of PTP?
- We do encourage visiting the web site as it is updated weekly with news and coming events of interest. But no funnies!
- YURA's official publication, the **YURA Newsletter** was published 4 times during 2024.
- The Fall 2024 issue #68 was published by incoming co-editors Steve Glassman and Richard Weisman
- We look forward to suggestions, feedback from our membership, and of course contributions. We can be contacted at glassman@yorku.ca or rweisman@yorku.ca

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.

We continue to make more effective use of the YURA Events Calendar on the web site's frontpage. This calendar lists YURA events, other York University events and online events of other retiree associations and universities open to YURA members, and public events of community organizations on topics that are likely of interest to YURA members.

During the past year, we updated many photos on the web site, including a new photo collage or "banner" at the top of the home page. The web site contains most everything you need to know about YURA, membership information and privileges, events and programs, and a section called "Retiring at York" which contains links to Pension & Benefits, retiree benefits booklets, other university retiree associations, and a guide to government web sites.

Front Page of the YURA Web Site



Popular Links ▾



York University Retirees' Association

Home ▾ About YURA ▾ Membership ▾ Events and Programs ▾ Retiring at York ▾

CONTACT



York University Retirees' Association

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



Members of the 2024 YURA Executive Committee

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

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

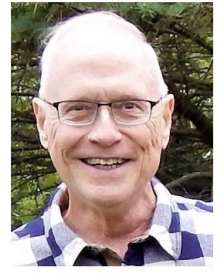


Diane Beelen Woody

As YURA co-presidents we welcome you to the YURA website; here you will find information about our organization and its events and activities, and a wealth of information about social outings as well as learning 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 close to 500 retired staff and faculty members.

YURA has an office on campus in the Lorna Marsden Honour Court and we invite members to drop in during office hours (Tues/Wed/Thurs between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., September through June). We thank our Office Volunteers who are currently assisting us with implementing a process for Records Management. We are deeply grateful to our co-officers, Secretary Marla Chodak and Treasurer Melody King, and to all the members of our hard-working Executive Committee for their . . .

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



Steve Dranitsaris

Learn More



Member Privileges

Join YURA

Renew Your Membership

Health Care Planning As We Age

Nov 5 – Nov 20 – Dec 3

While none of us like to think of serious health challenges or end of life issues before we are confronted with them directly, planning in advance and communication about our wishes will make the path forward smoother for ourselves and for our loved ones. Over the next month, YURA is pleased to host a series of webinars for our members put on by the Greater Toronto Area chapter of Dying with Dignity Canada.

Please note that we have chosen different times for the presentations in the hope that all members will be able to attend at least one session if they wish to. Each session will entail a 30 min presentation followed by a 30 min period for questions and discussion. Details about Zoom links to access the webinars will be sent by email to our members in the near future.

Advance Care Planning – Tuesday, November 5 at 10:00 AM

It's never too early to start thinking about your health care options, to articulate your wants and needs for a time when you are not able to speak for yourself. If something unexpected were to happen tomorrow, what care would you want to receive – or not receive? These decisions are challenging and this session will help you understand why you need an Advance Care Plan, how to select a substitute decision maker and how to create your own plan.

This session will be presented by **Denyse Burns**. Denyse is the founder of Madison-Burns & Associates, a Toronto firm specializing in executive coaching, communication and Leadership consulting. She is also an End-of-Life Doula.



7 Keys to Navigating a Life-Changing Diagnosis – Wednesday, November 20 at 2:00 PM

This presentation is based on the book *Hope For The Best Plan For The Rest* by palliative care physician Dr. Sammy Winemaker and prominent researcher Dr. Hsien Seow. The presentation sets out ways for you and your caregivers to navigate a life-changing diagnosis. It provides a roadmap for thinking about, talking about and managing any diagnosis – these strategies will increase your awareness and confidence, and empower anyone in this demanding situation cope better. You will learn how to:

YURA Events Calendar

23 OCT Scholars' Hub @ Home – Trump's Mail-in Voting Opposition and Canadians' Trust in the System

24 OCT Can You Recognize a Scam when you See One? Cyber Fraud and Personal Security Insights

30 OCT Scholars' Hub @ Home – Halloween's Complex History

01 NOV YURA Annual General Meeting & Luncheon

05 NOV Health Care Planning As We Age: Advance Care Planning

08 NOV Doctors Without Borders: Then and Now

12 NOV YURA Café



maximize their performance, potential and engagement to enhance the impact of their leadership.

Leith has worked with athletes who have won Olympic gold medals, with Paralympians, and with teams who have become Commonwealth of Independent States champions. Business people and artists are also part of her consulting practice. In

addition to consulting, Leith's special interests include beekeeping.

Dr. Glen Jones to Speak at 2024 YURA AGM

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the York University Retirees' Association will be held on Friday, November 1st.



Dr. Glen A. Jones

This year's guest speaker will be Dr. Glen A. Jones, Professor of Higher Education, and former dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Dr. Jones holds the Ontario Research Chair in Postsecondary Education Policy and Measurement, and he is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Canadian and International Higher Education.

Dr. Jones is a past president of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education and a former editor of the Canadian Journal of Higher Education. He has held visiting professorships in several countries and has received numerous honours, including the Distinguished Research Award from the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education in 2001 and their Distinguished Member Award in 2011. He is regarded as a leader in education with considerable insight on both the current state and future direction of higher education in Canada, North America and beyond.

For more information about our guest speaker, please [click here](#).

The AGM on Friday, November 1st will again be held in the Second Student Centre at the Keele

York University Retirees' Association

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 \(CURAC\)](#)

[Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education \(AROHE\)](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities for YURA Members](#)

[YURA Newsletter Current Issue](#)

[AROHE Newsletter – Current Issue Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education](#)

← Quick Links on Web Site Homepage

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/>

← Links to Current Benefits Booklets for retirees of all employee groups

Events & Activities – Report to the YURA AGM

Diane Woody

Focus of YURA activities and events:

- i) to provide opportunities for learning and discovery
- ii) to promote strong connections with York University and amongst our members.

To achieve the broad goals of:

- raising the visibility of retirees as valued members of the York University community and
- supporting our membership in navigating the myriad dimensions of retirement.

continued...

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

- a) YURA Café, hosted by Fran Wilkinson
- b) Connections with York: YU-CARE, Charity Challenge Walk
- c) Outings/Events: Roy Thomson Hall, York Observatory, Sunnybrook Park to Glendon Campus Walk, “Tea and Tour” of Queen’s Park
- d) YURA Web Site for learning opportunities with CURAC, AROHE, York Circle and Scholars’ Hub
- e) Our thanks to Jane Grant, Pat Murray, Donna Smith, Sheila Forshaw and Debbie Hansen.

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. New retiree volunteers are always welcome.
- Workshops are organized and scheduled by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) at the common convenience of all retiree participants.
- Our intended workshop in the spring of 2024 was a casualty of the labour disruption. We are working with FGS on a possible workshop this November, and as usual, one in the spring of 2025

2024 Charity Challenge Report

Sheila Forshaw and Debbie Hansen

- Thirteen members of the York University Retirees' Association, accompanied by members of University staff, walked 5 km around the Keele Campus on October 1st in support of the food insecurity on campus.
- More than \$16,000 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 assist with student food support can still be made at: <https://www.yorku.ca/alumniandfriends/give/> [Select: Designation: Other: Student Food Bank]*
- 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 2024, YURA's goal has been to raise funds to assist the YFS Student Food Bank, the Glendon food Bank, as well as the "open fridge" and grocery card programs. Responses to a Campus Well-being Survey conducted in the spring of 2023 indicated that one in four students struggles to afford food.
- 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.
- The 2024 Charity Walk was well publicized through Y-File and on the University's news feed on the LCD screens located in buildings throughout the campus.

2024 Charity Challenge Report

- The 5 km event on October 1st was organized by YURA members Sheila Forshaw, Debbie Hansen (2024 YURA Charity Challenge team captain).
- Other fundraising team members were Steve Dranitsaris, Peter Victor, Agnes Fraser and Donna Smith.
- YURA participants who joined the team for the walk included Gwyn Buck, Marla Chodak, Grace Chui, Amina Hussain, Claudia Hungerson, Lynn Taylor and Diane Woody.
- Other walk participants included Steven Chuang and Art McDonald of Athletics & Recreation and Marisa Barlas of the Advancement Office.
- YURA Executive members Marla Chodak and Jane Grant were on hand to host the group at YURA's office in the Lorna Marsden Honour Court following the walk.
- This is the sixth year that YURA has taken part in the Charity Challenge. Last year, a total of \$20,000 was raised in support of the YFS Food Support Centre.



Thanks to the fundraisers, the participants and the donors!

Student Awards Report

*Sheila Forshaw
Debbie Hansen*

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-raised endowments cover the full amount of each award expendable.

Student Name	Program	Year	Award Amount
William W. Small Award			
<i>Taha</i>	Faculty of Science, B.Sc., Hons. Chemistry	2023/24	\$1,700
<i>Mohamad</i>	Faculty of Health, B.Sc. Global Health	2023/24	\$1,700
		Total	\$3,400
YURA Mature Student Bursary			
<i>Dhurgham</i>	Faculty of Health, B.A. Hons., Psychology	2023/24	\$1,200
<i>Believe</i>	Faculty of Health, B.H.S., Hons. Dbl. Major Health Studies & International Development Studies	2023/24	\$1,200
<i>Azza</i>	Glendon College/College/Collège universitaire Glendon, B.A., Bilingual, Psychology	2023/24	\$1,200
		Total	\$3,600
YURA Graduate Student Award			
<i>Angelica</i>	Faculty of Graduate Studies, M.A. Sociology	2023/24	\$1,500
<i>Ilana</i>	Faculty of Graduate Studies, M.A. Socio-Legal Studies	2023/24	\$1,500
<i>Rita</i>	Schulich School of Business, M.B.A., MBA/JD Joint	2023/24	\$1,500
		Total	\$4,500

7. Pension Fund Board of Trustees

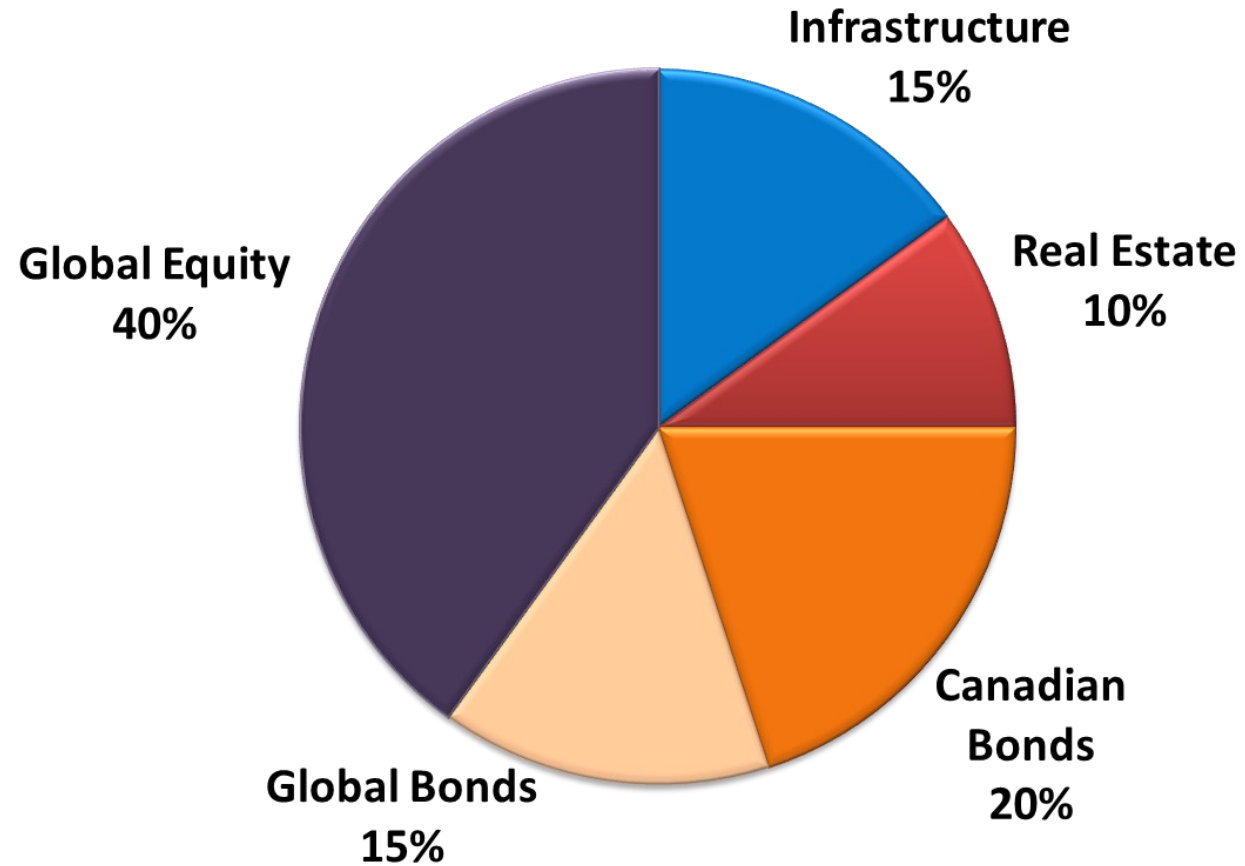
Bruno Bellissimo

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

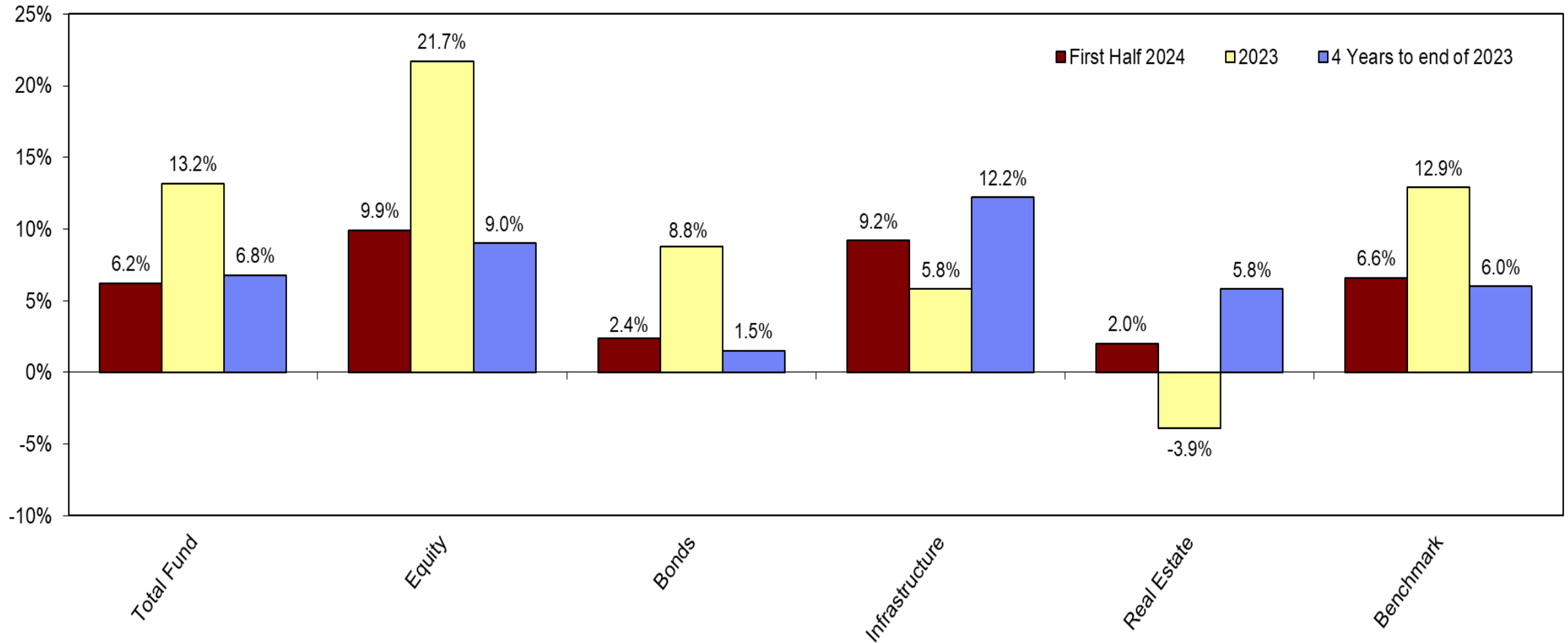
continued...

York University Pension Fund Asset Mix Policy



* At June 30, 2024

York University Pension Fund Investment Performance Summary



Pension Fund - Additional Resources or Questions

- Pension Investments

<https://www.yorku.ca/finance/pension-investments/>

fundinfo@yorku.ca

- Pension Benefits

<https://yulink-new.yorku.ca/group/yulink/pension-and-benefits>

askpb@yorku.ca

8. 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 and supported by York staff representatives.
- AUPC met in November 2023 and May 2024 with the next meeting scheduled for October 10, 2024.
- The Pension Plan actuary, AON, provided its annual update on the pension valuation at the May meeting.
- The focus of AUPC's agenda for 2023/24 continues to be the funding level of the Non-Reduction Reserve (NRR) which guarantees pension payments to retirees remain constant, regardless of the market return on the funds in the York Pension Plan. The calculation of the NRR at time of retirement is a continuing discussion with no decision made concerning any changes.

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

Rosanna Furgiuele

YU-CARE Executive Board Report

*Rosanna Furgiuele,
YURA Representative on the YU-CARE Executive Board*

YU-CARE Certificate in Aging

- The Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Aging, offered to students enrolled in degree programs in the Faculty of Health, brings together students from across different programs (Kinesiology and Health Science, Psychology, Health Studies, Nursing) at the 3000 and 4000 levels to engage in a concentrated and inter-disciplinary study with the underlying theme of aging.

continued...

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- The YU-CARE Certificate in Aging involves extensive research on understanding ageism, aging policy, practices to promote healthy aging, and approaches to aging equity. YURA members are often invited to participate in studies and research projects.
- During the past few months, the Executive Board has focused on a revisioning of the Aging Certificate with the hope of creating a two-tiered certificate program. One tier will be self-directed allowing the student to take a selection of IHST (Interdisciplinary Health Studies) courses, thus providing more flexibility. The other tier is based on a pre-selection of required courses.

continued...

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Seminars

- Seminars are held (via ZOOM) throughout the year. Two types of YU-CARE seminars are offered.
 - i) Aging Research Collaboratory Seminars presented by employees of York University.
 - ii) Aging in the City Seminars presented by speakers from outside York University.
- These events are free, but registration is required. Information regarding these seminars is available on the YURA website.

continued...

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VoltAge Student Symposium

- The VoltAge Student Symposium, held last year for the first time, will be repeated this year on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025.**
- Undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral trainees have the opportunity to share their research in areas related to aging by submitting multimedia projects in various categories: infographics, podcasts and short videos. Prizes are awarded for the best submissions.
- YURA members are invited to serve as judges in this competition.

10. 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 June 19, and the Fall 2024 meeting has not yet been scheduled.

continued...

York University Retirement Centre Advisory Board

page 2

- The Retirement Services office within York's Pension & Benefits department has produced a Retirement Planning Guide with plenty of helpful information and answers to common questions from employees about retirement, pension, post-retirement benefits, etc.

https://retire.info.yorku.ca/files/2021/02/2021_22-Retirement-Planning-Guide.pdf?x89967

- Seminars - The Pension & Benefits department provides a wide range of “e-seminars” about pensions, financial planning, understanding pension statements, taxation, investing, planning for retirement, post-retirement benefits and other related topics. Updated information on these webinars can be found at:

<https://retire.info.yorku.ca/e-seminars/>

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Number of one-on-one consultations

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	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	12	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	28	24	16	295
2024	29	18	34	41	31								153
		Covid period											

continued...

Active Employees in Pension Plan by Age Group

	Age Range	Number of Employees in Pension Plan			
	70	42	updated june 2024		
	66-69	305			
	60-65	615			
	55-59	661			
	45-54	1460			
	under 45	1907			

continued...

Retirements

	Total	CPM	YUSA	YUFA/OSG	1356	Other **	
2024	51	13	21	7	8	2	to May 1st
2023	146	32	51	36	7	20	
2022	177	24	61	48	20	24	
2021	34	4	11	10	3	6	
2020	149	27	40	51	11	20	
2019	160	29	43	45	15	28	
2018	171	24	51	43	20	33	
2017	164	21	37	57	13	36	
2016	157	24	40	54	8	31	
2015	165	18	45	50	5	47	
2014	155	27	51	50	8	19	
2013	125	16	25	44	11	29	
2012	116	23	31	38	7	17	

** others are made up of deferred pension plan members and other affiliations not represented here

11. 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
- ARFL Bursary for students faced with emergency family obligations
- Two annual membership meetings with a speaker
- Newsletters and email updates

The 2024 ARFL AGM: Friday November 8 online.

Eric Demers will speak on *Doctors Without Borders: Then and Now* at 1 p.m. following the AGM. YURA members are welcome. The link will be emailed to ARFL and YURA members prior to the event.

12. College and University Retiree Associations of Canada / Associations des retraités des universités et collèges du Canada



Steve Dranitsaris

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 (a report on the 2023 Benefits Survey is now available on the CURAC/ARUCC web site)
- NOTE: The CURAC/ARUCC Board's current focus is to find new ways to serve member RAs using the increasingly user-friendly virtual options.

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CURAC/ARUCC and YURA

CURAC's efforts include:

- An **annual conference** – open to all individual members of CURAC/ARUCC associations that promotes networking, sharing of best practices and learning from expert presentations
- **Information sharing: website** (www.curac.ca), **newsletters, bulletins**, and periodic **e-mails** serve as an integrated **information hub** on matters relevant to RA members.
- A **Later Life Learning initiative**, in which retiree associations from universities across Canada make online lectures and seminars being offered by either the association or its University available to retirees of all member associations
- A web site redesign with a key feature of an **events calendar** to inform members of online seminars and other events
- 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)

CURAC/ARUCC and YURA

- The annual CURAC/ARUCC AGM and conference was held at the University of Waterloo, May 22 to 24, hosted by the University of Waterloo Retirees Association. The theme of the 2024 CURAC conference was **Thriving in Retirement**.
- The program was designed to inform and inspire on topics of importance to older adults, including health and wellness, recreation and leisure, housing options, services for seniors, finance and safety and security.
- The conference offered many exceptional talks and roundtables. Several of the presentations were video recorded and are now posted for viewing on the CURAC website:
<https://curac.ca/en/library/2024-conference-highlights-and-videos>
 - Designing Your Retirement: Thriving in Life's Next Chapter
 - Aging Well with Artificial Intelligence: Possibility or Pipe Dream?
 - Eating for Vitality: Nutrient-dense Diets to Promote Physical and Cognitive Wellbeing as We Age
 - Resilience in Retirement
- The 2025 Conference will be in Montreal, co-hosted by the McGill University Retirees Association and Association des professeures et professeurs retraités de l'Université du Québec à Montréal.

QUESTIONS? sjdranit@yorku.ca or sdrano@rogers.com

CURAC Tribute Award presented to Fred Fletcher

- Fred Fletcher has made significant contributions to two retiree groups at York University and has assumed key roles at the national level within CURAC, the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada.
- He was jointly nominated for this distinguished honour by YURA and ARFL (the Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians at York University). The annual awards were announced at the 2024 Annual CURAC Conference, held at the University of Waterloo May 22 to 24.
- Since formal retirement in 2006, Fred has been a member of both YURA and ARFL, has served as Secretary of the Executive Committee of ARFL and as editor of the ARFL newsletter. For almost a decade, he has been the ARFL representative on the YURA Executive Committee, ensuring a strong connection between the two groups and the sharing of important relevant information.
- At the national level, he was elected to the CURAC Board in 2015 and chaired its Communications Committee from 2015 to 2023, served as editor of the CURAC Newsletter in 2018, as Vice-President of the CURAC Board in 2021-22, and also on the CURAC Finance, Later Life Learning, and annual conference committees.
- This summary of activities and roles provides clear evidence of Fred's strong commitment to advancing the well-being and interests of retirees at the local and national levels. He has been indefatigable in advocating for ARFL, YURA and CURAC and how each organization can support and strengthen the others.
- At the conference in Waterloo, Fred was also presented with the CURAC Appreciation Award by the Board of Directors of CURAC for his exemplary leadership to the organization.



13.



Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education

Patricia Murray

AROHE Report

- AROHE is the U.S.-based association of college and university retiree organizations, administrators and individuals seeking to serve and engage their retired faculty and staff. Its office is located at the University of California in Los Angeles. It has a volunteer Board of Directors and a half time executive director, Valerie Sutton, who starts in her new role on November 1, 2024.
- Founded in 2002, AROHE supports all phases of faculty/staff retirement through a dynamic member network that links retired faculty/staff associations, retiree and emeriti centers, and campus offices that engage retirees such as human resources, academic affairs, alumni, and advancement/development.
- YURA has been a member of AROHE for the past several years.

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- AROHE provides resources and connections to increase retirees' value to their colleges/universities, communities, and professions in the areas of philanthropy, advocacy on behalf of the institution, volunteerism, and institutional knowledge and commitment.
- Resources include:
E-newsletter; recorded webinars; workshops such a three-part virtual learning series that explores the social, psychological, and emotional aspects of transitioning to, and living in, retirement; expert/distinguished scholar presentations; conference transcripts (both virtual and in-person, etc.)
- A link to the current issue of the ***AROHE Matters E-newsletter*** is on the homepage of the YURA web site.
- <https://www.arohe.org/>

14. Omnibus Resolution

- to Approve the Minutes of 2023 AGM
- to Approve the Report of the Treasurer
- to Accept All Other Reports
- to Affirm the YURA Executive Committee membership for 2024-2025

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.





Jane Grant

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



- YURA Executive Committee member for three terms, 2018 to 2024, providing helpful input to discussion of issues and plans.
- Member of the YURA Events team; organized the theatre outings to Stratford and Shaw; also organized the virtual tour of the Allan Carswell Astronomical Observatory last March.
- Participated in a recent post-retirement benefits review.
- Assisted with the Charity Challenge walk on campus the past two years and is now a weekly volunteer in the YURA office.



David Leyton-Brown

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



- YURA Executive Committee member for three terms, 2018 to 2024.
- Represented YURA on the Retirement Planning Centre Advisory Board for six years.
- Coordinated YURA's Scholarly Presentation Skills Workshop program with the Faculty of Graduate Studies for the past five years.
- Fundraising participant in past Charity Challenge walks.
- Has agreed to remain on the YURA Executive as an ex-officio member to continue as YURA's rep on the Retirement Planning Centre Advisory Board.



Donna Smith

**Executive Committee
Member-at-large**



- YURA Executive Committee member for three (plus) terms, 2017 to 2024.
- Served on the Events Committee, including several years as chair; organized and led a number of YURA events.
- Fundraising member of YURA's Charity Challenge team annually.
- Contributed to YURA's administration relating to membership processing and records management; led a recent post-retirement benefits review; and has supported the YURA membership database for the past two years.
- Represented YURA members and all other retirees on the All University Pension Committee (AUPC) for seven years – and has agreed to continue as YURA's representative on the AUPC as an ex-officio appointee of the YURA Executive.



Thank you !

16. Adjournment

*Thank you for attending the
2024 Annual General Meeting*