

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

John Anderson

This past year the University of Victoria Retirees Association maintained its active social and intellectual events schedules, increased its membership, and maintained its positive financial situation. In order to do all of these things, we rely on our volunteers to whom the Association owes an enormous amount of gratitude. We are also helped in many ways by the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health – we have office space in the IALH and the staff is very generous in providing help and support for our work. In addition, the Office of UVic Alumni Affairs provides our organizational link to the University and its Director is actively engaged in supporting our initiatives.

Some of the highlights of our past year, which will be presented in more detailed reports to follow, include:

Membership

- The UVRA has now surpassed the 700 mark in number of members.

Communications & Office

- Our new website is now on-line at uvic.ca/retirees
- We publish our newsletter – *Grey Matters!* – four times a year, and all but a handful are now distributed on-line.
- *Eventbrite* – an on-line registration & ticketing service – has been incorporated into the operations of the UVRA. It has proved to be a very effective and economical resource in operating our social and outreach activities.
- We have implemented the Records Management policy and procedures that comply with the UVic archive system and file structure.
- We hosted the tri-university Retirees Associations of BC meeting in April.

Social Events

- Four lunches with presentations:
 - November – Diwali
 - December – Christmas
 - February – Chinese New Year
 - April – Volunteer Appreciation
- Local visits:
 - Two visits to a local coffee roaster
 - Three visits to bird sanctuary – bird banding
 - Four Astronomical observatory visits

Community Outreach

- Elder Academy – we experienced a bit of a slow down in the fall with David Docherty stepping back but offered a number of events in 2018-2019:
 - June – How Food Can Affect Your Health: a 4-part series
 - January – Robert Bateman
 - January – The Aging Body: Tips to enhance its performance: a 4-part series

- February – Ocean Networks Canada: a 4-part series
- March – Artificial Intelligence developments: a 3-part series
- MasterMinds series – the 13th year of four consecutive Wednesdays in April. We work with our colleagues in the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health and University Communications to organize thought provoking presentations by UVic retirees.
- United Way: UVRA members contributed \$41 500 to this year’s campaign - ~18% of the university total.

University Outreach

- The UVRA Scholarship fund will activate this September with the award of a scholarship to a graduate student working in the field of 55+ research. We will actively encourage members to contribute to the fund in order to provide two scholarships for the fall term of 2020.

In Progress

- Developing the schedule for upcoming social and intellectual events.
- University office support: We are working through our University linkage – the Alumni Relations Office – to secure some part-time office support to augment our volunteers.
- Elder Academy:
 - We have reconfigured the committee structure of the Elder Academy: A Program Committee to manage the administrative aspects of the Academy; and an Advisory Board to identify topics and individuals for Elder Academies. Jane Birkbeck has agreed to chair the Program Committee and Peter Liddell is the chair of the Advisory Board.
 - We are working with colleagues in the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health to re-position the Elder Academy within an academic unit as proposed in the initial design of 2013.
- Co-hosting – with UBC and SFU – the annual conference of the College and Universities Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC). The conference will be held May 20 -22, 2020 at UBC.

The Association relies solely on volunteers for its activities and direction. Two members of the Board are stepping down this year: Melvin Klassen who has served for 10 years offering sage advice and consultation on information technology issues amongst other responsibilities; and Grant Hughes who has served as Association Secretary for the past 4 years and spearheaded the development of a rational archival system for the Association – we owe them both a debt of gratitude.

Given our reliance on volunteerism, I ask you to please consider actively engaging in Association activities. Volunteer activities include:

- The generation of ideas for social events, Elder Academies, site visits, MasterMinds
- Working in the Association office to organize and administer Association activities
- Serving on the Board
- Contributing to our newsletter – *Grey Matters!*

Thank you for your continued support of the UVRA and have a wonderful summer.