

University Club Report

In the difficult, uncertain first week of the COVID virus, the UClub Board made the decision to try to continue to pay the core staff, despite the closure on March 19th. The board was aware that the reserve fund would be depleted quite quickly, so the Federal Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) was a welcome subsidy when it kicked in later in the summer. The Club began take-out only service (April 27th) and indoor and patio dining (June 9th) as each was permitted, under strict virus protocols. Since March 31st 2021, only patio service is allowed, which, of course is heavily weather-dependent. Since a high proportion of the Club's revenue comes from events (special member evenings, weddings, celebrations of life, etc.) the restrictions have decimated that source of income. Overall, in fiscal year 2020-21 income was 70% less than 2019-20.

Nevertheless, member and event organizers' interest is clearly there. When events were allowed before March 31st, many sold out, albeit under severely reduced participant numbers: "sold out" used to mean 100-200+ attending; under COVID protocols that meant 50. As an example, for Mothers Day 2018, 214 were served; in 2019, 270; 2020 was cancelled; in 2021, 67 were served (patio almost at capacity, despite dull weather). The interim Manager, Debra Koski, reports regular queries about previously postponed events being rescheduled when it becomes possible. Meantime, there are 15 or so tables on the deck available for members and guests to enjoy.