



Annual Report

2024

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Introduction

The Constitution of the University of Regina Women calls for an annual general meeting (AGM) to be held in the spring of each year. The main purpose of this meeting is to select officers (members of the Executive). In addition, the Constitution provides for alteration or amendment by majority vote of members at a regular business meeting, and the AGM has served this purpose. The Treasurer also provides an annual financial statement for the information and approval of members of the organization.

A copy of the Annual Report is provided electronically to all members and in hard copy to those who request it in that form. A hard copy of the Annual Report will be available at the meeting.

This annual report was compiled by the secretary, Barbara de Vlieger, using reports provided by the members of the current executive.

Reports from our Executive Committee

President

I would like to thank the Executive who have worked hard to keep the University of Regina Women an active organization and for providing your support and advice. Thank you to the outgoing members who have completed their terms: Audrey Perra – Membership and Maureen Knight – Special Events.

The University of Regina Women Welcome Back, held on September 20, 2023 was a great success. The new members who joined were interested in the many Interest Groups being offered. We celebrated the 60th Anniversary of University of Regina Women with an anniversary cake. Thanks goes to Katherine Bergman for cutting the cake and arranging the event.

On January 16, 2024 we visited the Island Tranquility Floral Display at the Regina Floral Conservatory, thanks to Maureen Knight and Linda Paul. It was a wonderful escape from the crispy winter temperatures. Thank you to Kay Antrobus for her very informative talk about volunteering at the Floral Conservatory.

I would like to thank the members who generously donated to the University of Regina Women Bursary. This is a wonderful way that we can help a female student with her studies.

I am looking forward to an eventful 2024 – 2025 term.

Mary Okumura

Past President

It is indeed an honor to be able to annually offer an award to a deserving woman to attend the University of Regina. I am pleased to announce that our membership generously donated \$1,945 to the bursary since the Welcome Back 2023 event to fiscal year end 2024. In addition, at the AGM, May 25, 2023, a motion was passed to increase the annual bursary from \$1,200 to \$1,500. In light of the generous donations provided by our membership, and our current financial balance of \$6,650 held in trust by the University for our bursaries, and our healthy bank account, we are able to support this increase. We concur that today's students face financial strains on their budgets and we are happy to be in a position to help.

We had singled out Ruth Heinrichs as the honoree for the 2022-23 Bursary, and she in turn had defined the criteria for the selection as: a student in any language study in the Faculty of Arts. To our surprise, the University has advised that there were no applicants so that bursary will be posted again with some adjustments to make it clearer and more appealing to future educators. Confirmation of this step will be reported at the AGM.

At our AGM in May 2023, the Executive announced that Catherine Arthur-MacDonald be singled out, posthumously, as the honoree for the 2023-24 Bursary. Catherine was an active member of U of R Women for over ten years; in her memory, the 2023-24 U of R Women's Bursary was to be awarded to a female student in the Faculty of Education, majoring in Special Education. Unfortunately, due to an error or misunderstanding in the University Awards Office, the bursary was not posted/publicized.

We will be meeting with the University in the near future to seek resolution of these issues and look forward to providing a bursary to deserving women in the upcoming year/s. The resolution will be reported at the AGM. A recommendation will be made regarding nominating an honoree for 2024-25.

Carmelle Beaudry

Vice-President

The annual Welcome Back Reception was held on September 20th in Room 100, Luther College. The event was very well attended and there was a lot of energy in the room. There was a lot of excitement as people reconnected with their colleagues and friends and welcomed the many new members who attended the event and have joined our group. By all accounts a good time was had by all.

We would like to express our gratitude to Luther College, our host, for their ongoing support and commitment to our group. As usual the food and service exceeded expectations. Thank you to the staff at Luther College. We look forward to many more events.

Have a great year!

Katherine Bergman

Membership Officer

In 2023-2024 our membership is 50. This is a 14% increase from the previous year of 43 members. An unofficial review suggests 'word of mouth' was instrumental for the increase. But we have not yet recovered to pre-covid levels. There are a few avenues we could take to grow.

One way would be to adjust the membership eligibility such that members are not only U of R staff, alumni or wed to either of these groups. Rather we could add another category. A second way would be to launch a recruitment campaign. If we choose to go this route there is an opportunity to put our face forward by piggybacking with the 50th Anniversary celebrative events the university will be hosting throughout the coming year.

If we intend to keep our membership strong it is imperative we attract new members.

Audrey Perra

Communications Officer

Two newsletters as well as invitations to events have been circulated to the membership by email. The website has been updated.

The email distribution list is up to date.

The material for the Annual Meeting is prepared by the secretary and distributed to membership in advance of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Tomkins, Communications Office

Events Officer

Your social committee for U of R Women decided to warm up at the Floral Conservatory for a delightful winter visit on January 16th. We had an excellent turnout (approx. 25 members) enjoying the flowers, visiting and enjoying a cup of tea.

When the Conservatory closed many of us went to The Lobby where **Kay Antrobus**, a volunteer at the Conservatory for years, spoke about the Conservatory and her role in their volunteer group. Food and drinks of our choice were involved.

Linda and I arranged a visit to the new and improved Regina Humane Society facility for April 25th. The facility and tour were greatly appreciated.

Maureen Knight and Linda Paul

Interest Groups Officer

We promote various social activities for new and long-time members. The activities offer opportunities for women affiliated with the University of Regina to remain active and join other women in fun activities. During our Welcome Back Reception held at Luther College last September, members were invited to register to Clubs of their choice.

Our clubs are led by our dedicated conveners. The convener position for the Movie and Coffee Club is vacant. Please let Louise McCullough know if you would like to accept the position.

A very big thank you to Mary Okumura, Kay Antrobus, Cara Driscoll, Sheila McKague and Tatiana Levit for taking the time to convene the following clubs:

Curling: Convener: Mary Okumura

Curling is a great activity to make Winter more enjoyable. The season runs from October to December for the first square. The second square is from January to March. The Matinee Ladies Curling League curls at the Callie Curling Club at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. We don't Hurry Hard, we just have fun.

Tuesday morning Walking, Convener: Mary Okumura

The Tuesday Morning group walks around Wascana Lake, which is a wonderful way to start your day. We meet at the Willow Island parking lot at 9:30 a.m. All walkers are welcome to join. You don't need to be fluent in « Goose Language » to enjoy the outing. We just walk around them and let the birds have the path.

Friday noon hour Walking, Convener: Sheila McKague

A second group of walkers meets during the noon hour on Fridays in front of the U of R Library doors for a walk and some good conversation in the vicinity of the university.

Book club #1, Convener: Cara Driscoll

We meet the third Monday of the month. Participants choose a book and do some background on the author and the book. Conversation is always lively and adds to the appreciation of the book.

Book Club #2, Convener: Tatiana Levit

The members of Book Club #2 meet in person the first Tuesday of the month. I am grateful to our members who are quick to act and offer their homes for the group on short notice when a sudden change is required. This year, we read *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear, *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout and *The Housekeeper* by Alex Hay. We are reading *The Lion of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis in the month of April. In May, we are planning to have our annual BYOB meeting (Bring Your Own Book) to present to others!

Culinary Explorers, Convener: Kay Antrobus

The Culinary Explorers continues to go to interesting places to eat. Our last one was Thai food at Siam, and our next one is Nikki's café. About 10 of us attend and have a good time.

Gourmet Cooking Club, Convener: Cara Driscoll

The group meets once a month with 2 participants hosting and preparing the meal while the rest of us relax and enjoy: fine food, good friends, and stimulating conversation. What could be better! In December we usually have a pot luck with partners invited. This year it was postponed to January. Duna Barber has us out to Regina Beach for a potluck once a year- in June or September.

Monthly Brunch Club, Convener: Louise McCullough

This group meets at 10:00 a.m. at Le Macaron, Dragon Boat and Skye restaurant to name a few, on the first Saturday of each month but will move to the second Saturday of the month if there is a long weekend. This Club was created just over one year ago and is well attended.

Movie and Coffee Club, Convener: position vacant

Members of this club met on the last Friday of each month, at the Cineplex Cinema, located in the Southland Mall. After enjoying a movie together, the members would meet to discuss the movie over coffee or supper.

Le Cercle français, Convener: Louise McCullough

The members meet once a month at the McKenzie Art Gallery for coffee and casual conversation in French giving them the chance to share practice their French. We have beginning to advanced levels and everyone has the chance to participate or just listen.

Louise McCullough, Interest Groups Convener

U of R Women
2024 Annual Financial Report
April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Balance at RBC Bank as of April 23, 2023:	5875.23
Revenue: AGM dinner 2023 (Luther College)	835.00
Membership fees 2023/24	1470.30
Deposit interest	<u>.03</u>
Total revenue as of March 31, 2024	\$8180.56
Expenses: 1. AGM dinner May 25, 2023 (Luther College)	
a) Catering (Luther College)	1203.74
b) Honorarium (A. MacDonald)	200.00
c) Liquor license and wine	141.24
2. Welcome Back Reception Sept. 25, 2023	
a) Luther College catering	366.98
3. Bank fees	3.50
4. Administration (stamps, stationery, printing)	44.49
5. Conservatory event Feb. 2024 (flowers for speakers)	20.00
GIC (funds from chequing account)	<u>4000.00</u>
Total expenses/withdrawal as of March 31, 2024	\$5979.95
Bank balance as of March 11, 2024	\$2200.61

U of R Women Bursary Account	
Bursary donations, September 2023	\$1945.00
University of Regina Trust Fund as of their October 17, 2023 Report	\$4705.00
Total in U of R Trust Fund as of March 2024	\$6650.00

Samira McCarthy, Treasurer