



Annual Report

2025

Table of Contents

Page 2-7	Reports from Members of the Executive
Page 8	Annual Financial Statement

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

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the University of Regina. Our year started on September 25, 2024 with the Welcome Back. As a special feature, the menu included finger sandwiches and dainty trays. The U of R Women's silver tea service was used to pour the tea and coffee.

On October 22, 2024 a reception was held in recognition of the University of Regina faculty and staff at Darke Hall. The program included remarks from Arnold James, President of the University of Regina Academic & Administrative Pensioners Association; Mary Okumura, President of U of R Women; and special guest speaker, Dr. James Pitsula, author of *As One Who Serves*. Following the program, members of U of R Women served tea and coffee using the silver tea service. The guests appreciated the silver tea service.

Thanks to the members of the Executive for their hard work in keeping the U of R Women an active organization. Their support and advice are greatly appreciated.

Our bursary is a wonderful way for us to help a female student with her studies at the University of Regina. Thank you to all the members who generously donate.

I am looking forward to an eventful 2025 – 2026 term.

Mary Okumura

Past President

The U of R Women Bursary continues to be a major initiative and source of pride for our organization. Years ago, a decision was made to both promote our bursary and manage the funds and tax receipts through the University Grants and Bursaries. Due to a lack of applicants for the bursary in 2023, it was carried over to 2024.

The recipients of the two bursaries, each worth \$1,500.00, were:

Fall 2024, Honouree Ruth Heinrichs: Abigail Kachaluba who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in education with a major in Health Education and a minor in French Education.

Spring 2024, Honouree Catherine Arthur-MacDonald: Marie De Leeuw who is pursuing a bachelor's in education with a major in Social Studies Education and a minor in English.

Bursary donations, October 2024: \$1101.00

The current balance as of April 10, 2025 is \$4,801.00.

At the AGM, we will select the Honouree who will direct the area of study for our next \$1,500 annual bursary winner./

Carmelle Beaudry

Vice-President

Last year's Annual General Meeting was held on May 28th in Room 100, Luther College at the University of Regina. As it was the beginning of the 50th Anniversary year for the University of Regina we decided to take a walk down memory lane. Our speaker was the University Photographer, Don Hall, who took us on a visual tour of the University over the past 50 years as seen through the lens of the Photographer. The slide show was very well received with many people engaging and remembering colleagues and friends. and the good times shared. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Don for sharing these times with us. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed the evening.

The annual Welcome Back Reception was held on September 25th in Room 100, Luther College at the University of Regina. 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 both events. Their ongoing support and commitment to our group is very much appreciated. 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

The University of Regina Women membership for 2024-25 was 43 including the three Honorary Members. This is a slight decrease from the 50 women who were members last year since a few new members joined this year. Unfortunately, some former members moved away, and some did not renew their membership due to other commitments which made it no longer possible for them to participate in UR Women interest groups and other activities. We know this based on responses from some members following the email reminder to encourage renewals that Mary Okumura sent out in the fall. Others renewed their membership, but there were several women who did not respond.

Mary Okumura had the opportunity to speak about the history and current activities of the University of Regina Women at the 50th Anniversary Celebration for current and former University faculty, staff and alumni. This let members of the larger University community know about the organisation and encouraged them to join the group. Several people stopped by the UR Women's display at the reception held following the formal presentations. This resulted in at least one new UR alumni member joining the group and possibly others.

Membership in the organisation was opened up to include University graduates who were not connected to the University of Regina as was suggested last year. This change was posted to the website and made on the Membership Form. It could be useful to find other ways to promote the group in the coming year, though informal discussions with members continue to reveal that most have learned about the group from members they know.

I am hoping that current members will share some ideas they think might work to increase members next year. It might also be useful to look for some new interest groups and/or activities that could entice new women to join our organisation. Or to find a UR student – or class – to assist with promotion activities for 2025-26.

prepared by Kerrie Strathy, Membership Officer

Communications Officer

A newsletter 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 Officer

Events Officer

Walking the Labyrinth , Oct 7,2024

This labyrinth, established by Erin Campbell Howell, was the site of a warm sunny afternoon walk for a group of U of R women.

The group spent a couple of hours in this reflective setting. For most of us it was our first introduction to the labyrinth.

Erin provided us with information not only on her labyrinth but also the extensive global history of labyrinths.

Our walk concluded with a sharing of our experience over homemade ice cream and apple crisp. The warmth of the October sun, Erin's generosity, and her spectacular gardens made it hard for the group to leave. As one participant said: "This was a very rich experience; I thoroughly enjoyed it!"

Caliber Coffee Event, December 4, 2024

On December 4th, ten U of R women enjoyed a coffee tasting at locally run business, Caliber Coffee. Ten years in business, Caliber coffee roasts imported coffee beans, offers coffee tastings and carries a supply of coffee makers, mugs, grinders and prides itself on their sustainable approach to business.

Assistant manager, Dez Worfolk, welcomed the group and, over a 90-minute period shared their knowledge of the various coffee roasts and their preparation.

We tried the coffees, had our many questions answered and walked away not only more knowledgeable about coffee but also excited to take our new coffees home to continue enjoying them.

Visit to new Regina YWCA, March 11, 2025

In early March, the U of R Women's third outing centered on a visit to Regina's new YWCA, a truly impressive building that I did not even know had been constructed. Because of this tour, I now know it is complete and truly impressive. It was designed by LeeAnn Croft and company, a Regina architect. She and the main administrator, guided us on a most interesting tour. Part of the central area is a separate circular building for smudging and other activities. The main building surrounds this with some outdoor space between. Many rooms are for women residents, as well as ones used for sewing, crafts, and meetings plus administration etc. A large number of rooms are reserved for play schools and pre-schools for the many youngsters who attend.

About 20-25 members and guests attended this tour, followed by a dozen of us who relaxed over dinner at The Cure Kitchen and Bar. An enjoyable evening for all.

Linda Paul and Sue Mitten

Interest Groups Officer

It was a good year for our many clubs. A big thank you to Mary Okumura, Tatiana Levit, Cara Driscoll and Kay Antrobus for leading the 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.

Book club #1. Convener: Cara Driscoll

We meet the third Monday of the month. Members take turns choosing a book and hosting. The person who suggests a book presents reviews, and researches the background of the author.

Book Club #2. Convener: Tatiana Levit

The club meets the first Tuesday of the month.

This year, 2024-2025, we discussed several great books:

"Away from the Dead" by David Bergen

"Me and Miss G" by Jennifer S. Wallace

"The Widow's Guide to Dead Bastards" by Jessica Waite

"The Phoenix Crown" Book by Janie Chang and Kate Quinn

"Out of Old Saskatchewan Kitchens" by Amy Jo Ehman

"The Defector: A Novel" by Chris Hadfield

"The Other Wife" by Michael Robotham

The last meeting in May will be "BYOB" - where every member brings her favourite book of the year to present to the group.

Gourmet Cooking Club. Convener: Cara Driscoll

We generally meet once a month, excluding the summer months. We cook, serve and clean up in pairs, cooking only once per year. The rest of the year, we get to enjoy wonderful meals. Conversation is engaging and lively. 2 potlucks are organized during the year.

Le Cercle français. Convener : Louise McCullough

The group met at the MacKenzie Art Gallery once a month. Members participate in interesting conversations in French. Anyone wishing to practice their French is welcome.

Culinary Explorers. Convener: Kay Antrobus

Our eating out club meets at 6PM once/month on the third Thursday. An exception is made for the dark months of November, December and January, when we meet at 12 noon. In those months 6PM is pitch dark, making it hard to find new restaurants, and most parking lots are icy. That decision was made as a vote by the majority of attendees. We also meet during the summer months. There are about 20 members in the group, the number actually attending varies by the month.

In the past year we have gone to:

Jan – noon at the Lakeshore

Feb – Siam

Mar – Nicki's

Apr – Peking House

May – The Cottage

June – Chats

July – Memories

Aug – Afghan

Sept –Olive Garden

Oct – Hyderabad

Nov – noon – Regina Golf Course

Dec – noon –Darbar

Notice is sent out the week before by email, giving date, time, and address, and get-there instructions. Members are requested to reply if they are going. You could add your name to the list by emailing Kay at pandkantrobus@sasktel.net Restaurant suggestions are welcome.

Two of our clubs were inactive. **The Movie and Coffee club** did not have a convener and the **Saturday Brunch Club** was not active due to lack of interest and also lack of a convener.

The position of convener is not difficult but it cannot always be the same people taking many positions. Hopefully someone will step up so these two clubs may become active again.

Louise McCullough, Interest Groups Convener

U of R Women: 2025 Annual Financial Report April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Balance at RBC Bank as of April 1, 2024: \$2200.11

Revenue: AGM dinner 2024 (Luther College) \$820.00

Membership fees 2024/25 1170.00

Total revenue/bank balance as of March/24 \$4190.11

Expenses: 1. AGM dinner June 10, 2024 (Luther College)

a) Catering (Luther College) 1094.32

b) Honorarium (Don Hall) 200.00

c) Liquor licence and wine 170.00

2. Welcome Back Reception Sept. 25, 2024 (Luther College)

a) Luther College catering 742.08

3. Bank fees 3.00

4. Administration (printing 2024 AGM reports) 11.00

5. Labyrinth Tour honorarium 200.00

Total expenses/withdrawal as of March 31, 2025 \$2420.40

Bank balance as of March 31, 2025 \$1769.71

U of R Women Bursary Account U of R:

Bursary donations, October 2024 \$1101.00

University of Regina Trust Fund as of their November 14, 2024 Report \$5150.00

***Total in U R Trust Fund as of March 2025 should be \$6251.00**

GIC (\$4000 deposited Sept. 2023; maturity date Sept. 2025) \$4435.24

*2025 Report from the U of R not yet received.

Samira McCarthy, Treasurer