

WLU RETIREES' NEWS

A Publication of the Wilfrid Laurier University Retirees' Association

To contact the executive: retirees@wlu.ca WLURA website: www.wlura.ca

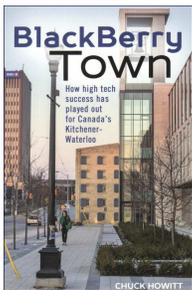
Fall 2020

Kitchener-Waterloo: From factory town to high-tech hub

by Frank Millerd and Gerry Schaus

Thirty retirees connected by Zoom on Friday, November 27, to hear Chuck Howitt discuss the Kitchener-Waterloo high-tech scene and his book *BlackBerry Town*.

Chuck began his talk with the writing of the book. He was a business reporter for the *Waterloo Region Record* when Research in Motion was the big story. After he retired from the *Record*, he decided to write a book about the rise and fall of BlackBerry, the successor to RIM. After finishing a manuscript, our Steve Izma helped him find a publisher. The publisher, James Lorimer, wanted the book revised to cover the KW tech sector more broadly, with the revision to be finished in seven months. He did 35 additional interviews and managed to finish by the deadline, March 31, 2019. The book was published in the fall of 2019.



The growth of the tech sector in KW started with the foundation of the University of Waterloo, which had its roots in Waterloo College, now WLU. UW was founded after local business people wanted a university that awarded degrees in engineering, mathematics, and computer science. Wes Graham was hired from IBM and built the computer science department at UW. Wes, called

“the Enabler,” was able to get the latest hardware, including a large IBM computer, which was placed in the Red Room in UW’s new computer science building. After Mike Lazaridis, as a high school senior, saw the Red Room, he decided to enroll at UW.

A number of projects and companies arose out of computer science at UW, including the WATFOR and WATFIV Fortran computer language compilers, widely used and sold to other universities. The contract to digitize the *Oxford English Dictionary* was won by UW through Doug Wright’s intervention. Various successful tech companies were formed, including OpenText and Pixstream. Communitex, an important incubator for new high-tech companies, has made KW known throughout the tech world, especially while Iain Klugman was its CEO.

Research in Motion, headed by Mike Lazaridis, started in the 1980s with a variety of products: Budgie, for transferring text to a TV screen; an electronic sign at a GM plant; and a barcode film reader for the National Film Board that won both Emmy and Oscar awards in the technical category. These projects helped support the company as it moved to the wireless transmission of text with pagers and point-of-sale terminals. Intel was brought in to build processors for its devices and their first consumer smartphone, the Pearl. Jim Balsillie joined the company in 1992 to head up sales.

BlackBerry’s smart phones were very successful. They were among the first such phones and offered excellent security. What RIM accomplished was rare; Chuck described it as a “magical time.”



Chuck Howitt

But in 2005 the company ran into turbulence. There was a long and ultimately very costly fight over wireless communication patents, and the company was charged with illegally backdating stock options for employees without proper disclosure. The company did not respond well to the growing competition; it was complacent and felt invincible. Apple with the iPhone, and Google with android phones were very aggressive. The operating system for BlackBerry phones was aging. The purchase of QNX in 2010, and incorporation of its operating system into new phones in 2013 came too late. These and other stories of

controversy were covered by Matt Walcoff at the *Record*. He dug so deeply into them that he was blacklisted by BlackBerry and eventually left KW for Bloomberg News in Toronto, where, sadly, he died at age 35.

The legacy of BlackBerry in KW is wide and deep. Kitchener-Waterloo continues to grow as a high-tech hub. Former BlackBerry employees and others now lead the next generation of local tech companies, including Vidyard, Clearpath, and Miovision. Google, led locally by UW grad Steve Woods, has their major Canadian venture in Kitchener. Mike Lazaridis has made massive contributions to the community and its universities. For instance, he founded the Perimeter Institute and UW's Institute for Quantum Computing, and made a major funding gift to the Lazaridis School of Business and Economics at WLU.

Chuck Howitt, with his comprehensive knowledge of the KW tech scene, gave us a thorough and wide-ranging account of KW's move from factory town to high-tech hub. It was an educational and enjoyable gathering. To learn more about this story and the rise and fall of BlackBerry, Chuck's website is www.chuckhowitt.com. If you have read the book, why not write a short review on Goodreads or Amazon? Search for "BlackBerry Town" on either of those sites. Only a couple of sentences are required. The reviews are meant for ordinary readers, not scholars.

Travel in the Age of Covid Last Plane out of Athens

by Gerry Schaus

The famous scene at the end of the film *Casablanca* has Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) make Ilsa Lund (Ingrid Bergman) get on the last plane out of Casablanca with her husband, Victor Lazlo, before the Germans take control of the country, telling her that she would regret it if she stayed – "Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow but soon and for the rest of your life."

The same drama seemed to play out for me this last winter. I was in Athens on a research trip just as the pandemic was declared. Nobody knew what was happening. Cases of the disease were increasing exponentially, and people were dying in droves. Governments were scrambling to mount a response. What restrictions should be imposed? Should masks be worn? Would businesses and transportation systems be shut down? Would there be a ban on international travel?

I was scheduled to board an early morning flight for Zurich on March 19 and from there to connect with Air Canada to Toronto, but two days before leaving, as I was checking my flights amidst rumours of cancellations and shut-downs, airport testing, and possible airport closures, I learned that my early flight from Athens didn't exist! Peo-

ple were desperately scrambling to get home from all over Europe. My flight from Zurich seemed to be okay. I was pretty confident that Air Canada would feel obligated to get Canadians home as long as they passed Covid-19 verbal testing protocols and didn't have a fever. But how to get out of Athens, and what to do if I couldn't?

The internet provided tentative solutions. I found a Swiss Air flight to Zurich on March 18 and booked a hotel room within walking distance of that airport. With these two hopeful reservations, off I bussed to the Venizelos Airport in the darkness of pre-dawn Athens. I'd rather face a deadly pandemic at home, especially without health insurance abroad that would cover pandemic contingencies.

Check-in at the Athens airport was eerily quiet. The security people seemed to be on edge, scurrying around, whispering quietly. More than a third of people were wearing masks and trying to stay apart from others. I smiled, since I had read that health experts thought masks made no difference at all. Of course, I didn't have one. I was asked if I felt okay by the person at the check-in counter, with a glance to see if I looked okay or was suppressing a cough. This was Greece, after all, where rules and regulations were not stringently enforced, usually. Success in the first stage at least; off to Zurich with a plane barely half full, and a row to myself.

Switzerland was going to be tougher, especially because the terrible Covid outbreaks in northern Italy had spilled into southern Switzerland. I took my luggage, glanced at a map of Zurich, and began my trudge through the airport complex to the hotel. The walk was further than I expected with my heavy backpack and bulging book-filled carry-on, but when you take a short-cut up the wrong street and get lost along the way, in the haze of half a night's sleep, it seems longer.



The hotel had stricter protocols than in Athens, but there were few guests. It was quiet but for occasional jets overhead. In my room I laid down for a bit, then decided I'd better get a bite to eat. I strolled all the way back to the

airport, looking for food, two kilometers, and on the outside wall of the terminal building, I saw an uplifting billboard, a giant poster advertising the IIHF World Hockey Championship to be held in Zurich in two months, May 8–24, 2020. Standing right there in the centre of the line of toqued, jersey-wearing “players” looking toward the Swiss Alps, was a guy wearing the red and white colours of Canada. For a moment, all my travel and pandemic worries seemed to vanish as I thought of every hockey-loving Canadian anywhere in the world sharing a close bond with me. Lying just below the billboard was a beautiful garden of blooming spring flowers, daffodils and edelweiss, with Swiss Air jets in the background. Here on the last day of winter, things were finally starting to look up.



To be sure, there were hurdles yet. The long walk with luggage back to the airport in the early morning, a check-in clerk asking me how I felt, and looking for signs of illness, then a long wait at the gate, as a much more thorough health screening of passengers occurred. The young man ahead of me in line was grilled for ten full minutes, since he had just come from Africa by way of Spain to Zurich, and was heading to university in Canada. I was certain he would be rejected as a Covid threat, and I worried that I would be too, coming now from Greece. What a relief when my turn came and I was only asked if I felt okay. It took five seconds, and I was approved to board!

Again, no one sat beside me on the plane, nor anywhere close to me. On landing in Toronto, I expected once again a careful screening before being allowed to exit the airport. To my surprise, there was nothing, except a sheet of paper with symptoms of Covid-19, and a recommendation to self-isolate for 14 days. That was it, I thought! Home free! But – huh? No such luck. At the exit from the baggage area, there was Pam and my son, One-Card Jordie. No hug, no handshake, just a distancing smile, and firm instructions to take our car, loaded with groceries, and head two hours north to our cottage, to stay there for at least two weeks. I was dead exhausted! They headed back to Listowel in a sec-

ond car, with little more than a “take care of yourself.” And there I was, almost totally alone for the next two weeks, which slowly but inevitably turned into seven full months, catching up on light reading, enjoying peace and solitude, and a wholly changed life in a virus-free environment.

Pension Update

by Alastair Robertson

Pension Fund Rate of Return

The first quarter of 2020 saw a steep drop in equity prices as markets responded to the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on the economy. Between January 1 and March 31 of this year, the main Canadian and U.S. stock indices fell by more than 20 percent, with similar declines occurring in European and Asian financial markets. As a result, the University pension fund, in which equities make up approximately half of total assets, earned a negative rate of return of –8.46 percent over the same period.

In late March of this year stock markets rallied, beginning a recovery that kept going for five months. By the end of August, the main North American stock indices had made up most, or all, of the ground lost earlier in the year. The latest reported results show that the University pension fund posted a positive rate of return of 1.34 percent over the entire period from January 1 to August 31, 2020.

Pension Plan Estimated Funded Status

It is regular practice to review the funded status of the WLU Pension Plan on a bi-annual basis on June 30 and December 31. At its October 2020 meeting, the Pension Committee of the Board of Governors, meeting jointly with the Finance and Investments Committee of the Board, received estimates of the funded status of the WLU Pension Plan on June 30, 2020. The value of the plan’s assets were compared to its pension liabilities on both a going-concern basis, which assumes that the pension plan will continue indefinitely into the future, and a solvency basis, which assumes that the plan terminates at the date of the valuation.

The WLU Pension Plan, in common with most other Canadian defined-benefit pension plans, experienced a decrease in funded status over the first six months of 2020. This deterioration was attributable to lower-than-expected asset returns, combined with a fall in government bond yields, which increased the present value of future pension liabilities.

At June 30, 2020, the Laurier plan had an estimated going-concern funded ratio (assets divided by pension liabilities) of 94.9 percent. This is a decrease from a going-concern funded ratio of 98.7 percent at April 30, 2019, the date of the last filed actuarial valuation. When estimated on a solvency basis, the plan had a funded ratio of 87.1 percent at June 30, 2020, which was a decrease from a sol-

veny funded ratio of 95.0 percent recorded at April 30, 2019. In spite of this recent decrease, the solvency funded ratio remains above the 85 percent level, below which a pension plan is officially considered to be underfunded on a solvency basis.

Responsible Investment Report

At their October 2020 joint meeting, the University's Pension Committee and its Finance and Investments Committee reviewed the 2019–2020 Responsible Investment Annual Report. The University continues to work toward the recommendations of the Responsible Investment Working Group, as approved by the Board of Governors in November 2017. As of April 2020, nine of the ten Laurier investment managers reported being signatories of the UN PRI (United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment) – an increase from the seven reported in April 2019.

In addition, all RFPs (requests for proposal) for new investment managers now include questions related to ESG (environmental, social, and governance criteria in investment decisions). The University continues to monitor its exposure to publicly traded securities issued by the world's top 200 fossil fuel companies, as identified by the Carbon Underground 200 (CU200) list. As of December 31, 2019, investment in CU200 securities comprised 3.6 percent of total assets of the pension fund, which is a decrease from the 4.1 percent share at December 31, 2016.

Report on CURAC 2020 AGM

from the [CURAC website](http://www.curac.ca)

The 2020 annual CURAC conference planned for August 2020 at UBC was cancelled. The 2020 AGM, usually held at the annual conference, was held virtually on September 30.

CURAC Annual Conferences

McGill will organize a virtual CURAC event for May 2021 that will last about two hours. It will consist of a speaker on a topic of interest and a session devoted to best practices for associations. The planned speaker is Joanne Liu, a pediatrician who for six years ran Doctors Without Borders. She will be introduced by the Principal of McGill, Suzanne Fortier. This will be a joint event with McGill's celebration of its bicentennial. There will be time for questions and discussion. The best-practices session will consist of about 45 minutes of discussions in small groups (chat rooms) and 15 minutes of reporting back to the plenary.

Future conferences:

- ◆ 2022: UBC (postponed from 2020)
- ◆ 2023: UPEI May 24–26, 2023; P.E.I. will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of joining confederation.

Benefits Committee

From mid-December 2019 until mid-March 2020, the committee administered a survey of non-medical benefits available to retirees in its member associations. Finding less than half of institutions provide support for retirees' access to university/college courses and financial incentives for their retirees to enjoy membership in the institution's fitness facility, the following was adopted at the AGM: CURAC/ARUCC encourages its member associations to engage with the administrations of their institutions to work creatively and cooperatively for the improvement of access to lifelong learning and to physical fitness facilities at no cost, or at a cost considered affordable for the majority of its members. The benefit for retirees is obvious; it should be equally obvious that the benefit for the institution would be an enhanced relationship with its retirees.

Communications Committee

The webmaster has continued to update the website, with the objective of presenting a site that is informative and user friendly: www.curac.ca.

The website now provides ready access to reports from standing committees (Health Care, Benefits, Pensions), as well as to the latest information from affinity partners. There are also convenient links to member Retiree Association websites and, through them, to newsletters from across the country. Under normal circumstances, the Summer Edition of the Newsletter would have provided extensive coverage of the AGM and annual conference, with special attention to round tables on RA best practices. An edition for early fall with updates on Board activities and plans for the future is planned. This Newsletter will continue to be circulated by email to member RAS, as well as in a user-friendly format on the website and in a more formally designed printable version. It will publish a detailed account of the virtual AGM.

Health Care Policy Committee

The committee has undertaken two short papers, in English and French, for discussion and information of members, available on the CURAC website.

1. Medications and Older Persons (January 2020). This paper encourages proactive medication management to help keep seniors healthy by using a preventative approach. The greatest danger in inappropriate use of drugs, especially those that impair brain function, is the premature loss of independence, with reduction in ability to perform the activities of daily living and the risk of institutionalization.
2. Strategies for an Aging Population: Maintaining Independence (July 2020). The first choice for most older adults is to age in place. The paper explores definitions of health, health promotion, independent living, integrating health care and social care, and innovative models of care.

In February 2020, the Committee made a contribution to the Patented Medicine Price Review Board (PMPRB) draft guidelines consultation. The brief is included in the Winter 2020 CURAC Newsletter.

Relationships with Other Organizations

CURAC maintains relationships with Academics Without Borders, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, Universities Canada, and Vibrant Voices (a coalition of seniors' organizations). With AWB, CAUT, and UC, CURAC engages in mutual publicity, making CURAC and the work of the related organizations known. Vibrant Voices works to make governments aware of seniors' concerns.

CURAC Finances

For the 2019–2020 fiscal year CURAC had a surplus of \$10,529 due to lower travel expenses and an increase in the rebates received from affinity programs. Retirees' participation in the RTO program increased significantly. The rebates are shared by CURAC and member retiree associations. The treasurer has suggested membership dues be reduced for small and medium-sized institutions, as CURAC is in financially good shape and additional universities and colleges retirees' organizations would be encouraged to join CURAC. The average membership fee for all associations is \$22.28; WLU's was listed as \$15.

Participation in Events of Other Associations

Several associations invited members from other associations to join their virtual events, which, of course, can be accessed by anybody anywhere. This may be a benefit of the pandemic. The Seniors' College at the University of Toronto, for example, has a very interesting series of talks this fall and winter. An all-day symposium on "Ethical Challenges of the 21st Century" will be held on November 30. CURAC will circulate these invitations.

CURAC Affinity Agreements

by Frank Millerd

College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) has arranged a number of affinity agreements that provide discounts to members. Members of the WLU Retirees' Association are eligible to participate in these affinity agreements.

Registered Teachers of Ontario (RTO) Extended Health Care Plan

Members of the WLU Retirees' Association are eligible to join the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) and participate in RTO's group plans. You must be a member of RTO and permanently residing in Canada to join an RTO group insurance plan. You can join RTO without joining an RTO plan.

For membership information and an application see: www.rto-ero.org/join-us/membership. The membership fee is \$70 per year.

Retiree Association members who are RTO members may join the RTO Extended Health Care Plan. Features of the plan:

- ◆ pays for eligible expenses not normally covered by a government health insurance plan if recommended as medically necessary
- ◆ includes prescription drugs, vision care, eldercare guidance, paramedical practitioners, aids and appliances, accidental dental, and guidance on treatment options, subject to limitations
- ◆ comprehensive travel insurance for 93 days per trip.

Retirees who are not now members of the WLU or another extended health care plan, or those wishing additional insurance, may be interested in joining RTO and the RTO Extended Health Care Plan.

RTO members currently in Laurier's plan will be accepted as members of the RTO Extended Health Care Plan without a medical questionnaire. Coverage is also available for spouses and dependent children residing in Canada.

Information on the RTO Extended Health Care Plan and rates is available at: www.rto-ero.org/insurance. Membership enquiries may be directed to RTO at **1-800-361-9888**.

Rates vary relative only to single, couple, or family status. They are not age-banded. Current monthly rates for the RTO plan are: single, \$104.35; couple, \$208.75; and family, \$250.52. Coverage can be continued for a surviving spouse and eligible dependent children following an RTO member's death if they are already enrolled in the RTO Extended Health Care Plan.

To learn more or to apply for enrolment in the RTO Extended Health Care Plan or other RTO plans, please:

- ◆ call the plan administrator (Johnson) at **1-877-406-9007**
- ◆ identify yourself as a member of the CURAC group, and
- ◆ identify your member association, the WLU Retirees' Association.

The surviving spouse of a deceased retiree may join RTO and RTO's plans only if the deceased retiree was an RTO member at time of death. A retiree may want to join RTO to ensure their surviving spouse is eligible to join RTO and enroll in their group plans if the retiree predeceases the spouse. After a retiree dies, any health and dental benefits from Laurier for the surviving spouse and eligible dependents continue only for two years. If a surviving spouse joins an RTO plan within two years of the retiree's death, while still a member of Laurier's Group Benefits Plan, they will be accepted into the RTO plan without a medical questionnaire.

The Laurier benefits that retirees had when they retired remain in place. The RTO plans are available from your membership in the Retirees' Association and are not

associated with WLU. Enrollment in an RTO plan would be in addition to any benefits from Laurier.

Home and Car Insurance

Waterloo-based Economical Insurance, a leading property and casualty insurer, offers auto and home insurance at advantageous rates (up to 60 percent savings on premiums) to CURAC-affiliated retirees. If you get a quote on car or home insurance through Economical by March 31, 2021, you'll be entered to win one of 25 cash prizes of \$5,000. Go to www.economicalgroup.com/5KGiveway. Enter group discount code E2413.

Pet Care Insurance

PetSecure offers retirees affiliated with CURAC pet insurance at advantageous rates. PetSecure is a member company of Economical. Information on Economical programs: www.curac.ca/members-benefits/economical

Travel

The Government of Canada currently advises that all non-essential travel outside of Canada be avoided until further notice.

Travel Medical and Trip Cancellation Insurance

MEDOC Travel Insurance (a division of Johnson Insurance) offers travel and trip-cancellation insurance. Due to the evolving Covid-19 pandemic, the purchase of new Medoc Travel Insurance policies is not available at this time. If you are a current MEDOC Travel Insurance customer, visit Johnson's dedicated coronavirus page www.johnson.ca/coronavirus for information regarding your coverage and regular updates.

In normal times the insurance may be purchased at curac.johnson.ca/travel-insurance-medoc. You may also call **1-866-606-3362**. Identify yourself as a member of the College and University Retirees' Associations of Canada, and quote group number **087**, unit **11**. An annual plan covers unlimited trips and travel disruption and cancellation.

Travel insurance is also available from **Securiglobe**, a broker who endeavours to match individual clients with a coverage that best suits their needs. Contact them at www.securiglobe.com, or phone **1-888-211-4444**.

RTO does not offer stand-alone travel insurance. However, their full extended health-care package includes travel and trip cancellation insurance.

Travel Planning

Collette Travel

Members planning future travel may wish to check the broad range of tours available from Collette Travel at www.gocollette.com/en-ca/landing-pages/2015/partner/curac. Mention your membership in WLURA, a CURAC association, for additional savings.

Trip Merchant

Trip Merchant has negotiated membership savings directly with travel suppliers, some as much as 30 percent. Go to: curac.tripmerchant.ca. Once you click on it, enter the CURAC password: CURACTM18

In Memoriam

- ◆ Dale Sweeney, Health Services, July 3, 2020
- ◆ James Degan, Printing Services, August 9, 2020
- ◆ Dorothy Golschesky, Student Awards, September 4, 2020
- ◆ Harold Remus, Religion and Culture, October 18, 2020
- ◆ Margaret Dilworth, Business and Economics, November 6, 2020
- ◆ Eleanor "Skeeter" Budd, Alumni Relations, November 12, 2020
- ◆ Irene Forler, Administration, November 20, 2020

President's Message

by Gerry Schaus

It's drab and dreary out. Rain is falling for the fifth straight day. The sun is elusive just when it's needed most.

I'm sitting alone in Muskoka, far from anybody I care about. But I'm better off than that bothersome squirrel I trapped yesterday and re-located, well clear of its nest in our cottage eaves. I also caught and released a nice bass last night, to top off the fishing season. It's time now to consider the cold weather that's starting to descend, without prospect of escaping to the sunny south for a week or a month or longer this winter. Is there a new hobby to keep my mind nimble, an old passion that might be re-kindled, an idea for a project whose time has arrived, a near-by place I've always wanted to explore, family members I'd like to spend more time with?

What's keeping you busy at a time when we're encouraged to stay as isolated as possible from outside contact, for safety's sake? Reading, knitting, cooking, walking, inter-netting (if it's not a word yet, it soon will be), puttering, chatting, sleeping, watching, eating, exploring.

The executive committee of our Retirees' Association is trying to fulfill its mandate to inform members about relevant developments affecting our lives, bringing us together with news about the University, individual members, and life around us, and giving us a sense of belonging to the organization, whose people we worked with for so many years. Admittedly, it's a challenge. The virtual Zoom meeting on pensions and benefits that we held in September had over 30 participants at one point, with Siobhan Adams from WLU's Human Resources department, and our own

Alastair Robertson, as discussants, but, sadly, there were very few questions from people listening in on the various topics they covered, unlike the times when we meet on campus. And there was no social conversation beforehand or afterward over coffee and cookies. I'm not sure how to remedy this, other than to encourage everyone to familiarize yourselves with the options to "raise your hand" or pose questions on Zoom, or just jump in by activating the audio option and talking.

We scheduled a virtual Pub Night on October 30, again using Zoom, even though only one person could speak at a time (perish the thought!), but where everyone was able to lift a drink and not have to tip the server. It was fun! And even if you had to be patient to get a chance to speak among the twenty of us there, you could still see the faces of old friends and acquaintances whom you hadn't laid eyes on for a dog's age, and have a good laugh. It was also a chance to commiserate with each other about life in the Bubble, or the U.S. Presidential election, or the lack of audiences at sporting and musical events. Here we thought that the computer or the internet would be the most transformative development in our lifetimes! What an amazing revolution this dangerous pandemic has brought! I never expected it a year ago.

Please, everyone, take every precaution. As my father so often told us, "Remember. This too shall pass." We just have to stay healthy until it does.

Benefits and Pensions: Where to Get Info

- ◆ For assistance with benefits:
contact Julie Carr: jcarr@wlu.ca
- ◆ For assistance with pensions:
contact Siobhan Adams: siadams@wlu.ca

Go to wlu.ca/retirees for:

- ◆ Pension information portal
- ◆ Pension fund rate of return
- ◆ Link to: mysunlife.ca

Can WLURA Do More?

We seek your answers to three related questions.

1. The executive officers whom you elected have worked hard on serving your interests, but wonder if they could help retirees even further. If there's anything more that you'd like the Association to do, or that the University could be asked to do for its former employees, please give us your ideas. Incidentally, at a recent Zoom meeting of the executive, it was decided to extend membership in the Association for a period of one year at no cost to present members and new retirees.

2. Would you like any changes to this newsletter? We regret not having the usual photos, and we can't print and mail it presently, and hope that the electronic version works. Do you find the three issues per year adequate? Should they include a "Keeping in Touch" section to replace the social aspect of the monthly meetings? This would depend on your emailing a mini-report on what's doing with you, the people you stay in contact with, the people you miss, or any report or comment on your life in retirement. And any photos would be particularly welcome these days. Unseen should not have to mean forgotten.
3. Should we join all the other campus organizations (from student groups to admin ones) in contributing back to the university? For instance, if retirees who donate to WLURA were to do it through WLURA, they would get the same tax deduction, and by pooling all the donations, we could fund some initiative that would bring credit to retirees. If we do this, can you think of some specific cause to support, something innovative, imaginative, and worthy?
4. If you are not receiving email notices from the Association and wish to do so please send your email address to Frank Millerd at fmillerd@wlu.ca.

Your emailed suggestions for any of the above will be welcomed by gschaus@wlu.ca.

Upcoming Virtual Gatherings

Friday January 29, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Eric Haldenby:

Boom Town Waterloo Region

The former director of the School of Architecture, University of Waterloo, will discuss the current building boom and ask "What kind of city are we building?"

May 2021 Gathering

Deferred from May 2020, we will have a presentation by Lucy Marskell, family member of the Vincenzo's dynasty. Lucy will tell the story of her parents' arrival in Canada from Italy, their calculated risk at opening an imported food store (well, mostly tomatoes and olive oil at the beginning) in a small house on Bridgeport Road, and its evolution into the Vincenzo's where we all love to shop. And yes, there will be food! An event to look forward to: Friday, May 28, 2021.

More Pandemic Blues

- ◆ Never expected "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become national policy.
- ◆ The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
- ◆ I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.



The library staff thirty years ago. How many of your former colleagues can you name? (If it's more than 10, you worked in the library!)

WLURA Executive 2019–2021

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