



### SUMMER, 2025

University of Winnipeg Retirees' Association Newsletter

<b>UWRA Board of Directors 2025/2026</b>	
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Treasurer:	Murray Wiegand
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At-Large #2	TBD
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<b>Newsletter</b>	
Newsletter	Bill Rannie
Scholarship/Bursaries	Ed Byard
United Way	Linda Dietrick
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<b>UWRA Address</b>	
<p>UWRA c/o Human Resources The University of Winnipeg 515 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9</p>	
<p>EMAIL: <a href="mailto:uwra@uwinnipeg.ca">uwra@uwinnipeg.ca</a></p>	
<p>WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/uwra">www.uwinnipeg.ca/uwra</a></p>	

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Spring greetings, friends and fellow retirees,

Looking back (which I am inclined to do rather a lot of these days) I recall the summer of 2005 as particularly hot. Relentlessly glorious sunny days; skies bluer than I ever I had experienced: I felt surrounded by a literally warm welcome to Winnipeg, to what was to become my new home. This from someone who was born and raised in the Eastern hills and woodlands of Québec, in a seaport on the fleuve St. Laurent.

It was the summer of the Bears on Broadway . . . What a time!

It was also the summer of my arrival at UW, as the Dean of the Faculty of Theology. The summer in which my life altered course dramatically; and for the better.

I had spent the previous quarter century engaged in my primary vocation, as a Minister of The United Church of Canada. (A vocation I still own. It's rather like the IRA: once in, never out.) That vocation had elastic boundaries, mind. Denominational and ecumenical engagement and leadership; interfaith dialogue; literary pursuits; even UN reform and the ICC expanded and augmented my life in the pastorate. I had taught in the post-secondary world, most notable at John Abbott College in Montreal, where I both taught and served as Director of Admissions and Director of Advanced Standing, especially with respect to international students, and for Queen's University in Kingston, where I had the great joy of establishing the first graduate course in Science and Religion. In 2005, I was Vice Chair of the newly designated Montreal School of Theology.

But Dean? This would prove an adventure of an entirely different magnitude. And now here we are. Twenty years later. Another blue sky outside my window, and penning my first message as President of the UWRA. And make no mistake, I deem this an honour and a privilege.

Throughout the summer and early September of 2005, I did 2 smart things. First, I spent time meeting with anyone and everyone at UW and in the wider community who was willing to meet with me.

(Continued on p.3)

## NOTABLE DATES

May 4	Star Wars Day ("May the 4 <sup>th</sup> be with you")
May 8	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Victory in Europe (VE Day)
May 11	Mother's Day
May 19	Victoria Day
June 6	81 <sup>st</sup> D-Day Anniversary
June 12	Blue Bombers' Season Opener
June 12-13	UW Spring Convocation
June 15	Father's Day
June 15	Manitoba Marathon
June 20	Summer Solstice (9:41 p.m.)
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples' Day
July 1	Canada Day
July 3	Earth is furthest from sun (aphelion)
August 4	Terry Fox Day
August 15	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory Over Japan
August 21	Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism
September 1	Labour Day
September 7	National Grandparents' Day



## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 10:30-12:00 at the University from September to April, on the first Tuesday of the month except in September when it is on the second Tuesday and in January when there is no meeting.

The meetings are offered in hybrid fashion with an in-person meeting at the University (usually in 3C12) and via ZOOM.

**September 9: In-person + Zoom**

**Speaker: Shadia Drury**

**"The Myth of American Exceptionalism"**  
(Abstract – see p. 3)

**October 7: In-person + Zoom**

**Speaker: Belle Jarniewski**

(Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada)  
**Antisemitism: What's in a Word?**

**November 3: In-person + Zoom**

**Speaker: Neil Besner**

(Professor Emeritus, U of W)

**Discusses his recent book *Fishing with Tardelli***

**December 2: In-person + Zoom**

**Speaker: Dan Bolton**

(Internat. tea expert & professional Santa Claus)

**Any 1 4 T?**

**January – No Meeting**

We shall remember with joy and gratitude ...

March 10, 2025

**Marjorie Olshevski**

Office of Registrar/Admissions

1981 – 2005

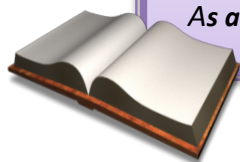
March 12, 2025

**Garin Burbank**

History

1973 – 2011

*As a lasting tribute to UWRA members, a library book is plated in their memories.*



### President's message (continued from p. 1)

The second was to establish the Deans of Theology Club. Roughly twice a semester, I gathered the three living former deans of Theology, Gordon MacDermid, Harold King, and Mac Watt in the UW Club for a couple of rounds and Tracy's popcorn. I listened and I learned.

And that's what I intend to do in this new position: to listen, and to learn. To you, my fellow retirees. To current faculty and staff. To administration. To alumni. To students. Not, perhaps with the same energy and intensity I possessed 20 years ago, but with the same keen interest as ever.

This community of ours matters to me. That's why I'm still here. At UW. And in Winnipeg. I have long been persuaded that ours is a special place: a city which is self contained, but not at all self-absorbed.

As my youngest son (a grad in film and history) and I approached the city from the East those long years, top down in my now classic MX5, and saw Winnipeg in the gloaming rise on the Prairie horizon, Nick climbed upon this seat and exclaimed, "it's like Oz."

Fair enough. Except that Winnipeg is even more rife with possibility.

Take the UWRA. Here's a thought or two. Keep in mind that we are retired. Few of us are keen on a new career. But, as Monty Python's gang observed 50 summers ago, "we're not dead yet!"

So let me invite you to consider:

Might URWA assume more of an advocacy role for all retirees?

Might we bring to bear in sharp focus our combined centuries of expertise and yes wisdom, in an annual Retirees Symposium of the State of the Academy?

Might we employ the earned experience of our individual and aggregate lives at UW in the pages of this excellent newsletter of Bill Rannie's to moot new ideas and visions about our UW community?

Who knows? But thoughts to ponder during what I trust will prove a warm, refreshing, reinvigorating summer for us all.

Cheers, eh? Jim"

### Abstract for "THE MYTH OF AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM" presentation on September 9 (from p. 1)

"American exceptionalism is rooted in the grand narrative of the West. This grand narrative replaces the cyclical view of history where civilizations rise and fall, with a linear view of history, whereby history has a beginning, an arduous middle, and a grand finale. Ever since the triumph of Christianity over Roman Civilization, the cyclical view of history has been replaced with a conception of history as the unfolding of a grand plan. Far from rejecting the tropes of Christianity, Enlightenment philosophers such as Hegel, Kant, and J. S. Mill, presented them in a secular guise by providing intoxicating accounts of the West as lifting humanity out of its primitive slumber, and leading it towards freedom, self-government, and self-actualization. American exceptionalism is the final instalment of this Western delusion. Drury argues that this delusion has long been at the heart of Western colonialism, and that American exceptionalism is a continuation of Western imperialism. The appeal of MAGA ideology is its ability to harken back to the glory days of America as an exceptional nation created by a chosen people destined to inspire or dominate the world."

## UNITED WAY REPORT - Linda Dietrick

In the fall United Way campaign, the total donations from the University of Winnipeg were \$84,763. Of this, \$33,456 came from the retirees which means that almost 40% of the donations credited to the University were made by retirees. Stated another way, retirees (who of course are no longer employees) contributed about two-thirds as much to the University's total appeal as did all of its regular employees, and this percentage is growing each year. This is an important demonstration of the value the University derives from our UWRA, in addition to our maintenance of a large scholarship, two bursaries (see below) and other intangible benefits.

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT - Ed Byard

In 2024, UW Retirees donated \$2,715 to the Scholarship and \$4,690 to the Bursary endowment funds, for a total contribution of \$7,315. This exceeded the year's disbursements and the surplus (\$1,379) increased the endowment fund. Profiles of this year's recipients are given below:

### **SCHOLARSHIP (\$3000) - TAYLOR BELLE CANGEMI - BSc - HONOURS (Biology)**

*"Much of my childhood was spent outdoors camping, hiking, and exploring which sparked my fascination with nature. I am now pursuing a BSc in Biology and intend to complete a Graduate degree and PhD after that. I aspire to become a wildlife conservation biologist.*

*In 2021-22, I worked as a summer research technician for Dr. Caleb Hasters Fish Biology and Aquatic Conservation Laboratory at the University of Winnipeg. In 2022-23, I was a lead summer field research assistant for Dr. Craig Willis Bat Conservation Lab at the University of Winnipeg. I also spent a month working for the Hot Bats Project in Lillooet, British Columbia under the supervision of Dr. Zenon Czenze from the University of New England (Australia). This past summer, I worked as a sea turtle patrol leader at Cao Palma Biological Station in San Francisco de Tortuguero, Costa Rica. For my last two weeks abroad, I was recruited as a research assistant at the Sea Turtle Conservancy in Tortuguero, CR. These experiences have enhanced my passion for wildlife and research while solidifying my desired career path. This upcoming summer, I was offered a position to work with Dr. Czenze again, but in Cooktown AUS to collect data for my Honours thesis in 2025-26.*

*Volleyball and fitness are my other passions. I have played high-level competitive indoor and beach volleyball for over 10 years. My achievements include several provincial/national medals and individual/MVP awards. I was a leader on all my teams due to my strong leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. I am currently a captain on the Wesmen Women's Volleyball team and strive to have a strong positive impact on the university's athletic program and the success of our team.*

*I highly prioritize my academics as represented by my 4.49 GPA. I take pride in my work ethic in all aspects of life and hold myself to extremely high standards in everything I do. I am a firm believer that hard work pays off and that what you get out of things is equivalent to what you put into them.*

*Outside of my academic and athletic commitments, getting involved in the community is tremendously important to me. This year, I also joined the EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion) committee."*

### **BURSARY (\$1468) - DAVID DARREN JOSEPH DREILICH - BEd, BA (English)**

*"While pursuing a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education at the University of Winnipeg, I have maintained a GPA of just under 4.0 despite the significant financial challenges and life challenges I face as a single parent. Balancing the demands of work the past few years and full-time student university life, along with the responsibilities of raising a child on a single income has been one of the most challenging, yet rewarding, experiences of my life.*

*My commitment to my education is more than just what I have learned in the classroom. I have been actively involved in the Indigenous community, particularly through my participation in the grad powwow and various school clubs that relate to current and relevant issues that trouble our community today.*

*I am committed to bringing my best academic performance as I continue my studies at the University of Winnipeg.*

(continued on p. 5)

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT (continued)

**Why did you choose the University of Winnipeg?** *I chose the U of W because it offered a program for indigenous assistants to be teachers.*

**What does receiving this award mean to you in helping you start or continue your university education?** *This award means everything. It is going to help continue my education and further my dream of becoming a teacher.*

**What are you education/career goals?** *My education career goal is to become an indigenous teacher teaching the youth of tomorrow.*

**Please include your message of thanks to the donor.** *I would like to thank you for helping me in furthering my dream of becoming a teacher.*

### **BURSARY (\$1468) - LYDIA MARIE PELOQUIN-EPP - BEd, BA (History)**

*"I have always loved learning. It is exciting to me to be able to find out new facts about the world that connect me to everyone and everything. It was during my first degree at UofW that I felt truly at home in the learning environment. Choosing courses that interested me, allowed for collaboration with community, and challenged me to be a better person is why I often say that my Anthropology degree made me a better person. I think that this is ultimately the purpose of education and why I decided to rejoin UW and become a teacher. I want to encourage more generations of learners to reach their full potential, find their place in their communities, and understand their roles in the world."*

**Why did you choose the University of Winnipeg?** *I chose it because of the downtown location, commitment to social welfare, intimate class sizes, and excellent Anthropology program.*

**What does receiving this award mean to you in helping you start or continue your university education?** *This award helps me to support myself during the degree. I am not able to work because of my course load and commitments and I would otherwise financially struggle. This scholarship helps me to pay for my expenses, focus on schoolwork, and pay back my student loans.*

**What are you education/career goals?** *My goal is to be a teacher. I want to teach history and show students how we can make Canada a more just place to live. I want to inspire them to take action and advocate for more equitable societies.*

**Please include your message of thanks to the donor.** *Thanks you so much for this generous donation. It is an honour to be noticed and supported in this way. I want to assure you that this money will help me support myself and my family as I work towards becoming a history teacher. I want to show students the beautiful art and culture of the place that we live and show them ways in which we can improve.*

If you have

- ✚ photos (other than of your cat) which you would like to share
- ✚ received an award or honour
- ✚ accounts of an interesting thing you did or plan to do
- ✚ descriptions or pictures of places you have visited
- ✚ something you crossed off your bucket list
- ✚ publications or other academic endeavors
- ✚ anything else which might interest our members

please send them to me at [mewalker@mymts.net](mailto:mewalker@mymts.net) for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

## ANNUAL REPORTS PRESENTED AT THE AGM, FEBRUARY 2025

### Report of the President, 2024

2024 was another strange year. We began with considerable optimism as we more-or-less said goodbye to covid and returned not only to in-person meetings but to meetings back in the University Club. Unfortunately, not everything went smoothly and with the uncertainty around the Club, our meetings returned to 3C12. We have had wonderful speakers and we've even gone out for lunch so that we can spend more time socializing with one another. We've also lost several members (a price we pay for aging) and our new retirees are not as likely to join the UWRA as retirees were in the past. This does not bode well for our future so I hope that if any of you know younger colleagues who are soon to retire, you encourage them to join the Association. Our slowly shrinking membership, along with other factors, has made our financial situation more uncertain than before. Both our intrepid Treasurer (Murray Wiegand) and I have had the opportunity to put our case for some very modest support to the Administration but so far, we have not received a positive response. We do regularly remind them of the disproportionate generosity of our members but that has not persuaded them of our value...yet.

As I will be turning over the presidential reins to Jim, I want to thank everyone that has contributed to the UWRA. First to our members, who attend meetings in person or virtually, who are generous to the University and greater community and who are patient as we continue to roll with the ongoing changes and challenges, we face. I would like to thank everyone on the UWRA executive who has worked so hard to make this past year a success and encourage you to consider filling one of the vacancies (see below for more information). Thanks to Neil Besner, our past president and nominating committee; he will be a hard act to follow. Thanks to James Christie our VP and program director, who had so many wonderful speakers in mind that he agreed to stay on in the role for a second year; welcome to the presidency, I'm sure you'll be great at it. Thanks to Debbie Machula, our Secretary, who takes minutes and sends out the information we need to stay on track. Thanks to Murray Wiegand our treasurer and keeper of the "Toonie Jar;" how would we keep our financial house in order without you. Thanks to Dawn Rittberg who is trying to navigate the University's ever-changing systems and staff so that we can recruit new retirees to the UWRA. Thanks to Lynn Jones who unfortunately is stepping down from her position as member-at-large responsible for communication; apparently, we just can't compete with beautiful weather and the call of the golf course, who can blame her? Thanks also go to Ed Byard for reminding us to donate to our scholarships and bursaries, to Murray and Mary Anne Walls who represent us on the Pension Board, to Linda Dietrick who is our representative to the United Way, and of course to Bill Rannie who continues to edit our informative and entertaining Newsletter.

In spite of his best efforts at friendly persuasion, arm-twisting and perhaps even a bit of bribery, Neil still has 2 vacancies on our slate for next year's executive. The position of VP is still open and could be for you if you are interested in filling our roster of great speakers...perhaps with friends who owe you a favour? We also need someone to fill the communications position; it doesn't take too much time, just a bit of patience with the UW email system.

It's been great serving the UWRA as President for the past 2 years. I look forward to working with the executive next year when Jim is President and I can move on to the Past President's position. I also look forward to another year of great speakers and opportunities to meet all of you with whom I worked for so many years at the University of Winnipeg.

Respectfully

Judith Huebner, President

## Report of the Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee

The slate of candidates for the 2025-26 UWRA Board is:

President: James Christie  
 Vice President: TBD  
 Past President: Judith Huebner  
 Treasurer: Murray Wiegand  
 Secretary: Debbie Machula  
 Member at Large: Dawn Rittberg  
 Member at Large: TBD

**\*\*\*\*Please note: there are at present two vacant positions remaining to be filled: that of Vice President, and that of second Member at Large. Any suggestions or nominations gratefully received.\*\*\*\***

Respectfully submitted,  
 Neil Besner

## Report of the Vice-President: 2024

To borrow from that great American pholk philosopher, Yogi Berra (or was that Yogi Bear?), “This looks like deja vue all over again!”

This brief narrative will serve as my second and last annual report as UWRA Vice-President. Time is not going faster; but in these retirement years our subjective experience of the passing of time is accelerated. So, it really does seem like yesterday when I began this two-year term.

And it is good. To echo my 2023 remarks, this has been not a burdensome role, but a privilege and delight: a formalized way of bringing friends together through our gatherings and the speakers who have graced those gatherings.

In February 2024, we welcomed Winnipeg film maker and U/W grad, Nick Christie, founder and CEO of Bent Neck Films, speaking on the Winnipeg film scene.

In March, Prof. Michael Eze brought us up to speed on the U/W science scene.

April presented us with an insight into the quest for reconciliation among First Nations, Metis, and newcomers in Manitoba through a dynamic presentation by Bill Shead and John Perrin, who introduced us to the work of the Friends of the Peguis-Selkirk Treaty of 1817.

A family illness deferred our September speaker to February 4th. upcoming.

In October, Mr. Jeff Olafson, CEO of Winnipeg’s Gardon Construction, built some new hope in a vital presentation of the barely imagined possibilities of 3D printing innovations in building techniques.

Michael Bumsted, co-owner of Whodunnit Books, regaled us with the literature of mystery and suspense connected to Samhain (pronounced Sow-en, aka Hallowe’en).

We wrapped up in December when Spiritual Care provider, Doug Koop, also a U/W grad, reminded us of our mortality and grace and care in facing the same in our loved ones and ourselves.

It has been a good ride.

But not an entirely smooth one.

With the University Club effectively unavailable, our venue through the autumn of 2024, while serviceable, has proved . . . austere. Tech support has not always been the most reliable. Still, we strive, and our programmes thrive.

The work of the Executive has been collaborative and effective, and I cannot adequately express my appreciation for my colleagues adequately. Thanks to all, and particularly Judith who, as President, ensured that we stayed the course.

As your incoming President there are some areas of concern that I should like our Executive to address over the next two years.

First is the question of our status within the U/W community, and the degree of support we receive from the University administration.

Second is the ever vexing question of our limited active membership and our profile.

Third, I hope we might wrestle with what advocacy role we might or ought to play for our retirees, current members or not.

Fourth, there may be a new hope for The University Club. How shall we/ought we to participate in its next iteration?

Among other wise observations, President Eisenhower once noted that, "the important is rarely urgent, and the urgent is rarely important." The above four concerns are important: not necessarily urgent. I am not suggesting by any means that any of us are seeking new professional challenges in well-deserved retirement.

But we've a good thing going in the UWRA. I hope we might make it even better.

Here's to a good year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Taylor Christie, Vice-President

## **Report from the Treasurer for 2024**

Last year was another poor one for the UWRA financially. Both revenues and expenses were down from 2023, with a net loss on the year of \$934.40. This loss was less than that for 2023. During the pandemic, we built up a healthy bank balance which has allowed us to absorb losses in consecutive years, but this is obviously not sustainable.

The large decline in revenue was due to the lack of receipt of any funds from the University, unlike other years. Discussions were held with the administration in the summer and fall and they were receptive to the idea of continuing to provide us with support, but to date none has been forthcoming. I remain optimistic that this issue will be resolved satisfactorily. Two other sources of revenue showed increases from last year. Membership dues increased by \$190 and "Toonie Jar" receipts were up just over \$60. The membership is urged to keep feeding the Toonie Jar!! In 2024, we received the 2022 rebate from CURAC which had been delayed. So far, the 2023 rebate has not yet been received, but I understand that the cheque is in the mail. The CURAC rebate roughly offsets our CURAC dues.

Expenses for Diversity services for our general meetings declined by over 35% from 2023, due to ordering less food and drink for the General Meetings. Further measures have been taken to control this expense as pre-orders have been made for the first three meetings of 2025. There have been inconsistencies in orders and communication problems in the past that we hope pre-ordering will correct. The price of coffee and food has risen, so I expect an increase in this expense in 2025. Since we have not yet received support from the University for 2024 and as a result of both a bit of good luck and the discussion at the last general meeting, there were no expenditures on book plates in 2024. A cheque had been submitted in the spring of 2024 for 7 book plates, but it was misplaced in processing. After it was stale-dated, I did not re-issue that cheque, or any further ones. Also, I did not submit a donation to the Wesmen Scholarship in 2024. Because we had not received any revenue from the University, I elected to defer that payment in order to conserve cash.

There has been no activity with the account that the UWRA maintains with the University since 2022. This account was set up to cover costs of stationery, etc., and was once used to pay Diversity. The most recent statement, for December 2024, is attached along with the Summary Financial Statement for 2024.

I wish to thank the members of the Board, the Board Delegates and members of the Association for their ongoing cooperation and support in my efforts.

Respectfully submitted, Murray Wiegand, Treasurer



<b>UWRA Summary Financial Statement – 01 January – 31 December, 2024</b>			
<b>Revenues</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
UW subsidy for 2023 memberships		CURAC	\$141.00
Membership dues	\$450.00	Meeting refreshments	\$981.75
UW subsidy for 2023-24 Univ. Club dues		Bank fees (total for year)	\$ 42.00
CURAC (reimbursement for 2022)	\$153.63	Minister of Finance	\$ 40.00
Toonie jar	\$319.26	Stationery, postage	\$ 32.91
		UW Foundation (book plates)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$922.89</b>	UW Foundation (Wesman Scholarships)	
		University Club dues	\$300.00
		United Way basket	\$ 50.96
Opening balance (01 January)	\$3,362.40	Books for guest speakers	\$218.41
Plus revenues	\$ 922.89	Lunch for guest speakers	\$ 50.26
Less expenses	- \$1,857.29		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,857.29</b>
Closing Balance	\$2,428.00		
		Uncashed cheques	\$0.00
Plus uncashed cheques	\$0.00		
Stated bank balance (31 December 2024)	\$2,428.00		

## STATEMENT

University of Winnipeg  
515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R3B 2E9

Statement Date: 12/31/2024  
Account Number: 10039

University of Winnipeg Retirement, Murray Wiegand, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9

Description	Date	Description	Credits	Balance
FMH19-827	12/3/2018	Membership – UWRA	(400.00)	-400.00
RSR23-285	10/31/2022	Print Services Oct/22	23.40	-376.60
RSR23-286	10/31/2022	Print Services GST Oct/22	1.17	-375.43
HAC23-284	12/31/2022	Diversity Food Services	67.20	-308.23
		P1098976		
		Nov 29 Correction		
		Statement Balance	(308.23)	-308.23

## Auditor's Report for the 2024 Financial Year

I have reviewed the financial records of the Treasurer of the University of Winnipeg Retirees Association, and sample checked them against the CIBC statements, deposit slips, cheques, and bills submitted for payment.

My review covered the period from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

I hereby confirm the accuracy of the year-end Financial Statement to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Coppinger



## Report of the Member-at-Large & Chair, Membership Committee

The UWRA has a website housed on the University's webpage which is updated on a regular basis. In particular the *In Memoriam* page is updated when news of a U of W retiree's death is received from the HR department. In addition, any changes to Board Membership, Board delegates, and Pension Trustees are noted on the webpage, the current Newsletter is posted, and the Calendar of Events is updated.

With respect to reaching out to new retirees, no presentation was made at the Long Service Awards & Retiree Event in May (as was planned) as according to the information received from the University, only one retiree was attending the May 2024 event. To increase new retirees' awareness of the association, a request was made for the association to be able to reach out to the new retirees directly with a personal invitation to join UWRA. Because of privacy considerations, this request was not granted. Instead, a Letter of Greeting was prepared to be included in the package of materials that retirees receive from the University HR department. (This Retirement package also includes the UWRA Application Form.) The Letter of Greeting invites new retirees to attend a UWRA meeting at their convenience before committing to association membership. However, the number of members that joined in 2024 is very low, suggesting that something else must be undertaken if the association is to survive. This will be my focus in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Rittberg, Member-at-Large

## Report of the Member-at-Large, Communications

During my second year in the role of Member-at-Large Communications, I continued to monitor the UWRA email account for incoming messages several times a week -- forwarding some messages to other Board members, some to the general membership (e.g., CURAC information and updates, etc.), responding directly to some, and sharing information with Human Resources, the President's Office and/or Communications as appropriate. Sadly, I have shared numerous emails with UWRA members regarding the deaths of fellow members and other former UW colleagues.

The Master database of UWRA members has now been updated as has the Current Contacts list in the UWRA email account, so everything should be in good shape for whoever takes over this role in the new year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Jones, Member-at-Large Communications

## UWRA Scholarship and Bursary Report

It is my pleasure to report that the UWRA Scholarship and Bursary funds continue to thrive. The funds available for scholarships and bursaries are endowments—the funds grow from UWRA member contributions and returns on investments managed by the University of Winnipeg Foundation. Despite the bumpy investment returns I can report that the funds were more than sufficient to fund the UWRA scholarship and bursaries.

The UWRA Scholarship was established in 2010 ----it is intended to encourage and support continuing students who have completed at least 60 credit hours, and who have a record of volunteerism. Depending on the health of the endowment funds one or two scholarships of \$3000 are awarded.

The UWRA established a Bursary fund in 2011—this Bursary is intended to encourage and support continuing students with financial need who have completed at least 60 credit hours, and who have a record of volunteerism. There are up to four recipients each year, each receiving awards of \$1000.

Since 2010, the UWRA has offered retirees the opportunity to donate to both a scholarship and a bursary as part of their participation in every annual Campus Campaign. These initiatives were shaped and stewarded in part by retirees looking to make a difference in the lives of students. Thanks to your ongoing support and effort as a donor, the contributed capital for the UWRA Bursary now sits at \$72,376 with the UWRA Scholarship at \$92,300. In total, 46 students have received support from one of these special awards since 2010. As the giving season has just ended, I hope to be able to provide an update on our contribution levels at the AGM.

Retirees, including UWRA members, should be proud of the ongoing and consistent support it provides for the awards described above, but also for their generosity in supporting the annual Campus-wide fundraising campaign.

Submitted by Ed Byard, UWRA Scholarship and Bursary Representative

**Annual Report of the Pension Trustees for 2024 Year** BACKGROUND: The University of Winnipeg Retirees Association (UWRA) is entitled to appoint two Association representatives to serve as Trustees on the University of Winnipeg Trusteed Pension Plan Board of Trustees. Each Pension Trustee shall serve a two-year renewable term, commencing July 1st.

The Board of Trustees, on behalf of all Plan members and beneficiaries, is responsible for all aspects of the operation and administration of the University of Winnipeg Trusteed Pension Plan and Pension Trust Fund for the purpose of providing Plan benefits in accordance with the Plan, the Trust Agreement and applicable legislation, except that the Board cannot change contribution rates or plan eligibility requirements, as these are subject to negotiations with the stakeholders of the Plan. Each Trustee has a fiduciary duty to administer the Pension Plan prudently and in the best interest of the Pension Plan and all Plan Members. To that end each Trustee also serves on a Board committee—these committees are advisory to the Board of Trustees, and their general duties are summarized below:

Operations Committee ensures that the governance and operating framework for the Trusteed Pension Plan functions effectively, in accordance with the Board terms of reference and pension plan law. Some activities are: to produce a calendar of deliverables that identifies annual activities that the Board will undertake and to specify committee work and reporting required; to ensure an annual financial audit of the Plan occurs; to develop the annual operating budget for the Board; to develop education plans for trustees and orientation programs for new Trustees; to prepare Plan member communications; to publish an annual report; and to maintain the Board of Trustees web page, making relevant Plan documents available to Plan members. Defined Benefit Committee is responsible for all aspects of the DB component of the Pension Plan. This includes the examination of the investment mix that is appropriate to a pension plan that is closed to new members, and regular monitoring of the performance of investment managers. The Committee is well aware of the challenges related to a steadily declining active member base and the ongoing underfunded position of the DB component.

Defined Contribution Committee is responsible for all aspects of the DC component of the Pension Plan. This includes regular reviews of the DC service provider, available investment options, fund fees, investment holdings and asset allocation of the DC component of the Plan and education sessions specifically tailored to DC Plan members regarding investment education and pre-retirement planning.

*For a full actuarial report or information regarding the management of the Plan please refer to the Board of Trustees webpage at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/hr/benefits/pension-trustees.html>*

Of particular interest to UWRA members are the following:

**A] Pension Supplement - Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)**

The University of Winnipeg Trusteed Pension Plan provides for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to be paid, usually on July 1, if the Pension Fund earned a net investment return (calculated as the geometric average of four years of returns) that is greater than 6% per annum. The increase payable is the investment return, less 6%, capped by the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the same period. For further explanation of the geometric average calculation please go to: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/hr/benefits/glossary.html#Geometric>

At the time of writing this report, the information regarding a COLA adjustment in the current year is not yet available. Year-end financial reports have not been finalized; thus, the Plan actuary does not have the information to calculate the rate of return. Usually, the Plan actuary is in a position to recommend if a COLA adjustment is warranted between the end of February and end of March. If Fund returns justify a COLA, it is awarded after the Board of Trustees approval of the Plan's Financial Statements, which occurs at the June Board meeting. You will be updated just as soon as the UWRA Trustees have the appropriate recommendation and approval. Note that this COLA adjustment applies only to those members in the Defined Benefit component of the Pension Plan.

**B] Pension Plan Financial Statements and Annual Report**

The University of Winnipeg Trusteed Pension Plan Financial Statements and Annual Report from the Board of Trustees for the year ending December 31, 2024 are not as yet available. When they are approved by the Board for publication, normally at the June Board meeting, they will be posted on the Board of Trustees web page under Annual Reports. The link is: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/hr/benefits/pension-trustees.html> .

In the past year, the UWRA Pension Trustees were:

Mary Anne Walls -- She serves on the Operations Committee, which oversees operational and governance matters of the Plan, including compliance with regulatory requirements and any legal matters that arise. Her term ends June 30, 2026.

Murray Wiegand -- He serves on the Defined Benefit Committee and the Defined Contribution Committee, which oversee investment decisions of the DB and DC components of the Pension Plan, along with other policy matters. His term ends June 30, 2025 (Murray will not be renewing his term and will be replaced by Jeff Babb effective July 1, 2025.)



## FROM OUR MEMBERS' PENS (or keyboards)

- ✚ **CORRECTION – MEA CULPA** – In the last Newsletter, in reporting a recent publication by Jeff Babb, co-author Maureen Babb was misidentified as Jeff Babb's wife. She is in fact Jeff's daughter. My sincere apologies to Maureen (and, of course, also to Jeff's actual wife Jo-Ann).
- ✚ **JOCK LEHR** published a major op. ed. piece, "*Standing Up To The United States*" in the Winnipeg Free Press *Think Tank* page (p. A7) on February 14, 2025, in which he recommended that Canada react to the current brouhaha with the US as we did during the St. Mary-Milk River border water diversion dispute in southern Alberta at the turn of the last century. In that imbroglio, Canada responded with a threat of our own and our view prevailed.
- ✚ **BILL RANNIE** and **JOCK LEHR** published a paper "Diverse Landscapes of the Prairies: The Alberta Badlands" in *Prairie History*, No. 16, Winter, 2025, p. 36-40. This is the first of a planned series on distinctive landscape features of the Prairies which will appear in future issues.



# SUMMER, 2025, ALMANAC

Sunrise and Sunset Times, Day Lengths, and Average Temperatures in Winnipeg						
Date	Sunrise (am)	Sunset (pm)	Day length (hr:min)	Ave. Max. (°C)	Ave. Min. (°C)	Average (°C)
May 3	6:01	8:50	14:50	15.2	1.1	8.2
May 10	5:49	9:01	15:11	16.7	2.8	9.8
May 17	5:39	9:10	15:34	18.3	4.7	11.5
May 24	5:31	9:19	15:48	19.6	6.0	12.8
May 31	5:25	9:27	16:03	21.2	7.9	14.6
June 7	5:21	9:34	16:13	22.3	9.4	15.9
June 14	5:19	9:40	16:21	23.1	10.6	16.9
June 21	5:19	9:41	16:21	23.8	11.6	17.7
June 28	5:22	9:41	16:18	24.4	12.3	18.4
July 5	5:27	9:38	16:11	25.0	12.8	18.9
July 12	5:33	9:34	16:00	25.5	13.1	19.3
July 19	5:41	9:27	15:46	25.9	13.2	19.6
July 26	5:50	9:18	15:28	26.0	13.1	19.6
August 2	6:00	9:08	15:08	26.0	12.8	19.4
August 9	6:10	8:56	14:46	25.8	12.3	19.1
August 16	6:20	8:43	14:23	25.4	11.9	18.7
August 23	6:31	8:30	13:59	24.7	11.2	18.0
August 30	6:41	8:15	13:34	23.5	10.3	16.9
September 6	6:51	8:00	13:08	22.1	9.1	15.6

## SOME SUMMER WEATHER TRIVIA

- ❖ The highest temperature ever recorded on Earth was 56.7°C at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, California, on July 10, 1913.
- ❖ The highest temperature ever recorded in Canada was 49.6°C on June 29, 2021, at Lytton, B.C.
- ❖ The highest temperature ever recorded in Winnipeg was 42.2°C on July 11, 1936.
- ❖ The coldest July temperature ever recorded in Winnipeg was 1.1°C on July 3, 1972.
- ❖ The average number of >30°C days in Winnipeg – May – 1; June – 2; July – 4; Aug – 5; Sept – 1.
- ❖ The average number of rainy days >0.2 mm in Winnipeg – May – 12; June – 13; July – 12; Aug – 11; Sept - 11.
- ❖ The strongest tornado ever observed in Canada was a Category F5 at Elie, Manitoba, on June 22, 2007. F5 (or EF5 under the new scheme) is the strongest tornado category in the (Enhanced) Fujita Classification, with wind speeds of 420-510 km/h, and the Elie event remains the only officially recognized F5 tornado ever observed in Canada. Miraculously, no-one was killed or even injured but damages in the small community exceeded \$39 million (\$56 million in today's dollars).





## A RETRO PLAYLIST FOR CANADA DAY



Here are 18 songs that could make a decent vintage playlist for Canada Day celebrations, at least for those who are as old and retro as me. Many come from the '60s during the heady, folksy days around Centennial Year in 1967 when we were celebrating not only 100 years of Confederation but the adoption of our flag in 1965, and feeling good about such other things as the creation of Social Insurance Numbers in 1964, the passage of Medicare in 1965, the Canada-US Auto Pact in 1965, the Montreal World's Fair (Expo 67), and Parliamentary approval of O Canada as the national anthem in 1967. The Canadian Bill of Rights had been passed at the beginning of the decade and the Official Languages Act was passed toward its end. The Trans-Canada Highway had become official in 1960, the New Democratic Party was born in 1961, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1967. Quebec was being transformed by the Quiet Revolution throughout the decade and Trudeauania was in full bloom as it closed. And, although we couldn't know it then, the Leafs' Stanley Cup in 1967 would be their last for 57 years (and counting)!

With all these things that we now take for granted, it's not surprising that such pop folk groups as The Travellers should have produced Canadian celebratory songs in the style of the American *This Land is Your Land*. There really hasn't been an outpouring quite like it since. This list then is a hearkening back 60-odd years to those nationalistic times, perhaps with renewed relevance during the current insults, threats and acrimony from the south. If you find much of it too corny and old-fashioned for your taste, you can make your own list! I haven't included songs that are specific to particular places, like the Tragically Hip's *Bobcaygeon*, the Guess Who's *Running Back to Saskatoon*, Tom Connors' *Sudbury Saturday Night*, *One Great City* by the Weakerthans. Those and others like them could easily be the basis for a competing list, which could also include Jim Christie's suggestion *Canada's Really Big* by the Arrogant Worms.

### **This Land is Your Land** - The Travellers (You Tube)

This was, of course, written by Woody Guthrie for the US but Oscar Brand's somewhat modified Canadian words were sung with enthusiasm at hootenannies (now there's a 60s word!) across the country and The Travellers' version became a hit.

### **Song for Canada** - Ian & Sylvia (You Tube) and to my astonishment, Bob Dylan (You Tube)

This was written by Ian Tyson and CBC legend Peter Gzowski in 1965 and recorded by Ian & Sylvia (among others). It takes the form of a letter from English Canada to French Canada during the Quiet Revolution when Quebec nationalism was emerging as a worry for English Canada. I was gobsmacked to discover that Bob Dylan and the Band also recorded it (check it out).

### **Hockey Night in Canada Theme** - Jerry Toth Orchestra (You Tube), Estevon, Montreal Symphonique

Surely one of the best-known melodies in Canada, even for non-hockey fans. It was composed for Hockey Night in Canada in 1968 by Dolores Claman who also wrote *A Place To Stand* (see below). After 40 years as the theme for Saturday nights across the country, it became controversial in 2008 when CBC lost its licence to it and ownership was transferred to CTV.

### **A Place to Stand (Ontari-ari-ari-o)** - 1967 Original (You Tube)

This is obviously particular to Ontario, having been written for Ontario's pavilion at Expo 67 and has been dubbed the unofficial anthem of Ontario but most of the words could apply to rest of Canada.

### **Something to Sing About (This Land of Ours)** - The Travellers (You Tube)

Oscar Brand (originally from Winnipeg) wrote this and The Travellers made it big in the folk world during the 60s. Brand was given an honorary degree by University of Winnipeg in 1987 for his work as a (US-based) songwriter and folklorist and he brought his guitar to Convocation explicitly to sing this song. Trouble is, he embarrassingly forgot the words to this his most famous song after the first line and after several fumbling attempts, he had to stop and play something else.

### **Ca-na-da** - Bobby Gimby (You Tube)

Anyone of a 'certain age' will surely remember this. It became the theme for 1967 Centennial Year with composer and trumpet player Bobby Gimby leading a troupe of kids singing this endlessly on radio and TV. It was the most successful Canadian song in 1967, selling a remarkable 270,000 copies and was #1 for two weeks.

### Mon Pays, C'est l'Hiver - Monique Leyrac (You Tube)

Written by Gilles Vigneault in 1964 as the theme song for the 1965 National Film Board film *La Neige a fondu sur la Manicouagan*, it evoked the landscape of Quebec in winter. Adopted by Quebec sovereigntists, it effectively became the anthem of the separatist movement, although Vigneault himself denied that was his intent. For me, Monique Leyrac's version is the best and it won first prize at the International Song Festival in Poland in 1965.

### Shake the Dust - The Travellers (You Tube)

Written in 1967, his was another big hit on the folk scene for the Travellers during their heyday in the 60s.

### Canadian Railroad Trilogy - Gordon Lightfoot (You Tube)

This is certainly the song that most identifies Gordon Lightfoot. Lightfoot was commissioned to write it by the CBC in Centennial Year to tell the story of the building of the CPR. As reported in Wikipedia, Lightfoot claimed that Pierre Berton once said "You did more good with your damn song than I did with my entire book on the same subject."

### From Sea to Sea - The Courriers (You Tube, from album of that name, not the Gospel group of that name)

Written in 1964 and the title track of their major album, this is another "folk" song of the '*This Land is Your Land*' genre that became The Courriers' best-known song.

### Northern Lights - The Jerry Cans (You Tube)

A song by Juno nominee band The Jerry Cans from Iqaluit to recognize the top half of Canada. The song integrates Inuit throat singing and country rock.

### The Maple Leaf Forever - The Tabernacle Choir, Anne Murray, or Michael Buble (all on You Tube)

This song by Alexander Muir from 1867 might have become the eventual National Anthem were it not so overtly British, colonial, and almost certain to offend Quebec. It is an excellent tune and new words might have improved its chances.

### Northwest Passage - Stan Rogers (You Tube)

This is the late singer/storyteller Stan Rogers' most famous song. Sung a cappella by Rogers, the song commemorates the exploration of Canada's west and north, mentioning explorers Henry Kelsey and John Franklin specifically and also refers to such geographical features as the Beaufort Sea, Davis Strait, and the Fraser River. Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper reportedly referred to it as one of Canada's unofficial anthems.

### Black Flies of Ontario - The Travellers (You Tube)

Anyone who has spent time in the bush will appreciate the torment this symbol of the Canadian wilderness can cause. It was written by Wade Hemsworth in 1949 in Labrador, is set in north Ontar-eye-o-eye-o, but can be taken to represent just about anywhere through Canada's Boreal forest, "always the black fly, anywhere you go ... a-crawlin' in your whiskers, a-crawlin' in your hair, a-swimmin' in the soup, and a-swimmin' in the tea".

### V'La Le Bon Vent - Ian & Sylvia (You Tube)

This is one of several versions of this 300 year-old folk-song which has been said to have been sung by coureurs de bois to help them maintain their paddling rhythm as they canoed the thousands of miles in incredible feats of endurance. The words have nothing to do with the country per se but the association with the voyageurs gives it a nationwide connection.

### Land of the Silver Birch - The Kiboomers (You Tube)

This is a school and Girl Guide camp-fire song by an unknown composer with an Indigenous perspective, sometimes (erroneously) attributed to poet Pauline Johnson. It has been labeled by some as racist, inappropriate, cultural appropriation and was the subject of a 2017 defamation suit but these claims have been roundly dismissed as "simplistic and ridiculous".

### I've Been Everywhere - Mike Ford (You Tube)

Couldn't resist including this, even though the original was written in 1959 by Australian Geoff Mack with lyrics comprised of a catalogue of 93 Australian rhyming place names. Since then, versions have been written for many other countries, notably the American one recorded by Johnny Cash. For this playlist, Mike Ford's clever Canadian version cries out for inclusion with its more than 100 Canadian place names delivered at breakneck speed.

### Canadiana Suite - Oscar Peterson (You Tube)

Last but could be first, this 1963 suite of eight piano pieces by legendary pianist Oscar Peterson celebrates the diversity of Canada's landscapes and cities. As quoted in Wikipedia, he said "*My profession has taken me to every part of the world, none of them more beautiful than where I live. As a musician, I respond to the harmony and rhythm of life, and when I'm deeply moved it leaves something singing inside me. With a country as large and as full of contrast as Canada, I had a lot of themes to choose from when I wrote the Canadiana Suite. This is my musical portrait of the Canada I love.*"

## SOME FANCY WORDS TO SPRINKLE INTO YOUR CONVERSATIONS AROUND THE BBQ THIS SUMMER (from a gallimaufry of sources)

**GLABELLA** – The space between the eyebrows.

**EMBIGGEN** – To make larger.

**CACHINNATOR**– One who laughs loudly or immoderately.

**PRICKMEDAINTY**– A person overly concerned with their personal appearance; a dandy; an affectedly nice person.

**EMPLEOMANIA** – Mania for holding public office.

**OCTOTHORPE** – The symbol #.

**LEUCOCHOLY**– A feeling that accompanies preoccupation with trivial and insipid diversions.

**MORDACIOUS** – Biting or sharp in manner or style.

**UGSOME**– Frightful, loathsome

**TUFT-HUNTER** – One who seeks association with persons of title or high social status.

**NEFANDOUS** – So wicked as to defy description.

**MEDIOCRIST** – A person of no outstanding distinction.

**MACROLOGIE** – Long and tedious talk.

**FLASTIGIOUS**– Extremely wicked, deeply criminal

**GOBEMOUCHE** – A credulous person; especially one who believes everything he or she hears.

**PSITHURISM** – The calming sound of wind in the trees.

**BUMFUZZLE** – To confuse, perplex, fluster.

**TARADIDDLE** – A small or petty lie, or pretentious nonsense.

**COCKWOMBLE** – A person, usually male, prone to making outrageously stupid statements and/or inappropriate behavior while generally having a very high opinion of their own wisdom and importance.

**CUMBERWORLD**– A useless person.

**SMATCHET** – A contemptible unmannerly person.

**ABSQUATULATE** - To leave quickly, to abscond.

**DYSANIA**– The condition of finding it difficult to get out of bed in the morning.

**FUSTILUG** – A ponderous, clumsy person.

**KNIPPERDOLLING** – A religious fanatic.

**ULTRACREPIDARIAN** – One who is presumptuous and offers advice or opinions beyond one's sphere of knowledge.

**NATIFORM** – Resembling the buttocks.

**SNUDGE** – A miser; a sneaking fellow; anyone you don't like.

**MALVERSATION** – Misbehaviour and especially corruption in an office, trust, or commission.

**APRICATE** – To bask in the sunshine.

**LOGOMACHIST** – One given to dispute over or about words.

**ABULIA** - An inability to make decisions.

**ELEEMOSYNARY** – Generous in assistance to the poor.

**WIDDERSHINS** – Counterclockwise; in the opposite direction from usual; lefthandedness.

**BALTER** – To dance without skill but with great enjoyment.

**XERTZ** – To gulp something down quickly or in a greedy fashion

**KAKORRHAPHIOPHOBIA** – Fear of failure.

**ONOLATRY** – Worship of the donkey or ass; Devotion to foolishness.

**ABECEDARIAN** – (adj) relating to the alphabet; alphabetically arranged; (n) One learning the rudiments of something.

**THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF EUPHEMISMS:** When yet another of Elon Musk's SpaceX rockets exploded spectacularly midflight on March 6, scattering bits and pieces widely over the Caribbean and requiring the rerouting of planes, SpaceX reported that it had experienced a "rapid unscheduled disassembly." Indeed.

**DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT:** As a public service (and to fill a space), it is especially appropriate in these times to draw your attention (as Ed Byard drew mine) to the Dunning-Kruger Effect identified by its namesakes in 1999 (who won the ig Nobel Prize for their work). This cognitive phenomenon describes persons who are incompetent in a given subject but are ignorant of their incompetence and give overly positive assessments of their abilities. British comedian John Cleese had his own take: "If you are really, really stupid, then it's impossible for you to know you are really, really stupid." But you might nevertheless still constantly brag to the public about your superior skills and knowledge in all domains, no matter how ridiculous. We all probably have our own nominees but one prominent newsmaker might lead most lists.



## OUR ANNUAL COMPENDIUM OF SUMMER FESTIVALS

Summer is the season when festivals of all kinds break out all over Manitoba. The table below lists 24 multi-day festivals, enough to keep you busy for every weekend until Labour Day. All have web sites which give the details about exact locations, performers, schedules, tickets (if necessary), and other matters. Just Google the Festival name.

Winnipeg Comedy Festival	April 29 - May 4	Winnipeg	Canada's funniest comics present standup and sketch comedy.
Manito Ahbee Festival	May 16 - 18	Red River Exhibition	This celebration of Indigenous arts, culture and music is the largest Pow Wow gathering in Canada and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> largest in North America.
Pride Winnipeg Festival	May 23 – June 1	Winnipeg	Celebration of LGBTTQ* people through sports tournaments, BBQs, arts shows, live entertainment, artisans, dance party, and parade.
Doors Open Winnipeg	May 24 - 25	Winnipeg	Annual exploration of Winnipeg's past through buildings not normally open to the public and exclusive tours.
Manitoba Electronic Music Exhibition	June 6 - 7	Exchange District, Winnipeg	Western Canada's largest electronic music and digital arts festival with the latest international sounds of techno, dub, house and experimental music, workshops and performances.
Winnipeg International Children's Festival	June 12 - 15	Winnipeg The Forks	40 <sup>th</sup> annual Kidsfest with circus acts, acrobatics, comic daredevils, pure artistry, absurdity and foolishness, plus unique musical acts
Red River Exhibition	June 13 – 22	Red River Exhibition	Free nightly concerts, the world's largest travelling midway, family attractions, animals, art, photography and agricultural competitions.
TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival	June 17 – 22	Winnipeg	Nine days of live music by local, national and international artists in the Exchange District. Winnipeg's largest downtown music event.
Dauphin Countryfest	June 26 – 29	Dauphin	Canada's longest running country music festival.
Winnipeg Folk Festival	July 10 - 13	Bird's Hill	Internationally acclaimed folk music festival features 70 acts, ten stages, a family area, camping, and delicious local and organic food.
Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival	July 16 - 27	Winnipeg	One of North America's largest Fringe Festivals with more than 170 local, national and international theatre companies performing comedy, drama, improv, dance with street performers and bands.
The Great Outdoors Comedy Festival	July 18 - 20	Assiniboine Park	A cabaret style outdoor comedy club, celebrating up-and-coming local talent to headliners. Limited to ages 18+.
Manitoba Stampede	July 18 - 21	Morris	Pro rodeo with bull riding, bronco-busting, roping, bareback riding, steer wrestling, chariot and chuckwagon racing, and agricultural fair, dairy and horse shows, entertainment and commercial displays.
Salamander Summer Music Festival	July 18 - 20	Rideau Park, Brandon	A celebration of the arts, creativity and culture on the prairies featuring aspects of local music, art, wellness and culture.
Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede	July 24 - 27	Austin	A celebration of Manitoba's agricultural roots, history and pioneering spirit held at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum
Canada's National Ukrainian Festival	August 1 - 3	near Dauphin	Celebration of Ukrainian-Canadian heritage, music, dance, food and culture.
Rockin' the Fields of Minnedosa	August 1 - 3	Minnedosa	Three nights of classic rock & roll with Heartland Rodeo, farmers market, historic park, fishing, water skiing and golf.
Icelandic Festival (Icelandicdagurim)	August 1 - 4	Gimli	Celebration of Icelandic culture and heritage, including an Icelandic Fashion Show, sand castle contest, live music, videos & more.
Folklorama	August 3 – 16	Winnipeg	Delicious authentic cuisine, vivid displays and entertainment in the world's largest and longest-running festival of its kind .
5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Winnipeg Tattoo Convention	Aug 8 - 10	Red River Exhibition	A celebration of tattoo art and culture with more than 250 tattoo artists, live music, merchandise, beer garden and an outdoor market.
Rainbow Trout Music Festival	Aug 15 - 17	Rosseau River near St. Malo	Three days of music, camping, bonfires, dancing, swimming, with music of all genres – rock, hip-hop, blues, jazz and more.
Morden Corn and Apple Festival	Aug 22 - 24	Morden	Manitoba's largest street festival, attracting over 75,000 people for farmer's market, face painting, busking, youth stage, midway.
Whoop & Hollar Folk Festival	August 23 - 24	Portage la Prairie	A multi-genre music and arts festival that offers a unique, small-festival experience.
Manitoba Fibre Festival	Sept. 5 - 6	Red River Exhibition	An annual family-friendly event that showcases various crafts, including lace-making, machine knitting, sheep shearing & fibre art.



## “Campus Novels”



Beginning in May 2018, these Newsletters have featured short reviews of “Campus Novels”, the genre of novels set in a university or college, which began to appear in the early 1950s. The subject matters include campus politics, collegial romances and sexual peccadillos, academic misbehaviours, tensions surrounding tenure, even murders; from the 1980s onward, such contemporary matters as gender inequities and sexual harassment have become increasingly common. Given universities’ eccentricities, absurdities, pettiness, egos, pomposities, and idiosyncrasies, it’s not surprising that comedy and satire are prominent. The great majority involve English or Writing Departments; a few other disciplines such as Sociology and Anthropology make occasional, often tangential, appearances, but the Sciences are almost nowhere to be found.

The varied British, American, and occasional Canadian settings depict real differences in national institutional cultures and practices. The earlier books, particularly those set in Britain, portray academic environments that are quaint and eccentric, certainly very different from current ones. For several decades, the main characters were almost all men but women became increasingly prominent in the 1980s. The books also reflect the mores of their times, with all the misogyny, homophobia, socio-politics, political incorrectness etc. that mark the past 60+ years. In recent decades, it seems like the standard satirical or serious academic plots have been mined out, largely replaced by murder mysteries set (sometimes loosely) on campus.

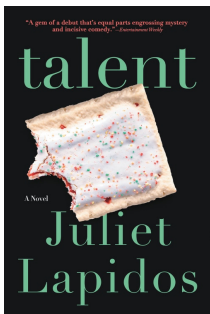
If you’ve read a ‘Campus Novel’, send a paragraph or two describing it and why you liked (or disliked) it.

### Cumulative List with the Newsletter in which they appeared

1. *Lucky Jim* – Kingsley Amis – Summer, 2018 - (Winnipeg Public Library)
2. *Changing Places* - David Lodge – Summer, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
3. *Small World* – David Lodge – Summer, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
4. *The Rebel Angels* – Robertson Davies – Fall, 2018 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
5. *A New Life* – Bernard Malamud – Fall, 2018 – (UW Library, PS 3563.A4N4 1962)
6. *Nice Work* – David Lodge – Winter, 2018 – (part of Lodge Trilogy, Winnipeg Public Library)
7. *The Groves of Academe* – Mary McCarthy – Winter, 2018 (UW Library)
8. *The Masters* – C. P. Snow – Winter, 2018 (UW library – PN 6037.N58M3 1951)
9. *Dear Committee Members* - Julie Schumacher – Winter, 2018 (Winnipeg Public Library)
10. *Death in a Tenured Position* – Amanda Cross – Spring, 2019 – (UW PS3558 E4526D4 1981)
11. *Sticks and Stones* – Janice MacDonald – Spring, 2019 – (UW PS 8575 A1633S7 2001)
12. *Death Without Tenure* – Joanne Dobson – Spring, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
13. *Purely Academic* – David Stephens – Summer, 2019 – Winnipeg Public Library
14. *Moo* – Jane Smiley – Fall, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
15. *The Shakespeare Requirement* – Julie Schumacher – Fall, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
16. *Straight Man* – Richard Russo – Winter, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
17. *A Large Harmonium* – Sue Sorensen – Winter, 2019 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
18. *The Devil and Webster* – Jean Hanff Korelitz – Spring, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
19. *The History Man* - Malcolm Bradbury – Spring, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
20. *Gaudy Night* – Dorothy L. Sayers – Summer, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
21. *The Secret History* – Donna Tartt – Summer, 2020 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
22. *Stoner* – John Williams – Fall, 2020 – Winnipeg Public Library)
23. *The Tenured Professor* – John Kenneth Galbraith – Fall, 2020 – (Kindle)
24. *The Human Stain* – Phillip Roth – Winter, 2020 – (Kindle)
25. *The Lecturer’s Tale* – James Hynes – Winter, 2020 – (Kindle)
26. *Pnin* - Vladimir Nabokov – Spring, 2021 – (Kindle)
27. *A Killing Spring* – Gail Bowen – Fall, 2021 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
28. *Burying Ariel* – Gail Bowen – Fall, 2021 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
29. *The Night the Gods Smiled* – Eric Wright – Winter, 2021 – (Kindle, Amazon)
30. *Disorientation* – Elaine Hsieh Chou – Summer, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
31. *Vladimir* – Julia May Jonas – Summer, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
32. *The Mark Twain Murders* – Edith Skom – Summer, 2022
33. *Matricide at St. Martha’s* – Ruth Dudley Edwards - Fall, 2022
34. *The Madness of Crowds* – Louise Penny - Winter, 2022 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
35. *Disorientation* – Elaine Hsieh Chou, Spring 2022 (reviewed in Time Magazine)
36. *The Memorial Hall Murder* – Jane Langton, Spring, 2022
37. *All Souls* – Javier Marias, Summer, 2023 (reviewed by Neil Besner)

38. *Simon Said* – Sarah R. Shaber, Summer, 2023 (reviewed by Dan Stone)
39. *The Long Lost Jules* – Jane Elizabeth Hughes, Summer, 2023 – (reviewed by Dan Stone)
40. *The Marriage Plot* – Jeffrey Eugenides, Fall, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
41. *The Theory of Death* – Faye Kellerman, Fall, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
42. *The Late Scholar* – Jill Paton Walsh, Winter, 2023 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
43. *Campusland* – Scott Johnson, Spring, 2024 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
44. *Thinks...* – David Lodge, Summer, 2024 – (Winnipeg Public Library)
45. *Another Margaret* – Janice MacDonald, Fall, 2024 (Winnipeg Public Library)
46. *The Seventh Function of Language* – Laurent Binet, Fall, 2024 (Winnipeg Public Library)
47. *The Wrap* – Mark Sampson, Winter, 2024 (Winnipeg Public Library)
48. *The Truants* – Kate Weinberg, Spring, 2025 (Winnipeg Public Library)
49. *Talent* – Juliet Lapodos, Summer, 2025 (Winnipeg Public Library)

**TALENT** by Juliet Lapodos (2019) is a curious, or as described by other reviewers, quirky tale. It revolves around Anna Brisker, a PhD student of English Literature at Collegiate, the (fictitious) university in New Harbour, Connecticut. Anna is wallowing in a



severe case of writer's block and is making no progress toward completing her dissertation on (ironically) various modes of inspiration. She herself has no inspiration and little or no plan for the direction her research should take. Her life is an aimless mess, she is surviving on a diet of Pop Tarts, and she can see no way to escape her plight. Making it all very much worse, her thesis advisor is offering no help at all, beyond endlessly pointing out her inadequacies and repeatedly exhorting her to find a 'case study' to give her work something to focus on. Then, by the merest of happenstance, she meets Helen, the niece of a dead, legendary but somewhat cultist author, Frederick Langley. Langley had once been in great demand but produced nothing for a decade or so before his untimely death in a car accident. During this decade of obscurity, he squandered all of his money in Europe and then sequestered himself to a hermetic life in his brother's attic. But his niece reported to Anna that he had in fact continued to write, in two notebooks that contained very short stories, ideas for novels, and character sketches. Following his death, the notebooks found their way to Collegiate's library where they were under strict, non-circulating orders pending the resolution of a dispute over who owned them- Helen or the university? Helen gives permission for Anna to examine the notebooks and Anna is immediately infused with inspiration; here is the 'case study' that she dreams will form the basis for her completion of her dissertation, guarantee her fame in the world of literary criticism, and finally send her on the road to a career in academe. The only problem, it transpires, is that Helen's motives were more than they seemed and her machinations had a criminal objective which draws in Anna.

All this seems like the premise for a good book, especially when it seems to have been intended as a comedic satire. Certainly the jacket's reviewers thought so, although they were sufficiently disparate in their characterizations of the book that I wonder if they actually read it. One reviewer claimed to "love a campus novel, especially when nearly everyone on campus is equally clueless", a puzzling opinion since there are virtually no campus people in the book other than very brief appearances by Anna's advisor. Another called it a "fabulous thriller set in the world of book theft" which is an over-the-top mischaracterization of the mystery element which only becomes evident, suddenly, in the last quarter or so. Yet another found it to be a "gimlet-eyed, penetratingly comedic take on the campus novel" which greatly exaggerates the books humorous moments. I guess that's why these reviewers were selected for the jacket. Indeed some Goodreads reviewers did enjoy it very much and gave it 5 out of 5 but most reacted as I did (meh, perhaps 3 out of 5). Not a bad read but the premise was better than the product. It was entertaining in parts and is well-written so I wouldn't dissuade an intending reader but neither would I encourage them to seek it out.