

# Monthly news & updates

## Pension and benefits update

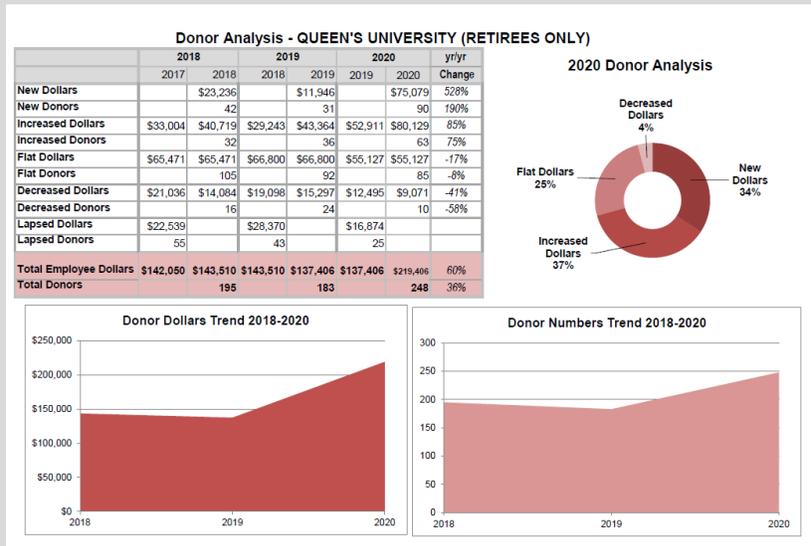
### Pension returns

- 1.4% in February with year-to-date return (6 months) of 7.2%

### Manulife Benefits at a Glance

- click [here](#) for retirees as of 1 July 2020 or later
- click [here](#) for retirees prior to July 2020

## United Way success: Retirees lead the way submitted by Eleanor Rogers, Chair of the RAQ United Way team



The 2020 KFL&A United Way campaign, *Local Love in a Global Crisis*, was a huge success despite being launched in unprecedented and ever-changing circumstances.

Queen's has always been a strong supporter of the

United Way, but the 2020 campaign results were overwhelming with a record-breaking total of \$455,356. **Queen's retirees played a significant part in that achievement**, increasing their giving by 60% in one year and providing almost 50% (\$219,406) of the entire Queen's contribution. Both Queen's and Queen's Retirees will receive United Way awards for their success in this campaign. Queen's earned three tributes - the Ruby Leadership Award for workplaces with more than 40 individuals who contribute more than \$1,200 annually, the Keystone Achievement Award for workplaces that raise \$250,000 or more, and the Most Improved in the Education Sector. **Queen's Retirees also received a Ruby Leadership Award as well as the Limestone Achievement Award for workplaces that raise \$100,000 to \$249,000.**

The number of people who benefited grew from 59,000 to over 76,000 (almost 30%), and the number of unique organizations assisted rose from 42 to 75 (80.95%), a significant increase in all areas. These numbers indicate how much more those who already face barriers (food insecurity, poverty, homelessness, and social isolation) need help during this time. As the pandemic continues to take its toll, the need will likely increase in 2021.

RAQ can be very proud of its members' generosity in this campaign – one of the most successful campaigns ever!

## RAQ Bursary update

We are pleased to share with you that the grateful 2020-2021 recipient of the



Retirees' Association of Queen's Bursary is

**Joanna Woodward**, 1st Year,  
BTech in Mining Engineering.

This bursary ensures that Queen's can recruit and accept the best, most promising students from all corners of Canada and the world and help remove barriers and make post-secondary education more financially accessible for students.

The RAQ bursary supports students in need. Our goal is to provide a \$2,500 award per year. We encourage members to support this worthy cause if your finances permit such a donation. The Office of Advancement often hears from students that it is absolutely life-

## President's report for 2020-21

- Membership has grown from just below 400 to almost 1,000 over the year and from the membership survey, we now have good data to support strategic planning and programming changes
- We now have full base funding from the University to support activities and growing membership, which is proving to be the foundation of a great partnership
- RAQ successfully ran monthly events via Zoom to keep members engaged with lively topics while meeting COVID-19 protocols
- We maintained a steady stream of information on change in benefits provider was important to our members
- Council membership changes - Catherine Purcell has joined Council, George Hood has stepped down, and Donna Lounsbury is leaving Council after years of leadership. The constitution has been adjusted to ensure a member of Council lives outside the greater Kingston area now that RAQ members are spread across Ontario, Canada, and

changing to receive an award.

(Image copyright: Suzy Lamont Photography)

[Donate now](#)

- around the world
- Focus for 2021-22: Drilling down into membership survey to further guide strategic planning; welcoming members to the new RAQ offices on King St.; combining in-person events with Zoom access.

**Diane Kelly**

## Queen's ranks 1st in Canada and 5th in the world for global and local impact

On April 21, 2021, Queen's was pleased to announce that the University was ranked 1st in Canada and 5th in the world by the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings for advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

[Click here to see announcement by Principal Patrick Deane](#)

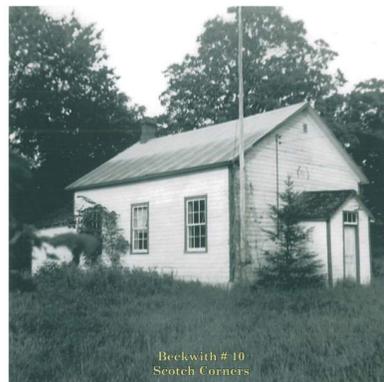


Introduced in 2019, the Impact Rankings measure teaching, research, outreach, and stewardship activities that contribute to goals such as elimination of poverty, peace, justice, and strong institutions, and ecosystem protection.

## Alice Munro and Teaching

by Tracy Ware

When Annie Chamney, Alice Munro's mother, began teaching full-time in 1918, only three of the other 110 teachers in the Carleton West—Lanark East district were male. Munro's biographer, Robert Thacker, notes that the Great War caused the imbalance, but teaching had long been an option for single women who had to step down when they married. According to Munro, teaching was for her mother "the best thing for women that she had come across so far," and so she taught until she married in 1927.



UNION S.S. #10, SCOTCH CORNERS, LOT 2, CONC. 10

Munro's early work often takes the child's perspective, as in "Who Do You Think You Are" (1978). Here Rose provokes her English teacher by memorizing a poem without first writing it out, as

instructed: “You can’t go thinking you are better than other people just because you can learn poems. Who do you think you are?” Rose avoids an easy judgment because she knows that “The lesson she was trying to teach here was more important to her than any poem, and one she truly believed Rose needed.”

The teachers in Munro’s later work have other difficulties. In “Comfort,” from *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* (2001), Nina stopped teaching when Latin was phased out, leaving her “just as glad, secretly, to no longer be working in the same place, and at the same job, as Lewis,” her husband. After her choir sings in a church, she is startled to find “what a deep dislike Lewis had of these places,” as is apparent in “the fast-changing display of creases that effected his repertoire of mockery, disbelief, ironic patience, suffering disgust. A classroom repertoire—and not always confined there.” Because it deals with the controversy over creationism and science, the story is unusually topical for Munro, who nonetheless allows for complexity and irony. Nina finally sides with her husband, who is forced out after he ridicules his community’s religious views; he eventually takes his own life after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. But it is a mark of Munro’s integrity that Lewis is responsible for his own downfall, since he uses the classroom to express views that have little to do with the science that he is supposed to be teaching.

I will end by returning to Rose, who spends three years at a decaying school before moving to a better one for Grade Four, an experience that reflects Munro’s schooling in Wingham. Mocked and beaten at the poorer school, Rose finds that surviving such adversity “is not the same as being miserable. It is too interesting.” In retrospect she provides an unexpected tribute to a school system that is not at its best here: “In the face of all that disruption, discomfort, impossibility, some thread of ordinary classroom routine was maintained; an offering. Some people learned to subtract. Some people learned to spell.” Having learned how the problems in schools reflect their society, Rose understands the importance of education even in its humblest forms.

