

Retirees Association of Mohawk College News Letter October 2000

One of the better features of our weather in this region is the passage of the seasons. Autumn being the most stimulating to the senses. From the colourful displays in the woods to sharpness of the air on a bright morning to the remembered smell of the burning leaves, which were so common by the roadsides in our youth, we are called to remember past autumns, and past friends and family – Autumn the time for introspection and recollection.

Since our last newsletter we have only had one event. Approximately 30 of our members and their guests attended the Stratford Festival production of the *The Fiddler on the Roof*. The performance was preceded by a tour of the Festival's costume warehouse and lunch at *Chez Jimbo*.

Coming Events

(See accompanying sheets for more information)

Friday, Nov. 10 **Royal Horse Show and Royal Winter Fair**- Toronto
Wednesday, Jan. 17, **Lion King - Princess of Wales theatre** - Toronto

In Memoriam

It is with the deepest regret that we report the passing of the following member:
Bob Malcolmson retiree from the Law and Security Dept. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family

News

of Members

Congratulations to Alan and Dorothy Gregson and John and Kay Ryckman who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 18th and 29th respectively.

Brantford Campus Celebrates

The following announcement was received via e-mail. "Brantford Campus faculty and staff are celebrating Mohawk College's 30th Anniversary in Brantford. A "Garden for the Senses" is nearing completion in the campus courtyard; a College banner greets drivers on the busy Wayne Gretzky Parkway, and the College was a sponsor of Brantford's Corporate Challenge and Homecoming events. Plans for the Fall include a golf tournament, night at Flamborough Downs and a gala dinner. More information on these events is available through the 30th Anniversary line" Unfortunately, dear reader, the first two planned events, the golf tournament and the race night will have taken place by the time you read this. However, to attend the 30th Gala Anniversary dinner on Thursday, October 26th at the Petofi Hungarian Cultural Club (\$25 pp) contact Contact coordinator Nancy Fleming for details, fleminn@mail.mohawkc.on.ca or (519)758-6041 or 575-1212 ext.6041.

Retirees Association of Mohawk²
College Newsletter
Published four times per year

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ard Meeting

Unfortunately your humble editor could not be present at the September board meeting and the report will therefore be somewhat limited. The main topic of discussion was the health insurance coverage that we and its costs. Preliminary investigation seems to indicate that we are paying too much for the coverage that we have. The following is a report to Alan Gregson' president of the Retirees Association and dated Sept. 11,2000

Report from the Medical Insurance Committee

We have reviewed and compared the cost of Sun Life's medical insurance offerings with several other suppliers. It would appear that Sun Life is charging retirees over 65 years of age \$50 to \$70 per month more than other suppliers of this service. In fact Sun Life is charging Academic retirees \$66.50 per month more than the College pays on behalf of each full time faculty member and under 65 retiree. (See the attached spread sheet.)

The fact that less expensive medical insurance is readily available leads us to present the following recommendations for the Board of Directors consideration.

1. That representatives of both Johnson Insurance and the OMERS retirees be permitted to make presentations to the board. It appears that both of these suppliers may be able to accept the Mohawk Retirees Association as a group.
2. That information on alternative suppliers be provided to the membership. (The caveat that if you leave Sun Life you may not be able to be reinstated should be made clear to all members.)
3. That the Board advise the faculty union local 240 that the rate difference between retirees over 65 and those under 65 may have violated a clause in their collective agreement. It is strongly recommended that the Board ask local 240 to investigate this matter, and if they agree that the

contract has been violated, to take appropriate action.

4. That the Board investigate a custom plan better suited to retirees needs. Possibly an insurance broker could be of assistance.

For the committee;

Bob Walling, Frans Brinkman, Santosh Dalal

The cost comparisons mentioned in the report have not been include in the newsletter. In investigating the costs of insurance it is important to determine the coverages and to also be aware of the possibility that a low rate might initially be offered only to be significantly increased subsequently.

Let's Do Lunch

Mary and your humble editor lunched at three pubs in the late summer and early fall. The first was the **The Royal Coachman** in Waterdown. We have mentioned this public house previously as a great place for a weekend brunch. The nine imported beers and ales on tap were impressive. We both chose the same luncheon special - soup and prime rib steak on a bun - both delicious. With beer, tax and tip, lunch was just under \$30.00.

The Coach and Lantern in Ancaster was visited. It is located in an old building on Wilson St. They had a good selection of imported beers and ales on top but not quite up to the Royal Coachman. We both had the soup of the day (glutinous leek and potato soup - not served warm enough). Mary had the Greek salad special which had no black olives in it - upon questioning the server we were told they were out of olives! YHE had the corn beef sandwich special which was served with rather greasy french fries. The bar service was prompt but the food service was very slow. With beer, tax and tip, lunch was about \$38.00. This is a good place for a pint but not for lunch.

Our third venture took us closer to home; **The Winchester Arms in Dundas** is an old favourite of ours. We have often dropped in for a pint when we have had business downtown. The selection of imported beers and ales was comparable with the Royal Coachman's comestibles. The luncheon specials did not appeal to us. We both had minestrone soup followed by, in Mary's case, shepherd 's pie which she proclaimed to be delicious. YHE chose steak and kidney pie served with french fries and cole slaw. The pie was excellent and the french fries not at all greasy. Lunch with beer, tax and tip about \$42.00.

As a change of pace we also had lunch at the Dim Sum Restaurant at the east end of the strip mall at the comer of James St. N and Wilson St. We chose four menu selections which were all excellent. Lunch with green tea tax and tip was \$13.00.

Welcome New Members

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new retirees to the Association

Joyce Bartlett	Eric Draper	William Main
Sandra Black	Vinko Francovich	Tom Newton
Franz Brinkman	Dan Glover	Robert Pando
Heather Brinkman	Lily Hewack	Judith Scott
Paul Caims	Judith Horsley	William Strecker
Marjorie Carlino	AnnHowarth	Brian Truman
Mary Cheeranjie	Usiflshawk	Phil White
David Cuthill	Olga Leclair	

Our Wandering Board Member Report (Part 1)

Alan and Dorothy Gregson

Tanzanian Wild Life Safari & the Island of Zanzibar.

February 2000.

There was snow and below-zero temperatures in Ontario so we left and headed for the sun and warmth of the East African tropics, alongside the Indian Ocean.

To break up the 20 hours of flying we spent three days in Amsterdam with son Simon and his wife Christa. They flew in from Aberdeen. It was good to be with them, sharing the early Spring sun and having the advantage of their previous day's exploration. We didn't waste time but viewed the city sights from a glassed-in tour boat gliding the waters of Amsterdam's famous canals. It's a beautiful and interesting city in many ways - with lots of distinctive bridges and colourful homes and offices etc, a Cathedral turned into a contemporary museum with a current display of Islamic artifacts, Madame Tussauds, Dam Square with it's real-life human sculptures and pigeons, a unique (I imagine!) Red Light district, the Van Gogh Art Gallery and the Dutch Pancakes which are bigger than Canadian pancakes and thicker than French crepes and can be topped with a variety of fillings -a very adequate meal. We certainly enjoyed what we saw - and still there's more to be seen in the future!

From Kenya's Nairobi we flew to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and, en route, got a close look at snow capped Mount Kilimanjaro at the equator! Our "Explore" group of twelve met up at the Peacock Hotel - not the Hilton but adequate. Chris Lee, our tour leader led us on a walking tour of the mainly Muslim city centre; African style market. Mosque, Hindu section and harbour area before heading to the airport to board a twelve-seater Cessna plane captained by Major Domo. That 45 minute flight South saved us a 7-8 hour road jostling through the African jungle..

On the cleared air strip of the Selous Game Reserve (Tanzania's largest) we were welcomed in Swahili - "Karibu!". The Rufiji River Camp staff with Land Rover type vehicles drove us to the camp site overlooking the river. Below us were groups of submerged Hippos snorting as they came up for air every 20 minutes and beady-eyed watchful Crocodiles hoping for a meal of baby Hippo or unwise human!. Around the tents the monkeys, male and female with babies were curious and assertive much to our amusement and resulting determination to keep our tent flaps fully zipped!

There was ample room for standing inside the palm leaf thatched tents. Each had two single beds with hanging mosquito nets for our nightly use, writing desk and chairs and a back room with shower, wash-basin, flush toilet and a bidet!!. Three cooked meals per day, served with silver and crockery settings on tablecloths all helped to elevate this camping experience to a level never experienced in our Boy Scout and Girl Guide days. This was in the Abercrombie and Fitch high class tour category! Note: Explore do have other "real camping" treks for those wanting to pitch tents each night, cook, wash pots etc. but we'd struck lucky and didn't complain!

We were accompanied by an armed Reserve guard and guide on the several safari treks. No problem! Cameras zoomed in on Giraffe, Impala, Elephant, Wild Buffalo, Wildebeast, Wart Hog, Baboon, Monkey, Hippo and Crocodile. Lion and Zebra evaded us because of a heavy rainstorm which prevented our vehicle crossing into a savannah area where they had been spotted.

Fish Eagles, Goliath Heron, Egyptian Geese, Vultures and lots of smaller colourful birds occupied Dorothy's eagle eyes! All very fascinating to binocular clad ornithologists.

(To be continued in the January Newsletter)