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## Retirees Association of Mohawk College News Letter October 2001

It is impossible to start this newsletter without referring to the attack on the World Trade Center in New York. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones and our hopes are that the miscreants will be brought to justice.

It was not only a long hot summer but very dry. It seems that every variation in the weather must be explained. In this case, the villain was global warming. In some societies they would have sacrificed a brown dog to appease the gods, or otherwise offered up incantations and made auspicious gestures. This is not to say that global warming was not too blame but in view of the normal fall weather so far, we should not jump to conclusions and attribute every normal variation in the weather to something.

Since the last newsletter we have had one event. Twentynine members and their guests visited Ruthven Historical site, dined at the Erie Beach Hotel and enjoyed *Maggie's Getting Married* at the Lighthouse theatre in Port Dover, on August 2. Hans Bastel reports on page 3.

### Coming Events

Friday Oct. 26            **The Sound of Music** at the Stratford Festival (sold out)

Sunday Dec.9            **Westfield Heritage Village** – " Twas the Night before Christmas"  
celebration and dinner. (see enclosed)

### In Memoriam

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of the following member: **John Dawson** – retiree from the Stoney Creek Campus  
Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

### **Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Sciences Retirees Association (OCRA)**

As mentioned in the April Newsletter, the provincial retirees' association is now a reality, thanks to the hard work of Bob Pando and others. Included in this mailing is an application for membership in the newly formed OCRA. Your board urges all members to join the OCRA and, if you are able, pay the \$10.00 annual fee to become voting members. The current concern is health insurance but there are other causes lurking in the wings and a powerful united front is our best barraging tool. We need a provincial association to lobby on behalf of all three groups of retirees, administration, faculty and support staff.

**Mohawk Presents**

To honour the 2001 recipients, the President's Awards for Excellence will be held on Thursday, December 06.01 at 3:00 pm in the Theatre, followed by a reception in the North Cafeteria.

# Retirees Association of Mohawk College

## Newsletter

Published four times per year

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### Let's Do Lunch

At 182 Locke Street S. is a small restaurant named *Il Fiasco*. Mary had lunched there with a girl friend and it was also recommended by Alan Gregson. The fare is best described as fusion with a definite vegetarian slant. The soup was excellent as well as the vegetarian sandwich – marinated, roasted red pepper and Portabello mushrooms. The ingredients were fresh and the service friendly. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$44

*My-Thai Restaurant* at 21 John Street North is so new that they did not yet have their liquor license when we were there in late August. They advertise "freshly prepared genuine Thai cuisine.". Much as in a Chinese restaurant, several menu items are ordered and shared amongst the guests. The food was delicious. Spring rolls as an appetizer was followed by three other dishes. Thai food is not eaten with chop sticks as are Vietnamese or Chinese food but with a fork and a desert spoon. With tax and tip lunch was \$27

The **Cook House Bistro** in Rockton is a small friendly restaurant located at 78 Old Highway #8 . The daily specials, when Mary and YHE were there were chicken stew and barbecued pork rib on a bun. The soup du jour was clam chowder. Mary had soup and the stew while YHE had soup and the pork rib. The chowder was very good and Mary proclaimed the stew to be very tasty. The portions were very generous and a choice of salad or french fries was offered. In hindsight we would probably forgo the soup. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$38.

## Welcome New Members

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new members to the association.

Geoffrey Bainbridge Donald Barnes Antoinette Chalut Angela Collingwood Ray Czajkowski  
 Beverley Dickson Steve Evans Sandra Fox Charlotte Hell Anne Hemsworth Gillian Jones Simon  
 Kam Judith King-Siganski Anna Knibbs Jane Kouri Donna Langford Robert Little Stanley  
 Marrow Maureen Paterson Victor Pegado David Pringle Sandy Sainsbury William Sanford Donna  
 Simmons Richard Smith Shirley Somers Brian Thwaites Jeff Tottman  
 Robert Tripe Mervin Wildeman William Woodward

### Ruthven Park, Dinner and Theatre . . .

#### A Tour To Remember

August 2, 2001 was one of the hottest days of the year. But that did not deter a large group of Mohawk retirees to board an air-conditioned bus for a tour that was both fun and educational. Tour organizers Linda and Geoff Brooker had mapped out an interesting itinerary along the Grand River and the north shore of Lake Erie.

The first stop was at **Ruthven Park**, a somewhat hidden historical treasure on the banks of the Grand River, a few kilometres upstream of Cayuga. Ruthven was recently declared a National Historic Site. Built in 1845, it is an excellent example of a large classical Greek revival mansion. It is situated in an impressive, quiet park consisting of 900 acres of Carolinian Forest. The building complex itself consists of a 36-room mansion, barracks, coach house and several outbuildings. Aside from general maintenance updates, the mansion and its contents have remained virtually untouched over the years.

In addition to being served traditional tea and scones, we were given a guided tour by knowledgeable tour guides. (It was nice to learn that one of the guides was an architectural technician student from Mohawk). We learned a lot about the region's history and that Ruthven was home to five generations of Thompsons, a proud family of Scottish descent who made major contributions to the development of the region, the province and the country. (For more details on Ruthven refer to the following website: [www3.sympatico.ca/ruthven.park/](http://www3.sympatico.ca/ruthven.park/)).

Following this stop we continued our tour, traversing the beautiful, north shore countryside all the way to Port Dover. On the way we were entertained by Geoff Brooker and Al Gregson who, since their retirement, have continued to develop their considerable talents as local historians and comedians.

Our first stop in Port Dover was at the venerable **Erie Beach Hotel**. There we enjoyed a first class traditional Lake Erie fish dinner with all the trimmings. Afterward there was enough time for a short stroll along the harbour and through town before attending a matinee performance at the **Lighthouse Festival Theatre**. The performance was totally sold out. We watched the truly hilarious comedy "Maggie's Getting Married" by Canadian playwright Norm Foster. The story revolves around a

family in the Maritimes who is in the process of making final preparations for a daughter's wedding. Those of us, who had never attended a Lighthouse Theatre performance, were pleasantly surprised about the professionalism of the cast, direction and stage design. The Lighthouse Theatre is definitely worth a return visit.

The trip back to Fennel Campus was enhanced by an unplanned but delicious stop at Hewitt's famous ice cream bar just outside Hagersville. All well-meaning, post-dinner resolutions about limiting our calorie intake melted away in the heat of the late afternoon. But no one cared!

Everyone agreed that Linda and Geoff Brooker had done an outstanding job in looking after this tour and deserved an enthusiastic round of applause.

Hans Bastel

### **A Jaunt to the Shaw Festival**

"Why is it that the people who know how to enjoy themselves never have any money, and the people who have money never know how to enjoy themselves."....so says The Millionairess!

On Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Brian and I joined a group of McMaster Retirees on a bus trip to Niagara-on-the Lake to see a production of Shaw's The Millionairess - a lighthearted play about a woman who wants everything-money, power and personal fulfilment. To accomplish this, she is forced to take many chances, and that was the moral of this happy whirlwind of a play. To approach one's goal in life, we must, upon occasion, "go out on a limb". This production, staged at the Festival Theatre was well received with some reservations from those who required more leg room and found they had trouble getting mobile after being somewhat cramped in small quarters. Being small of stature, I had no complaints in that regard. Prior to the play, we enjoyed a very pleasant tour of the Falls area and lunch at Betty's Restaurant on Sodom Road in Niagara Falls.

Mary Welsh

### **Our Wandering Board Members Report**

On Sept. 4 to 8<sup>th</sup>, Your Humble Editor and I took a quick trip to Kingston and Ottawa - made quicker, I might say, by the presence of the 407. I had been told that Kingston is a lovely city to visit and we were not disappointed there. Our bed and breakfast was located close to the water and across from KP (Kingston Penitentiary) I really was surprised that such a mammoth place would be necessary to house those who have run afoul of the laws of the land. They were not giving tours here, so Brian and I toured the Penitentiary Museum, a lovely old home that was formerly the residence of the Warden. He knew how to live, even if many of his charges didn't. We also toured a home once occupied by Sir John A MacDonald, our first Prime Minister and his invalid wife. It was known as "The Pagoda Home" and was beautifully designed in the Italian style. The downtown area of Kingston is very picturesque with a domed city hall and lovely gardens on the waterfront. We took a three hour tour of the islands and had two very lovely meals, Italian and Thai, in this attractive city.

In Ottawa, we stayed at a Travelodge Hotel near the center of town. The price was comparable to the price of a b&b. We continued to have beautiful weather to explore the downtown. This trip, we decided to view the Mint, the Military Museum and the National Gallery of Canada. The best way to get an

overall view of the city is to hop on a bus with on and off privileges. The Trolley Tour is fun and gives you a good idea of the distance between attractions. I would not recommend regular city buses as they can be quite irregular and you might have a long wait. Parking is also very difficult close to the above attractions so it is probably better to pick one of the options provided - including an amphibious tour on a strange looking vehicle that travels both on land and in water!

The Royal Canadian Mint on Sussex Drive provides an opportunity to see how gold and silver coins are made –You may purchase coins for your collection or fine jewellery, or you can just take a long, hard look - which is what we did.

The Canadian War Museum, beside the Mint contains three floors of Canadian war history as well as tales of bravery in these times. We thought this to be a very well presented real-life story of Canada's military history from the earliest days of New France to current-day operations.

Our last visit in Ottawa was to the National Gallery of Canada, again on Sussex Drive, which houses among the world's finest and most comprehensive collection of Canadian and International art. Suffice it to say, we saw a tiny portion of this. We saw the Klimt Exhibition, which was too crowded for my liking, even in September, but the Group of Seven and Canadian exhibit was a treat. There is a lot of walking involved and we did stop for lunch at a pub near the ByWard Market. The Market is certainly worth a look too - a colourful, outdoor farmers' market which began in the 1840's. And so, we began our journey home, ever thankful for highway 407, a more civilized way to cross Toronto, to be reunited with our much loved bulldog, Beau, who ignored us, as usual.

Mary Welsh