

Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter October 2003

Greetings from the Chair.

I thought I would take a different route this year and just write a few words to all of you. While many of us meet on various excursions, we nevertheless do leave stones unturned.

As you can see from this newsletter, our board has three new members this year. Our hope is that we not only continue attracting first class members but that we also continue to try to have all college constituencies (maybe I should avoid that term at this election time of year) represented. While we retirees do a lot of mingling, it sometimes helps 'new' members to feel more at home if they recognize colleagues with whom they have worked.

Your board members work diligently on your behalf and I know you join with me when I offer them a big thank you.

One thing that has struck me about many retirees is that you are keeping active. Cal Haddad recently joked that the college will be doing a lot of hiring and that we could get our old jobs back. I think we on the board all intimated that we were far too busy to entertain such wild thoughts. Volunteerism seems to be alive and well with our members. It can be very rewarding and very much appreciated. Lynda and I are involved with Meals on Wheels in Hamilton and a United Appeal in Haldimand. By the way, drivers are always needed at M.O.Ws and I was recently contacted by the Catholic Children's Aid Society who are really in need of people to act as drivers and 'special friends' to kids who have been neglected or abused.. Their phone number is 905 525-2021. While we all give to charities of our choice I think perhaps, that our time and experience is the most important thing we have to offer.

As mentioned at the annual meeting, it continues to be a real pleasure, meeting so many of you and to receive your suggestions for trips etc. that we might organize for you.

Our association continues to grow and have influence. We were most recently consulted in the process of selecting the new college president and we were very instrumental in promoting the development of a provincial association which, we hope, will further all of our interests.

I'll 'ring off' now before YHE (Brian Welsh) edits me out.

Enjoy this Autumn weather and continued good health

Geoff

Retirees Association of Mohawk College

Newsletter

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It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of the following retirees:

William "Bill" Bruce – Textile Technology Dept.

Robert "Bob" Jameson – Business Dept.

Our sympathy is extended to their families.

The summer of 2003 now just as memory; the grackles and their fellow travelers, the redwing blackbirds are flocking together again at the feeders. Since our last report we have had three events.

On Sunday August 3, twenty -eight retirees and their guests traveled to Marshfield Pioneer Village and Port Colborne for lunch and a performance of "Ivanka Chews the Fat". Mary Elizabeth and Bill Fulton report on page 4

On Sept. 10, fifty-three retirees and their guests lunched at the Queen's Inn Stratford and then attended a performance of Noel Coward's Present Laughter – Jack Freiberger reports on page 4.

On Oct 5, 6, and 7, forty-eight members and their guests visited Algoma country. Florence and Ed Kodis report on page 7.

Coming Events

Thursday November 3 – Tour of the six Nations Reserve, Lunch at the Olde School House Restaurant and the musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at the Sanderson Theatre in Brantford. (See accompanying sheet).

Wednesday December 3 – An informal get together and Christmas lunch at the Schwaben Inn in Dundas. See box on page 8

Tuesday January 27, 2004 **Chinese New Year Dinner** at *Le Chinois*. (See accompanying sheet).

Wednesday March 3, 2004 – Lunch at the Towne and Country Restaurant and the musical **The Producers** at the Canon Theatre in Toronto. (See accompanying sheet).

Report on the October Board Meeting¹

Your board met at the college on Sept 30. Geoff Brooker read a letter from Cal Hadad thanking the association for the donation of \$1000 that was made to the *Shaping the Future* campaign.

Our webmaster, Fred Oldfield, reported that considerable progress has been made on refurbishing the website. Fred's report is on page 6.

The board decided, after hearing a complaint, to change the charges for the lunch at Annual General Meeting. The \$15 for member and partner will remain but it will be reduced to \$7.50 from \$8.00 for single members. Norm Marshall has offered to be the guest speaker at the June 2004 AGM.

Let's Do Lunch

In a recent issue of "Billy's Best Bottles" (wine critic Wm. Munelly's newsletter) a reference was made to **Chicago Style Pizza** on upper Sherman Street as having the best pasta sauce in Hamilton. One noon hour, Mary and yhe decided to visit it. Alas, it is not open for lunch². Since it was raining heavily and we were both very hungry we decided to look around on the mountain for somewhere to lunch. At the corner of Fennell and Upper James, where the Bank of Montreal used to be, is **Romano's Pasta & Pizza**. We both ordered soup and the spicy version of *linguini pescatore* (linguini with clams shrimp, and muscles). It was very good as was the soup. The only

¹The meeting was held on Sept 30 due to the upcoming bicycle races.

²We later dined there one evening. The food is excellent and the portions are more than adequate, coming in small and regular sizes. The wine list while not extensive is good and very reasonably priced. Dinner with soup, pasta entrées, ½ litre of house wine and tip was under \$40. It is advisable to go either before 5:30 PM or after 7 to avoid the crowds.

drawback was the price of the domestic beer – \$4 per bottle. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was about \$50.

The **British Raj** is a relatively new Indian Restaurant at 25 King William St. It is without a doubt the best Indian buffet that we have encountered in Hamilton. The offerings included various



hicken dishes, including *tandoori*. The dishes were spicy but not overly so. Lunch with Kingfisher beer, tax and tip was about \$40.

Another recent arrival on the Indian restaurant scene is the **Indian Garden Restaurant** at 1122 Main ST. West (corner of Cline). Mary and yhe split one of the luncheon special platters and added an order of spicy lamb *madras*. The food and service were excellent. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was about \$34.



Leghorns, located at 975 Main St E, is as the name implies is primarily a chicken restaurant although they also serve beef. Smoking is permitted so do not consider it for an outing with children. Mary chose soup and the chicken sandwich and yhe, soup and the prime rib sandwich.



In the morning we visited Marshville Heritage Village in Wainfleet (formerly known as Marshville). Since 1989 the Wainfleet Historical society has been developing this area. The buildings and artifacts are meant to represent life in the area circa 1840. The volunteers have done yeoman work on this project and two of them named Ken and Ken gave an interesting and informative tour of the area. On Labour Day weekend a three day event is sponsored here. For a cost of \$5.00 admission you would be able to see the ten buildings operating as they did in pioneer days. Also there are crafts people and artisans on site. The average attendance, for the event, is now 27 000 and growing. All proceeds go to the development of the village.

After a pleasant drive through the Haldimand and Niagara regions we arrived at Port Colborne where we were taken on an informative tour by a volunteer. This city has a rich history connected with the Welland Canal and an Inco refinery. At one time textiles and shoes were also made here.

Ruth Mileski

The Carpenter's Shop at Marshville

In the afternoon we had a good buffet lunch at the Roselawn Centre and then attended an hilarious and meaningful two-woman performance of *Ivanka Chews the Fat*, at the Showboat Festival Theatre, which is also part of the Roselawn Complex.

Jo-Ann Waytowich was featured as Ivanka and Dianne Potts as Maurica. Waytowich also wrote the musical which is one of a four part *Ivanka* series. She is presently writing a fifth show. Ivanka's message is to lighten up and don't take oneself too seriously. Her "personal tune-up" consists of these ten points: *say yes to your body, don't spend time with*

poo-poo people, get off you hoo-hoo, start from where you are, let your balls fly, lighten up, you're good enough the way you are, get used to it, it's an inside job, and get out of your way.

The Roselawn Centre offers much in the way of the arts and of fine dining. More information can be found at www.roselawn.ca

<<http://www.roselawn.ca>>.

We took a scenic drive home through Dunnville and along the Grand River. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Geoff and Linda Brooker for planning a wonderful day.

Mary Elizabeth and Bill Fulton

Trip to *Present Laughter* at Stratford

September 10, 2003

It was the best of folks and the worst of jokes as we coached from Fennell to enjoy Noel Coward's 1939 send-up of Britain's "star-maker machinery."

Queen's Inn offered a fine buffet with great soup! Even after an hour's walking-off of the lunch yhn found himself nodding and being poked in the ribs, lest he fall out of the balcony. Was it that some stage remarks, enjoyed by those in the pit, were too *soto voce*? Several cranked their hearing aids.

The plot centred on Gary Essendine (Brian Bedford), a too-elegant heartthrob of the stage, who cites Shelley or various roles instead of being himself. It works (as many an English major knows) on the ladies - a parade of willing women "lose their latch-keys" and arrive to stay the night. Fort-unately, Essendine has more spare pajamas and dressing gowns than Dianna Ross has costume changes. And also a spare room, once the "seduction couch"- centre-piece of the art deco room - has done its duty.

A domineering separated wife, a jaded secretary, an overwrought young playwright, an ever-discrete butler and a hilarious maid (who pursed a cigarette in her mouth like a drinking straw) and two husbands rounded out the cast of poser and hangers-on stereo-types. One wonders what British soldiers thought as this play toured military bases and hospitals - was *this* world worth dying for?

In the end, Essendine abandons the fops and rejoins his wife to tour a play in Africa.

The play was fast-moving and witty, keeping us on our toes to follow it. It was a fine selection for a September junket, well enjoyed by all. Coward gave 1939 and us the best medicine, a most-needed present - laughter.

Jack Freiburger

Spinning the Web

Over the summer, we've been working on a new website for our association. If you haven't yet visited, we hope you will soon. The website now has back issues of this newsletter from 1997 to the present. We're working on more improvements, so please come back and visit often. News that can't wait for the next issue of the newsletter will be available on the website. We'd love to get your

reactions. We'd also like to get your contributions and suggestions for improvements. Oh, and now there are two addresses to get you to our site: www.mcretirees.com or www.mohawkc.on.ca/retirees.

My mother and, lately, my wife often turn to the "In Memoriam" pages first. There are several sites on the web that post death notices. However, if your interest is more in the world of entertainment, you should check out www.deadoraliveinfo.com. Their information is somewhat sketchy (just the bare facts), but they have a fairly comprehensive listing – and they keep it up to date!

If history's your bag, check out www.historytelevision.ca (or just www.history.ca) for some interesting trivia and, of course, news about upcoming programming. The U.S. equivalent is www.historychannel.com. It also features a searchable "Today in History" feature. For even more, try www.todayinhistory.com. They have a large searchable database. In fact, you'll find plenty of people – and even events – listed that I'll bet you've never heard of. For a more concise listing (but not, at the moment, searchable) click on the "Today in History" link on my own www.elmlane.com site.

While you're there, you might want to visit the "Elmlane Mansion" which features two games for your amusement. "Count the Ghosts" is a simple diversion that challenges you to – well, count the



ghosts that appear within a short time span. "Pumpkin Pie Tycoon" is somewhat more elaborate. See if you have what it takes to make money selling pies.

Fred Oldfield (retirees@elmlane.com or fdo@elmlane.com)

Algoma Country Adventure

On Sunday, Oct. 5th at 7:30 a.m., forty-eight of us boarded the Maxima Tours Bus driven by Greg,

Buffet breakfast on Monday morning was all ready for us and off we went again. We had the entire car on the train to ourselves, and could wander up and down at will (this took a bit of a balancing act, especially if you needed to use the washroom). Here again the scenery was lovely, the leaves had not completely changed, but there were still plenty of reds, oranges, etc. Hard to imagine the workers building that railway we travelled, as there were sheer drops as it wound round the waterways, and they worked without the technology we have today. We were provided with a box lunch to take with us and it was nicely prepared. Had a little better than an hour to tour the canyon, hike the trails etc. and then back to the Casino for dinner and some gambling if we desired. The hotel was close so you could stay or have a little stroll back if you wished.

Had a little sleep in on Tuesday before it was time for a leisure breakfast and on the bus at 9:30 a.m. for a cruise along the great waterway and lock system. Perhaps some have been through lock systems before, but with such beautiful sunny weather and just a little crispness in the air, one felt as if they were doing it for the first time. At 12:30 p.m. we boarded the bus and were homeward bound, arriving in Hamilton at about 9:30 p.m.

All in all it was a great adventure. Ann fed us so many wonderful snacks, HOMEMADE cookies, candy, crackers and different cheeses, chips and bottled water when we needed it, we did not even need a lunch stop on the way home. The movies she played were great, the bingo games were fun, and she thought of every comfort for each and every one of us.
THANK YOU ANN

Jim Jones

Retirees and guests on Agawa Canyon Trip

Florence & Ed Kodis

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

12 Noon

Come join your fellow retirees for lunch at the *Schwaben Inn*
King St. W, Dundas

Everyone is responsible for their own check. As a courtesy to the Schwaben
please try to give them a couple of days notice if you will be coming.

Phone 905-627-4677