

# Retirees Association of Mohawk College

## News Letter October 2004

Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter Published four times per year			
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### In Memoriam

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of the following retiree: **William "Bill" Fitzgerald** retiree from the Business Department  
Our sympathy is extended to his family

### Mea Culpa

In the July News letter credit was given to "Santosh Mather" for organizing the trip to The Stage West Dinner Theatre to see Fiddler on the Roof. This credit should have gone to Santosh Dalal.

## Let's Do Lunch

**The Whistling Walrus** is an English style pub and restaurant located at 1508 Upper James St. The surroundings were clean and comfortable and the servers prompt and polite. Mary chose a pint of Alexander Keith, which was on special and your humble editor (yhe) a pint of Guinness. The Salmon Caesar Salad appealed to Mary and yhe chose the Beef Dip which rated no more than satisfactory. On the other hand, Mary proclaimed the Salmon Caesar Salad to be considerably above average, Lunch with beer, tax, and tip, less an \$8.75 reduction for the Entertainment Book, was \$23.

One Friday morning, after once again mulling through the Entertainment Book we chanced upon Camp 31, a restaurant specializing in barbecued ribs, chicken etc. **Camp 31** is located at 22 Paris Road, Paris, just south of the Highway 99 and 2 intersection. The atmosphere is very rough and ready, resembling the type of place that might be encountered in the rural southern US. Mary ordered a half pint of beer and the barbecued half chicken. Yhe had a pint and a half rack of St.Louis style ribs Both came with a side of beans and a choice of one of four side dishes. Mary chose a baked potato and yhe french fries. Mary exclaimed that the chicken was far superior to that served in the ubiquitous chain restaurants specializing in barbecued chicken. The ribs were also delicious as was the side of beans. Lunch with beer, tax, tip and a \$10 Entertainment Book deduction, was \$29.50.

Five years ago we reported on lunch at the **Budapest Restaurant and Tavern** at 87 John Street South. We visited there again recently and while the food was still good our server was not. Apart from seating us next to a table reserved for eight people in a virtually empty room, she was unaware of what beers were on offer and neglected to inform us of the specials. We both had the guylas which was adequate. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$33.

**The Iron Chef Chinese Restaurant** at 1116 Upper Sherman Ave advertises the best Dim Sum in town. We lunched here one August day and found it a bright cheerful place with friendly courteous service. We both had Tsing Tao beer and asked for the Dim Sum order form which came with a small photo album with picture of each dish – although we have had Dim Sum many times we found the photos very helpful. We selected five items from the hundred or so on the form and would not disagree with claim to having the best in town. It was excellent. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$40.

While in Toronto at the RBC Jubilee with our fellow retirees we were looking for a place to have lunch. Yhe recalled a "deli" that was a block or so west of Roy Thompson Hall; so we lunched at **Dunn's Montreal Deli** at 281A King St. W. We both had pint of Steam Whistle beer and Mary ordered the Cobb Salad on a pita which she proclaimed delicious. Yhe chose the Club Roll, consisting of smoked meat, salami and stuffed chicken, grilled and served on a bun with french fries, coleslaw, and dill pickle – absolutely delicious deli fare. Lunch with beer tax and tip was \$45. Unfortunately, there is no such place as **Dunn's**, that we have found, in Hamilton since **The Sisters**, on Main W, closed.

## **The RBC Jubilee**

On August 16, twenty nine Mohawk Retirees boarded the bus for a trip to Toronto to attend the Sixteenth Annual Presentation of the Seniors R.B.C Jubilee singers. It is the largest seniors entertainment in North America and includes more than thirteen hundred entertainers from across Ontario.

Roy Thomson Hall is a very impressive building with excellent acoustics. In the rotunda from eleven until one p.m. we listened to bands and watched dancing while enjoying lunch.

An excellent program was presented in the afternoon. The Salvation Army played several numbers. Two men, one from Sicily, and one from Italy were outstanding - they were not professionals but one could easily have been mistaken for Pavorotti! The ladies dancing was great and a challenge to all the ladies present - the oldest dancer was seventy nine. The kick line was terrific!

Don Harron, who turns eighty at the end of August gave his usual Charlie Farqueson presentation.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon. The Royal Jubilee entertainers is a must for a future trip.

Elisabeth Maus

## **Our Wandering Members Report**

### **Jeff Tottman on "Spain – Go for the food!"**

Though no longer an inexpensive destination, the countryside, coastline, architecture and history (and the food) still make Spain a worthwhile destination. English is widely understood and the currency is the easy to use Euro. There are vibrant cities, some of the finest art galleries and museums in the

world, and villages that have hardly changed in several centuries. Almost 8000 kilometres of coastline await the explorer.

If you travel in the off-season (and that changes depending on the location) the cost is reduced significantly and of course the crowds are much smaller. Hotel rooms are easy to find, restaurant owners are happy to see you and the major tourist attractions, although not empty, are quiet.

### **Hotels:**

When in Spain if you have the time and/or speak some Spanish, the choice of hotels is endless. From small family run pensions to world-class hotels.

Many hotels can be booked on line using their own web sites or by using agents such as Expedia or Travelocity. Before making a choice of hotel read how others have found the quality and service by using an excellent site, tripadvisor.com. This site lists the hotels for a chosen location in the order which visitors have ranked them. Along with the rating are comments and references to guide books, magazine articles and the range of prices.

Probably the easiest way to see Spain with no surprises is to use the government's Parador Hotel system. In North America the word government is often regarded as synonymous with poor service and quality. With Spanish Paradors the opposite is true. They are well-run, high quality establishments in excellent locations. Many have been purpose built while others are converted monasteries or castles.

For us one welcome feature is the discount of 35% for those of 'Golden Days'. As their brochures say, 'Only those who have come a long way deserve a special price'. With the discount most prices fall in the 60 to 110 Euro range. Note that this is per room and includes an excellent buffet breakfast that will set most people up for the day (not the ubiquitous continental croissants and coffee).

Paradors can be booked on-line, through their Toronto agent or at one Parador before you move on to the next. The government [web site](#) contains maps, descriptions of each property, rates and discounts available. The site is initially in Spanish but there is an English button at the top right of the home page. Even if this year's budget doesn't run to Spain, an hour on a rainy day trolling the site imaging the journey can be very agreeable.

### **Driving:**

Twenty years ago driving in Spain was an adventure. On the coast and in the mountains driving 30 miles would take an hour and a half. Today, the country is criss-crossed by expressways, 'Autopistas'. The driving is easy as long as you remember that the speed differential between vehicles can sometimes be enormous and you use the mirrors before making any maneuver! The best roads are like our 400 series and are often toll roads. You can pay cash or use the automated credit card lane (don't forget to press the receipt button, just in case of billing problems).

When you leave the highway things change and you are often on busy, narrow roads. Fortunately the Paradors are well sign posted and maps of their locations can be obtained from the web site or from the previous Parador. Even so having an alert passenger with some knowledge of International road signs is a definite asset!

Car rentals can be made through any major rental agency in North America. The secret to obtaining a good rate is 'Book early and Book Often!' You can make a reservation with no commitment. So, visit the major web sites (or phone) and lock in the best current rate you can find. Since rates change often,

try again in a week or so. If you find a better rate, lock in the new one, and cancel the old one. Repeat regularly. One caveat is that many sites store the rate you have been offered in a cookie. If you don't delete the cookie you may not be offered a lower rate next time you visit the site.

Don't be concerned about being offered a diesel car. Diesel fuel is available at all gas stations. It's a much cleaner fuel than that offered in Canada and many cars have turbo chargers. Cheap, no noise, no smell and lots of go!

In my head I'm having breakfast in the Parador at Nerja. The large panoramic windows open to a vista across the blue Mediterranean to the mountains leading up to the snow capped Sierra Nevadas. A carafe of steaming coffee has arrived and I'm up and off to the buffet; eggs, toast, bacon, Serano ham, sweet pastries, Manchego and assorted cheeses, dates, figs, black and green olives, fresh anchovies in olive oil, white asparagus spears, honey and yogurt, croissants, muffins, muslix and assorted cereals, champagne, fresh orange juice, cold milk, sparkling water, sliced tomatoes, fresh fruit, smoked fish. Lunch? I'll go down to the beach to Ayo's for one of the best paellas in Spain.

The scenery is nice – but go for the food!!

Jeff Tottman

## Spinning the Web

Ferguson Jenkins, Jr. was born December 13, 1942 in Chatham, Ontario. Fergie showed a prowess for sports from an early age excelling in both basketball (his first love) and baseball. Eventually, he was spotted by a Philadelphia Phillies scout and was signed to a minor league contract. He played on teams in Williamsport, Chattanooga, Buffalo, Little Rock and Miami as well as winter ball in Nicaragua.

In 1965 he was brought up to the Phillies but had a mediocre start and was traded to the Chicago Cubs the next year. During the year he was traded back to the Phillies but returned to the Cubs in 1967.

Here he began to show his true talent. He won the Cy Young award in 1971. In 1974 he was traded to the Texas Rangers where he won the American League Come-back Player of the Year award. In 1976 he moved to the Boston Red Sox. By 1978 he was back with Texas.

In 1980 when he came with his team to Toronto, he was charged with drug possession, but the charges were eventually dropped. In 1982 he returned to the Chicago Cubs and retired in 1984.

He had 7 twenty-win seasons (six in a row), He amassed 284 wins against 226 losses with a 3.34 ERA and 3192 strikeouts. For a pitcher he was a good batter with 194 hits including 13 home runs and a .165 batting average. (Stats courtesy of [Major League Baseball](#). He was even used as a pinch hitter on occasion.

In 1979 he was made a member of the [Order of Canada](#). He was elected to the [Chatham Sports Hall of Fame](#) in 1984. As the first unanimous inductee into Canada's [Baseball Hall of Fame](#), in 1987, Fergie ranks first in many categories for Canadian pitchers. He is the only pitcher in major league history to have over 3,000 strikeouts with less than 1,000 walks.

Major league recognition for his talents finally arrived in 1991 when he was inducted into [Baseball's Hall of Fame](#) in Cooperstown, N.Y. A year later, he was among only two Canadians inducted into the International Afro-American Sports Hall of Fame and Gallery, Detroit.

In 2001 Fergie was inducted into [Canada's Walk of Fame](#) which is located in Toronto's theatre district. Fergie's star is located on King Street near the Roy Thompson Hall. He is also a member of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, but I was unable to find a web site for this organization which I believe is still housed in Exhibition Place, Toronto. Jenkins has received numerous awards and honours, especially from his home town. Recently, he helped establish the [Fergie Jenkins Foundation](#) which raises money for several charities in Canada and the U.S. including the Red Cross and Camp Maple Leaf. The headquarters for this organization are in Niagara Region.

In 2002, Jenkins was named commissioner for the newly formed Canadian Baseball League which was to start operations in 2002, then 2003. I found several references to the "Canadian Baseball League" on the Internet but I was unable to determine if any of them refer to this league.

Finally, what got me started on Fergie Jenkins was his biography written by a good friend of mine – and a fellow citizen of Grimsby – [Dorothy Turcotte](#). The book was commissioned by the Foundation which offers it for sale on its web site. (By the way, Dorothy's husband, Jim, taught welding at night school here at Mohawk for many years.) [Update and/addendum: Jim's brother, Ralph, also worked at the college for many years.]

Fred Oldfield

## Guys and Dolls – Stratford Festival

Friday, Sept. 24th, 2004 dawned unseasonably warm – perfect for our retirees' jaunt to Stratford. Thanks to the good humour provided by Geoff Brooker and our jolly bus driver, Ray Hodley, it seemed no time at all until we were at our destination. With a half hour to spare we were dropped off in the town core to delve into the quaint shops. Our group found The Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and what a place. We must return.

We found unheard of chocolate novelties of every type. After this we sauntered through a fabulous gift shop which specialized in Christmas. Almost reluctantly we returned to the bus and headed to Demetre's Family Eatery which proved to be an excellent choice. Our delicious lunch was promptly served by our cheerful waitress. Then it was show time and we were off to the Festival Theatre. What a treat! In my opinion "Guys & Dolls" is one of the most delightful musical productions Stratford has offered. The fast-paced show had everything going for it: the N.Y. sets were appropriately glitzy; the cast well chosen. Outstanding were show-stealer Miss Adelaide ( Sheila McCarthy) and sweet Sergeant Sarah Brown (Cynthia Dale); the costumes were colourful (except for the appropriate mission clothes, of course); there were plenty of laughs; the choreography was cleverly done; most of all, the familiar, memorable tunes will live on. These were beautifully performed by both major characters and chorus alike. Songs such as "I'll Know", "Bushel and a Peck", "I've Never Been in Love Before", "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat", to name only a few. The story itself had its surprises and twists. It's about saving souls, saving face and the evils of gambling. It's worth seeing again.

Our thanks to our organizer, Marie Yakimoff! I'm sure everyone feels as I do. It was a wonderful day.

Edna Barnes

Just a reminder that this is your newsletter and that contributions to it are welcomed and will be published – space permitting.