

What's Happening

Recent Outings:

Showboat Theatre (Port Colbourne): August 4, 2005. *Sherlock's Last Case* (Page 4)

Stratford Theatre: September 20, 2005: *Hello Dolly* (Page 5)

Quebec City Tour: October 2 - 6, 2005 (Page 7)

Future Outings:

Shaw Festival: November 22, 2005: *You Never Can Tell* (Sold out)

Westfield Pioneer Village: December 11, 1005. The Christmas Table (See flyer)

Chinese New Year's Dinner: *Le Chinois*. January 2006. (See flyer)

Advanced Notice:

Stage West Dinner Theatre: May 10, 2006. *Cabaret* (Flyer next newsletter)

In the Works:

Drayton or St. Jacobs Theatre, Annual General Meeting (June 6), Muskoka Lunch Cruise. (All tentative) Please tell a board member if you want to attend an event. This helps us to determine the number of tickets to purchase. The more tickets sold, the lower the price per ticket (Cost of bus spread over more tickets).

Recipe Ideas

Spinach Strawberry Salad

1 lb. Fresh Spinach – cleaned & torn into bite-sized pieces
1 Pt. Fresh Strawberries – sliced
½ Cup Slivered Almonds – Toast them first.

Sesame Poppyseed Dressing

½ cup sugar
2 tbsp. Sesame Seeds
1 tbsp. Poppy Seeds
1 ½ tsp. Chopped Green Onions
¼ tsp. Worcestershire Sauce
¼ tsp. Paprika (optional)
½ cup Salad Oil
¼ cup Cider Vinegar
Combine above in food processor & blend until smooth.
Toss dressing into spinach & strawberries & garnish with toasted almonds (slivered).

Pecan & Pear Salad

1 pkg. (10oz.) No Name Pecans-Chopped
10 oz Salad Mix (fresh vegetable department)
1 Pear, Cored & Diced (skin on)
2 Green Onions – thinly sliced
3 ½ oz. Blue Cheese Crumbled
½ Cup Honey-Pear Vinaigrette (“President’s Choice” – from Fortinos)
Combine All Above & Enjoy
-Submitted by Marie Yakimoff

Why not share your favorite recipes with your fellow retirees? All submissions welcome.

E-mail: editor@elmlane.com

In Memoriam

It is with regret that we report the passing of the following:

Eileen Robinson (Robbie), a retiree from the Department of Nursing,

Lawrence Bedford (Larry), former Dept. Head at the College and

Albert Turchynsky, a retiree from Saltfleet Campus (Machine Shop).

Our deepest sympathy is extended to their families.

Let's Do Lunch

The *Thai Tamarind* is the third Thai restaurant that we have lunched at recently and we are becoming addicted to the marvelous cuisine. The Thai Tamarind is located in the basement at 45 King William St, Hamilton. The décor is pleasant and the service was quick, friendly and attentive. Mary and I both started with a Thai beer and Mary chose the *Tamarind* seafood in a spicy sauce while I ordered the mixed seafood in a red curry sauce. The mixed seafood consisted of shrimp, mussels and *calamari*. Both dishes were similar, differing only in the sauce and were accompanied by generous servings of steamed rice. Mary found her choice to be pleasantly spicy and delicious as did I. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$39.

A young friend and her husband were going to be co-chefs at a new restaurant in Brantford. We went looking for it one day only to find that it was not yet open. We did however meet the owner and he suggested we try **Speekezies Café and Wine Bar** at 415 Fairview Dr. It is located in a strip mall near the corner of West St. It is a very nicely appointed upscale restaurant and we were served by the chef-owner Anthony Alfrano who was attentive and solicitous. We both had an Italian beer and decided to share a starter of fried calamari in corn meal served with a mustard dip. It was accompanied by bread, olive oil with rosemary and a black olive tapanade. As a main course we both ordered the "fish of the day – Tilapia with a pasta salad. Both starter and the main

were delicious, but we agreed that the next time we visit **Speekezies** we will share two starters and forgo the main course. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$68. .

After blowing the month's lunch budget in Brantford, we decided to go on a picnic. We dropped by **Hamilton Kosher Delicatessen** at 893 King St W and picked up soup and sandwiches and proceeded to Princess Point with beer we had brought from home.(two bottles of Lakeport Honey Lager). The **Hamilton Kosher** offers a variety of soup and sandwich specials for takeout as well as having a very small eating area. Mary ordered minestrone soup and a falafel sandwich on a pita bread while I chose cabbage soup and a pas-trami on rye.. Both soups and sandwiches were OK but not great. Lunch with tax was \$16.

The Sushi Star at 135 King St E, Hamilton, is a relatively new Japanese restaurant. It has a rather different all you can eat buffet. Instead of selecting food from a steam table, you make the selection from a fairly extensive menu and the food is freshly prepared. We started with soup, followed it with starters of different sushi rolls and then on to other Japanese delicacies and finished with green tea ice-cream. The only disappointment I had was that sashimi was not on the luncheon menu, but one could hardly expect that at the price charged for lunch.. The service was attentive, friendly and polite, and the food superlative. They were not yet licensed by the LLBO and therefore beer was not available. Lunch with tax, tip and a 15% seniors' discount was \$29.

The Curry Inn, 918 Main St W. at Longwood Rd, is, as the name implies, an Indian restaurant. It is pleasantly appointed and the service friendly. Mary and I both started with a Cheetah Beer which we are encountering more now in Indian restaurants than Kingfisher. The buffet offering consisted of 10 items plus two salads but no soups or deserts. The vegetarian dishes were very good as were the tandoori chicken and the buttered chicken. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$32.

- BrianWelsh

Spinning the Web

Once again, this column is less about the Internet than about something else - in this case books. I actually do spend more time reading than "surfing the net". I usually use the Internet when I want information about something specific, rather than just browsing.

I recently finished reading the 2nd edition of *Canadian History for Dummies*. And then I read the *K.I.S.S. Guide to the Unexplained*.

The book from K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple Series) is a few years old and does a good job of pointing out that there is really no objective evidence to support any number of "supernatural" events from the Loch Ness Monster to flying saucers and U.F.O.'S in general. The book's author takes a "skeptical" view to these unexplained events. (Skeptical should be defined as taking a critical and objective view of the evidence rather than its more popular negative connotation).

Canadian History for Dummies by Will Ferguson is an interesting and thought provoking concise accounting of our country's past and heritage. He reminds us that although we tend to think that our country is progressive and enlightened, it simply isn't so. Our track record with "minority" groups is only marginally better than the U.S. We may not have had military actions such as at Wounded Knee or Custer's Last Stand, but we failed to honor virtually every treaty ever signed. We may not have had slavery on a large scale or for very long, but we still treated people of African descent shabbily. And then, of course, there were the interment camps of the first and second World Wars. Then again, there is our treatment of women. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that women were not "people" when it came to legal matters less than a hundred years ago. And women did not finally get the vote in Quebec until 1940!

Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter

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The ... *For Dummies* series has been around for many years, focussing at first on computer related materials and later branching out. They were soon followed by *The Complete Idiot's Guide To ...* And then other books, such as the less well known *Keep It Simple Series* joined in.

In some ways, it has always surprised me that these books have proven to be very popular, after all, why would you want to read a book that slammed your intelligence. Except, of course, that the books are almost always well-written, easy to follow and interesting.

These books now cover just about every subject under the sun and can be found in every book store. If you haven't read one, you really should pick up a copy. You can find a listing of current titles on their web sites: www.dummies.com, www.idiotsguides.com and www.dk.com.

If you have any topics about the Internet or computers you'd like addressed, drop me a line.

- Fred Oldfield

Outings

Sherlock's Last Case

On Thursday August 04/05 thirty eight retirees boarded a Farr Coach and headed for Dunnville, Ontario. For people not familiar on how to get to Dunnville, you have to head in a South-Easterly direction taking the following roads Upper James Street to Ryckman's Corners where you turn left onto Rymal Road East and head East to Highway 56. At Highway 56 you turn right and head South. You stay on Highway 56 and pass through Binbrook, Ontario. You also pass close to Geoff and Lynda's home and farm. As the bus quietly covered the kilometers, Geoff gave a running commentary of the rural area, including what crops were produced by the local farmers considering the clay base to the local soil.

We continued our journey and arrived at Highway 3 where you turn left and head in an Easterly direction again passing through small communities. Once you are on highway 3 it goes straight into Dunnville. Dunnville is on the Grand River and according to history was at one time a very flourishing community dealing in commodities for the river traffic. We continued on Highway 3 and headed for the community of Wainfleet for our first stop of the day at Marshville Chocolates. Prior to our arrival Geoff gave a brief talk on Marshville Chocolates and explained that the store was small and the starboard side of the bus would be the first to visit the store. The port side of the bus would stay on the bus and visit the Marshville Heritage Festival Grounds. We were fortunate that there were workers at the Festival Grounds who took the time to show the retirees what they were doing and also what preparations they were making for the Labour Day Weekend. If you have never been to the Heritage Festival on Labour Day it is



recommended that you take the opportunity and visit. Get there early to enjoy the displays and also the different kinds of

foods. The Port side of the bus returned to the Chocolate Store where they had the opportunity of viewing the Goodies. To protect the chocolates from melting, Geoff and Lynda brought along a cooler complete with ice packs. So when the Retirees were in the chocolate store they were asked to put their name on their purchases and on returning to the bus their purchases were placed in the cooler to stay firm.

Again we were on the bus heading for a tour of the town of Port Colbourne. We arrived at the Roselawn Centre for the Living Arts where we were met by Ms. Sue Patterson, Executive Director of the Centre. Within a few minutes Mr. Gordon Burwash boarded the bus as our guide for the tour. The tour of the Town was very interesting and Gordon did an excellent job of pointing out buildings of Historical Interest. He also took us to the Canal Locks which are the foundation of the Town. Port Colbourne is the south terminus of the Welland Canal which allows large-ships to travel the Great Lakes. After the tour we returned to the Roselawn Centre for our buffet lunch. Again we were greeted by Ms Sue Patterson and escorted to the dining room. Our lunch consisted of salads, fish flavoured with lemon juice, roast chicken, roast potatoes and an assortment of specialty salads. Our dessert consisted of ice cream crowned with a whole arrangement of sweets and topped-off with a chocolate sauce. As we were finishing off our lunch a young lady came to our table and informed us that the performance would start in about ten minutes.

The entrance to the theatre takes you down a series of stairs and when you arrive at the theatre floor you see the seating at all four points of the compass and located in the centre is the round stage. A rather unique setting for a theatre because it gives you a feeling of intimacy. We were directed to our seat and within a few minutes a man dressed in flowing robes mounted the stage and welcomed all the people present. As part of his welcoming speech he advised the audience of the rules of the theatre and identified himself as David Savoy, Artistic Director.

The Play *Sherlock's Last Case* was not the easiest play to understand. It took concentration to follow the spoken word, more so when the actors were on the other side of the stage from where you were sitting. All actors were very professional in portraying the various characters identified in the play. It was obvious that audience really enjoyed the play because when the play ended the actors received a hearty response from the audience.

The play ended about four o'clock and the retirees headed for the bus for our return journey to Mohawk College. During the return trip Geoff rose to the occasion and recited some little stories much to the delight of the passengers. He also gave Jim, our driver instructions to take a different route home again so that people could see the beautiful countryside of Haldimand County.

- Bill Stafford

Hello, Dolly!

A bright sunny day was spent travelling to the Festival Theatre in Stratford to see *Hello, Dolly!* On the way, Geoff Brooker distributed a song quiz contest, for which some of the prizes were award winning potatoes!

After a buffet lunch at the Festival Theatre's *Marquee* cafe, we had plenty of time to take a walk or browse through the gift shop for a little Christmas? Shopping! Now we were ready for the performance.

Hello, Dolly! is set in the 1890s -- what Mark Twain referred to as the Gilded Age. This was a period in America of economic growth, booming immigration and unbridled optimism. Themes which are threaded throughout the play.

Like most good musicals, *Dolly!* is character driven, not plot driven. Our characters address the audience directly, and Dolly Gallagher Levi has a lot to say. She is not only a matchmaker but a social philosopher as well, with a business card for all occasions. Now a widow, Dolly and her clients are all after marriages of convenience. Tired of being alone, living from hand to mouth or being powerless,

they look upon marriage as more or less a business contract. In 1895, New York is a vibrant crazy-quilt of a city which inspires Dolly and her friends to risk and act on impulse. They come to realize that money, as Dolly's first husband, Ephraim, used to say (and pardon the expression), "is like manure. It's not worth a thing unless it's spread around."

I found the costumes for the period were beautifully done, with loads of feathers and brocades, at times limiting Dolly's movement in the dance numbers. The revolving central stage was used to it's best advantage in the parade scene and in the dancing sequences, and the overall production rivalled any Broadway show.

All in all it was another great day with the Mohawk retirees.

- Lorraine Dedo

Westfield Village

Last July, Westfield Village was host to an Ice Cream Festival. My wife and I decided to check it out and probably get some lunch (and dessert) as well.

Well it was quite delightful touring through the old buildings and then sitting down for a break and listening to the dixieland band at the band shell, the ice cream festival, itself, was a bit of a bust.



We eventually found our way to the food area - actually it was more of a commercial exhibits area - only to find out that there wasn't much in the way of food to be had, virtually nothing, in fact. We did, however, manage to get a make-it-yourself sundae, so lunch wasn't a total bust!

We walked through a few more buildings eventually making our way to the train station where an "old-timer" told us all about the station and much about the village itself.

As we made our way back, we had the opportunity to try some hand-made ice cream freshly churned. It tasted great!

Back at the entrance we learned that we could have gone to the village's restaurant for a better meal, but by that time, the hunger pangs had passed. We did manage to pick up a few souvenirs (of Canada) to take down south to some of my wife's relatives on Long Island.

The Ice Cream Festival may need a few more exhibits, but a trip into the past at Westfield Village is always a pleasant outing.

A Christmas Chronology

- 1510: A decorated Christmas tree recorded at Riga, Latvia.
- 1610: Tinsel invented in Germany.
- ca. 1660: Record of a tree lit with candles in Germany.
- ca. 1800: Tree ornaments being manufactured in Europe.
- 1819: Popular sketch by Krimmel released depicting an American family with a Christmas tree on the table.
- 1822: German merchants living in England have decorated trees in their homes.
- 1822: Clement Moore, an American, writes "A Visit From Saint Nicholas" for his family (now known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas")-published in 1848.
- 1833: Red poinsettias sold in Philadelphia.
- 1841: Christmas crackers being manufactured in England.
- 1843: Charles Dickens writes *A Christmas Carol*.

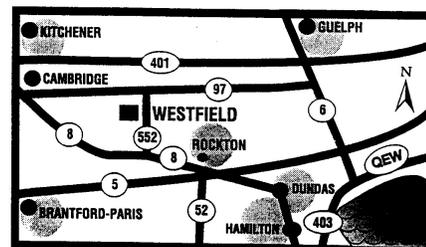
- 1846: Illustrated London News publishes a picture of the Royal Family gathered around a Christmas tree. The picture helps popularize the table top Christmas tree.
- 1880: German glass ornaments sold in Woolworth's.
- 1882: First electric Christmas tree lights sold in New York.
- 1892: Wire hook for hanging tree ornaments is patented in the United States.
- 1896: The T. Eaton Company produces its first Christmas catalogue.
- 1905: Santa Claus arrives by wagon at the T. Eaton Company store in Toronto.
- 1917: J. C. Hall (of Hallmark) imported fancy decorated envelope linings from France to sell as "gift dressing".
- 1923: Pink poinsettias produced.
- 1939: Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer created by Robert May for an American department store as a Christmas promotion.

Christmas and Children

"Christmas has come, with gifts and toys,
For little girls as well as boys.

Mary has got a picture-book,
And Jane has got a gilded fan,
And something nice has come for Ann,
Baby has got a neat doll, dressed
In scarlet coat and bright blue vest -
Mary and Jane, and Ann I know,
When Christmas comes with frost & snow
Will think upon the girls and boys
Who get no pretty Christmas toys
Who suffer want, and cold, and care,
And help them both with alms and prayer."

- from 1860's newspaper



Westfield is located on Regional Road 552,
Rockton, Ontario, Canada.

Next issue: January, 2006

Quebec City Tour A Trip To Remember

*My heart is warm with the friends I make,
And better friends I'll not be knowing;
And there isn't a bus I wouldn't take,
No matter where it's going!*

The above saying aptly describes the feelings of the 31 retirees and their traveling companions about their five day journey to Quebec City and the spectacular countryside beyond.

It all started October 2, a glorious autumn Sunday morning. Ann Dunn, our group leader, mother superior and organizer extraordinaire – in co-operation with Maxima Tours – had put together a great itinerary. The spacious tour bus left the Fennell campus promptly at 7:00 a.m. and drove us into a beautiful, fireball-red sun rise. The normally busy Toronto traffic corridor was almost devoid of traffic. Those of us who had been wondering if the 10 hour bus ride would be a major bore, were pleasantly surprised about the multitude of activities Ann had planned for us. She had selected 10 movies for on-board showing. The titles ranged from “The Lord of the Dance” and “The Run-Away-Bride” to “The Firm” and “The Best of Johnny Carson”. To make sure that our minds wouldn't go mushy during the trip, she had prepared an eclectic selection of quizzes, word and bingo games. Some of us did not do all that well in the music quiz. After all, how could one know that “A Cheesy Glow in New England” would translate into the song title “Moonlight in Vermont”? Or that “A Mache Kewpie” was really “Paper Doll”? Well some of us did, in fact, do well! Helen Marshall won that contest (with Norm's help, we suspect), closely followed by Marjorie Mullen, Brian Tandy and Murlis Cooper. But since there were prizes for the lowest scores as well, everyone was happy! Mind you, things got a bit tricky when it came to the “Name Parts of the Body” quiz. Who could have guessed that a “Humourous Calcium Callus” was a “Funny Bone” or that “Pig as a Marionette” translated into “Hamstring”?

In addition to movies and quizzes Ann told some great jokes. But one could tell that she had just returned from a meeting with the catholic Bishop of Hamilton: All her jokes had a religious connotation. She convinced all of us that religious jokes were a suitable substitute for having missed Sunday mass!

Oh, and there was no danger of starving – not on Ann's bus! She had been baking what must have been close to 1000 cookies. These she kept distributing throughout the trip, in addition to cheese and crackers and a never-ending supply of bottled water.

In between all of these activities there was plenty of time to observe the beautiful Ontario and Quebec countryside, the rolling hills, the grazing farm animals and the always close-by St. Lawrence River. Those of us not used to traveling on buses, marveled at the great view one has from the raised seating platform of a tour bus.

Our bus driver had judiciously selected three rest stops: One in Napanee, Ontario and two in Quebec; St. Lazare, just outside Montreal, and Trois Riviere. Apropos bus driver: We must have had Canada's most experienced driver! Glenn Wannamaker served for 25 years in the Canadian Armed Forces. His job? He was in charge of ground transportation for the Air Force, ending up on a Canadian Air Force Base in Germany. After he retired from the Military he remained in Europe for another 18 years as a bus driver and tour director for Canadian Forces personnel and their families. Since returning to Canada 12 years ago he has worked 5 years for Farr's Bus Lines and 7 years for Maxima Tours.

With Glenn Wannamaker's transportation experience and with Ann Dunn's excellent connections to Hamilton's Bishop, it is not surprising that everyone felt totally safe on this trip!

Late on Sunday afternoon, having had great 26 degree weather all the way, we arrived at our 4-star Quebec City hotel. The “Chateau Laurier” is located just around the corner from the Grande Allee, only 5 minutes walking time to the Old City, Vieux Quebec.

Since Ann had already arranged for the room keys and the hotel staff looked after the luggage transfer to our rooms, the check-in went without a hitch! Afterward we all went our own way to find a restaurant and to have dinner. Since there are about 80 restaurants in easy walking distance (most of them with outdoor patios), the problem was not finding one but, rather, which one to select! After dinner and a short walk through the night, everyone called it a day. (However, rumour has it that there were quite a few parties in peoples rooms going on, well into the night!)

Day 2 began with a great weather forecast: Sunshine all day with temperatures in the mid to high twenties! During the full buffet breakfast at the hotel, everyone compared notes about our various dinner experiences the previous evening. All of a sudden, Restaurant names like "Auberge Louis Hebert", "La Closerie", "Aux Petit Coin Breton Creperie" and "Aux Anciens Canadiens" had become familiar terms. And as an add-on bonus to breakfast, we were entertained by our own Bob Cooper and his beautiful musicianship at the grand piano. Bob was to play for us again later at various other occasions. It came as a surprise to many that Bob, a former Civil Engineering Professor, was such a talented musician.

After breakfast we were off to a 3½ hour walking tour. (Well, most of us were. Others decided to give the horse-drawn carriages a try.) We had a great tour guide. His name was Oliver. We learned a lot from him as we criss-crossed the City. Oliver was born and grew up inside the walls of the Old City. He was able to convey quite a bit of insight into Quebec, its people, history, environment, politics and living conditions. We toured both the Upper and Lower City and visited most of the well-known sites, including the Citadel, the Place Royal, Chateau Frontenac, the Board Walk, the Anglican Cathedral as well as the Catholic Basilica. The famous "Quartier Petit Champlain" in the Lower City was of special interest to many.

One of the more noteworthy aspects of shopping in Old Quebec is the requirement that all goods sold in the Lower City's

"Quartier" must have been created by Quebec artists. There are no cheap imitations to be found here. The same holds true for all of the artwork on display in the famous outdoor art gallery in the Rue du Tresor, across from the Chateau Frontenac.

After this walking tour we were more than ready for the much more leisurely pace of the 1½ hour boat tour on the M/V Louis Jolliet. Cruising the St. Lawrence around the Ile Orleans and the Montmorency Falls provides an absolutely spectacular view of Quebec City. This city was truly built to be viewed from the water!

Following the cruise, Ann's itinerary had provided about two hours for shopping. Most of us spent that time in the Lower City. Judging by the number of shopping bags which appeared on our bus ride back to the hotel, Quebec shop owners couldn't complain too much about overly frugal Ontarians!

After all the physical exercise of this day, absolutely everyone was ready for a good dinner. Armed with the collective eating-out experience of the previous evening, the search for the best restaurant in Quebec City began again. (Brian and Mary Welsh, our Newsletter's perennial restaurant reviewers, could have had a field day in this town!)

After dinner, all of us were just too tired to even think about doing anything else but going back to our rooms. But again, there were these persistent rumours about parties until well after midnight!

Day 3 had arrived. Ann Dunn had initially arranged for a wake-up call at 6:00 a.m. But we were able to convince her to move it to 6:30! Again, the weather-channel predicted a sunny day with warm temperatures in the mid twenties. Someone observed that our ears were getting attuned to the French language which was all around us. (It must be said, however, that absolutely everyone we met was more than happy to speak to us in English).

Read more about this extraordinary trip in our next issue. Submission deadline: January 6, 2006. E-mail: editor@elmlane.com