

What's Happening

October, 2006

Recent Outings:

Lighthouse Theatre, Port Dover: August 17, 2006. *Jasper Station*

Shaw Festival Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake: Friday, September 29, 2006: *Arms and the Man* - Page 4

Muskoka Fall Colour Cruise and Luncheon: Wednesday, October 11, 2006

Future Outings:

Carmen's, December 6, 2006. See the flyer enclosed with this newsletter.

Le Chinois, January 30, 2007: Chinese New Year's Dinner. See enclosed flyer.

General Annual Meeting, Liuna Station, June 6, 2007

In the Planning Stages:

Old Mill, Toronto, March 2007

St. Jacob's, April, 2007

Stage West, Wednesday, May 16, *Full Monty*

Drayton Theatre, June, 2007

Under Consideration:

Cirque de Niagara, Elmhurst Inn & ?, Cranberry Festival. Your suggestions welcome!

Feature Recipe

"Loaded" Oatmeal Cookies

1 cup margarine
 1½ cups flour
 1 cup brown sugar
 1 egg
 1½ cups oatmeal
 1 cup coconut
 1 cup chocolate chips
 ½ cup sliced almonds
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 ½ teaspoon baking soda
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 ½ teaspoon salt
 Drop or two coconut extract

Mix all ingredients together.
 Drop by tablespoons on cookie sheet
 Flatten with fork dipped in water
 Bake in 350° - 375°F oven for 12 - 15 minutes or until golden brown
 Cool on baking rack
 Enjoy!

- Fred Oldfield

In our last newsletter we featured a recipe that called for raw eggs. One of our readers questioned the wisdom of using raw eggs. All I can say is that I was somewhat apprehensive at first as well. However, we have made the recipe many times without any problems. Of course we use fresh eggs purchased from a grocery store (rather than from a farmer, etc.) Of course that's no guarantee the raw eggs are safe. So, if you're concerned, don't use the recipe. Unfortunately, it does taste delicious!



Firefighting Training Centre, Lake Muskoka

Let's Do Lunch

By Brian Welsh

Mary's sister, Ag, visited us towards the end of June. In addition to several lunches and dinners at some of our favourite restaurants we took her for a luncheon cruise of Hamilton harbour on board the **Harbour Queen**. The cruise was enjoyable and the lunch was adequate, consisting of salads and sandwiches reminiscent of the lunches served at the Board of Trade (HYC) for our association's Annual General Meetings with the exception that they did not run out of food. Bar service is available on board. Hamilton Harbour Tours is located at 47 Guise Street East at the foot of James St N. The luncheon cruise is \$35 per person.

Also in the same area is the Canadian Government's Marine Discovery Centre and in the Centre is the **Café on the Bay**. It is basically a soup and sandwich shop. Mary and I visited it purposely for lunch and while there took in the Discovery Centre. We both ordered the soup of the day which was an excellent potato and vegetable potage which Mary followed with an organic vegetarian grilled vegetable sandwich and I a roast beef and horse radish one; both were served on multi-grain bread and both were delicious. Service was both prompt and friendly. We had not realized before we had our lunch that we could not pay with "plastic" but would need real money. We were a few dollars short. When we informed the proprietor of our dilemma she said "just mail us a cheque". Somewhat astonished by this we returned to the car and found enough "parking change" to allow us to return and pay in full leaving a substantial tip. Lunch with tax and tip was \$32.

On a third visit to the harbour, we took our five year old grandson on an hour long cruise of the west end of the harbour on the Hamiltonian, a 12 passenger boat. After the boat ride, we thought we would have time to have a quick sandwich and then catch the Hamilton Waterfront Trolley. We made the mistake of trying **Williams Coffee**

Pub. Our grandson, Brian, wanted a toasted tomato sandwich; the the only way he could be accommodated was to order a BLT with a "hold the bacon and lettuce". Mary ordered a chicken sandwich and I a roast beef and cheese. Neither was anything to write home about. This combined with the very slow and surly service – we missed the trolley – made us wonder why this place was so busy when vastly superior food and service were available a hundred yards or so away in the Marine Discovery Centre. Lunch for 3 was \$30.

Just west of Wellington St, on the south side of King St East at no. 315 is the **Ya Man** restaurant, specializing in Caribbean food. The emphasis is on healthy foods, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian. On the recommendation of the chef-proprietor we started lunch with a bottle each of coconut water, an unusual but tasty drink. Mary chose the Red Snapper served with Jamaican "veggies" and I the "Akee 'n Saltfish" – unsalted salt cod sautéed with akee fruit and red peppers and served over rice and black beans. Mary found her lunch to be delicious as I did mine. This is another winner as far as we are concerned. Lunch with tax and tip was \$30.

Bob Cooper, a former colleague from the Civil Dept, and his wife Murlis joined Mary and I for lunch at **Rumak Eatery and Bar** one August day. Rumak's, a Polish restaurant, is located at 570 Upper Wellington St just south of Queensdale. When I asked if they had Polish beer the server rhymed off the names of seven Polish beers. Mary and I not being at all familiar with them, chose the first one named. Bob chose a different one and Murlis a glass of red wine. Three of us, Murlis, Mary and I, had borscht white, red and red respectively. Murlis followed the white borscht by a combination platter of Polish delicacies; Mary chose goulash served on a pancake; and Bob and I ordered goulash. The beer and the food was first rate. The service although attentive and friendly was disjointed. The food did not arrive anywhere near simultaneously for each of us. Lunch, for Mary and me, with beer, tax and tip was \$52.

We took our friend Kathy to lunch, just before the Labour Day weekend, at the **Lowville General**

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ter about a half-hour, the check-in attendants for Harmony Air showed up and we were able to check our bags and get our boarding passes.

By about 6:30 we were boarding our flight. There were a few bumpy moments, enough so that the movie *Akeelah and the Bee*, had to be stopped to remind every one to buckle up, but for the most part, it was a pleasant flight. We landed in Vancouver not long after the time we left. We hurriedly rounded up a couple of luggage carts (which were free - in Toronto they cost a loonie and promised a 25 cent refund, which I never received) and headed out of one terminal and into the International terminal. This time we needed Alaska Air.

Store Bistro. It is a moderately upscale establishment situated at 6179 Guelph Line, on the curve in Lowville. The three of us initially ordered Creamore Springs beer. Kathy had a Black Angus Burger with fries which she found to be very good and Mary a Quesadilla with soup, also very good; I had a beef panner with fries which I found to be sub par. Service was polite but the time between ordering and the appearance of the food on the table was so excessive that Kathy and I were forced to order a second beer. Mary, who was driving, declined. Was it worth the drive to Lowville? – two yeas and a nay. Lunch for three with beer, tax and tip \$88.

Spinning The Web

By Fred Oldfield

In August, my wife and I celebrated our fortieth wedding anniversary. Last month (September) good friends of ours celebrated their fiftieth. To mark these events, we planned on taking a cruise-tour of Alaska.

Bright and early (like 3 am) on August 23, our friend arrived at our door to pick up our luggage (and us) for our trip. Back at their place we waited for the Niagara Airbus which picked us up and took us to the virtually empty Pearson airport. Af-

After finally getting these boarding passes (and boarding passes for the last leg of our journey, another Alaska Air flight) we managed to pick up some food at a Horton's. (We had already had breakfast on the plane.)

This flight was also fairly uneventful - but no movie or meal - just some snacks. About three hours later we set down in Anchorage. Fortunately, we didn't need to leave the area we were in and just moved down to the correct boarding gate. Here we had time for a real meal.

Once more through a loading gate, but this time we walked out on the tarmac and climbed up a stairway into a plane that's half cargo, half passenger. The cargo area was located between the passengers and the cockpit, so at least we felt secure against hijackers!

About an hour later, we set down at Fairbanks. We soon located a representative of Holland-America and for the next 11 days we were in their capable hands. We were bussed to a hotel for a good - but short - night's sleep, as we had an early call and a busy day on the morrow.

... Continued on page 6

Reviews

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE EXCURSION

September 29 dawned bright and sunny to welcome 52 eager Mohawk retirees and guests as they boarded the bus at Mohawk College for a day of socializing, fine dining and entertainment. Departure time was approximately 10:10 a.m.

Jeff Brooker, our "social convenor" for the day, kept us amused and laughing at a variety of jokes and funny stories along the way. By 11:25 a.m. we had arrived at Betty's for lunch in Chippewa. Beautiful gardens ushered us into their large, modern establishment with its welcoming atmosphere. The menu consisted of a choice of roast beef, chicken or fish and chips. On consulting with the congenial group at our table, we can report that the roast beef meal was "wonderful", the chicken, "juicy and delicious" and the fish and chips, "light tasting and excellent". For dessert, they served a wide selection of heavenly pies for our gustatory delight. One diner was overheard to say, "I feel full" at the conclusion of the meal. We felt that our table service was prompt and pleasant. All in all, lunch was a delightful experience.

Back on the bus at 12:45, we were heading to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Once more Jeff regaled us with a wealth of anecdotes, historical and geological information about Chippewa or Chippawa and the sights along the scenic parkway including Chippewa Creek, the butterfly pavilion, the rapids, the generating plants and intakes, the rusty old barge (still there!), the Incline, both majestic falls where the Maid of the Mist was plying the waters, Adam Beck parkland where we noted some trees showing their fall colours along the river, Brock's monument and Fort George. How lucky we were to have such a knowledgeable tour guide!!

Our arrival at the the Shaw Festival Theatre gave us time to walk around the grounds and

enjoy their gardens before entering in anticipation of the production of Shaw's play, *Arms and the Man*. The performance was extremely well done with the actors playing against each other with impeccable timing as the play progressed. Through much clever exaggeration, they effectively demonstrated Shaw's themes of romanticized war and love with much skill and humour drawing the spectators into the action and eliciting hearty laughter or knowing chortles from the audience, who granted them a standing ovation at the end.

It was cooler and overcast on leaving the theatre for the return trip. We arrived at Mohawk College at 6:00 p.m. having had a treat of a day. Our many thanks to Anne Dunn, Jeff Brooker and others involved in the organization of this enjoyable trip.

- Usuf and Eileen Ishawk

MUSKOKA FALL COLOUR CRUISE & LUNCHEON

On the October 11th, 2006 event, forty six retirees enjoyed an all day trip to the Muskoka Islands. Upon arrival at Gravenhurst, The Wenonah II was boarded for a two and a half hour cruise of the Muskoka Lakes. During the trip, the midline between the Equator and the North Pole was crossed. Many beautiful cottages dotted the shoreline. The trees were out in their autumn colours. A delicious turkey dinner was enjoyed by all. The



Ann Dunn & Kevin (our bus driver) on Lake Muskoka

Wenonah II was built in the style of a 1907 Muskoka vessel, and was launched in 2002. It is a modernly equipped very attractive boat.

Grace and Speed, the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre was visited. It was opened in 2006 and has a collection of antique and classic boats, a flotilla of tourism and steam era artifacts.

The Gravenhurst historical waterfront has become the Muskoka Wharf that opened this year. It is an eighty nine acre attraction that includes unique boutiques, marine facilities, nature trails and lakeside boardwalks.

Despite the dull weather and rain, the trip was much enjoyed by all. With all the development of the Wharf, it would be an excellent trip next year (in the sun!).

-Elizabeth Maus

EXCURSION TO PORT DOVER August 17, 2006.

Forty-one retirees, spouses and guests travelled by bus to Port Dover on August 17. En route Geoff Brooker once again entertained us with a number of funny stories and enlightened us on the agricultural sights we saw.

On this fine summer day the town was busy with tourists, and we proceeded to the historic Erie Beach Hotel for a delicious pickerel dinner. It was complemented with a selection of good salads and their special celery bread. We were given recipes for some of the house specialties.

After a short time to stroll, digest our meal and shop, we gathered at the Lighthouse Theatre for a delightful performance of playwright Norm Foster's 'Jasper Station'. The music was composed by Steve Thomas, and the effective sets were the work of the late Jonathan Porter. The talented cast included Steve Ross who portrayed five different characters.

Returning from Port Dover, we squeezed in an ice cream stop at Hewitt's. A delicious stop too. And Geoff told more tales!

Our thanks to Geoff Brooker for arranging this enjoyable day.

- Sally and Os. Love

News

MOHAWK COLLEGE-ROBERT LAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIP

The Board of the Retirees Association of Mohawk College was privileged to hear a motivating presentation by Jay Robb concerning the Keith Neighbourhood Project. Mohawk College has committed its greatest strengths, the talent and time of 10,000 full-time students, 42,000 continuing education students, 1,100 staff, 74,000 alumni and 300+ retirees to work in making this inner city neighbourhood a better place to raise children.

Projects under consideration are:
The development and delivery of recreational and educational programs.
A series of "Mohawk Makeovers" to former classrooms of the former Robert Land School thus making it into a Community Centre for all age groups.
Raising the Centre's profile through marketing, advertising and PR campaigns.

The Community Association is presently composed of 170 members. Any retiree wishing to make a difference in one of Hamilton's most needy areas, can contact Jay Robb in the Media Dept. of Mohawk College or Don McVicar, Chairman of the Robert Land Community Association at Dofasco.

- Marie Yakimoff



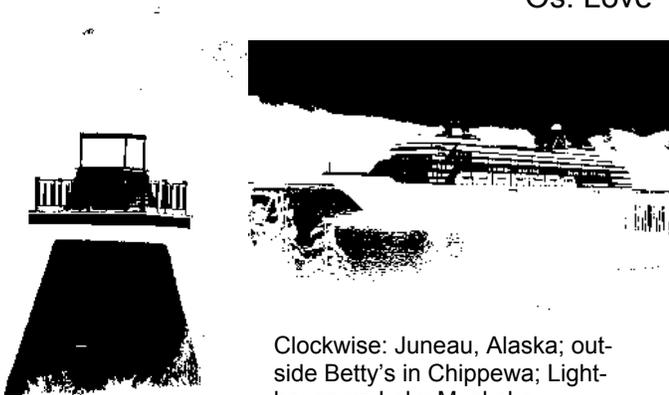
A repeat social – by membership demand. Celebration of the

CHINESE NEW YEAR

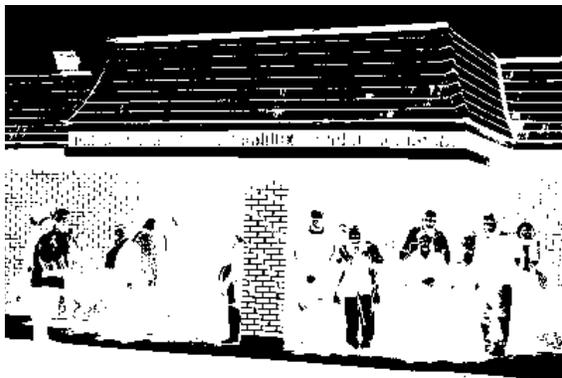
At *Le Chinois*, Tuesday, January .30, 2007.
See flyer for details.

Retired members of the technology faculty meet for breakfast the first Thursday of every month at 9:00am in Ancaster at Joey's Seafood Restaurant. Joey's is on Highway 2 across from the Canadian Tire and Wal-Mart stores. We 'ROMEOs' (Retired Old Mohawkers Eating Out) have been gathering for almost seven years and typically 10 to 16 attend. We eat, drink our coffee and attempt to solve the world's problems (still a work in progress). Others formerly associated with us are welcomed too.

Os. Love



Clockwise: Juneau, Alaska; outside Betty's in Chippewa; Light-house on Lake Muskoka



Bright and early we grabbed a buffet breakfast then boarded the busses that transported us to our various destinations. First stop was a real stern-wheel paddleboat. (Of course it runs on diesel, but otherwise it's an authentic paddle-wheel.)

We paddle wheeled down the river where every so often the boat stopped and the host talked to someone on shore. At one point it was a bush pilot who gave a demonstration of the short take-offs and landings his plane could handle. At another, we met the dog team of Susan Butcher, 4 time Iditarod winner (who died of cancer in early August). The team is being trained by Jessie Royer, another female dog team racer.

Further down the river we saw the interaction of mountain run-off water (clear) and glacier melt-off water (milky) as two rivers converged. On the shore was a fish wheel which used the river current to trap a fish and lift it out of the water. On the way back, we stopped at a re-constructed Indian village. Among the exhibits are hand-made fur coats that have to be seen to be believed. It takes about six month's work to produce one coat which is easily worth \$10,000.

In the afternoon, we visited an old gold mining operation. This one used an electric shovel system, the size of a large house, that scoops the earth and then washes out any gold nuggets or dust with water. As an automated system, it doesn't recover all the gold and significant traces are left in the "tailings". We each get a bag of these tailings and a short explanation of how to pan for gold. I gave Sharon my bag and let her do all the work. I took several pictures, but didn't realize that my new 2 gigabyte memory card wasn't working correctly. I lost most of the mining pictures as well as some others before I realized what was happening. Anyway, My wife panned out almost \$20 in gold dust. After a visit to their gift shop, she emerged with the gold dust contained in a see-through locket on her neck.

On the way back to the hotel we stopped at the Trans-Alaskan pipe line. Crossing the heart of Alaska, the line is built mostly above ground to avoid the permafrost.

...the Alaskan Saga will continue next issue.

