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## Retirees Association of Mohawk College News Letter August 1998

Summer draws to a close and the fall fast approaches. The spring and summer events planned and executed by your board were a resounding successes, at least for those who attended.

First, the **Day at the Races** was great sport. The buffet lunch was plentiful if not of gourmet calibre.

The races were entertaining and the handicapping and wagering made them exciting. As far as is known Dave Crossley was the only big winner. Even your editor cashed his first winning ticket and managed to break even. Most followed Polonius' paraphrased advice, "Neither a winner or a loser be".

The **Annual General Meeting** at the Chamber of Commerce / Royal Hamilton Yacht Club was well attended. It provided a long overdue opportunity to renew acquaintances with former colleagues. Bill Stafford and George Koblyk retired from the board after long and illustrious service on behalf of the retirees. Carl Easton, who has been devoting much time and effort to the retirees web page at the college web site, was elected to the board.

The **Man of LaMancha** at the Stratford Festival has received rave reviews. Those who attended on the retirees outing know why. This will probably be remembered as one of the best trips the retirees have had. Transportation, lunch and the show, all for \$55 – Wow!

For pure unadulterated fun the trip to St. Jacobs and **Shear Madness** would be hard to beat. The train trip from Waterloo was reminiscent of a bygone era. The lunch was quite adequate and the production itself hilarious

### Coming Events

- Sept 12 **Mohawk College United Way Garage Sale** (See box below)
- Sept. 24 **Cullen Gardens – Oshawa** (See enclosed sheet)
- Nov. 18 **Norbalis** Canadian Stage Theatre, St.Lawrence Centre for the Arts Toronto. (See enclosed sheet)
- Dec. 4 **Christmas Lights** – Lewiston N.Y (See enclosed sheet)

### In Memoriam

It is with the deepest regret that we report the passing of the following members:  
**Thomas Bell**, retiree from the Stoney Creek Campus. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

### News of Members

At the meeting of the Retirees' Board on May 12, Vern Pich's resignation from the board was regretfully accepted. Vern's business interests are too onerous for him to devote the time required to retiree affairs.. Also at the May board meeting, Alan Gregson was re-elected as chair and

Shirley Ann Wray elected as vice chair and Dave Crossley as treasurer. There are currently two vacancies on the board.

Congratulations to **Emily and John Leckie** who recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Word has been received that **Gladys Jones** has moved from Stoney Creek to 21 Sunmount Close-S.E. Calgary, Alberta T2X 1V3. We also extend our deepest sympathy on the recent loss of her husband, Cliff

Our deepest sympathy is also extended to **Miriam (Guzar) Arnott** on the recent loss of her husband Bob.

**Alan Gregson** will have the *Entertainment* discount coupon books for sale this fall. Contact Alan at 627-7448

### **Caveat Emptor**

Your humble editor recently had the misfortune of attending an "Information Session on Time Share Vacations". Well not exactly time share,"something much better". Although he is somewhat suspicious of these free information sessions, Mary was interested. As usual at these events, the chairs were arranged three to a table, and each of the couples were joined by a young lady who was to be their "hostess" for the evening. Some minutes of small talk and a coffee later, the action started. Using a white board, rapid fire delivery and the tricks of a professional huckster, (get the suckers saying yes, yes, yes; let them think they are involved), the preliminary pitch proceeded. "Where did you go on your last vacation? That's great. How many here enjoy taking vacations? How long? One week? How many would like more" etc etc.

The following is a sample of the warm up, after which your chastened editor kept his mouth shut.

*Huckster:* Where do you stay when on vacation?

*Editor:* B and B's

*Huckster:* NO!

*Some sucker:* Hotels and motels

*Huckster:* Yes, very good, and what is the average cost of a hotel?

*Editor:* (ever mindful of the value of a buck) How many stars?

*Huckster:* I said **AVERAGE**.

And so it went. Finally they came up with the projected cost of vacationing in hotels for 20 years or so in the order of \$200 000 US. No talk of present value of this projected expenditure, in fact there was a caution that inflation could even make it greater.

Next came the second pitch woman , emphasising that they were not taking about hotels but **five star resorts!** Briefly, there were two plans available. The first, the regular plan, available at any time, tonight, tomorrow, next week or next month, was a shoddy offer. It involved a cash payment of \$20 000 US and annual fees of \$500 US for the right of one weeks occupancy per year of a time share over a period of 20 years.

The second offer, however, but **available only that night**, was \$20 000 CAN, for 97 years, much reduced annual fees, and a host of other goodies including "a personal travel consultant". At this point your usually meek and mild editor (just ask any of his former students) decided it was time to leave. Pushing Mary in front of him to clear a path past the second huckster who was not only trying to block the way but was shouting that the gift certificate that was promised was not yet ready, he made an escape. It is fortunate that first huckster was not there. She was much bigger.

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| <p><b>Ancaster Senior Achievement Centre</b><br/>is organizing a trip to Bala to see the fall colours on<br/><br/>Wednesday October 14<br/>Cost including transportation and Lunch \$48.00</p> <p>Contact <b>Betty Stewart</b><br/>at the centre 6483466 or<br/>at home 648 2576</p> | <p>M<br/>c<br/>M<br/>ast<br/>er<br/>In<br/>es<br/>We<br/>dne<br/>sda</p> | <p><b>Mohawk United Way Garage Sale</b><br/>Saturday, Sept 12, 9 AM to 2 PM<br/>(Rain Date Sept 13)</p> <p>Space and Tables will be Provided by<br/>Your Association</p> <p>You do the selling and keep the money</p> <p>Remember: Your Junk maybe someone else's Treasure</p> |
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- ▶ y Sept 12, 1998, Courtauld Collection at the Art Gallery of Ontario \$45.00 pp including transportation and lunch.
- ▶ Thursday October 1, 1998, Fall Colour Getaway Cruise on Lake Couchiching \$49.50 pp including transportation and lunch
- ▶ Wednesday October 28, 1998, Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Major Barbara \$50.00 pp including transportation and lunch.
- ▶ Thursday November 26, Cullen Gardens & Miniature Village and Festival or Lights, Whitby, Ontario \$47.00 pp including transportation and dinner.

For further information on any or all of the above contact **Joy Baby at (905) 527 2865**

### On the Wine Route

An economical and educational outing on which you might like to take summer visitors or go on with friends is the Wine Route on the Niagara Peninsula. There are 27 wineries, both large and small, located there. Your editor, with Mary as the designated driver visited six of them recently.

Our first stop was at Magnotta Cellars at 4701 Ontario St. in Beamsville. Magnotta re a large producer of both VQA and blended wines. Their motto is "Affordable Excellence". A further attraction here is their art gallery containing paintings of local artists. There is no charge for the tastings.

We next visited Thirty Bench Wines at 4281 Mountainview Rd.. in Beamsville. This a small winery, producing some very nice wines, but not cheap. There was no charge for tasting..

Walters Estates at 3999 Locust Lane, Beamsville has a lovely location. It has a large wine shop and hospitality room, and deck overlooking the vineyards. There is a \$1 charge for tasting four wines. In your editor's opinion, it is not worth it.

De Sousa Wine Cellars (3753 Quarry Rd., Beamsville) is an old favourite. Here you find wines in the Portugese style. Fans of *vinho verde* (literally green wine, but a great summer refresher) should try the *Dios Amigos* white wine which is somewhat misleadingly labelled as "semidry". Its bone dry and very reasonably priced.. The winery is in a lovely setting and a splendid place to picnic, which we did. (No charge for tasting)

Willow Heights Winery (3679 Cherry Ave, Vineland) is a relatively new addition to the wine route. They are very hospitable and friendly and have some nice wines, particularly their *Reislings*. There is no charge for tastings.

Vineland Estates (3620 Moyer Rd. Vineland), another favourite, is in a simply magnificent setting. In addition to the winery store and restaurant, they have a bed and breakfast facility. They have a number of wines and there is no charge for tasting.

The new location of Stoney Ridge Cellars at 3201 King St. Vineland was also visited. They produce some very good wines, but on this day we tasted none. They charge \$2 to taste 4 wines, but only one of the wines that we were interested in was being tasted that day so we gave it a pass.

Route maps for the Wine Route are available at most LCBO and Vintage stores as well as tourist offices. Information is also available on the internet at [www.WineRoute.com](http://www.WineRoute.com).

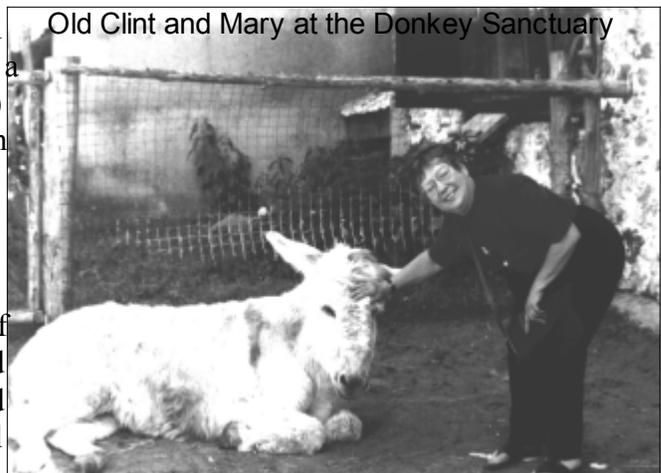
### Donkey Sanctuary Revisited

Mary and I visited the Donkey Sanctuary again recently and saw several old friends: Solo, a large gelding, who likes to sniff behind men's ears, little Tibet, a very gentle donkey, and old Clint. Clint was lying in the roadway resting as befits his advanced years. We did entice him to move, however, with the offer of mints. A great place to take visitors and grandchildren for a picnic. If you go take Exit 295 off Hwy 401 on to Hwy 6 North. [This is the jog that No. 6 takes north of 401]. North to the second crossroad, Puslinch Rd.

4. Turn left (West) and go 1.3 km to large wooden gates. The gates are on the left and a house with a red tile roof is opposite on the right. (519) 836-1697. Open from 10 AM. to 4:30 PM on Wednesdays and Sundays

#### Volunteers Needed

Tele-Touch volunteers provide regular phone calls for those living alone in the communities of Halton and Hamilton-Wentworth. If you would like to volunteer to be a Caller, Team Leader, Fundraiser or Interviewer of potential volunteers, call



Old Clint and Mary at the Donkey Sanctuary

(905) 522-9567 in Hamilton/Burlington or (905) 875-0808.