

What's Happening

Recent Outings:

Friday, May 6, 2005: *Oklahoma* at the Drayton Festival Theatre. Esther McIntosh reports on page 4.

Tuesday, June 7, 2005: **Annual General Meeting**

Monday, June 27, 2005: A day at the **Fort Erie Thoroughbred Races**. Norm Marshall reports on page 5,

Future Outings:

Thursday, August 4, 2005: *Sherlock's Last Case* at the Showboat Festival Theatre (Sold Out)

Tuesday, September 20, 2005: *Hello Dolly* at the Stratford Festival Theatre (Sold Out)

October 2 - 6, 2005: Autumn in Quebec City , 5 day trip. (See enclosed flyer)

November 22, 2005: *You Never Can Tell* by Bernard Shaw (See enclosed flyer)

Changes...

Beginning with this issue, you will find new names on our board and a new look to our newsletter. You will also find that this newsletter is archived in a different manner on our web site. We have posted it as an *Acrobat* "pdf" file. In order to read the file, you must have *Adobe Acrobat Reader* installed on your computer. This is a free program and there is (or will be) a link on the web site which will allow you to obtain this file if you do not have it installed.

When you open this issue from the web site, you should see an exact replica of the printed version. Even the fonts should look the same, something that cannot be guaranteed with a normal web page.

Using a "pdf" file allows us to create the newsletter just once. Formerly, Brian created the printed version and sent me a copy. I then reformatted it as a web page adding all the necessary HTML tag commands. This will no longer be necessary.

However, the new look, etc. is not "written in stone". We welcome your comments for or against. And, as a result of feedback and other causes, you may see still more changes - improvements, we hope - in the future.

This is YOUR newsletter. We welcome - NEED - your contributions. Got a favorite recipe? Share it with us! Remodeling your home? Tell us all the gruesome details - and the beautiful results. We need your input!

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bob McKenzie who was a member of the Business Dept. at the Brantford Campus for years. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Nina, and family.

Let's Do Lunch

Faloney's of Ancaster, located at the corner of Garner and Fiddlers Green Rds in Ancaster, is an up-scale "white table cloth" restaurant. It is well appointed with gleaming cutlery and glassware; the service was both quick and attentive. The room, however, has acoustic problems and Mary and I found it difficult to talk even though the room was only half full. We both had a beer to start, Mary a *Heineken* and I, a Fosters. We decided to share our selections, Mary choosing the veal sandwich with salad and I, the calamari sandwich with French fries. Both were superb. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$58.

The **Mahal** Restaurant, 22 King St E in downtown Hamilton, between John and Hughson, has one of the better, if not the best, south-east Asian buffets in Hamilton. In addition to the normal salad bar and two soups, there were about nine vegetarian, two chicken and one beef offerings on the steam table. Mary and I sampled and enjoyed all of them. Three deserts were also offered. We both started with an Indian beer, *Cheetah*, which was new to us, but very good. Free parking is available at the commercial lot on Main St behind the restaurant. (Have your parking ticket stamped in the restaurant). Lunch with beer tax and tip was \$35.

It's All Greek to Me is a relatively new restaurant located in the Whitney Plaza at the

corner of Main St. W and Whitney Ave, Hamilton. The overall impression we received was of being crowded even though there were only a few diners present. Mary ordered, a *Gyro*, which did not come with the required sauce; the sauce was requested but when it came it was much too glutinous to pour readily. I had ordered a wrap which was so well wrapped that it could have been shipped overseas (and would that it had been) without further attention. In order to eat it, it was necessary to completely remove about a pound of foil and attack the very tough flat bread with a knife and fork. The only pleasant memory our lunch was the Greek beer we both had. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$34.

Caribbean Delights is a small restaurant at 910 Barton St E, 1 block east of Gage Ave. As the name implies, it specializes in "island" food. Mary and I both chose the Goat Roti (curried goat in a folded flat bread). The curry was fairly mild and the goat meat tender but with small bones. As the restaurant was not licensed we had to content our selves with a citrus flavoured soft drink. Lunch with tax and tip was \$20.

- BrianWelsh

Mohawk College Garage Sale

This year marks the 24th Annual Mohawk College Garage Sale in support of the United Way:

VENDORS WANTED!

The sale will be held on Saturday, September 10th, 2005 from 9:00am-2:00pm, in the Fennell Campus Parking Lot. With over 200 vendors the sale attracts thousands of people every year. For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact the Student Life Office at 905-575-2081 or visit <http://uwgaragesale.mohawkcollege.ca/>.

Spinning the Web

This installment of "Spinning the Web" has nothing to do with the Internet. To be honest, I've been too busy ripping out old cupboards, installing new wiring, and repairing walls and ceilings to spend much time on the computer. Even worse, in our recent heat wave, my computer starts complaining severely after about a half hour, emitting a "European" police siren wail until I shut it down. You see, we're renovating our kitchen and suffering through one of the hottest summers in my memory without the benefit of air conditioning - our contribution to the effort to conserve energy. Not that we wouldn't use air conditioning if we had it, but, since we don't, we might as well make the best of it and steal as many accolades for our sacrifice as possible.

I am the new editor of your newsletter. When Brian announced his retirement from the position, I was so shocked that I just stood there when everyone else at the meeting took a giant step backward as Geoff asked for a volunteer. Not exactly, but close enough.

First of all, I know you will want to join me as I thank Brian Welsh for his magnificent efforts over the last, I believe, eight years. Without him, there would probably not be a newsletter. Fortunately, he's not deserting us completely, we will still be favored with his exploits in search of the perfect meal in "Let's Do Lunch".

But sooner or later we all must move on - and the same is true for our retirees. Brian is not the only one leaving your board; both Geoff Brooker and Marie Yakimoff are stepping down as well. In their case, the constitution of our association limits a board member to six years of service. And what ser-

Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter

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vice it has been! Although Brian stepped down from the board officially a year or two ago, all three of them have worked long and hard to make our association ever more successful. We owe all of them a great deal of thanks. The board has been left with very big shoes to fill. Fortunately, the board was able to prevail upon both Geoff and Marie to stay on as ex-officio members for at least the coming year. (No one on the board wanted to do stand-up comedy on the buses or work as hard as Marie has in arranging trips.)

At the recent annual meeting, Joanne Wolfarth and myself (Fred Oldfield) were "railroaded" onto the board to bring up the board's numbers (we could never hope to replace Geoff and Marie). Both of us had been serving in "ex-officio" capacities. Now I'll actually have to raise my hand when a vote is called instead of slipping back into the background, a technique I developed with much success at far too numerous faculty meetings.

Speaking of the annual meeting, a hundred members and guests attended representing about a third of our total membership. This time, even I got enough to eat!

Most organizations would "die" to have a third of their members at an annual meeting. However, considering the locale and the heavily subsidized lunch, not to mention that fact that Geoff zipped through the "business" part of the day in well less than an hour, it is really a shame that we do not get an even better turnout.

But all is not lost. If you missed the annual meeting, and even if you didn't, your voice can still be heard. Besides calling up our new Association president (I've been practicing taking giant strides backwards in preparation for that one) at three in the morning, you can send your comments, concerns, feedback and unneeded checks (or cheques) to me for inclusion in either the web site or the newsletter. I prefer e-mail, naturally (except for the checks), and I don't encourage phone calls, even at three in the afternoon, unless you're in need of a simple "yes" or "no". (I don't take dictation!) You can use Canada Post as well: Fred Oldfield, R.R. #1, Grimsby, ON L3M4E7. Contributions intended for the web site or newsletter should be e-mailed to editor@elmlane.com.

You will probably notice a few changes to the newsletter as well. I am always open to constructive criticism and suggestions, so be sure to write. Next time, I hope to get back to the Internet. I am also looking forward to being able to wash dishes in a real sink again!

- Fred Oldfield

Outings

Trip to *Oklahoma* via Drayton
May 6, 2005

Our coach trip to the Drayton Festival Theater to see Rogers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma* was an occasion to be remembered.

Along the way, one of our forms of entertainment was participating in a quiz which was won by Norm Marshall, with Oz Love and Fred Oldfield tying for second .

At the "Crossroads", near Elmira, we stopped to enjoy a very delicious and copious buffet lunch, following which some were able to spend just enough time in the Mercantile Gift Shop to find that much-needed treasure.

Then off to the Theater. The Drayton Festival Theater, formerly an Opera House, is located about thirty miles north of Kitchen-Waterloo. This historic building was renovated in 1902, and is one of the most comfortable and state-of-the-art venues of live theater productions in the area today.

The rolling land, expansive, immaculate farms and occasional horse-drawn buggies were reflective of the early 1900s and seemed a perfect fit for the setting of *Oklahoma*.

This rousing production, a story of romance, and rivalry between farmers and cowmen before Oklahoma became a state, was enlivened by some of Rogers & Hammerstein's most unforgettable songs, including "The Surrey With the Fringe on Top", "Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin'" and more--all of which were performed by a very talented cast.

The musical ended happily (as most of you know or would expect) and we left this setting of yesteryear, feeling, "Ah, those were the good old days."

Oklahoma--this was an excellent choice of entertainment for a wonderful day of camaraderie!

- Esther McIntosh

**Don't Forget:
Membership fees are now due!**

Mohawk Remembers

On June 21, about 40 Mohawk Retirees gathered in the Brantford Campus cafeteria for the 2nd Annual Luncheon for Mohawk Retirees. The meal consisted of chicken, ribs, baked beans and salads followed by a delicious cake for dessert. Mohawk's president, Mary-Lynn West-Moynes gave an excellent presentation on the current and future plans for the college. She was a most engaging speaker as she used audio-visuals and roamed around her audience making contact with several members.

If you missed this year's do, plan now to attend next year. After all, how often do you get a free lunch!

Retirees' Travel Talk: They're Off!

The June Mohawk College Retirees' field trip saw these veteran faculty members and friends enjoying a 2005 version of the old Marx Brothers' movie, "A Day at the Races."

With Geoff Brooker supplying appropriate on-bus humour and Ann Dunn distributing delicious finger foods, the gallant company enjoyed a one-day visit to the famous old race track at Fort Erie.

Ironically, the first voice they heard at the track was that of Daryl Wells Jr. who attended classes in the Mohawk College media department. After leaving Mohawk, Daryl became the voice of thoroughbred racing, following in the footsteps of his widely-know father, working as a

public address announcer at several Canadian and American tracks.

While it must be said in honesty that no one in the group made enough money to materially enrich his pension fund, some like retired advertising tycoon Bob Dawson demonstrated surprising skill in his selection of winners at the mutuels. His (and Louise's) picks included *Canyon Creek* in the first race, *Centmint* in the second, *One Tough Cop* in the fourth, *Sunningdale* in the fifth, *Hoof Beats* in the sixth and *Wild and Risque* in the tenth.

We didn't learn until later that Dawson wagered exclusively on horses ridden by F. Villeneuve. He figured that F. Villeneuve's name at the top of the jockey standings made wagering a cinch. To quote Bob, "any skilled sportsman would tell you that Frank would be a big winner." We hate to disillusion Bob, but the "F" in the name F. Villeneuve stands for Francine and SHE is a long-time feature jockey in Ontario racing.

All in all, the Fort Erie jaunt turned out to be the biggest winner of all.

Norm Marshall



Our new editor attempts to keep the "presses running" during record hot summer.

Annual Meeting: June 7, 1005

One hundred members and their partners attended our annual meeting held at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Dining Room in the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. This year, your board arranged for some extra food as there did not seem to be enough to go around last year.

A half-hour of informal socializing preceded lunch with a cash bar, tasty hors d'oeuvres and a refreshing punch. Bill Fulton gave the blessing and tables were selected by a drawing to proceed to the sandwich buffet.



The guest speaker was Sharon Orovan-Johnson, R.N. Whose topic was a bit of a tongue-twister:

"There's Not a Lot of Fun in Medicine, but There's a Lot of Medicine in Fun! She proved to be a most enjoyable speaker. Her advice to smile every day and look for the amusing and fun aspects of life is well worth adhering to!

Bob Pando gave a brief update on the activities of our provincial voice, OCRA. The big news is that those of us who have retained coverage with Sun Life must choose by the end of July which plan to go with.

During the business meeting Geoff recounted our past activities and outlined some of the activities planned for the future. Both Geoff (Brooker) and Marie Yakimoff have served on the board for the maximum of two terms (6 years), and now must step down. Nominations were accepted from the floor and Joanne Wolfarth and Fred Oldfield were acclaimed to replace Geoff and Marie.

A motion was carried to make a \$1,000 donation to the Counselling Department to be used for student assistance (Food vouchers).

The Treasurer presented her report which had been audited and was accepted by the members.

As of June 30, 2005 with all known bills accounted for, we have a balance of \$6,212 dollars and 266 paid up members. A year ago we had a balance of \$6,692 dollars and 234 paid up members.

We have incurred increased costs for postage, printing and miscellaneous supplies which accounts for much of the difference in our balance from the previous year.

With the ever-rising cost of fuel, bus rentals have and will continue to increase. In addition, most of the bus lines have eliminated (or are in the process of doing so) their smaller buses which also increases our costs. Perhaps members could encourage friends to join us in our outings making it possible for us to fill the larger buses and reduce the per person cost of many trips.

PARTICIPATION

We need and encourage the participation of all our members. If you have a suggestion for an activity, please bring it to a board member's attention. Even better, if you would like to arrange (or assist in arranging) an activity, the board would welcome your participation. We are looking for some retirees to join the board in an ex-officio capacity to help spread the workload. (There's a word you may not have heard since retiring!) Please contact any board member (or send an e-mail to editor@elmlane.com) if you have suggestions or would like to volunteer.

Next issue: October 2005