



# Retirees Association of Mohawk College NEWSLETTER Summer, 2009

## Maclsaac Challenges Retirees

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of your association was held at Michelangelo's on Upper Ottawa last

*Below: President Rob Maclsaac poses with several retirees, most of whom are present or past members of the board. Can you name them?*

June 9<sup>th</sup>. The 82 members and guests were feted to a great meal and lovely service. The new president of Mohawk College, Rob Maclsaac, was the guest speaker. He began his remarks with a quote from legendary basketball coach Abe Lemons to the effect that the only trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off, a sentiment that seemed to be shared by all members present.



Maclsaac continued by giving a short account of recent changes at Mohawk, including the completion of a 27 million dollar renovation of the Saltfleet Campus and proposed major reconstruction at Fennell (already underway) for which the provincial government has kicked in twenty million dollars.

The president described several highly successful and innovative projects that put Mohawk in the forefront of Ontario and Canadian Colleges. Projects such as applied research in electronic health records technology and cooperation with Hydro One to prepare students to take over from its aging workforce. He also cited Mohawk's hugely successful partnership with McMaster University as a feat that is the envy of all other college presidents.

... Continued on page 4

### Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter

Website: [www.mcretirees.com](http://www.mcretirees.com)

Published four times a year.

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Honourary Life Member

Alan Gregson

## Let's Do Lunch

By  
Brian Welsh

**A**fter ten years and reports on over 165 different restaurants I have, with Mary's blessing, decided to retire. It has been fun writing about our lunching experiences but the task of continually searching out new restaurants was beginning to weary us; there were so many places that we enjoyed and want to revisit. If we encounter any exceptional eateries in the future we will send a report to the newsletter. In the meantime the following four restaurants have our unequivocal recommendation.

In downtown Hamilton on King William St. between James and John streets there are a number of restaurants, one of which is **Dalina's Restaurant**, 49 King William, specializing in Egyptian and Mediterranean cuisine. It is small and unprepossessing but the appearance belies its delicious fare. The day that Mary and I lunched there, the soup of the day was a red pepper bisque, and the lunch special was grilled chicken with mushrooms, red peppers and zucchinis with a vermouth sauce. I ordered a bottle of Sleemen's lager but Mary de-

ecided to settle for water. We both ordered the soup and the special. The soup was excellent being flavourful and nicely spiced. The grilled chicken was superb in both appearance and taste. The pieces of chicken had been marinated and were grilled to perfection and when combined with the vegetables and sauce was outstanding. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$52.

The **Sushi Day** is an "all you can eat" Japanese restaurant located at 15 Cannon St E (the NE corner of James St N and Cannon St). It has a rather uninspiring appearance from the exterior but has a quite charming interior. The service was friendly surprisingly prompt since only one server and one chef were looking after twenty-five or so diners.. Mary and I started by ordering spicy salmon soup and followed with three types of sushi, which we followed with hand rolls and then several hot items. All were very fresh and tasty. Since they were not licensed we had to forgo our normal brew and content our selves with cups of green tea which were continually replenished. Lunch with tax and tip was \$29.

Mary had been suggesting for some time that we lunch at the **Capri Ristornte Italiano**, 25 John St N. We eventually got around to it one spring Thursday. It is an older, well established restaurant dating back to 1963. It is a well appointed white table cloth establishment and, as the name implies, specializes in Italian cuisine. Mary ordered a *Coro-*

*na* and I an Alexander Keith . We both ordered the minestrone soup which turned out to be excellent. It was full of vegetables and pasta, unlike the watery concoctions that often pass as minestrone. Mary followed the soup with cannelloni and I with fettuccine with red clam sauce. Both were excellent. The service was both friendly and surprisingly prompt in view of the large number lunching there. Lunch with beer tax and tip was \$44.

**Fisher's Pier 4 Pub & Fare**, 554 James St N is a friendly and informal bar and restaurant that we happened on almost by chance one Friday. Mary and I both ordered a pint of McCaffery Stout and the clam chowder which was the soup of the day. We both found it to be excellent with pieces of potatoes and clams in a flavourful broth. Mary ordered a grilled chicken breast on a bun and I the "Philly Beef" – slices of beef topped with sautéed peppers, onions, mozzarella and cheddar cheese on garlic bread. As the sandwiches came with either French fries or a choice of salad, Mary chose a Greek salad and I French fries. Mary reports that the salad was first rate as was the chicken sandwich. The Philly cheese steak as this sandwich is usually known was served open face and was excellent. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$55.

As this is our last submission for "Let's do Lunch" We wish you all *Bon Appetit*

# The More Things Change ...



## Spinning the Web (and other tales)

By  
Fred Oldfield

The only things that are certain are death and taxes and the only constant is change. The first two of these are too depressing to talk about, so let's take yet another look at change.

One of the changes that have slowly been spreading across our land is the "greening" of the printed word. No, they're not using green ink, they're not using ink at all! Many publications are either going electronic (i.e. e-mail) or are at least starting to move in that direction. And so too are we.

When you return your membership renewal form (included in this mailing) there is a spot to enter your e-mail address. However, there is not a spot to indicate if you would prefer to receive this newsletter (and associated mailing pieces) via e-mail. If you would like to join the "Green" movement (Not to be confused with the Green Party), please make a notation to that effect on your renewal slip. Conversely, you can also just drop me an e-mail at [fdo@elmlane.com](mailto:fdo@elmlane.com) and we will add you to our e-mail preferences list.

We haven't decided exactly how the e-mail distribution will be made. We are looking into the possibility of having it done through MoCoMotion at the college, including the possibility that every retiree (who wants one) can have a MoCo-

Motion e-mail address. (Recent retirees may already have one.) If you don't want to wait for the wheels of the huge bureaucracy that is your board members to "Git it done", you can send a polite request to the [helpdesk@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:helpdesk@mohawkcollege.ca) to have your own MoCoMotion email account set up. (I'm not guaranteeing they will do it. If sixty thousand of you suddenly submit your requests they may start balking - but it worked for me.) (And no, we don't have sixty thousand retirees, I was exaggerating for effect.)

Let me just add that for all of you who think a Mac is edible and a PC is a conservative, we will still be publishing and mailing a "hard" copy (i.e. Something you can hold in your hand and read in the john) if you prefer.

There have been a couple of changes on the board. We added new members Liz Aldrey and Gaye Yachetti. Gaye will be sharing the secretarial duties with Ann Dunn (which is the polite way of saying that Anne's going to show her how it's done and then drop the whole thing in Gaye's lap).

It is with great sadness that I learned we are losing our esteemed columnist (and former newsletter editor) Brian Welsh. After ten years of steering us to all the best places to eat (and trying more different types of beer than I knew existed) Brian

has decided to retire. We are going to miss his column. But I thank him heartedly for the effort he put in every issue. His column arrived promptly in my mailbox at least a full week before the newsletter was scheduled to go to the printers, unlike yours truly whose column is usually the last thing that goes in the newsletter. If there is anyone out there who would like to take up Brian's mantle and become our new food critic, please let me know. And, by the same token, if any of you have an idea for a column - or even an occasional piece or two, please contact me. We are always looking for contributions. As they say on CHCH, your contributions don't just make our newsletter, they make our newsletter better.

As I write this, my Internet connection has been out for 3 days, a result of last Saturday's storm, I suppose. Out here in the sticks we have limited choices: dial-up, satellite (way too expensive) and wireless. Our wireless service has been pretty good, but you really don't know how much

... Continued on page 5

Continued from page 1 ...

As his remarks were drawing to a close, he challenged the association and retirees in general to get involved with events at the College and in the community in general. Rob MacIsaac what we had done in the past, in particular our donations for student assistance, but urged us to explore new avenues for growth and pledging his support for our efforts.

He concluded with some old African wisdom: if you want to travel fast, go alone. If you want to travel far, go together. You can read his complete remarks at <http://mohawkmatrs.typepad.com/files/rob-macisaac-keynote-for-retirees-association-of-mohawk-college-agm-1.docx>. For some ideas on how you can get involved with the community and Mohawk, see pages 4 and 5.



## Breakfast with the President

**R**ob MacIsaac, the new president of the college is inviting all retirees as well as current employees to a breakfast on Wednesday, September 2 from 8:30 - 11 a.m. at Liuna Station, 360 James Street North. You should have already received your personal invitation. Please R.S.V.P. To [special.events@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:special.events@mohawkcollege.ca). Or call 905-575-2023.

## Seeking Volunteers for Fall 2009

**T**he Hamilton Pathways to Education Program offers you an opportunity to make a long-lasting, positive difference in the lives of young people. Whether as a volunteer tutor or mentor, as an adult interested in our youth and willing to donate consistent time and energy to support them, you are making a strong, collective statement about how much and how many people believe in the capabilities of our youth.

Pathways is looking for volunteers for the 2009/10 program year (October-June)

Two volunteer roles are available:

### Tutor

- Commit to three hours per week from October to June.
- Work with students in grade nine in subjects of your choice (English, math, geography, etc).
- Tutor students both in small groups and one-to-one.

### Group Mentor

- Commit to three hours every two weeks, starting in October,
- Prepare and run inclusive activities, engaging the group's

interests and sharing your experiences.

- Work with two other Mentors in a group of 10-12 Grade 9 students.

*New volunteers must attend orientation and training sessions prior to starting. All volunteers will be asked to complete a police reference check.*

Hamilton Pathways to Education now runs a program in the North Hamilton communities of Bennetto and Keith. For further information on becoming a volunteer, please contact one of the following:

### Diana DeSimone

*Community Outreach Worker*

Phone: 905-523-6611 ext 223

Email:

[desimone@nhchc.ca](mailto:desimone@nhchc.ca)

Or

### Rob Pozeg

*Community Engagement Coordinator*

Phone: 905-523-6611 ext 292

Email: [pozeg@nhchc.ca](mailto:pozeg@nhchc.ca)

Did you know we have two web sites?  
[www.mohawkcollege.ca/retirees](http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/retirees)  
 And  
[www.mcretirees.com](http://www.mcretirees.com)  
 The sites are virtually identical. Can you spot the differences?

Continued from page 3 ...

you have come to rely on it until it isn't there. The newsletter is still largely unfinished and I'm already past the usual deadline for the printers because I have been unable to acquire research and items I intended to include from the Internet. Here's hoping it's up again soon.

My mother, who recently turned 90, loves to get out and see the changes that have happened in the area. I know she would not be happy to see the vineyards that she and Dad planted and cared for for more than forty years ripped from the ground and abandoned as they are just outside my window. But no one wants Concord grapes anymore, and if the government will pay you to get rid of them ... Change is neither good nor bad, but it is certainly inevitable. (Just so you know, I didn't rip out the grapes, they belong to my neighbour now, so don't send any nasty communications. Also, the comments here are strictly my own and meant in good fun.)

## Ontario Colleges Marketing Competition 2009

**O**n November 19 and 20, 2009, Mohawk College will host the 30th Annual Ontario Colleges Marketing Competition (OCMC 09). Over 400 business marketing students and their faculty will take part.

The event will open with a Quiz Bowl at Mohawk Fennel Campus on the Thursday. This event tests the students knowledge of current marketing events under such categories as Marketing, Integrated Marketing Communications, Marketing Research, Retailing, Entrepreneurship, Direct Marketing, Sales Management and International Marketing. There will also be sales presentations and Job Interviews.

To guarantee the success of this event, your help as a volunteer is solicited.

If you would like to volunteer, or would like more information, please contact Janice Shearer at [janic.shearer@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:janic.shearer@mohawkcollege.ca)

## In Memoriam

**Russell Elman:  
1933 - 2009**

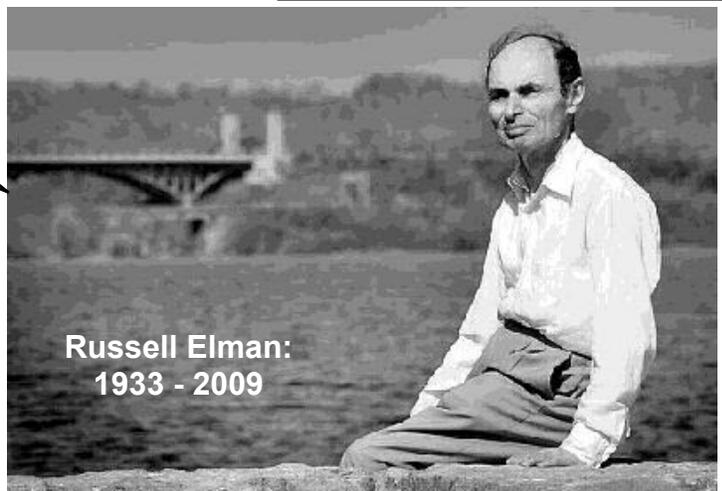
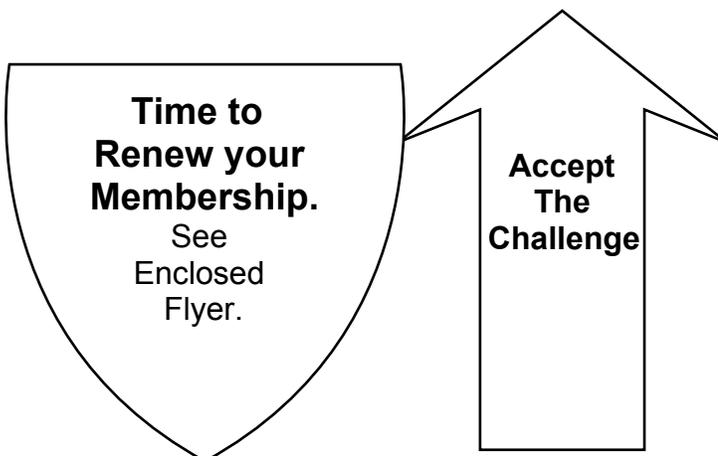
**B**oy adventurer, Oxford grad, Columbia grad, teacher, author, community activist, journalist, mentor and later in life, when his wife, Clara, was struck by Alzheimer's, a caregiver.

Russell Elman, who helped set up the communication arts program at Mohawk College in 1967, died suddenly at his home April 17.

Beginning at the old textile factory on Wentworth Street, he moved to Fennell when it opened in 1969 where he stayed until his retirement in 1998.

Toronto Star reporter Richard Brennan, stressed the influence Russell had on journalism in this country: "Elman made sure you understood it was a profession where there was no room for anyone who didn't take it seriously."

Elman was buried in Fenelon Falls Cemetery after a small family service.



## Recent Events

### May Trip to Drayton

**T**hirty-three retirees and friends boarded the bus on a beautiful day in May to head out to the Crossroads Restaurant and on to the theater in Drayton. After a short wrong turn on the Linc the bus driver got organized and we were off!

It was a very pleasant ride in the countryside as the farms all looked fresh and green. We even saw two horse and buggies on the way,

When we arrived at the restaurant we notice that they are still expanding the store area and they had lots of tempting things to purchase. We were taken to a room of our own and settled with whatever drink we ordered and then it was off to the buffet. The soups and salad bar were tempting and plentiful. The main course was different: the chicken was delicious but there was no sausage with the sauerkraut, a disappointment for some. The deserts were plentiful and a favorite seemed to be the apple blossom, with sauce and ice-cream.

After lunch we reboarded the bus for the short trip to Drayton where we saw a great performance of *Country Legends*. The singers all took on various roles from Dolly Parton to John-

ny Cash. The backup band knew their music and seemed to enjoy it themselves. They did songs that made you want to sing and we were encouraged to sing at one point.

On our trip home we hit a bit of traffic through Kitchener but arrived safely back at the college at 6:30pm. An enjoyable day was had by all!

Isabel Kerr

### Cancelled

**U**nfortunately, our July trip to Grand Bend had to be cancelled as we did not receive enough responses to cover the expenses of the bus.

Please don't forget this is YOUR association. If we are overlooking some activity you would enjoy, please let us know. By the same token, if there is something preventing you from taking part in our outings, please let us know about that too.

We are always looking for new ideas and things to try.

## Future Events

### Shaw Festival

We will once again be visiting the Shaw Festival, after a delicious repast at Betty's, of course, on Wednesday, September 30.

This is always a popular event, so order your tickets early. See the enclosed pamphlet.

### McMaster Planetarium

Something new and exciting is in store on November 3, 2009. Lunch will be provided at the IAHS as well as FREE parking before we venture to the McMaster Planetarium for a show designed just for us. Again, check the pamphlet enclosed for all the details and order your tickets before they all disappear.

### Christmas at St. Jacob's

Once again we are offering a Christmas season junket to St. Jacob's to do a little shopping, enjoy a fantastic meal and watch the presentation of *2 Pianos 4 Hands*. The enclosed pamphlet has all the particulars. This year, everything is within easy walking distance, so you can spend even more time shopping!

### Le Chinois

We are once again planning to celebrate the Chinese New Year at Le Chinois. The tentative date is January 27, 2010. Watch for more details in our next mailing.

Submissions for the next issue should be received by  
October 9, 2009  
Submissions@fodoweb.ca  
(Add "retirees" to subject line.)