



**RETIREES
ASSOCIATION
OF
MOHAWK
COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER**



Summer, 2010

Deadline for next issue:
October 8, 2010

Please e-mail your contributions
to submissions@fodoweb.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 28 at Mohawk College, Fennell Campus. Please plan to attend and reaffirm Mohawk Retirees' commitment to OCRA. See page 3 for more details.

TAP DOGS

August 12th: Unfortunately, this event has been cancelled due to insufficient response.

DOCTOR'S DILEMMA

September 8th, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, Shaw Festival Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake. See Flyer

LAI D BACK HIKING GROUP

September 13: A walk from Webster's Falls to Tews Falls and back. See page 3.

FALL TRAIN TRIP

October 6th. Fall Colour Train Trip, Orangeville - Brampton and return. See flyer.

CARMEN'S

December 14th. Carmen's presents "The Platters" Lunch and show.

CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DINNER

Date and place to be announced

Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter

Website: www.mcretirees.com

Published four times a year.

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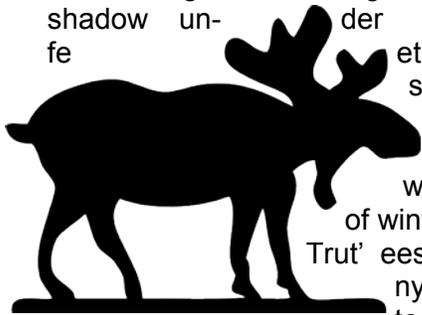
Honourary Life Member

Alan Gregson

**Into the
Wilderness**
with
Jack Freiburger

Oudpos' Seeks loif widout Say-Ay-Ay (C.A.A.)

One thing I hafta clear up first: Danny Williams did not have heart trouble because he saw a groundhog on the Island. Danny ain't a Saturday weed toker or drinker. True, it would be a shock, as there aren't any groundhogs d'ere – unlike the coyote, they haven't surfed their way to De Awland, nor, like the wolf, have they been voted off De Awland. So we Labradorians must watch each Feb. 2 for the whole province. It's hard for a ground-hog to see a shadow under three feet of snow,



so six more weeks of winter it is. Trut' ees, Danny went to the

You Hess fer hart' surg'ry 'cause dey had a spare, just to silence his critics, who say he hasn't had one. Dat's majority government fer ya.

Den der's deh udder gud news – Mealy Mountains National Park, which is 10,700 hectares of “the land God gave to Cain” that we've decided to give back. It's taken this

long to be sure there is no oil nor useful minerals in the rolling rocky semi-barrens known as “taiga” (trees are in great abundance, as opposed to “tundra” [that utterly naked desolate rocky area] and “tonka,” [a toy company]). Now only Natives can hunt there. It's easy to sneak up on wildlife because the Park abuts the Dept. of National Defence artillery range and most game are deafened. Of course, it's no fun hunting when, just as you get a moose lined up in your sights, it's blasted to smithereens by ordnance. Those b'ys un' gulls in camo duds gots de beeger guns, yis b'y.

MMNP is at the east end of the Trans Labrador Highway, near Goose Bay, near the Atlantic. D'eyes after buildin' a road t'rew de park area from Goose Bay to de sout' coast, so we can drive all the way to L'anse-au-Loup (dat's how Frencies say “Wolf Meadow”), the port for the ferry across the Strait of Belle Isle (ditto fer “Pretty Island”) to De Awland of Newfun' Land. Dat's a twelve-hour drive from Churchi' Faws on gravel.

On the way back from Goose Bay the road is blocked by the George River herd of care-boo at times, or the nearly-extinct redwine care-boo, or Native hunters. Those are Innu people or aboriginals who hunt critters, not other folks who hunt Natives, although it has crossed some people's minds. Slaughtering moose shot in the woods in three feet of snow requires doing it wearing snowshoes, which is awkward. Some (some native) people bring out the carcasses in sleds drawn by snowmobile, carve up the moose on the roadside, illegally leave the entrails and drive away. While doing that, they park vehicles to make a sideways V or W on the road, so through drivers must slow down and not put the carvers at risk. Govern-

ment plows make off-road parking/slaughtering areas regularly, and these are frequently used as well. Wolves and other wildlife dispose of the remains. The weight of moose meat in a carcass is estimated by weighing the heart and multiplying by one hundred pounds. Doan led the GG take a bite outa de heart first, or you'll underestimate the meat yield and the wolves will howl in thanks.

Plows also tier the snowbanks in some areas, by pushing the top feet of a bank further away with a wing plow. This prepares for the next snowfall, but also makes (intentionally?) a 1' high, 4' wide shelf for snowmobiles to blast along without being near motorists' vehicles. This tiering is common inside



Churchill Falls, creating virtual “dedicated lanes” for snowmobiles. Pedestrians are thus between snowmobiles and cars, and are generally referred to as “sitting ducks.” Since the highway is mainly east-west, the usual north winds can cause cross-drifting. Since everything is pure

Editor's Note:

Jack has returned safely from his vigil in “Churchi' Faws”. He has been kind enough to send us a monthly report. However, since we publish only quarterly, we're a bit behind. We hope his descriptions of winter in Labrador will help cool you down during our current heat wave.

Continued on page 4 ...



OCRA AGM

**28 OCTOBER, 2010
MOHAWK COLLEGE
FENNEL CAMPUS**

Mohawk is the host college for this meeting and you are cordially invited to attend!

The Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association, came into being in 2001 when Mohawk's Alan Gregson convened a meeting of interested academic, support and administrative college retirees from across Ontario. Since then Mohawk College has always provided excellent support to OCRA.

OCRA advocates for its members on issues of importance by

- keeping a close watch on developments in the pensions and benefits areas
- communicating regularly with members via newsletters and web postings
- building relationships with those who make decisions for CAAT retirees
- seeking ways to make retirees' views and needs known
- promoting adequate representation for retirees

How are these tasks important to all college retirees?

OCRA follows up if retirees do not receive important benefit information in a timely fashion.

For retirees who need help with a benefit problem, OCRA provides the relevant contact information.

OCRA provides a voice for retirees who have no direct input into decisions that affect them.

Upcoming OCRA event:

OCRA's general meetings have been held at colleges across the province. This year OCRA returns to Mohawk for its General Meeting to be held at Mohawk College on Thursday October 28, 2010. Speakers will include:

Derek Dobson, CEO of the CAAT Pension Plan, (note: this presentation may prove very important in light of the potential loss in 2014 of pension indexation for service prior to 1992 !)

Tony Tilly, Chair Committee of Presidents, College Employer Council. Your health benefits are now under this new structure

Programme planning is underway for additional speakers of particular interest to retirees

Lunch will be provided

Details of the full program will be posted on the OCRA website www.ocraretirees.ca



Take a Hike

The Mohawk Retirees "Laid Back" Hiking Group is Starting!

Bill Fulton and Barb Hallam are willing to lead our first hike on Monday September 13th at 10 a.m. It will be slow paced.

We will walk from Websters Falls to Tews Falls and back. If some people wish to go one way only then we will make arrangements for that.

The return walk will take about one and a half hours and then we can have lunch at Websters Falls.

Please follow these directions to meet us:

From King St. in Dundas , proceed west up Hwy 8, under railway bridge & up escarpment. Where Hwy 8 turns left, GO STRAIGHT AHEAD ON BROCK ROAD. At that junction, look for two stone gates on the right & go down into parking lot. The parking here is free!

Please bring a lunch, water and wear sturdy shoes or boots.

Please email Bill Fulton at fultons@sympatico.ca or phone 905 627 9718 if you wish to come, so that we can get an idea of the number of potential participants. Everyone is welcome!

Continued from page 2 ...

white, drifts are hard to see. Drivers wear very orange U2 sunglasses to help distinguish contours. They are required safety gear for company workers in CF, as are bright orange vests with reflective strips, which most people wear day and night. The vests help to find a body in the snow. The vests are chemically-impregnated to reveal tire tread or ski marks, to show whether drivers or riders can claim the kill. In the event that both sets are shown, CSI Labrador establishes primary contact and awards the kill.

Standard practice in parking lots is to back into a spot. Hydro companies across the country are sponsoring this safety practice. In Sudden Untaryo this would be fine, but here it's a pain, as the mounted plug-in for the block heater is then at the back of the vehicle. So you back in, get the extension cord from the back seat, run it from the grill to the outlet, only to find the outlet is broken. Start over in a new spot. Most people drape the cord over their outside mirror and past their driver's door, to take load off the cord and to remind them to unplug, rather than rip the cord out of the block heater as they drive out. Without a block heater, you are very cold "toast." If you have a set of antlers mounted on the front of your vehicle, you may wrap the extension cord around the antlers while driving, giving another meaning to "rack of antlers." This is not common, as the wire gets too cold to straighten out when needed. Even rubbing on Cialis doesn't help. Ex-spouses unplug each other's vehicles in the lots. Symbolic, very symbolic. Especially considering wires have male and female ends. In a hydro town, people know these things. Bobbiting also occurs, if divorce is in progress. And of course,

after resplicing the wire, a guy will say it's as good as ever.

In "My Fair Lady," Cockney-speaking Eliza Doolittle has trouble learning not to drop her "Haiches." Here, 'arry and 'azel 'arkness never get their whole names out. So nobody can find them in the phone book. Where y'uz to (Ubber Canadians say "from") can be determined on De Awland by the rule "Dey drops dair "haiches" in 'Olyrood [Holyrood] and peeks dem ub agin in Havondale [Avondale]." These towns are 20 km apart, about an hour west of St. John's, with a lot of Island left over, so the saying explains very little. Me duckees, the language skill for this month is to maintain consistent pronunciation of the "oo" sound, whether in boot, root, shoot, cook, look, or book. Udderwise, b'ys an gulls, wutch a spickin' anyways?

Doan led yer andlers freezel!
Chack b'y

Outpost Sebben

Been' a traileh parg b'y

Churchi' Faws has two kinds of housing. The better is poured concrete homes. These are backsplits with full basements and free-electric heated garages, with vinyl siding in one of three colours. The houses are identical clones. The house numbers are on the garage doors, so it's important to learn, when these houses are strung together in rows, that the colour of the garage matches the colour of the house. Saturday mornings, this trick is more difficult to manage, as some of the b'ys and gulls sit in the warm garages with the doors up, toking a joint and enjoying a brewski. Others have machine shops, wood-working

shops, freezers full of wild meat, or frozen hides from their traplines to tan in their garages. Or just plain accumulated clutter. Never vehicles. Outlets are outside.

The other kind, which would be "the other side of the tracks," if Churchill Falls had tracks, is the trailer area. This is all that remains of the trailer village that has been steadily replaced since 1970, when construction of the hydro plant ended. It is the expansion/contraction element of the town, housing temporary employees until they are taken on fulltime or let go. This is where non-employees of the company also live, such as those three of us in ministry. These trailers are thus 40 years old and look it. Yet I am very comfortable here, and wish I could move my trailer back to Sudden Untaryo. It has its charms, fer shur,



yis b'y. But no garage fer token.'

Five wooden steps lead up to a 4x8 board porch, spaced, so snow can melt through. Sitting on it, the silence is so profound I sometimes say hello to myself out loud to be sure my hearing hasn't quit. Crows cawing four blocks away are heard

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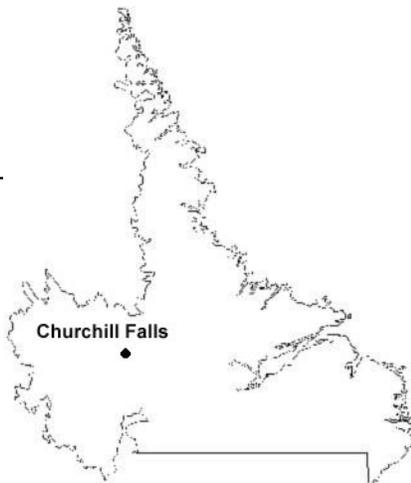
Continued from page 4 ...

easily. When you hear a bear sniffing at your bedroom window as you lie four feet away, you're quiet too. I will be glad when spring takes away the snowmobiles' roaring, yis b'y.

Since electricity is free, everything inside is electric. From the porch I come into an add-on room, about 10'x10' which has a closet and the laundry. The plumbing is wrapped with heating coils, which means both taps produce hot water, just to different temperatures. The only way to get cold water is to run the tap for a long time, or to refrigerate it. I can shower with either tap. Water is also free.

Rooms are separately heated with – of course – electric baseboard heaters on thermostats. This is something like the log cabins at Westfield Heritage Village, which have fireplaces that only heat the room they're in. I love it. The living room can be warm while the bedroom is the cool temp I like. Then in the "keechen" you might "eat the arse out of a low-flying duck." (be very hungry) Walking down the hall to my bedroom past two spare bedrooms and the bath, where you "visit Mrs. Murphy," each at a different temp, can be like different climate zones. The room for my priest-boss has the window open for his comfort, even at 40 below. Hint.

The windows are the old four-glass-sidesliding type that whistle in the wind. The sound is different depending on the wind direction. So I began experimenting with gap/sound tuning. By running from window to window, slightly opening



or closing, I could produce a melody. I got up to Happy Birthday and was very proud of my invention until I learned that these very musical people had figured that out a long time ago. Some families cut down on the running by having enough kids to match the window count. Small children first learn chopsticks, then the bugle call heard at Ticat games, then join the family in Bolero and Beethoven's Ninth. Kids have mastered window music when the training lines can be erased from the panes and the kids still get the right notes. Tone-deaf kids play the percussion with fridge and room doors.

Now you know what they really do at "kitchen parties." Yis, b'y.

Inside the add-on is the kitchen, with every electric appliance known to woman or man. Since trailers are furnished by the company, every trailer has exactly the same gadgets. When I came in June I noted the

lack of a hot-air popcorn popper and addressed that. Now everyone wants one. Yis, b'y. There are lots of cupboards, but since a true Newfoundland only uses three spices – salt, pepper and ketchup – most are used for off-season clothing. To prevent having guests buried in underwear, the spice door has a triangular ketchup stain.

All furniture is company issue; the same living room, kitchen and bedroom furniture right down to the same lamps and mats. The interiors are in three company colours – white, cream and light grey - refreshed every four years by company painters. Carpets match – white,

cream and light grey – and are replaced every nine years. All free. One instantly feels at home anywhere in trailer town. "No, dat's me wife," is heard regularly. "No, me buddy, you's in de wrong 'ouse, yis, b'y. Time fer yeh to go on 'ome," may be the response. My parish, being Catlick, doesn't supply a wife.

Some people have pets, and black lab dogs are very common. At the medical clinic we find the vet, chiropractor and dentist who come in on weekends on rotation. Depending on when a toothache strikes, you might get a vet and your lab get a dentist. Likewise, the same person in one of the trailers grooms people and dogs. You and Foofie can have the same "do" for Easter. Dogs hate having masters with male-pattern baldness, yis, b'y.

"De melt" has been underway for over a week now, and summer cars are emerging from the "dreefts." It will be weeks yet before they can be resurrected, just in time for Easter.

The main sport of older men and women in town is "dards," men's on Friday nights and women's on Sunday nights, yis, b'y. This is to make sure children aren't left orphans if spouses were to play spouses. Losing women must chug a "brew," which may be any liquor, and "de main" do "kaigers." (full pints). Then they play the next game ... Teams choose their partners every fall on the basis of alcoholic tolerance, not dartboard accuracy. Self-defence. Your Labspeak lesson this month is to replace "eh" with "yis, b'y" said quickly and almost inaudibly anytime at all, yis, b'y.

An' dat be eet frum 'ere fer 'nudder munt. Doan led yer andlers freeze!

Chack b'y

MOHAWK
COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

The 29th Annual Mohawk College GARAGE SALE

In Support of United Way

VENDORS WANTED

Saturday, September 11th, 2010

Rain Date: Sunday, September 12th, 2010

9:00am - 2:00pm

Fennell Campus - Parking Lot P13



Register Online Now

uwgaragesale.mohawkcollege.ca

scenery and getting in a great cardio exercise, the group soon bonded and simply enjoyed each other's company.

One interesting event that grew from this presentation is the planned hike coming September 13 from Webster's Falls to Tews Falls and back (as described elsewhere in this issue). Everyone is welcome to participate.

A short business meeting followed the presentation where Bill Fulton and Harold Best were elected by acclamation to our board.

A generous donation to the Counselling Department for student assistance



Recent Events

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held last June 8 at Michelangelo's. 74 members and guests at-

tended and were not disappointed by either the excellent meal or the interesting speakers.

Once the technical difficulties were figured out, Bill Fulton and Barb Hallam gave an excellent presentation on their group's traversing of the Bruce Trail. The journey of some 800 kilometres took about 75 hiking days to complete.

In addition to enjoying the beautiful

was again agreed upon.

Chair Hans Bastel outlined the board's plan to "Go Green" by eventually making this newsletter and other updates available "on-line". The College has graciously supported this initiative and will provide the necessary electronic resources. See "Going Green" in this issue for more.

The annual meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Photo by Dan Court

Going Green

Some changes are coming for The Retirees Association and its members.

First of all, Mohawk College will be administering a new Retirees web page on their main site. The purpose of this page is to

- Communicate with staff who are considering retirement
- Encourage new retirees to get involved in our association
- Keep Retirees connected to the College
- Publicize our events as well as College events of interest to retirees

Our own site will continue as usual but will now only be accessible from www.mcretirees.com (although there will be a link from the new College page).

We also have our own e-mail address at the College: retirees@mohawkcollege.ca. If you have a concern and don't know who to contact on the board, send it to the above address and it will be forwarded to the proper member. Board members' e-mails (as listed in the masthead) can still be used to contact a specific member.

We are also working on sending out this newsletter and other (limited) communications via members' e-mail addresses. The plan is to post the newsletter on our website in .pdf format which most people should already be able to read (and for others there are free readers available - these will be listed on the website.) We would then notify you by e-mail that the new issue is now ready to view on-line or to download and print out. Flyers for upcoming events would also be posted in .pdf format with links in the newsletter.

Of course, we would continue to print out and mail the newsletter for those who do not have an e-mail

address or who prefer the "hard copy".

One of the advantages of this system, besides being environmentally more responsible and saving some money, is that we would be able to remind you that certain events may still have seats available. This might save us from cancelling some events and disappointing members. As well, we can inform you of events of interest that may not have been known when the last newsletter was issued.

If you're "technophobic" don't worry. The changeover will be easy and you will be guided each step of the way.

As time permits, your e-mails (as listed on your membership renewals) will be added to our database (in alphabetical order) and trial runs will begin when enough addresses have been added.

The \$2,000 Cat

Last fall I told you about the three new additions to our family. They were probably the luckiest trio of abandoned felines in Ontario. They quickly melted my and my son's heart (not a difficult thing to do) but also managed to wiggle their way into my wife, Sharon's, heart as well. She had long protested that she did not want a cat in the house, let alone three. My son and I were prepared to try and find homes for one or two of them and were somewhat surprised when Sharon announced that we should keep them together.

Blaze is the short-haired tabby with a spot on his nose and a small patch of white (the "blaze") on his back. He seems the most aloof of the three and also, perhaps, the one in charge. Still, he will let you know when a little lovin' is in order.

RENEWAL

It's time to renew your membership! Same Low Price. Same Great Value! See enclosed flyer. (Please be sure to include your e-mail address.)

OCRA AGM

Don't forget to mark October 28th on your calendar! Mohawk is hosting and we want everyone there! See page 3 for details.

Garage Sale

The Mohawk College Garage Sale for the United Way is September 11th. See page 6.

Bandit is the long-haired black and white female with a "cow!" over her eyes and a "band" of white around her shoulders. She is in most need of attention. I admit I have a bad habit: I like to read in the

Spinning the Web (and other tales)

By
Fred Oldfield

bathroom. Unfortunately, since the arrival of our trio, the number of books I have read has dwindled. Bandit seems to have a sixth sense about when I am in the bathroom

and will jump up on me in the midst of my reading. Of course she jumps up at other times as well, Any typos you may find in this newsletter are, most likely, her doing.

She has another bad habit: If she discovers a bag of cat food on the floor, she will make it her job to see that it's opened.

Flash is the long-haired tabby with plenty of white including a large "Flash" of white on his back. He is the movie star, having one of the most beautiful feline faces I have ever seen. Although not as demanding as Bandit, Flash also craves attention. He will also lay down next to my son and sleep through the night - sometimes.



One of the first projects was to build them a scratching/climbing tree. It was made out of two by fours and scrap lumber and covered by some out upholstery fabric we had lying around. It proved to be an instant hit. The kittens quickly learned to climb to the top (which is about six feet high). There was room (back then) for all three to sprawl out. Now it's a squeeze for one.

Unfortunately, the climbing tree did not provide enough amusement for our three. They got into Sharon's plants. It is a wonder that they weren't sent packing, but the little devils survived.

My son decided that cleaning the litter box was more than his delicate sensibilities would allow, so he tried to teach the cats to use the toilet. He had a small bowl stuck in the open-

ing of the seat and he actually did manage to get them to go in the bowl. Unfortunately, he couldn't get them to make the change to just the seat. On a positive note, however, it was very easy to get them to do their business outside, as long as we opened the door for them without undue delay.

With spring they spent more time outdoors and although they still venture into the gardens on occasion, they have left the indoor plants alone.

When they were about six months old, we took them to the vets to have them "fixed". They survived the ordeal much better than our finances, which were set back by about \$1,000.00. Still, there was little doubt in anyone's mind or heart that they had provided us with more than a grand in pleasure.

With summer and near adulthood, our cats started spending more and more time outdoors. Although they have not presented us with a "present" yet, we're pretty sure they have caught more than one mouse and possibly even a rat. Unfortunately, the hunting forays often kept them out all night despite our pleas to come inside.

Many nights we can hear the coyotes in the distance and we were more than a little concerned with the cats safety.

One fateful night last week Flash went missing. He hadn't been seen since the previous morning. A quick tour of the premises turned up no sign of him. We had plans to work on my Mother's house which we are preparing for sale and didn't return until around five p.m. That evening.

At first, my son was elated to see Flash on the back lawn. Then he discovered that Flash had a terrible gash in his abdomen. A quick call to the vets was of no avail since it was the weekend. So, we packed Flash off to the emergency clinic in Thorold.

He was admitted and was operated on that evening. About 11:30 p.m. We got the call that the operation had gone well, although he was far from out of the woods. As it turned out, he had to spend another day at the clinic before he was allowed to come home. Total cost: almost \$2,000.00.

He still has three holes in his stomach and his beautiful tail has been shaved, but he is recovering.

We have no idea what really happened to him. But, for him to have made it home with such a serious wound, we really felt we had no choice but give him a chance for recovery.

Amazingly, he purred all the way to the clinic. He purred with the vet removed some drainage tubes. He purrs at a drop of a hat. But try and get him to take his medicine?

In Memoriam

TYRELL, George Stanley Nairn Passed away June 3, 2010, at the Meadows in Ancaster. He was 88.

Stan served in the RCAF during World War II and until a devastating plane crash ended this career in 1956.

He was an educator with the Hamilton Board of education and retired as the Chairman of Apprenticeship Training and Certificate Programs at Mohawk College.

He was a founding member of the Retirees Association of Mohawk College.