



RETIRES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Summer, 2011

Deadline for next issue:
October 14, 2011

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

Upcoming Events:

September 5: A Night at the Races Meet at Flamboro Downs. Includes Buffet Dinner and \$5 coupon to get started. Free parking. See the flyer attached.



October 6: *My Fair Lady* at the Shaw. Lunch at Betty's. See the flyer attached.

November/December: Lunch and show at Carmen's, possibly a tribute show to Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers. Meet at Carmen's.

January/February: Chinese New Year's dinner at Le Chinois.

Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter

Website: www.mcretirees.com

Published four times a year.

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Honourary Life Member

Alan Gregson

Annual General Meeting

Over 80 members and friends attended the annual general meeting and luncheon at Michaelangelos this past June.

The meal was, as always, fantastic. And this



year the entertainment was just as excellent. Our own Turkey Rhubarb performed with a little help from the audience.

Incidentally, if you would like to purchase one or all three of the CDs released by Turkey Rhubarb, the following will be of interest:

Turkey Rhubarb has released three albums:

- The self titled "Turkey Rhubarb"
- "Hello Out There"
- "Soggy Mittens, Tingley Toes - the Christmas and Holiday Album"

These CDs are available locally at Turtle Pond Toys, University Plaza, Dundas (905-627-8909) and Citizen Kid, Locke Street, Hamilton (905-963-1265). They can also be purchased on-line through www.cdbaby.com.

For more information, check out their web site at www.turkeyrhubarb.ca.

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Mohawk Hikers

On Monday, June 6th eight retirees went for a short hike in the Dundas valley. This date was a result of the postponement from the May 2nd date. The weather was perfect. The sun was shining and the wildflowers were in bloom. We surveyed the Hermitage ruins as well as the trail center with its display on the natural wonders of this area.

In order to round the day off we had lunch at the Winchester Arms in Dundas.

The next walk will be on the waterfront trail in Hamilton on Monday, October 3rd at 10a.m. with lunch at Fishers afterwards. More details will follow by email as we get closer to the date.

- Bill Fulton

Hiking 101 for Retirees: The Step Program

Preamble

(That's what hikers do before they amble)
Recently, Bill Fulton and others have begun offering a series of hikes for those of us who are still ambulatory. In an effort to boost participation, I have thought to write several articles based on my decade of hiking experience, with the same scholarly attention to fact and care for serious reflection that marked my "Outposts" from Labrador. Those of you who complimented me on the first series may now groan to see the fruits of egging me on. Onward!

Step One: Terminology

That Bill's adventures are called "hikes" may be daunting to some who consider a lap around Limeridge Mall an achievement worthy of a cin-

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A short business meeting followed.

In an attempt to get more feedback and a better understanding of why it was necessary to cancel several outings this past year, a survey was distributed at the meeting. If you did not attend, the survey is reprinted on page 6.

The board is still interested in further input. Although the board was pleased with the number of responses and with the ideas presented, unfortunately, the results were somewhat inconclusive. For example, the results were essentially the same for local versus distant events and driving versus small bus for smaller events.

Musicals, comedies, tours and educational events topped the list of outings preferred by the respondents.

Most people preferred a price of about \$75 per outing. (Note: given the current cost for bus transportation and most shows, this is a difficult price break to reach.)

The AGM ended around three pm and seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended.



It started with a small group of Academic Upgrading/BTSD/OBS etc. teachers who had spent much of the last thirty years or so together and who retired at about the same time.

They started meeting for breakfast on the first Wednesday of each month. Currently, they choose a new restaurant to try every second month. They have been meeting for almost ten years now.

Some members have dropped off, but others, often from different areas of the college (and different bargaining units) have joined. If you'd like to join, please contact Bruce Gray (wbrucegray@hotmail.com).

We'd like to know about other SIGs from the College community.

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nabun and premium coffee. Really, that thinking is an outgrowth of having survived an hour's teaching, typing or managerial tête-à-tête at the college – time to move on! The term may raise fears that your heirs may find your remains frozen in some deep crevasse (winter hike) or crevice (summer hike) (I've never figured out why a "crevice" isn't the one involving "ice." English teachers wonder about these things.) Trust me, on Bill's hikes you won't become the next Pyrenees' man. We don't carry archery gear. Or pemmican. We leave that to the Haudenosaunee folks who hang out in Iroquoia Heights, aka, Ancaster. While Bill's walks do have their ups and downs (see below) they are selected to make murder or suicide, or death by misadventure, unlikely.

Hikes come in several patterns. There is the **loop hike**, in which one leaves one's car to hike around an area and return to the car. Before the McIsaac era of construction, I used to tell my first-semester students that the quickest way (first-semester students were so keen about showing up for class!) to get from A224 to F132 was to go outside and head west, pass two wings of the swastika, then come in. For their next class, to continue outside past two more wings and back to A226. That would be a loop hike. Also typical timetabling.

There-and-back hikes are like walking to Tim's and back, or like the subsequent trip, to the washroom and back. More and more these days, I find coffee is "borrowed" by the body, just as beer has always been. Coffees before a hike are not wise for this reason. Nor laxatives. Should you make the second error, I would recommend reading *How to Shit in the Woods*. The pages are even perforated. Some hikers carry toilet paper in their backpacks for just such an event, others fend with leaves, ferns, hiking maps. (would you rather be raw or lost?) Despite appearances in Charmin commercials, toilet paper does not grow on trees.

Shuttle hikes start at your car and end somewhere else. This may be the result of a plan, or

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OCRA™ is an organization that advocates for its members on issues of concern to community college retirees. Your annual

membership fee with the Retirees Association of Mohawk College automatically provides you with a membership in OCRA (Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association).

OCRA is going green and they would like to hear from you! If you haven't already done so, please contact OCRA membership convenor, Jennifer Moore, at gmoore13@cogeco.ca and share your email address to ensure that you receive OCRA newsletters, invitations to the general meeting, and other updates as they happen. All of the information OCRA sends out via email is also posted on their website at www.ocraretirees.ca as well as their board minutes, contact information, pension and health benefit information.

Words to Ponder

My mother loved children - she would have given anything if I had been one.

- Groucho Marx

Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers.

-Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Experience is what you got by not having it when you needed it.

-Anonymous

The wisest mind has something yet to learn.

-Geirge Santayana

An educational system isn't worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living but doesn't teach them how to make a life.

- Anonymous

of just getting lost. Hikers with a plan meet in one place, pile into as few cars as possible, and drive to the other end of the planned route. Then they hike back, the drivers trusting their friends will still be friends when they all arrive at the cars, and that someone will drive the drivers back. We really get to see the charming side of the first drivers. It has happened to me that we shuttled, headed north instead of south (on an overcast day in strange territory it's easy to do) and proceeded to hike 20 km away from the nearer car, thus 40 km from the farther car. Words can't express that realization. At least not words I can use here. Then the return shuttle is an expensive cab ride or a gracious farmer. We imagine his comments on returning home: "Martha, more of those city-slicker Bruce Trail goofs just needed a hitch home. They even had maps, but used them for toilet paper."

End-to-end (E2E) hikes are a series of shuttle hikes that cover a considerable distance, such as from Stoney Creek Campus to Brantford Campus, using 10 six-kilometre hikes, or 6 ten-kilometre hikes, etc. An end-to-end loop hike could be a tour to all campuses. I hope I'm not giving Bill ideas; nostalgia aside, there are better views. Unless you want to dash inside and yell "nana nana nana" at those still toiling. When hikers complete a section of the Bruce Trail, or all of it, they earn an E2E badge which is proudly sewn on their backpacks, much as we did years ago in Scouts or Guides. Retirees in second childhood often resort to collecting such merit badges. Those who complete Spain's El Camino trail earn a badge and the right to be called "pilgrims," although most are just "grim" by the end of that 900-km trail, and consider their starting pals, now former friends, "pills." Read Jane Christmas' book *What the Psychic Told the Pilgrim* for evidence of that, or Bill Bryson's *A Walk in the Woods* for his account of hiking some of the Appalachian Trail with a friend he hasn't seen since.

Hiking lingo betrays the masochistic mentality of hikers. With suitable fatalism, they love to remark "for every down there's an up" to take the pleasure out of a rare downhill slope. Hike leaders often (and that's the dead giveaway) call out

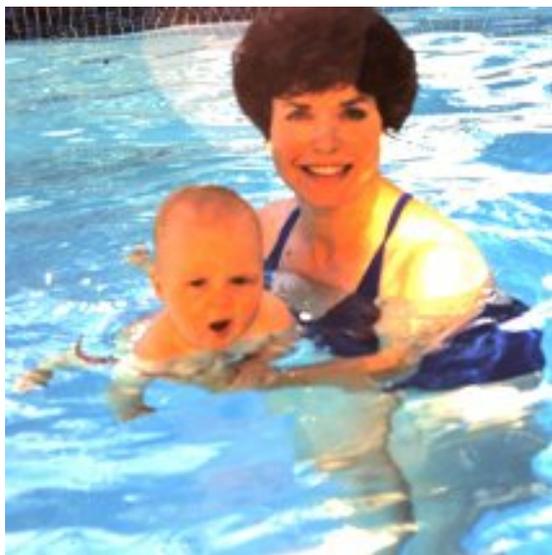
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In Memoriam

Mohawk jazz icon Dave McMurdo passed away suddenly at his home from an apparent heart attack. Dave had taught at Mohawk for 32 years. Dave is survived by his wife Donna, daughters Emily and Candice and two grandchildren. A memorial celebration of Dave's life was held on July 4 at Toronto's Rex Hotel.

We depend on our members to forward news about any retirees who have passed. We do not have any other source of information.



Rosemary Knechtel and her son Andrew (circa 1990?)

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"this is the last hill." Most hike leaders have a gift for ending a tiring hike with an impossibly-long upgrade to the cars. No matter what kind of wreck you drive, it sure looks good at that point. Rainy-day hikes usually result in "the mudder of all hikes" comments. Good hike leaders are "allowed to lose 10% of the hikers" and very experienced leaders may lose 15%. Some seem downright frustrated if we all make it to the end. Leaders usually appoint a "sweep" to be the last hiker, charged with sweeping bodies off the trail as a courtesy to the next group who may come along. In the fall, leaves provide suitable means to cover the body, snow in winter, mud in spring, but summer is a tough time to be the sweep. Use rocks. Of course, sweeps don't need to worry about those who fall off cliffs. As a faller descends, leaders will call out "it's not the fall that kills you..." Trail humour at its best. Descenders flap their arms in acknowledgment.

However, I rush to remind you that Bill's hikes are modest in distance, easy terrain, and in pleasant company. We all want to keep getting our pensions.

- Jack Freiburger

Last Minute Reminders!

Your membership renewals are now due. A membership renewal form is enclosed. (New retirees have the first year's dues paid by the College.)

Once your dues are received, your parking pass and membership will be mailed to you.

Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address.

The next newsletter will be in October. The deadline for submissions is Friday, October 14, 2011.

Submissions @ fodoweb.ca

Share your memories for the next Newsletter!
Send your photos to: retirees@mohawkcollege.ca

RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE**FEEDBACK SURVEY**

We are looking for your assistance to offer outings and gatherings that are attractive to you. Please take the time to fill out this survey.

How often do you prefer to join us for an event?

Monthly____ Bimonthly ____ Other_____

Do you prefer local events or further away (50 kms)?

Local events____ Outside Hamilton area____

3. When an event is outside Hamilton area do you prefer to drive yourself or to take a bus?

Drive yourself over 50 kms ____ Take a bus over 50 kms ____

4. For smaller groups would you prefer to take a small bus or drive yourself?

Take a limo____ Drive yourself____

What kind of social events/activities do you prefer?

Musicals____ Comedies____ Mysteries____ Tours____ Sport events____ Entertainment____
Educational (e.g. Planetarium)____ Art gallery____

Events around a seasonal activity ____ (e.g. remembrance day concert) Other
er_____

6. Cost range?

\$50____ \$75____ \$100____

7. Are you interested in an overnight trip?

Yes____ No____

If we promote an event electronically it is possible to have a shorter turn around time. How much notice do you prefer prior to an event?

3 weeks____ 1 month____ 2 months____ Other_____

9. Other suggestions, ideas for an event, comments _____

Thank you for your input

Mohawk College Retirees Board of Directors

RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE

Invites You to Join Us and Enjoy

“MY FAIR LADY” by Bernard Shaw

directed by Molly Smith

at the SHAW FESTIVAL THEATRE in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Thursday, October 6, 2011

A SHAW GLORIOUS MUSICAL:

At long last, the musical Eliza Doolittle comes home! This timeless story of a girl from the gutter given the chance to prove she is a Fair Lady, comes to the Shaw Festival, where the glorious music, words and joy of this story will be celebrated in an innovative and fresh production. For new audiences and old friends alike.

10:15 a.m. Our Coach leaves Fennell Campus, Main Entrance

11:30 a.m. We arrive at the popular Betty's Restaurant

1:00 p.m. Our Coach takes us to Niagara-on-the-Lake

2:00 p.m. Our Show Begins

5:30 p.m. Estimated Return Time to Fennell Campus

Please make cheques payable to RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE and mail to:
ANN DUNN, 126 WEST 4TH STREET, HAMILTON, ON L9C 3N2
PHONE: 905-383-9772 - by Friday, Sept. 9, 2011

\$82.00 ea. for Members and Spouse

\$85.00 ea. for Non Members

“MY FAIR LADY” BY BERNARD SHAW, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011

Please reserve seats @ \$82.00 each for members & partners and\$85.00 each for non-members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Full Payment for x \$82. =

..... x \$85. = = \$..... Is Enclosed

Please make your cheque payable to Retirees' Association of Mohawk College and mail to:
Ann Dunn, 126 West 4th Street, Hamilton, ON L9C 3N2 - (905) 383-9772
Please date cheques no later than Friday, Sept. 9, 2011

(Flyer Shaw Festival Oct. 6, 2011 – “My Fair Lady” – Ann Dunn)

RETIRES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

**A NIGHT AT THE RACES
“TLOTS, SLOTS & JACKPOTS”
Friday September 9, 2011**



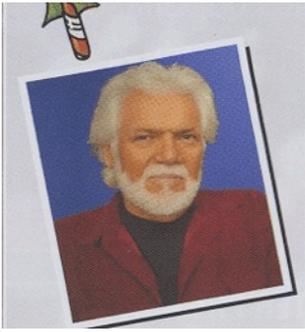
Meet at Flamboro Downs, 967 Hwy #5, Hamilton at the Pavilion Restaurant Trackside for a night of racing. Enjoy a full race night buffet featuring soups, salads, sea food, chef's selection of hot entrees, slow roasted prime rib, pasta, a chocolate fountain and more. Following dinner and the races, visit the slots with more than 800 machines and a free \$5.00 coupon to get you started. One of the races will be named for our group.

**Tour co-ordinator - Brad Berry
5:00 to 5:30 meet at Pavilion Trackside Restaurant
5:30 Buffet Dinner
6:00 First Race
8:30-9:00 Last Race
(slots open 24 hours)
Directions: Take Hwy 403W to Hwy 52 (Copetown exit)
Take Hwy 52 N to Hwy #5
Turn right on Hwy #5 E. for 4 kms
Track is on the left side; parking is free**

**Please make cheques payable to Retirees Association Mohawk College
Mail to: Brad Berry phone # 905 648 1904
39Stowbridge Cr, Ancaster Ontario L9G5E1
Cheques must be dated no later than August 15**

Please reserve seats @ \$34.00 members \$35.00 non-members

**Names _____
Address _____
Phone # _____ e-mail _____**



RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE



Invites You to Join Us and Enjoy

A LUNCH MATINEE MUSICAL SHOW "A KENNY & DOLLY CHRISTMAS"

"Celebrate the holiday season with music and magic in this Yuletide spectacular. In addition to Christmas favourites, the show also features some of Kenny Rogers 's biggest hits including "The Gambler", "Coward of the County", "Lucille", and "Ruby" alongside Dolly Parton chart stoppers such as "Working 9 to 5", "Here You Come Again", "Jolene", and the worldwide smash hit, "I Will Always Love You".

AT
Carmen's Dinner Theatre
1520 Stone Church Rd., E., Hamilton, Ontario
ON
Thursday December 8/2011, 11:30 a.m.
Lunch :12:00 p.m. Menu seasonal
Show: 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$45:00 each for Member, spouse/friend and also for Non-Members, a bargain!!

(Includes HST and Service Charge)

Table space will be reserved under the Mohawk College Association name. Each table seats 10 people. On entering, just ask for the table number. You will not need a ticket to enter.

Please apply by October 14/11 as Carmen's provides NO REFUNDS after that date. Note: There are no refunds on cancellation; however, substitution arranged by the ticket holder (or from the waiting list if there is one) will be accepted.

"Kenny & Dolly Christmas"- Carmen's Luncheon Show - Thurs., Dec. 8/11 - 11:30 a.m.

Please make cheques payable to RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE, postdated no later than Oct 28/11 and mail to Donna Dunlop, 123 San Francisco Ave., Hamilton, ON., L9C 5T8
Phone: (905) 388-2394

Full payment for _____ x \$45 = _____.

Names(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code : _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____