



Retirees Association of Mohawk College News Letter February 2000

The millennium has arrived and we have survived. Since the last report we have had three events.

After two cold, dark and heavy rainy October days the clouds cleared and the warm sun emphasized the reds and golds of the escarpment trees - a perfect Fall day. It was October 14th, the day chosen for our Winery Tour and Tasting. Andres, Thirty Bench, Lakeview Cellars and Magnotta Cellars were the four wineries carefully chosen to show our group of twenty five a varied manufacturing scale and product purpose. So near to home are these and other wineries which are bringing Vintners International Awards to Ontario's Niagara Peninsula.

Our hosts were each knowledgeable and generous in their various explanations. From grafting and pruning through to the techniques of tasting and then to the complimenting of meal items - we learned from the interesting presentations.

The wines tasted ranged from dry Chardonnay to sweet Ice Wine with nibbles of bread to clear the palate - naturally, an enjoyable experience!

A rest and lunch at Plain and Fancy provided us with a satisfying meal and a long-distance view of Toronto's CN Tower and skyline over the sparkling lake.

Now we'll be choosing our wines with greater care thanks to Brian and Mary's willingness to share their awareness and appreciation of this industry with their retiree colleagues. Thanks, it was a great day.

Alan Gregson

On November Nov. 15, the college's Margaret Dent assisted by Carl Easton led some ten retirees through the intricacies of *Windows98*. Much learning took place but none of it will be on the test.

On November 26 twenty-seven retirees and their guests travelled to St. Jacobs. Approximately half stayed in the village to visit the craft shops and the remainder headed on to the St Jacob's market and outlet stores. The market was a tantalising place. It was full of meat stalls of every possible variety - fresh meat, smoked meat, sausage, fish and poultry, together with baked goods, pickles, preserves, and more. There were also crafts and knit goods, coats and jackets, nightshirts and shoes, knives and rugs, axe handles and table linen and all manner of other things. The only thing in short supply were the fresh fruits and vegetables that one usually associates with a farmers' market. The outlet mall was a hundred yards or so from the market and contained many shops offering the usual things one finds at these malls. After lunch at the Stone Crock the group went to the Sr Jacobs School House Theatre for a production of the amusing musical "Suds". A thoroughly delightful day thanks to the advance planning of Dave and Betty Crossely

Brian Welsh

In Memoriam

It is with the deepest regret that we report the passing of the following members: **Norman (Norm) Dobbie**, retiree from the Physical Plant, **Charles (Mac) McNair**, retiree from Information Services. Our deepest sympathy is extended to their families.

Retirees Association of Mohawk College

Newsletter

Published four times per year

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Message For 2000 on Behalf of Your Board

We've made it into the Year 2000!

The globe is still turning, my computer clicked over without any of the forecast glitches and we're back to retirement living as usual. If only I can get out of the habit of using '99 instead of '00!

The last year of the last century will be memorable for each of us in different ways. For your

Association, your Board feels that we can look back with a great deal of satisfaction - I'm sure you'll agree. Of course the plans are being made already for our Year 2000 program in which we hope you'll find the interest to participate and, amongst other things, renew associations with former colleagues.

I am particularly appreciative of the enthusiasm, initiatives and willingness of your Board members to give their time to make your Association such a meaningful part of the life of so many members.

To each of you, along with your family, we wish much good health, happiness and prosperity for many years of the 21st. Century.

Alan Gregson and the members of your Board.

Highlights of the November Board Meeting

The board met at the college on Nov. 23. We were anticipating a visit from five member of the board of the St Clair College retirees' association executive. Unfortunately they could not make it.

College president Catherine Rellinger had been invited to meet with the board and spent about ½ hour with us. Among the topics discussed were how the board could help the college in an advocacy role. President Rellinger also mentioned that the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Brantford campus will be coming up in 2000.

Your board has been working hard to line up an exciting program for the spring. You will find the following more adequately described on the accompanying sheets but for convenience, they are listed here.

Wed. Mar 15 – Canadian Stage Company production of the "Overcoat".

Tues. Apr. 4 – "Heraldry and Flags" at the Coach House Restaurant/
Sat. May 6 – Harness Racing at Flamboro Downs
Please book early as space will be limited

Other ideas for later in the summer and fall are:

- "Hello Dolly" at Stage West, lunch and a tour of the Mississauga City (not necessarily in that order).
- "Fiddler on the Roof" at Stratford
- Lockport locks and the Carousel Museum
- Caledonia Gypsum Town

If you have any ideas for trips or visits that the retirees might enjoy please contact any member of the board.

News of Members

Congratulations to Ed and Florence Kodis who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov 26.

We are always looking for news of members. Anniversaries, relocations, etc. are all of interest. Please let your editor or any other member of the board know.

Carl Easton requests, in this vein, that any one who has changed his/her Internet service provider (ISP) please let him know. He can be reached at windy@interlynx.net.

A number of retired technology professors have been meeting regularly at 9:00 AM on the first Thursday of each month for breakfast at the **Headquarters Tap and Grill** in Ancaster (in the plaza opposite Fortino's). Among those showing up are, Bill Brown, Santosh Dalall, Dave Hutchison, Os Love, Sam Kajiura, Sisir Paul-Chowdery, Lloyd Smith, Harry Sutcliffe, Andy Tapjina,, Stan Tyrrell and your editor.

Our Wandering Board Members Report

"There she blows". It was the stentorian voice of Captain Peter Wilcox aboard the Sea Watcher. We were off the coast of Grand Manan, an island in the Bay of Fundy and what had 'blown' was a northern right whale. We learned that there were only 350 of these harmless behemoths left on this earth, It was a good day and we saw many of these and other whales as well as a great variety of sea birds. The day trip was just part of our three week holiday on the Queen of the Fundy Isles, New Brunswick.

Grand Manan is a one and a half hour ferry ride from Blacks Harbour and is actually closer to the Maine coast than to Canada. One smaller island, Machias Seal Island, ten miles further south, is claimed by both countries but as long as Canadians staff the light station (probably the last 'manned' lighthouse on the East coast) Canada will have right of possession. The main attractions on this rock are the breeding puffins, terns and razor bill auks.

Bird watching is one of the main attractions on Grand Manan. The twenty mile long island boasts numerous nature trails from the Whistle lighthouse near North Head at one end to Seal Cove and South West Head at the other end.

There are approximately 2500 permanent residents on the island. Historically most have been involved in the

fishing industry and while fishing is still important, tourism is now playing an increasingly larger role in island life. Incidentally there are almost 20 churches to choose from and the majority of islanders take their religion very seriously. Even though the fishing isn't what it used to be, seafood abounds and when we visit Grand Manan we always get our fill and enjoy lobster, herring, crab, pollock, and even small mouth bass from one of the inland ponds. We learned how to dig, clean and fry clams you would die for.

The people are very friendly and we find them quite approachable. I've even learned to lift and index finger from the steering wheel as we pass a car going the opposite direction - a little more cool than waving. Islanders have their own dialect and a dictionary of some of the expressions are available at the G.M. Museum in Grand Harbour.

Probably the most beautiful lighthouse location (and likely the most photographed) is Swallowtail but the sunsets at South West Head Lighthouse high above 300 foot basalt cliffs are unforgettable.

The island is no sleepy backwater, however, and everything you may require is at hand from the IGA,, one of largest Home Hardwares in the east or a hospital . However, if it is night life and amusement parks that you crave, then this is not the place for you. If, however, you wish peace and quiet and also to spend your tourist dollars in Canada consider Grand Manan. Cottages are available for around \$400.00 weekly, whale watching costs about \$44.00 each and most other costs (except gasoline) are about the same as in the rest of the Maritimes. To get there it is about one and a half days journey from this area and going via the USA. (This is 100 miles shorter than the Canadian route and you avoid Toronto traffic by going south of the border). So if the sea isn't too 'slanty', the boat 'aint too doughy' and its not too 'wooly' outside we may 'sea' you next year, We'll be there!

Geoff and Lynda Brooker

Update on College Rehiring Policy and Other News

Sometime ago the issue of retirees being rehired on a part time or occasional basis was raised in the news letter. In the November issue of the *Examiner* OPSEU local 240 president Bob Pando reported as follows:

"At its September 8th meeting, the Mohawk Board of Governors adopted a policy on the 'Rehiring of Ex-employees'. Included are the former employees who left the College '....through an early retirement incentive program or due to resignation, terminations, lay-offs or normal attrition'"

Bob goes on to give the reasons that the board gives for its decision and then goes on:

"Based on this rationale the College policy states, 'The College will not make an offer of contract or parttime work as part of an early incentive package. The College will not make offers of employment to former employees who have accepted early leaving incentives, severance payments, or whose employment has been terminated by the College, or who have reached the retirement age of 65 years, except in extraordinary circumstances ... any request to hire former employees covered by this policy must be approved by the Mohawk Executive Committee and ... there must be a business plan to support such a request. Any current contracts will not be disrupted and will be phased out as operational requirements dictate'. The policy further states that '.... is incumbent on the Manager to ensure that a fair and equitable recruitment and selection process is followed' ". Bob further discusses this at length disagreeing with it and the arguments the College put forward supporting it. The final paragraph of his report on the matter is as follows:

"The local is reviewing its options with regard to this policy, and will seek legal advice. In the

meantime, we have advised the College that we oppose the policy and have protected our right to take further action."

In the December issue of the *Examiner* the lead story is headed "Board Continues to Stonewall on Rehiring Policy".

The *Examiner* reports that the Board of Governors refused to act on three anonymous letters which were highly critical of President Catherine Rellinger. They said that if some one wishes to raise concerns they should go through the proper channels. Faculty Governor Fred Dey is trying to determine what the proper channels are. Also in the *Examiner* is a questionnaire asking the College Community to rate how the College is doing under President Rellinger.

The College Athletic Department announced in November that the following had been inducted into the Mountaineer Hall of Fame: Lisa Amsden, Melinda Coker, and Wendy Mabson – Female Athletes; Brad Paul – Male Athlete; John W. (Jack) Hazelton and Paul Stratford – Builders.

Mohawk College Alumni Association announced the winners of the Alumni of Distinction Awards for 1999: Frank Peter Architectural Engineering Technology '88; Nancy Heddle Medical Laboratory Technology '69; Thomas Cochren Business Administration '71; Jay Pollack Communication Arts '76.

Suzanne Clancy was gratified to hear from a large number of retirees who wish to receive the *Examiner*. If you would like to receive it please call Suzanne at Ext. 3190 or E-mail her at clancys@interlynx.net She would also be pleased to receive your graphic or written contributions (as would your humble editor).

Let's Do Lunch

Your editor was asked at one of the technology breakfasts "Why do you go for lunch and not dinner?" There are two reasons. First, lunch costs about one third what dinner would cost and secondly, there is no concern about drinking and driving. The most we have is one beer each at lunch whereas at dinner we would share a bottle of wine.

Also at a technology breakfast your editor questioned Sam Kajiura about Japanese restaurants in Hamilton. He recommended the **Osaka** at 581 Barton St. E. Together with Mary's sister, Aggie, who was visiting from Florida, we tried it. The restaurant is a clean well lighted place. The service was prompt and friendly. Mary and Y.H.E. shared a *Sushi*, *Sashimi*, and *Maki* beautifully arranged in the shape of a boat. It was absolutely delicious. Sister-in-law, fearing that she might be allergic to raw fish, had *tempura* which she proclaimed to be excellent. We washed it down, of course, with Japanese beer. Price wise, it was probably some what more expensive than usual for lunch, but Aggie paid so we are not sure.

A Taste of Bombay at 243 King St. E as the name implies is an Indian Restaurant. It has a luncheon buffet that is quite adequate. It is not as complete as the Sangam in Mississauga but on the other hand is not as expensive. The food was good and the ambience pleasant. Without the Kingfisher beer, lunch for two, with tax and tip, should be had for under \$20.

For "Homemade Polish Canadian Cooking", **Karolina's** at 757 Barton St. E would be hard to beat. For a

"white table cloth" restaurant the prices are very reasonable with entées such as *perogis*, *bigos*, and cabbage rolls costing under five dollars. Mary had potato soup and assorted *perogis* and Y.H.E. had the soup, made with Strubb's dill pickles, and *bigos*. All were excellent and are recommended. Without the delicious Polish beer, and it would be a shame to miss it, lunch for two, including tax and tip – under \$20. (No credit cards)

We also lunched at the **Phó Ben Thahn**, a Thai and Vietnamese Restaurant at 117 Park St. (corner Cannon St. W). The wait staff, for the most part, do not speak English. Ordering is done by selecting the numbered item from the menu and marking it on an order form. For a substantial lunch, a large bowl of one of the many soups is adequate. Be careful, however, noodle soups are somewhat difficult to eat using only a ceramic soup spoon and chop sticks. The soups are delicious and, for a little extra spiciness, a little chilli sauce can be added. Careful, not too much! Lunch for two – about \$15 or less.

Urban Myths and Hoaxes

Your editor is generally able to spot hoaxes and urban myths that come his way. He did miss, however, on the **How to Survive a Heart Attack When Alone** article in the last newsletter. Apparently this article was published in the journal as noted but it has since been retracted. The procedure is known as "Cough CPR" and should only be carried out under medical supervision. For more information on this visit:

<http://www.coughcpr.com> Retiree Steve Hinds wrote, telling of his experience with reimbursement for medical expenses while vacationing in the US. Sun Life partially covered him. In order to determine how much coverage we do have, we contacted Sun Life (800-361-6212) and after a many hour call, I was able to get a repair person to ask us. We processed 40 Initial Emergency treatment at a Hospital called a physician. Sun Life will pay 85% of reasonable and dentist charges not covered by OHIP. This insurance will pay up front for the service, bill get OHIP first and then submit a claim to Sun Life. Pre-existing conditions are not covered, nor is follow up visits to a physician. Only the emergency is covered. The coverage is probably limited to the first 60 day period of a visit outside of Canada.

Chairman Alan Recommends

The Cost of Sun Life Benefits

The cost of extended health and dental insurance is a substantial amount. A letter in the St Clair College Retirees Newsletter states that they have asked union leaders to consider making retirement benefits a priority item in the upcoming demand setting sessions. Apparently this was a objective in the last CAW contract. For those of you who are not yet paying for you benefits the cost is approximately \$1500 per year for family semi-private coverage and about \$1100 for dental coverage.

oms The Toronto Flower & Garden Show March 22 - 26 Toronto Convention Centre
Egyptian Museum Pieces Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Feb.13 - May 22

McMaster Retirees Invite

Fiddle and Step – Wingham Town Hall Heritage Theatre – Thursday April 6, 2000 – \$54..00
Run For Your Wife – Stage West Dinner Theatre – Wednesday March 15, 2000 – \$51.50
Contact Joy Baby – (905) 527-2865 for further information.

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