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**Retirees Association of Mohawk College
News Letter April 2002**

Mary spotted the first Redwings during the last week of February this year; this is very early for their return. The winter was mild with very little snow and reputedly one of the warmest on record. However, at time of writing, in the first days of April, Spring weather, had not arrived yet.

Since the last newsletter we will have had three events. On Tuesday, February 19, forty -four retirees and their guests enjoyed a Chinese dinner at Le Chinois restaurant. – Os Love reports on page 3. On Wednesday, March 13, thirty-seven members and their partners enjoyed a buffet lunch and saw "Cash on Delivery" at Stage West Dinner Theatre. Jim Barr reports on page 3 and on Saturday, April 20, it is anticipated at time of writing that a goodly number of members and their guests will attend the "Day at the Races" at Flamboro Downs. A more detailed report will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Coming Events

Friday, May 17 **My Fair Lady** at the Stratford Festival – see enclosed sheet.

Wednesday June 12 **Annual General Meeting** at the Royal Botanical Gardens – see enclosed sheet.

Wednesday Aug. 14 **Wine Tasting and lunch on Niagara wine route** Details will follow in the next newsletter. (The date is tentative).

Tuesday Sept. 24 **Mennonite Country** lunch and tour – for further information or reservations contact Marie Yakimoff (905-522-7370)

Wednesday Oct. 4 **Lift Locks at Peterborough** – details will follow in the next newsletter

Tuesday, Nov. 12 **Hay Fever** at the Shaw Festival – details will follow in the October newsletter.

Saturday, Dec. 7 **The Living Singing Christmas Tree** in Aurora, N.Y. – for further information or reservations contact Anne Dunn (905-383-9772)

Due to the heavy demand and the uncertainty of Canada Post, telephone reservations will be accepted

In Memoriam

for some

events as

noted

above

on the
descripti

ve sheet.

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of the following retirees: **Charlie Smith** – retiree from Physical Plant Dept. and **Sister Rita Wiggains** retiree from the Nursing Dept,
Our deepest sympathy is extended to their families.

Retirees Association of Mohawk College
 Newsletter
 Published four times per year

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Lets Do Lunch

Mary and yhe* recently lunched at the **Bourbon St Café** at 1019 King St W in Westdale (in the mall across the street from the Westdale Theatre and next door to the CIBC). We both had a pint of ale, the soup of the day, a delicious carrot soup and the special, a jerked chicken sandwich. The ambience was pleasant and the food very good. Lunch for two with beer, tax and tip was \$39.00. Smoking is permitted at certain times in the dining room which is in the rear, but not at lunch hour.

The **Old School House Restaurant** is at the north west corner of Highway 2 and Powerline Rd. near Brantford; actually it is virtually on the Paris -Brantford border. It is a "white tablecloth" establishment with a very warm and friendly ambience. The food and service were both excellent. Mary and yhe both ordered from the chef's luncheon suggestions which included soup or salad, warm homemade bread and a choice from four entrées. Mary chose the fettuccini with shrimps and scallops which she proclaimed to be delicious and your humble editor chose the medallions of pork tenderloin, exceptionally well presented and also delicious. Lunch for two with beer, coffee, tax and tip, \$54.00..

Ivory's is located in "Hess Village in Hamilton at 25 Hess St. S. When Mary and your yhe had a late lunch there it was almost empty. Mary had a half pint, the soup of the day (a nice mushroom soup) and the vegetarian pasta special while yhe indulged in full a pint, the soup and the veal parmesan on a kaiser roll, also a special. While nothing exceptional, both the pasta and the veal sandwich were quite adequate. The service was prompt and friendly. Lunch with beer tax and tip was \$27.00, a reasonable value.

*It was suggested that using an upper case – YHE – abbreviation for "your humble editor" might be construed as a sign of pride; therefore, from now on it will be lower case – yhe..



or many things, but not usually for lunch. Mary and yhe were picking up something for daughter at lunch time and decided to try their cafeteria. Both chose a Danish beer, *Tuborg*, and the special which was Swedish, what else, meat balls with boiled potatoes. Including beer, and tax; the tab was about \$2., – not fancy but filling.

The Riverbank Steakhouse in Cambridge is an upscale white table cloth restaurant located at 4 Parkhill Rd. It is located at the top of rather long flight of out door steps and overlooks the Grand River. Mary and yhe both had the *soup de jour* and the chicken wrap. This is not the place to lunch if you are in hurry. Service was very slow. Lunch with beer tax and tip was about \$44.00

Technology Retirees Breakfasts

The photos at left were taken by Os Love at the February breakfast meeting. Since the demise, at the beginning of the year , of the **Headquarters Tap and Grill** in Ancaster the group had been meeting at the **Egg and I** at the junction of Highways 2 and 53 in Ancaster.

At the third of April meeting it was decided to move the meeting site to **Joey's Seafood Restaurant, 1075 Wilson St. W, Ancaster**; across from Walmart and Canadian Tire, where it is hoped that a less noisy room will be available and that refills of coffee will not incur such exorbitant charges.

All retirees from the technology division are welcome. The meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 AM. The next meeting will therefore be May 2.

"Le Chinois" Dinner

On February 19th a group of over forty Mohawk retirees, their spouses and friends enjoyed a 12 course Chinese dinner at "Le Chinois" Restaurant in Hamilton. Our delicious meal celebrated the new "Year of

the Horse" according to the Chinese calendar. The dishes were tasty, ample and varied.

Our thanks are extended to Marie Yakimoff and Simon Kam for organizing the group and selecting the interesting menu for our

enjoyment.

Os. Love

Cash on Delivery

On Wednesday, March 13, a party of Mohawk retirees and guests travelled by bus to Stage West, in Mississauga, for a matinee lunch/theatre outing. The buffet lunch was up to Stage West's usual high standard, with something for every palate, and lots of it. As usual on these occasions, most of us overindulged somewhat, and tended to lapse into drowsiness later on.

The play was "Cash on Delivery", a British farce, based on the easy advantage that can be taken of the British welfare system. Our hero has been posing as a former tenant and collecting his welfare money. The plot is almost non-existent, the play depending on a bewildering set of assumed and mistaken identities, involving welfare inspectors, the landlord and his wife, their tenant, his fiancée and an uncle who keeps dying and being re-born. Almost nobody manages to keep their proper identity, and the jokes are based entirely on the situations that arise from this. At times, a character on stage was assumed to be three different persons by three others. After a while, the joke wore rather thin, and some of us felt an almost irresistible urge to jump on stage and straighten it all out. This feeling was probably shared by some of the actors, who showed signs of strain and resorted to hysterics when the situation on stage became almost untenable.

In short, a somewhat tired comedy, which was enjoyed by some and tolerated by most of us after a really excellent lunch. Many thanks to Santos Dalal, who organized this event.

Jim Barr



Pet Corner

Well the kids have left home and like so many retirees we have our freedom, right? Wrong! Now we have two other dependents that are permanently two years old. Their names are Tilley and Pudge. The seven year old Lab, Tilley is actually pretty smart but Pudge, the 2 year old Rottweiler

isn't the sharpest knife in the drawer. Pudge looks to Tilley for leadership although Pudge still likes to think that she is in charge. The two neutered females are pretty well inseparable and make a very loving pair: blondie having adopted blackee when the latter arrived on our farm at seven weeks of age. The twosome are really great with the grandchildren, after the initial excitement subsides, but they do carry on when a stranger strays onto our driveway.

Two dogs do provide a challenge for us when we go on our travels and our 'farm sitters' have to expend considerably more effort caring for the terrible twosome than they do managing the flock and chickens.

For our part Pudge and Tilley are worth every minute we invest in them. They prove very trustworthy guardians of the estate and provide us with exercise as well giving unconditional love. Incidentally I wouldn't recommend them as sheep dogs - a real bust, but then the kids weren't too good at it either.

Cheers Geoff and Lynda

Highlights of the April Board Meeting

Your board met on April 2 at the college. Bob Pando was present and was able to fill us in on the latest developments of OCRA.

- The membership now stands at over 600
- OCRA has so far been unable to obtain a list of all retirees from the pension plan administrators.
- The first OCRA annual general meeting will be in the fall.
- Approximately two-thirds of retirees college wide have dropped out of the health plan.
- The cost of the health insurance is not excessive when compared to other groups.
- Council of Regents wants all retirees in one group rather than the three we have now.
- If any members know retirees from other colleges that are unaware of OCRA it would be appreciated if they could let them know about it.
- The de-mutualisation is proceeding and is presently tied up with the lawyers.
- OCRA is sitting in on the OPSEU subcommittee on retiree benefits.
- OCRA would like all retirees to be included in the same group as those still working. While retirees would still have to pay their own premiums the larger and younger group would cause a reduction.

Anne Dunn reported that the returns of questionnaire, concerning the feasibility of overnight trips, was insufficient to justify further action.

It was decided to recommend to the general meeting, OCRA annual dues of \$10 be combined with our annual membership fee. The Mohawk College Retirees Association annual fee would also be reduced to \$15 for a combined fee of \$25.

Geoff Brooker reported that surviving spouses are entitled to continue in the Health insurance

group and in fact the College will cover the premiums for the first six months.

Because of the an increased rate at the Royal Botanical Gardens we will not be able to provide passes to the gardens this year; admissions will be available for a nominal fee of \$5, however.

Income Tax Time

The following was received from Linda Choptiany, Communications Officer Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association, with the heading "TAX FACTS FOR RETIREES"

1. Did you know that now that you pay 100% of your Health Insurance premiums the whole amount is tax deductible? Get a receipt from your college for the premiums you paid in 2001 and enter these as medical deductions. The premiums paid by retirees for benefit coverage are an eligible medical expense on the income tax return.
2. Prescriptions fully paid by post-65 retirees during the \$100 deductible period under the Provincial Drug Plan (ODB) should be submitted to Sun Life under the extended health coverage for 85% reimbursement. The balance that is not paid by the insurance carrier on any medical receipts (prescription, eyeglasses, physiotherapy, dental, etc.) is an eligible medical expense on your income tax return.
3. If the cost of a prescription is fully paid under the Provincial Drug Plan and the only cost to you is the dispensing fee, submit these receipts to Sun Life, to receive 85% reimbursement. The balance is also an eligible medical expense on your income tax return.
4. Don't forget to claim your OCRA™ fees as "Professional and Union dues". A receipt is probably not required and your membership card should suffice, if audited.

McMaster Retirees

McMaster retirees are planning an outing to Stratford for buffet lunch at the Queens Inn and "My Fair Lady" at the Festival Theatre on Wednesday, June 19 – cost \$93 per person. They are also planning a 3 day/2night fall getaway at the **Stanton House Resort**, departing Wednesday Sept. 25, and returning Friday Sept 27. Cost \$396 double/\$376 triple per person.

For further information on either trip contact **Mavis 905-385-5740** or
Anne 905-637-0968

United Way Garage Sale

The following was received by e-mail with a request for publication in this newsletter:

"Vendors are wanted for the 21st Annual Mohawk College United Way Garage Sale on Saturday, September 7, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Fennell Campus. The rain date is Sunday,

September 8, 2002. The cost to participate in the sale is \$35.00 which includes one 8 ft table with space equivalent to three parking spaces. To obtain a registration form contact the Student Life Office at Fennell Campus, Room F111 or call 905-575-2081.

The Mohawk College 16th Annual Employee Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2002 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Christie Conservation Authority. Join the staff of Mohawk College and their families for fun filled day of socializing and entertainment. The cost is \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per family and includes park admission, a barbeque lunch, all entertainment and games. For more information or to obtain a registration form contact the Student Life Office, Room F111, Fennell Campus or call 905-575-2081. Registration Deadline - Monday May 27, 2002.

Thank you,
Cherish Madden

Computer Corner Malware**

Everyone using the internet would be prudent to use a firewall to prevent unauthorised access to there system. This is a virtual necessity for those with a broad band connection – either cable or DSL – where their computer is always connected. ZoneAlarm is one of , if not the best, personal firewalls, and it is free for personal use.. It can be downloaded from <http://www.zonelabs.com/>. It will protect your computer from malicious probes and attacks such as distributed denial of service (DDoS) by rendering it opaque to scans and probes; it will appear that your computer is turned off, not connected or nonexistent. Also it will warn you if an unauthorised program on your system is trying to access the internet and will let you to allow it to or not. For more information on this see Gibson Research Corp. website at <http://grc.com/default.htm>.

Another must is a good virus protection program. A freebie, AVG is available from http://www.grisoft.com/html/us_index.htm, has had good reviews by members at the Fifty Plus web site. Yhe has not personally used this program and cannot vouch for it.

In any event there is no substitute for a recent backup when disaster does strike. Normally it is only necessary to backup data since programs and drivers can be re-installed from the original disks. Most users will find backing up to one or more cdr's is the most convenient way to do it although for a small amount of data floppies can be used. "PolderBackup" available for download at <http://www.xs4all.nl/~philippo/PolderBackup.htm> is a very good free program.

** If it seems that corners are cropping up all over the place – we've had Cooks and Pets and now Computer – you are right. And unless some of you dear readers decide to contribute copy for the newsletter, you will continue to be cornered. – yhe