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

After a wet cold spring, hot weather finally arrived in the latter part of June. By the time you receive this, dear reader, the dog days of summer will be almost upon us.

Since our last newsletter we have had three events. On Saturday, April 20, approximately forty retirees and their guests enjoyed a Day at the Races which has become an annual event. Ann Pillip reports on page 3. On Friday, May 17, fifty-five retirees and friends were bussed to Stratford for lunch and a production of *My Fair Lady* at the Stratford Festival Theatre. Bob Dawson and Norm Marshall report on page 3. The Association's Annual General Meeting, attended by seventy-seven members and partners, was held at the Royal Botanical Gardens on Wednesday, June 12. A report appears on page 5.

In this newsletter, in addition to our usual departments, we have the following: Marie Yakimoff reports on the accomplishments of Isobel Kerr on page 4; Murlis and Bob Cooper extol dancing on page 6; and Bob Pando gives the latest OCCRA report on page 7

Coming Events

Wednesday Aug. 14 **Wine Tasting and lunch on Niagara wine route** – See the enclosed sheet for details.

Tuesday Sept. 24 **Mennonite Country** lunch and tour – See the enclosed sheet for details.)

Wednesday Oct. 4 **Lift Locks at Peterborough** – See the enclosed sheet for details.)

Tuesday, Nov. 12 **Hay Fever** at the Shaw Festival – See the enclosed sheet for details.)

Saturday, Dec. 7 **The Living Singing Christmas Tree** in Aurora, N.Y. – See the enclosed sheet for details.))

Due to the heavy demand and the uncertainty of Canada Post, telephone reservations will be accepted for some events as noted above or on the descriptive sheet.

In Memoriam

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of the following member:

Vajapejam Krishniah retiree from the Electronics Dept.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

Let's Do Lunch

Retirees Association of Mohawk College

Newsletter

Published four times per year

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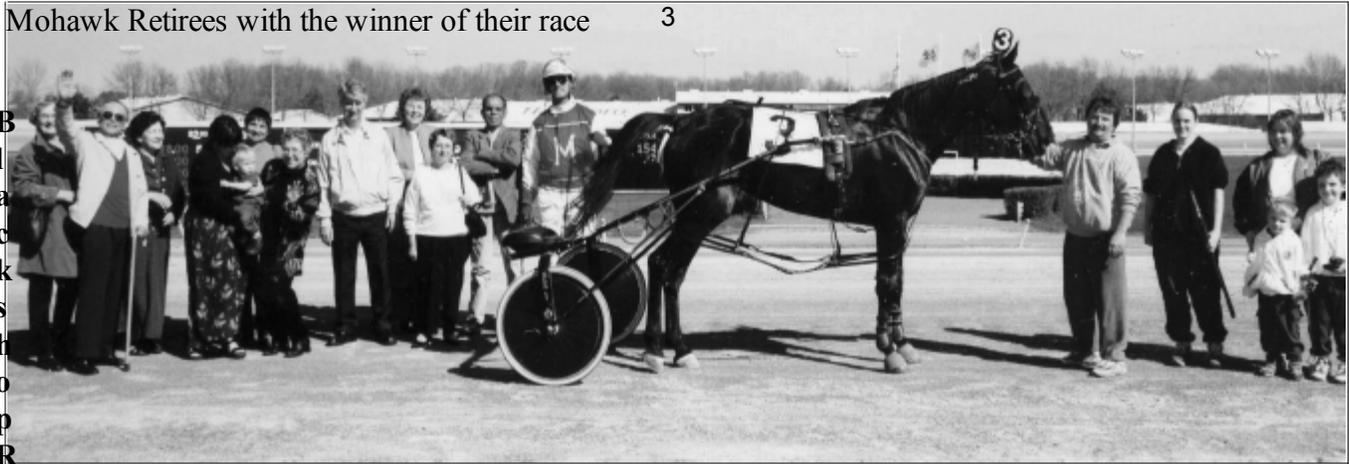
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led by the "typo" that occurred in the April issue. With many *mea culpa* and much smiting of the breast, he offers his heartfelt apologies to *Ikea* and the 546 readers who showed up there looking for a \$2 lunch including beer, and tax .It should have read \$22.

Sometime ago yhe mentioned the **Rousseau House Restaurant** in Ancaster in somewhat unflattering terms. Since then, after attending a wedding reception there at which the service and food were impeccable, lunch was felt to be in order. Mary chose a pint of Guinness and the *pizzeta* of the day; yhe had a pint of Wellington Bitter and the smoked top sirloin sandwich. The food and service were both excellent. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$39.

Helen's Restaurnat at 207 Ottawa St. N is a very "fiftyish" dining establishment much like the ones yhe remembers from his university days. It is located on the west side of Ottawa street a few doors N of Cannon. Both Mary and yhe had a glass of domestic beer and the daily special of soup, salad and *perogies*. The cream soup was delicious; the salad was fresh and delightful and the *perogies* were nicely browned and served with fried onions and sour cream. They were amongst the best that either Mary or yhe had ever tasted. Having heard that Helen's homemade deserts were exceptional, they had coffee and shared a piece of cheese cake, once again excellent. The only draw back was the lack of imported beer on tap. Lunch for two with beer, coffee, desert and tip was about \$25, extremely good value.

Slánte (SLAWN-chuh) is a well known Irish style pub located 33 Bowen St. in downtown Hamilton. The atmosphere is similar to pubs in various parts of Ireland that Mary and yhe have visited. Rather dark and somewhat dingy and imbued with a lingering odour of tobacco smoke.(In Ireland pubs are almost the only place a reasonably priced lunch can be obtained.) Yhe had a pint of Kilkenny and Mary, who was driving, had a half of Murphys. Both had the soup, an acceptable red pepper. Mary chose the grilled chicken sandwich and yhe the bookmaker's sandwich which was over-cooked roast beef with fried onions served on a portion of a *baguette*. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$44. **Slánte** would be a good place to visit for a pint but not for lunch.



restaurant 20 Hobson St., Cambridge can best be described as a "white table cloth" restaurant without the table cloths. It is a rather large establishment with a warm elegant atmosphere. Both Mary and yhe had a Creemore lager to start with and Mary had the "Light Lunch Feature" which was chicken salad with herbs sandwiched between two potato pancakes; this description does not do justice to the presentation. Mary proclaimed it to be absolutely delicious. Yhe had the "Lunch Feature" which was a thick portion of loin steak served with an onion sauce. The steak was seared to "blue" perfection and was marvellous. Throwing caution and the budget to the winds, both had coffee and a cheesecake that any gourmand would gladly die for. Lunch, with beer, tax and tip, was \$65.

A Day at the Races

Flamboro Downs welcomed Mohawk College Retirees once again on Saturday, April 20, and dedicating their fifth race to us. The day was perfect; the weather was a touch of summer and the all youcan-eat buffet was just that. The excitement at each race helped to burn some of the calories consumed from those extra deserts. Most of us stayed with the races but a few decided to try their luck at the slots. No one confessed to loss or gain but in the long run we all gained by enjoying each others' company.

Thank you Geoff and Linda for organizing such a successful event. Looking forward to seeing every one at our next event.

Anne Philip

"My Fair Lady" Excursion Five Star Success.

Review by Norm Marshall and Bob Dawson.

Mohawk's rollicking and roving retirees took their "road show" to Stratford May 17 to re-visit the now Familiar story and music of Lerner and Loewe's "My Fair Lady", a centre-piece of the Festival's 50th season.

This new production didn't stray far from the original Broadway version and the Mohawk group hummed and chuckled their way through the classic from the opening scene with the cockney flower sellers to the climactic return of Eliza Doolittle to Professor Henry Higgins.

Colm Fiore was perfect for the Higgins role and his portrayal of the upper-crust professor with a passion for the English language was dead-on. It was difficult to believe that this was the same actor whose

"Trudeau" was so well done in the recent TV success.

Eliza was played by Cynthia Dale. (remember her from "Street Legal" and "Spenser For Hire" (ABC)?) She was, in this production perhaps more believable as the re-tooled, elegant society lady than as the coarse, profane petal-peddler of the opening scene outside the Covent Garden Opera House. (Bob Dawson gave her a "3".)

The show was in all respects well staged. The orchestra, conducted by Mel Martin, was outstanding, the dance numbers first-class and the stage settings rich and elegant.

The "scene stealer" was James Blendick who played the role of Alfred P. Doolittle (Eliza's dad). His wide range of talents – dancing, singing, comedic – gave his performance a perfect British music hall flavour and his versions of "With a Little Bit of Luck," and "Get Me to the Church on Time" were classic.

The Mohawk group did a reprise in their minds all the way home on the luxury autobus which took us both to and fro on this very special theatrical treat.

Thanks, too, to Brian and Mary Welsh for their work on our behalf. It was for all of us – just lovely!!

Norm Marshall and Bob Dawson

Kudos to Health Science Retiree - Isabel Kerr

This past June, Isabel was honoured by seven hundred provincial Girl Guide personnel at a banquet in Toronto. Cited were her diligence and dedication during her four year term as Provincial Commissioner of the Girl Guides of Ontario.

Immediately following her retirement from Mohawk College in 1998 she was elected "CEO" of an 84,000 person association - with no pay and only a few weekends off.

Isabel's preparation for the role of Provincial Commissioner involved being a Unit Girl Guide Leader in West Hamilton for twenty-four years. Division Commissioner for Gore Division and then Area Commissioner for the greater city of Hamilton and of Burlington. The latter position automatically made her a member of the Provincial Council of Girl Guides.

In a conversation with Isabel she detailed the many changes that have occurred in Guiding since she became involved in the 1950's. "They climb walls, go kayaking, sail boating and canoeing. They also help in the community." "Guiding provides a good safe place for girls to learn and have fun."

The Girl Guides of Ontario presented Isabel with an honorary life membership and the National Government, to its credit, awarded her its Community Volunteerism Medal.

Isabel, now that you no longer have to visit all the little bergs, towns and cities in Ontario as part of your Guiding activities - Come, RIDE WITH US - The Retirees Association of Mohawk College.

Marie Yakimoff

Mark Your Calendar

Retirees are welcome at all functions of the college that regular employees are invited to. Amongst these is The President's 5th Annual Breakfast will be held On Sept 5, 2002 from 8:30 AM- 10:30 AM in the Arnold Centre.. Register by calling the Staff Development Registration line ext. 3293 or email staffdev@mail.mohawkc.on.ca Other upcoming events are:

Event	Date	Contact
United Way Garage Sale	September 7, 2002	Cherish Madden
United Way T.G.I.W.	October 30, 2002	Linda Marshall
Local 240 Dinner Meeting	November (Tentative)	Fred Deys
Mohawk Presents/Service Awards	November 21, 2002	Linda Marshall
Mohawk College Staff Christmas Dance	November 29, 2002	Sandra Willett
Employee's Children's Christmas Party	December 1, 2002	Cherish Madden

Highlights of the Annual General Meeting

The association's annual general meeting was held on Wednesday June 12 at The Royal Botanical Gardens' headquarters. After a social gathering in the reception area where retiree Bob Cooper delighted us with his piano playing, we gathered for a light lunch in the main salon.

Our chair, Geoff Brooker, addressed the gathering, commenting on membership, the rising cost of health insurance and the role OCCRA was playing in this matter. He extended the condolences of the association to the families of those retirees who have passed on.

Geoff reviewed the activities of the association over the past year and listed the future activities that are planned for the rest of the calendar year and solicited opinions from the floor on what activities might be of interest to the members.

He also noted that three board members will be competing their final year of their second three year term and will have to be replaced. He asked members to consider volunteering.

Bob Pando brought us up to date on the activities of OCCRA whose membership now stands at 700.. They are investigation alternative insurance packages that are more suited to retirees. He invited all members to attend the OCCRA annual general meeting that will be held on October 19, 2002 at Mohawk College.

Our treasurer, Dave Crossley, gave a report indicating that financially, all was well. Acceptance of the report was moved, seconded and carried. Dave Lynch's auditor's report was received by the meeting and Dave was reappointed auditor for the coming year.

A motion from the floor that \$1000 be donated the college's counselling dept. to help students in financial distress by providing food vouchers, was duly passed. A motion was also passed that the association annual membership fee be reduced to \$15 but that it also be combined with the OCCRA fee for a total combined membership fee of \$25.

Computer Corner

Yhe recently downloaded OpenOffice . It is the freeware version of StarOffice 6.0, the \$75US office suite. It is compatible with MS Office but not with WordPerfect Office. (With the latter a translation to MS and then to OpenOffice is required). OpenOffice is reputed to be very similar to MS Office in feel and thus have a relatively flat learning curve for Word and Excel users. Since yhe has not used Word since retiring his 8088 XT clone many years ago, he can not vouch for this. Even for a WP user it should not be too difficult to adapt to. The word processor has a relatively good help system as does the spread sheet; the draw program and HTML editor seem pretty standard. The download is a zip file of 50MB. On a broadband connection it took less than 10 minutes to download form <http://www.openoffice.org/>.

Another free office suite that has had favourable reviews is 602 PCS. It has not only a word processor (602Text) and spreadsheet (602Tab) programs but also a photo (602Photo) program and a photo album (602Album). Unfortunately the latter two programs caused yhe's computer to consistently crash and so could not be evaluated. The word processor is said to have the look and feel of MS Word and the spreadsheet program that of Excel. The freeware version lacks some of the functionality of MSO, such as mail merge, hyphenation, and thesaurus but an add-on is available for \$US 29.95 . The compressed file size is only 14MB which took less than 3 minutes to download. At the time of writing yhe had only superficially played with it. The one noticeable lack is the ability to make cross references in documents. It is available at <http://www.software602.com/>

Comparing the two suites is difficult. While OpenOffice.org Writer seems more complete it is slow loading, taking about 33 seconds on yhe's computer compared with about 5 s for 602Text. Neither can read WordPerfect documents or QuatroPro spreadsheets. If the photo program was able to run on yhe's machine it would have definitely given 602PCS an edge since it was incorporated as an integral part of the program. Needless to say the price for both programs is right.

Dancing:

If any retirees are looking for an excellent form of recreation this fall and winter then dancing is well worth considering. Murlis and I have been involved with some of the dance disciplines in the last few years and we offer our comments.

Before we met we both had danced in the United Kingdom as teenagers and young adults. In 1982 we met at a ballroom dance class at McMaster University. The instructor who introduced us ultimately became the instructor for the Continuing Education classes at Mohawk College. We have taken the dance courses at Mohawk and return frequently for coaching.

We highly recommend these dance classes which have three sections, - Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced and both Ballroom and Latin styles are covered. Each section lasts eight weeks and the classes are one and a half hours long. The lessons are given at the Germania Club located at 863 King Street East, Hamilton. The principal instructor is Ann Mullen Sellyeh. Enrollment is possible through Mohawk College Continuing Education, and the registration details are listed in the Calendar.

Ann formed the Mohawk Ballroom Dance Club as the graduates of the classes were looking for a place to practise and enjoy dancing. This is a non-profit club and runs dances every Friday at the Germania Club 9:00 till midnight. A free lesson is given from 8:00 to 9:00pm and designed to augment what has been learned at the classes. There are no lessons offered during July and August although, this year, line dances are being taught in the lesson time slot (from 8 - 8:45). The Friday dance is open to the public and the price of admission is \$8.00 for non members; your first attendance gives you a two for one card which is valid for your next visit to the Club.

Another form of dancing that we have been involved with is Sequence Dancing. This consists of doing a pattern of steps and repeating the pattern to the end of the music. This is unlike Ballroom dancing where there is more improvisation in the pattern of steps. Sequence Dancing started at the beginning of the twentieth century and some of the dances have been around for a time. The "Gay Gordons" and the St. Bernard's Waltz are two that have been enjoyed for many years. This type of dancing has become very popular in the U.K. and Australia.

The Tartan Club of Hamilton runs an evening of sequence dancing at the Ottawa Street Y on Monday evenings, from 7:00 till 9:00pm, throughout the winter starting in the Fall and going through to the end of May. You don't have to be a Tartan Club member to participate and the cost is \$2.00 per person which includes a cup of tea or coffee.

Line Dancing has become very popular and there are classes offered at numerous places throughout the City, e.g. the Sackville Centre on Mohawk Road, the MacNab St. Seniors Centre; we do not have any details on these though. It is also very popular at various Ballroom Dance Clubs in the area, Leander Boat Club (through the Empress Ballroom Club dance every third Saturday of the month), the Legion in St. Catharines on Wednesday night, and the Burlington Social Club on Sunday night.

If you are interested in the Mohawk Ballroom Dance Club or the Sequence Dancing and require more details, please call us at 905-388-1978 or e-mail mcooper@mcmaster.ca. You can also check the following websites: www.mohawkballroomdanceclub.com or www.Dancinglist.com, which offers a lot of information about dancing locations.

Bob & Murlis Cooper

OCRA™ Annual General Meeting

On Saturday, October 19, the Ontario Colleges' Retirees' Association (OCRA™) will hold their first Annual General Meeting since the inception of OCRA™ on April 19, 2001. This meeting will be held at Mohawk College in Room C116 and will address business issues such as the amendment of the constitution and bylaws as well as the election of voting members to the OCRA™ executive. Reports from the current executive members will include an overview of the organization's first year and the financial statements. A panel is being assembled to address the issue of health benefits costs and possible alternatives and will include a question and answer session so issues of primary interest to those present can be discussed.

Please consider putting this meeting date on your calendars and plan to attend. It's a great chance to participate in the activities of your provincial retirees' advocacy organization, to become directly involved, and to meet retired colleagues from other colleges who attend. Your attendance and participation is encouraged and will be most welcome. An announcement and agenda will be circulated soon. So spread the word and plan to attend.

A Warm Welcome to the New Retirees

Dorleen Alien (Literacy and Basic Skills)	Vince Izzo (Literacy and Basic Skills)
Donna Bailey (Purchasing Services)	Carole Jacoby (Humanities and Social Sciences)
Jennifer Bakker (Business Studies)	Ken Lawrence (Skills Development, Brantford)
Marcia Barrs (English Language Studies)	Adryana Lenders (Business Systems)
Jane Beck (Nursing IAHS)	Tina Liabotis (Language Studies)
Brad Berry (Business Management)	Judy McGroarty (Mechanical Engineering)
Pam Bhar (Business Studies)	Frances McKenzie (Campus Operations, Brantford)
Gayle Binnington (Literacy and Basic Skills)	Total
Elizabeth Bisson (International Education)	Rita Nagy (Business Systems)
Jack Brown (Business Management)	Krystyna O'Brien (Human Resources Division)
Carol Chambers (Business Studies)	Fred Oldfield (Literacy and Basic Skills)
Ken Chow (Mathematics)	Janet Perigo (English Language Studies)
Dianne Coons (English Language Studies)	Diane Ryce (Purchasing Services)
Carole Cotton (Job Readiness)	Ron Slavik (Language Studies)
Daniel Crocco (Humanities and Social Sciences)	Bev Smedley (Co-operative Education)
Niru Desai (Computer Studies)	Sharon Stanshall (Co-operative Education)
Jean Doolittle, (Dean's Office, Brantford)	Margaret Thurston (Business Studies)
Donna Dunlop (Nursing IAHS)	Ron Voisin (Property Services)
Robert Fennell (Property Services)	Nova Whiteman (Continuing Education, Registration)
John Fraser (Chemical & Environmental, Stoney Creek)	Barry Wilson (Industrial and Mechanical Engineering)
Jack Freiburger (Language Studies)	Vera Woronchanka (Computer Studies)
Judy Genel (College Services)	
Sandra Gill (Continuing Education, Business/Community Services)	
William Goruk (Electrotechnology)	
Syliva Hillyard (Nursing (IAHS)	
Rick Holmes (Humanities and Social Sciences)	
Helen Hribar (Counselling and Disability Services)	

As a new retiree you will no doubt have noticed much talk about health insurance. To give some idea what is in store for you when you have to pickup the tab the following is typical (academic – family):

Now you understand!

And if you can get any details on what is covered you have had better luck than yhe.