

What's Happening

Recent Outings:

Shaw Festival: November 22, 2005: *You Never Can Tell* (see page 5)

Westfield Pioneer Village: December 11, 2005. The Christmas Table (see page 5)

Chinese New Year's Dinner: *Le Chinois*. January 31, 2006.

Future Outings:

Carmens: March 14, 2006. Luncheon Buffet and show: *Rat Pack* (flyer enclosed)

Stage West Dinner Theatre: May 10, 2006. *Cabaret* (Flyer enclosed)

Drayton Festival Theatre: June 23, 2006. *Not Now, Darling* (Flyer enclosed)

Advanced Notice:

Annual General Meeting (June 6), Light House Theatre, Port Dover, August 16 or 17, Shaw Festival, September, Muskoka Lunch Cruise. (All tentative) Please tell a board member if you want to attend an event. This helps us to determine the number of tickets to purchase. The more tickets sold, the lower the price per ticket (Cost of bus spread over more tickets).

Recipe Ideas

If you enjoy the rolls served at Betty's restaurant, you'll want to try this recipe. Not the same, but very close. Best served fresh from the oven.

Refrigerator Rolls

Ingredients

- 1 pkg. yeast (about 1 tablespoon)
- 1/3 cup (83 ml) white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup (83 ml) shortening
- 2 cups (500 ml) cold water (reserve 1/2 cup for yeast)
- 4 cups (1000 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 1 tsp (5 ml) baking powder

Directions

1. Dissolve yeast as directed on package in 1/2 cup of the water.
2. Cream together sugar and egg.
3. Add and mix in shortening

4. Add cold water (1 1/2 cups) and then 2 cups of flour.
5. Add yeast mixture.
6. Add remaining flour to which salt and baking powder have been added.
7. Take out of bowl and knead one (1) minute, using a little flour on board.
8. Place in large bowl, cover with waxed paper and put in refrigerator.
9. Can be used when chilled (about four (4) hours) or will keep for 1 week.

To use:

Butter or spray muffin tins and fill 1/2 full. Let rise in warm place for one (1) hour (no more). Bake in 375 degree oven until brown, about 15-20 minutes.

Notes:

I often use warm water for the yeast and add about 1 tsp of sugar.

It may be necessary to add a little more than four cups of flour to get the right consistency for kneading.

Makes 18 - 24 buns.

This is my mother's recipe (and she doesn't remember where she got it from). It is a favourite with just about everyone who has tried these rolls.

In Memoriam

It is with regret that we report the passing of the following:

Bud Smiley, Recreational Leadership

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

Let's Do Lunch

By Brian Welsh

Every summer we try to visit Port Dover at least once and have lunch at **Callahan's Beach House** at 2 Walker St. This past summer we had the pleasure of taking our friends, Helen and Dan with us. Mary and I ordered Ricard Red, a half and a pint respectively while our guests settled for water. We all ordered the perch dinner with fries and coleslaw which was good but not exceptional. But the service was so perfunctory and unfriendly that I did what I seldom do and tipped less than 15%. Lunch for four with beer tax and tip was \$75.

The Acclamation Bar and Grill is located at 191 James St N at the corner of Mulberry St. It is moderately upscale with a pleasant décor and the service both friendly and efficient. Mary had a Heineken and I an Alexander Keith. The lunch menu was somewhat limited with only a few offerings. We both chose the Bison Burger, served on an Italian roll, Mary choosing a salad while I, having shed considerable excess weight, felt that I could have French fries. The bison burgers were excellent, having a stronger, gamier taste than beef. Mary proclaimed the salad to be first rate. Lunch with beer tax and tip was \$33.

Our old friends, Pat and Peggy, invited us to see the Toronto Irish Players' production of Sean O'Casey's *The Plough and the Star*. We met them and their three sons for lunch at **Fionn MacCool's**, 70 the Esplanade. As the name suggests it is an Irish pub. Mary chose

the Fisherman's Chowder (very good) and Vegetarian Flat Bread which was something like a vegetarian pizza; it was not to her liking. I had a Guinness and the Steak Crock which was more or less like a stew topped with whipped potatoes and served in a crock; it was grand. The moral is when in a pub, eat pub grub. Lunch for two with beer, tax and tip would have been about \$67. The play, set in Dublin at the time of the 1916 rising was very well done even though the Dublin accents were difficult to follow; virtually all the cast were ex-Dubliners and even Pat who was born and raised in Dublin could not follow all of it but he did vouch for their authenticity.

The Italian Valley Restaurant and Café, 2 King St W (in the old Grafton block) in Dundas is a fairly new addition to the Dundas hostelries. The first thing that Mary and I noticed was the size (or lack thereof) of the table to which we were directed rather than being shown. We both ordered a Corona, when surprisingly for a supposed Italian restaurant, there was no Italian beer available. The beer came without glasses. Now neither Mary nor I are opposed to swigging beer out of the bottle, but it did not seem appropriate to do so in a restaurant with upscale pretensions. We both ordered the minestrone soup. Mary chose spaghetti and I the Veal Sandwich. The spaghetti and the sandwich arrived before we finished the soup which not only caused gridlock on the small table but led to the cooling of the former. The soup was very thin for minestrone, amounting to a broth with a few vegetables. Mary found the spaghetti passable and the veal sandwich, although overcooked to the point of toughness, was otherwise acceptable. The final gaffe was in asking me to sign the M/C slip with a pen that did not work. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$41.

Our next issue will be mailed at the end of April, 2006. Articles for inclusion should be e-mailed to editor@elmlane.com no later than April 1, 2006.

Spinning the Web

By Fred Oldfield

We spent the recent holiday period in the warmer climes of mid-Florida. Being the adventurous sort, sort of, we drove straight through to Daytona stopping only for gas (four times, I believe) two meals, and numerous "pit-stops" (usually combined with either gas or food fill-ups). It took us about 21 hours usually travelling at about 120 kph. When we arrived at 1 am it was shivering cold, almost, but not quite as cold as when we left home. We eventually found a motel we could afford and settled in for a few hours of much-needed sleep.

In the morning, we drove to Ormond beach where we first walked beside the cool ocean managing to side-step the breakers. Then we drove on the beach for a mile or so. Our first bit of sight-seeing over, we headed west towards Orlando and Kissimmee. We were fortunate to have obtained a time-share unit for our stay, courtesy of my sister-in-law. With three bedrooms, two baths, including a "Jacuzzi", a kitchen, complete with washer/dryer, dish washer, stove, microwave, fridge and more, a table seating eight and a living room,. We were all set.

We spent our first two days visiting Walt Disney World: Epcot and the Magic Kingdom. The weather was slowly warming. Then we switched over to the two parks at Universal Studios, spending three days there. By now the temperatures during the day were reaching the high 70's (Fahrenheit) We headed back to Walt Disney World where we spent more days visiting Animal Kingdom and the Disney/MGM studios, as well as returning to the Magic Kingdom.

We took a day off, here and there to rest aching feet, do a little, very little, shopping and to visit The Bok singing tower about an hour south of Orlando.

All too soon it was time to pack up and head home. The return trip from Orlando took about twenty-three hours. Fortunately, the only bad weather we ran into was in the mountains

of West Virginia where the snow flurries began to accumulate on the road. It was a cautious hour or two we spent driving through this area. However, although we encountered the occasional flurry, the road remained clear the rest of our journey.

At the border, there was only one other car being inspected as we drove up. It contained a lone occupant and the customs inspector first had him pop his trunk then, after more conversation, directed him to the side for further inspection. We worried that we might have some trouble - not because we were bringing back any illicit material but because we were quite tired and didn't want any delays. Fortunately, after a few cursory questions, we were sent on our way. One further hurdle remained. We drove up to the toll booth (only one was open) where a van was sitting. After what seemed like at least five minutes with no apparent activity, the van finally moved off, we paid our toll and headed for home without further incident.

In the process of our trip I took over 2,000 digital pictures (many were taken under less than ideal conditions while riding attractions, etc. and in low lighting, but I think I

... Continued on page 8

Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter

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Outings

By our Members

Quebec City Tour A Trip To Remember

(continued from our last issue)

Day 3 had arrived. Ann Dunn had initially arranged for a wake-up call at 6:00 a.m. But we were able to convince her to move it to 6:30! Again, the weather-channel predicted a sunny day with warm temperatures in the mid twenties. Someone observed that our ears were getting attuned to the French language which was all around us. (It must be said, however, that absolutely everyone we met was more than happy to speak to us in English).

This day kept our bus driver busy; it was a traveling day for our lively group. After breakfast we boarded the bus for Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre, a well-known catholic shrine about 35 km east of Quebec City. There we had a pre-arranged guided walking tour through the huge Basilica. Among other things, we learned that this shrine attracts more than a million and a half pilgrims and visitors every year and that it will soon celebrate its 350th anniversary.

Afterward, we drove to Montmorency Falls for a short visit. These Falls are often compared to Niagara Falls (it is emphasized that they are 30 meters higher). But in terms of mass of water and sheer majesty of appearance, there is no real comparison. Niagara is much more impressive.

After this stop we are headed into one of the highlights of our 5-day tour: The drive through the absolutely gorgeous autumn colours of the Laurentian Mountains. For over an hour we drove through this beautiful region, which brought to mind Wilfred Campbell's 18th century verse about this area:

*Now by the brook the maple leans
With all his glory spread,
And all the sumachs on the hills
Have turned their green to red.*

Later we finally arrived in the town of La Malbaie on the shore of the St. Lawrence, about 150 km north-east of Quebec City. For the first time on this trip we could no longer see the other shore of this mighty river.

We enjoyed an excellent lunch at the "Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu". This hotel is every bit as majestic as its counterparts in Banff, Lake Louise, Quebec City and Ottawa. Following lunch, a few of us explored the hotel, its manicured grounds, nature trails and golf course. But most of us visited the "Casino de Charlevoix", right next door. While most of us left the place with little to brag about, rumour has it that Ann Dunn broke the bank. But her lips were sealed!

Late that evening we drove back to Quebec City. We watched "The Fugitive" on the on-board screens but unfortunately never got to see the thrilling final minutes because we arrived at the hotel a bit earlier than expected. And since, in Quebec City, buses are not allowed to idle their engines while parked, we didn't see the end of the movie until our return trip to Hamilton. Once again, there were rumours of late night parties!

Now came Day 4. Weather forecast: Sunny and 25 degrees! After breakfast we embarked on another 3 ½ hour walking tour with our guide – who was quickly becoming a friend – Oliver. This tour was a bit unusual in that it took place entirely outside the walled City. We visited the 270 acre Plains of Abraham, the Joan of Arc Garden, the Museum of Fine Arts (which now includes the former Men's Prison), the Grand Theatre and the Parliament Building. Again, Oliver did an excellent job not only in describing historical events but in explaining how present day Quebecers live, work, shop, go to school and socialize.

Following the tour we had an excellent sit-down lunch served at our hotel. The afternoon was free to do as we pleased. Many went back to places they had been to before but which they wanted to explore in more detail. Others did a bit more souvenir shopping or simply relaxed.

The evening turned out to be a very special one indeed. Ann had arranged for a

gourmet buffet dinner at "L'Astral", Loews Le Concorde Hotel's revolving restaurant, way up there on the 28th floor! From there we were able to view the City, the river and the hinterlands in all their glory, both before and after sunset. This grand view from the top was easily matched by the superb evening buffet dinner which included a mouth-watering dessert table.

By about 8 o'clock we were ready to return to the hotel. After all, this was our last evening in the hotel and suitcases needed to be packed and readied for pick-up early next morning. For the first time on this trip there were no rumours of late night parties!

Day 5 had arrived. We had our final hotel breakfast and boarded the bus at 8 a.m. sharp. The weather had turned unpleasant for the very first time on this trip. There were rain clouds and the temperature was only 6 degrees. The heavens were clearly unhappy about our departure! In contrast, however, there was a warm and friendly atmosphere on the bus! We had all gotten to know each other, conversations flowed easily, we knew everyone's first name, had made new friends and renewed old friendships.

We left happy and contented.

About 1½ hours from Quebec City a minor miracle occurred: The sun started shining and the temperature suddenly shot up to 24 degrees. (It must have had something to do with another one of Ann Dunn's "religious "jokes!") This was going to be a pretty darn good trip home.

The 10 hours traveling time passed quickly, with more quizzes, movies, conversation, cookies, cheese and crackers and, of course, bingo!

Before arriving back at the College, Bob Dawson, ably assisted by Helen Marshall, spoke on behalf of absolutely everyone when he thanked Ann Dunn for her efforts in organizing and conducting this enjoyable and successful tour; efforts which went way beyond the proverbial call of duty! (Ann, some of us are ready to sign up for your next trip, maybe to Ottawa?)

Erika and Hans Bastel

You Never Can Tell Shaw Festival

On November 22, 2005, 56 Retirees relished lunch at "Betty's" and the relaxation associated with entertaining theatre, congenial companionship and balmy Niagara-on-the-Lake weather.

George Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* is a play written in 1896/97. Although it encompassed the Shavian concept of sexual attraction, social evolution, human aspiration and artistic ambitions (like his own) it floundered. However, by 1907 it became one of the Shaw plays that made him as popular with audiences in England as he had already become in Germany and the United States.

The play began at a seaside resort in Southern England on a fine summer's day. It involved a new dentist named Valentine who fell in love with a young feminist and became embroiled in her family's past and future. A magical comedy of love and transformation.

Marie Yakimoff

Westfield Heritage Village

On December 11, 2005, twenty-four retirees and their friends stepped back in time to enjoy a Victorian Boxing Day Pantomime in the Mountsberg Church (as did the pioneers of the 1700 and 1800's). A variety of early Victorian instruments were played, poems were beautifully narrated and the audience participated in the singing of Christmas Carols. The musicians and our costumed guide described the development of their various musical instruments from ancient times. They reminded us that minstrels often travelled from place to place to entertain the early settlers.





Following the presentation and with a few lanterns in hand, we wended our way through the darkened village to the snow-covered village green where we delighted in seeing the enactment of the Medieval European tradition of setting a tree ablaze. During pio-



neer times carols were sung around the tree (with church bells ringing in the background).

Fueled by the inner warmth from our carolling in church and by the heat from the



flaming tree we walked to the Ironwood Tea House for a sit-down "Pioneer Christmas Table". This consisted of a variety of courses featuring Roast Goose and Cuisine from 1790 to 1909. We learned how many of our Yuletide Traditions evolved, from our knowledgeable guide. Our helpful "servants" (all volunteers) were dressed in period costume. The bartender was none other than Andy Tapajna, who along with his wife and other volunteers helped build the beautiful gazebo on the village green.

The air was crisp and fresh. The snow white and manageable. The coloured outdoor lights sparse but lovely. The company congenial and joyful. A great beginning for the holiday season.

Marie Yakimoff

SUBJECT: JULIE ANDREWS

Not that any of this applies to any of us. No, no, no.

To honor her 69th birthday on October 1, actress/vocalist Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favorite Things" from the legendary movie "Sound of Music". However, the lyrics of the song were deliberately changed for the entertainment of her "blue hair" audience. Here are the lyrics she recited:

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses,

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Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things,

When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things,

Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things,

When the joints ache,
When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores.

Privileges of Membership

Your board works hard to arrange outings that are of interest to our members. Lately, we've offered a number of theatrical performances combined with great meals. They appear to be well-received. However, I have noticed that a significant number of members rarely, if ever, sign up for these outings. We'd like to know if there are other activities that our members would like to be offered. At the moment, we're looking for suggestions for next November and December, but other ideas are always welcome. Having your say is part of the privilege of membership.

Just in case you misplace the flyers (and because I have some space to fill) here's a summary of upcoming events:

January 31, 2006: Chinese New Year's dinner at *Le Chinois*. Contact Marie Yakimoff.

March 14, 2006: Luncheon Buffet at Carmens featuring a tribute to the "Rat Pack" (Sinatra, Martin, Lawford and Davis). Contact Brad Berry

May 10, 2006: *Cabaret* at Stage West Theatre. It's a great buffet and they always put on a great show. Contact Santosh Dalal.

June 6, 2006: Annual Membership Luncheon Meeting. This year it's being held in the North Cafeteria of Fennel Campus: Better food at lower cost promised. Speaker will be Eleanor Woods. Contact Joanne Wolfarth.

June 23, 2006: *Not Now Darling* at the Drayton Festival Theatre. Lunch at Crossroads restaurant, a perennial favorite. \$80 each (member and one guest) \$85 each for others. Coach leaves Fennel Campus 10:15 am and returns approximately 6:15 pm. Contact Hans Bastel.

August 16 or 17, 2006: *Norm Foster - Jasper Station* at the Lighthouse Theatre, Port Dover. Contact Geoff Brooker.

September: Shaw Festival Theatre

October: Muskoka Boat Trip

Wedding Veils

Why do brides wear wedding veils? (They might not after they read this.) Veils have been in use for thousands of years, but the current sheer, translucent veils were introduced by the Romans to remind the woman that she was starting a new life of submission to her husband!



Lynne Smith's retirement, 2005



The Epcot geodesic dome



Canadian pavilion at Epcot



Welcome to Universal Studios, Orlando

Spinning the Web: continued from page 3 captured a number of good shots). Almost every night I had to transfer these photos to my old laptop to make room for the next day's shooting.

We prepared for our trip by visiting www.disneyworld.ca where we requested information which arrived a few weeks later in the form of a booklet and a DVD. Later, we visited Disney again and ordered our tickets on-line. We left it a little late, so we arranged to pick-up the tickets on arrival at the park. Besides saving a little money, we were able to decide in advance which ticket options we wanted. We opted for "the works" that included ten days park access, the "hopper" option which allowed us to visit more than one park in a day, access to other Disney attractions, such as the water resorts, which we did not use, and attractions on "Pleasure Island" which we made some use of, and, most important of all, the "does not expire" option which means we can use the balance of our days on our next visit.

Similarly, we also ordered our Universal tickets on-line. Here we were able to get tickets good for five consecutive days for the price of two. We found that three days were more than sufficient, especially since no one in our party was interested in the roller coaster rides. www.universalorlando.com.

We could have used www.mapquest.com to get maps and driving directions, but I opted instead to get Microsoft's *Streets and Trips* software. Actually, I bought *Microsoft Works Suite 2006* which also included *Digital Image 2006*, *Money 2006*, *Encarta 2006*, *Microsoft Works*, and *Microsoft Word 2002*. At about \$100 after rebates, it was a pretty good deal, especially since it qualifies you to buy an "upgrade" version of *Microsoft Office* should you require the power of that suite.

Finally, while talking about office suites, MDG computers (www.mdg.com) has a special offer for *Wordperfect Office 12* for \$29.99. Unfortunately, taxes and shipping put the total just over \$50. It's a limited time offer and may not be available by the time you read this. (Click on "products" on home page, scroll down to bottom and click on "Web exclusive limited time deals")