

Recent Outings:**Carmen's Luncheon Theatre:** December 6, 2006. *Nasty Habits* (Review page 4)**Le Chinois:** January 30, 2007. *Chinese New Year's Dinner***Future Outings:****Old Mill Theatre:** March 14, 2007. *Mystery Show and Buffet* (See enclosed flyer)**Stage West Dinner Theatre:** May 16, 2007. *The Full Monty* (See enclosed flyer)**Annual Meeting:** June 6, 2007. Liuna Station**In the Planning Stage:****Cirque de Niagara,** Niagara Falls. July, 2007**Hamilton Harbour Dinner Cruise,** August, 2007**Shaw Festival Theatre,** Niagara-on-the-Lake: Friday, September, 2006: *St. Joan***Country Playhouse,** St. Jacobs. *A St. Jacobs Christmas.* November/December

FEATURE RECIPE

Squash Puff**Ingredients**

2 cups mashed, cooked, butternut squash

½ cup spreadable cream cheese

½ cup bread crumbs

2 Tbsp brown sugar

1 egg

dash of ground ginger

dash of pepper

dash of salt

Directions

- 1 Combine ingredients and place in greased, shallow baking dish (1 L size)
- 2 Sprinkle some more bread crumbs over the top
- 3 Bake at 350°F for thirty minutes or until lightly browned

Notes: Makes 4 (½ cup) servings. I have used regular cream cheese with excellent results.

This is a very tasty dish. Will find favor even with those who dislike squash.

From *What's Cooking*, Fall 2003 issue.

This is a free magazine available from Kraft, Canada limited. Get your free copy from <http://www.kraftcanada.com>.

Carrot Salad**Ingredients**

2 lbs (908 gms) whole carrots

1 cup (250 ml) celery, chopped

1 medium green pepper, sliced

1 Spanish onion, sliced

1 10 oz can (313 ml) condensed tomato soup

½ cup (125 ml) oil

1 cup (250 ml) white sugar

½ cup (125 ml) cider vinegar

1 tbsp (15 ml) prepared mustard

1 tbsp (15 ml) Worcestershire sauce

1 tsp (5 ml) salt

Directions

- 1 Cook carrots, cool and slice
Layer carrots with celery, pepper and onion
- 2 Combine remaining ingredients to form the "dressing"
- 3 Pour dressing over vegetables
Refrigerate, uncovered, for two days

(This is a delicious cold salad perfect for summer activities or entertaining.)
Must be prepared in advance.

LET'S DO LUNCH

By Brian Welsh

Since we were going to a matinee performance at Theatre Aquarius one Saturday in October, we decided to have lunch at the **Chazz Bistro** next door to the theatre. The menu is limited, consisting of maybe half a dozen items. Mary and I both had a *Steam Whistle* beer and followed with the butternut squash soup. The soup was good. The Philly Steak sandwich, which we both ordered, was excellent being rather spicy with onions, peppers and cheese cooked with the steak. Charles "Chazz" Thompson, the chef-owner, served us with both promptness and courtesy. Incidentally Chazz's son played for the Ti-Cats, retiring about 12 years ago. His jersey – No 88 – is framed on the wall. We were so satisfied with the lunch that we returned in November, again prior to a matinee. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$33.

The **Sapporo Japanese Restaurant** at 96 Main St E is in a small mall on the south side of the street. It is the successor to another Japanese restaurant, *Akita*, that was reported in this column in January 2002. It offers an all you can eat menu from which one can choose from over 100 items. Mary and I started by sharing a large can (650 ml) of Sapporo Beer. For our first round we had *miso* soup and various *sushi*, *sushi rolls*, and hand rolls. We ordered another can of beer and went back to the menu to select another eight or so items of mainly hot food: Japanese pancakes, beef ribs, fried fish and such like. We finished with green tea ice cream and a fried banana. Everything was extremely good, fresh and tasty. Service was also above average. It was extremely good value. One trick we have learned is that when eating in this type of restaurant is to have a pen and paper to make a list of the item numbers you want and present it to the server; by doing so you will not be scurrying through the menu trying not to forget something while the server waits. Lunch with senior discount, beer, tax and tip was \$50.

First there was **GJ's**, then the **Renaissance** and now **Cook's Corner Bistro** at 240 Governors Rd in Dundas. Mary ordered a pint of *Heineken*, although she would have preferred a half -- they do not serve half's -- and I a pint of Rickard's Red. We both ordered the soup of the day, a potato soup with bacon which was delicious but could have been a touch warmer. Again we both ordered the same main, a Webster Burger consisting of an eight ounce burger with blue cheese, caramelized onions and bacon accompanied by either French fries or French fried sweet potatoes. We both chose the latter. The Webster Burgers were deemed to be exceptional by us both. The service was very good also. Just a comment on the menu, in addition to our choice there was other hearty fare, nothing namby-pamby about it. One caveat, although we found it excellent for lunch, we have had two reports of dinner patrons being dissatisfied with the food and service. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$47.

Our friend Kathy told us that **Bistro Parisen**, 150 James St South, was a restaurant where she had enjoyed dining. Mary and I lunched there one day in December. It is small, upscale, unadorned but comfortable. The ambiance with soft jazz in the background seemed to dictate wine with lunch rather than our usual malt. We chose glasses of the house wine, a pleasant but unassuming white *LaVeille Ferme*. We both had the delicious pepper squash *soup du jour*. Mary chose the *tartine du jour*, an open faced vegetable sandwich served with *frites* which she found both delicious and filling. I had one of my favourites, mussels. They were steamed in a sauce of tomatoes, black olives, capers and other vegetables and served with *frites* – exceptional. The service was impeccable. Lunch with wine, tax and tip was \$66.

~~~

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia."

-Charles Schultz

"The gods too are fond of a joke."

-Aristotle

**Retirees Association of Mohawk College Newsletter**Website: [www.mcretirees.com](http://www.mcretirees.com)

Published four times a year.

Board Members:

|                        |                    |                                                                                |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>          | Brad Berry         |                                                                                |
|                        | 905 679-6598       | <a href="mailto:bgbjerry@aol.com">bgbjerry@aol.com</a>                         |
| <b>Vice-Chair:</b>     | Hans Bastel        |                                                                                |
|                        | 905 679-8173       | <a href="mailto:hebastel@sympatico.ca">hebastel@sympatico.ca</a>               |
| <b>Secretary:</b>      | Ann Dunn           |                                                                                |
|                        | 905-383-9772       |                                                                                |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>      | Joanne Wolfarth    |                                                                                |
|                        | 905 388-9965       | <a href="mailto:joanne.wolfarth@sympatico.ca">joanne.wolfarth@sympatico.ca</a> |
| <b>Member:</b>         | Santosh Dalal      |                                                                                |
|                        | 905 679-3561       |                                                                                |
| <b>Member:</b>         | Isabel Kerr        |                                                                                |
|                        | 905 385-7109       |                                                                                |
| <b>Web/newsletter:</b> | Fred Oldfield      |                                                                                |
|                        | 905 643-3442       | <a href="mailto:fdo@fodoweb.ca">fdo@fodoweb.ca</a>                             |
|                        | Ex-officio Members |                                                                                |
| Geoff Brooker          | 905-772-5160       | <a href="mailto:lmbrook@kwic.com">lmbrook@kwic.com</a>                         |
| Marie Yakimoff         | 905-522-7370       |                                                                                |

visit to the gold diggings. According to the camera, the 2 GB card was only about half full, and the camera was taking the pictures but they weren't being saved. Fortunately, after I switched cards, everything was back to normal. I still don't know if there was something wrong with the card or if my camera can't handle that large a card. Someday I will get around to answering that question.

In the morning we made sure our luggage was out in the hall and then went down for another breakfast buffet. Buses then drove us to the train station where we boarded the "McKinley Explorer". Most of the cars were either Holland American (ours) or Carnival cars (both cruise lines have the same parent company). We were soon off for Denali National Park.

## SPINNING THE WEB

By Fred Oldfield

### Alaska Diary (Part 2)

In the evening, three of us went on a walking tour of downtown Fairbanks. The hotel was situated on the outskirts of the "downtown". It took us a few blocks to figure out the map we had and get our bearings, but after that, our journey was straight forward. We met a couple of natives who waved and smiled as we walked. In the downtown area, along the Tanana River was a sizable park with various memorials and fountains. It presented an interesting photo opportunity. It was here that E. T. Barnette, in 1901, was forced to stop his intended voyage north because the vessel he was using had too deep a draught. While building another boat, he learned of a gold strike near by and decided to set up his trading post right where he was. Thus, Fairbanks was born.

It was at the park that I discovered my camera, fitted with a new 2 GB (Gigabyte) storage card was no longer saving my pictures and, in fact, had not done so since part way through our

If you check a map of the U.S., you will probably find that America's tallest mountain is named Mt. McKinley after a former president. But if you check a map produced in Alaska, it is called simply Denali.

The train ride to Denali was pleasurable and the scenery fantastic. Shortly after noon we arrived at the park and buses once again took us to our hotel. However, we had not a moment to spare because our school bus trip into the interior of Denali Park was waiting to depart. Our stay in Denali was marred by a steady drizzle. At one stop we observed a typical log cabin from 60 or 70 years ago. The park ranger took on the part of an early pioneer woman and described her life. Of particular note, she mentioned the shortage of women to men, stating that for a woman, the odds were good, but the goods were odd. We were to hear this expression, which I believe should have been the state's motto, three more times on our trip. In fact, you may have heard it on an early episode of "Men In Trees" this season.

Continued on page 5 ...

## REVIEWS

## Carmen's

On December 6, 2006, about 50 members of our Retirees Association joined with perhaps another 150 people at Carmen's Banquet Centre for a delicious lunch and "naughty" show.

The meal, as always, was fantastic including several courses. The only complaint I have is that it's hard to remember how many courses are coming, which makes it difficult to judge portions so there will still be room for dessert!

There were 10 people at our table plus a setting for one more, one of the "sisters" appearing in *Nasty Habits*. She did join us briefly, but soon went back stage. However, the whole troupe became involved in what appeared to be an impromptu show while we ate.

After the dishes were cleared away, the real show began. It consisted mainly of jokes and banter between different singing "acts". While the whole thing was very professionally done, I felt a little unfulfilled, although it's difficult to explain why.

The highlight of the performance, however, was the young "initiate" whose boundless energy and enthusiasm not only stole the show but proved contagious as well.

All in all it was a great outing and great afternoon of entertainment if not quite up to the standards of last year's tribute to the *Rat Pack*.

~~~

Correspondence from OCRA

A Thank-You letter was received by Brad Berry, President of the Retirees Association of Mohawk College, acknowledging the financial support of individual members and the \$1,000 they

received from our Association to facilitate payment for legal representation to the Financial Services Commission of Ontario.

A recent decision of the Commission favoured OCRA's position that the Retiree Trustee is the representative of retirees and not the representative of current employees, as the CAAT Pension Plan Board argued. OCRA is expecting that an order will soon be issued by the FSC superintendent to direct that the composition of the CAAT Pension Plan Board be made to conform to the Pension Benefits Act.

"The matter of the continuance of the Retiree Trustee on the Board, rather than the elimination of that position in recomposing the Board, still has to be determined." Bob Pando, President of OCRA concluded his letter by stating that OCRA will continue to fight to protect the rights of college retirees to be represented on the Pension Plan Board by a Retiree Trustee.

Marie Yakimoff

~~~

## Brainteasers

**Mystery Job:** Brian works at a place with thousands of products, some of them very expensive. People take his products without paying for them - as many as they can carry - and then just walk out. All that Brian requests of his customers is that they keep their mouths shut. Where does Brian work?

**Side to Side:** Uncle John stood on one side of a river; his dog, Porter, stood on the opposite side. "Come here, Porter!" said Uncle John. Although there were no boats and no bridges, Porter crossed the river without getting wet. How?

**Word Play:** What's unusual about the following list of words?

Revive, banana, grammar, voodoo, assess, potato, dresser, uneven

From *Uncle John's Curiously Compelling Bathroom Reader*. Their 19th Edition. (Answers in our next issue - or buy the book!)

We managed to catch site of some wildlife - mostly rabbits and squirrels. But in at least one stop we were able to spot some mountain goats on a distant mountain side. Other excursions fared better than we did, but it was still an exhilarating trip.

Back at the park entrance, we had a little time to explore the buildings there and to enjoy another great meal. Since we had had limited sleep thus far on our trip, an early night seemed called for.

The next morning gave us a few hours to enjoy a leisurely breakfast and a brief walk around our surroundings. But our trip to Denali was far too short. By noon we were back at the train station. While new tourists were disembarking, we were boarding for the trip down to Anchorage. Again we passed through great scenery, even better than on the earlier trip from Fairbanks. We saw many mountain peaks, and may even have caught a glimpse of Denali (Mt. McKinley), although it was difficult to be certain. The fact is that relatively few visitors to Denali actually get a clear view of the mountain. First officially climbed in 1913 (a group of "sourdoughs" climbed the slightly lower northern peak in 1910), this top of North America generates its own micro-climate. Sunny and clear at one moment, it can become cloud covered within a few minutes and a gale storm can lash climbers shortly thereafter.

Our trip back down to Anchorage took slightly longer than planned because our train was one of the first to make the journey after a severe storm had washed out some of the track. Friends of ours who had taken another cruise about a week earlier had to back-track to Fairbanks and then endure an 18 hour bus trip back down to Anchorage and on to Seward to pick up their ship before it departed.

We opted for supper in the dining car and enjoyed a sumptuous, if somewhat expensive, meal.

When we were finally back in Anchorage, the buses were once again waiting to take us to

the Hilton hotel downtown. Of all the accommodations we had on the trip - the Hilton was the only disappointment. Contributing to our disappointment was the lack of organization and efficiency we endured on a trip that was otherwise running like a finely-oiled machine. It didn't help that, for the first time so far on our voyage, we had Internet access, but unlike most hotels, we had to pay for it.

To be continued ...

~~~

Technology for Country Folk (and some Senior Citizens)

- Log On:** Makin' the stove hotter
- Log Off:** Coolin 'er down
- Monitor:** Kepin' an eye on 'er
- Download:** Gitten the farwood off'n the truck
- Megahertz:** When yer not keerful gitten the farwood
- Floppy Disk:** Wutch a git from tryin' ta tote too much farwood
- RAM:** That thar thing what splits farwood
- Hard Drive:** Gitten home in the winter time
- Windows:** What ta shut when its cold outside
- Screen:** Whut ta shut when it's black fly season
- Byte:** Whut dem dang flys do
- Chip:** Munchies fer the TV
- Micro-chip:** Whut's in the bottom of the munchie bag
- Modem:** Whutch a do ta the hay fields
- Dot Matrix:** Dot Coms name after she got hitched ta Dan Matrix
- Mouse:** Whut eats the grain in the barn
- Mouse Pad:** Thats jes hippie talk fer where the mouse lives
- Mainframe:** Holds up the barn roof
- Port:** Fancy schmancie flatlander wine
- Enter:** Duh! How ya git in the house
- Click:** Whut ya hear when ya cock yer gun
- Double-Click:** Whut ya hear when ya REALLY mean bizness
- Reboot:** Whut ya have ta do right before bed-time when ya have ta go ta the outhouse
(via Internet, author unknown)

The Full Monty

Join us for a buffet lunch and matinee musical: *The Full Monty* on Wednesday, May 16 at Stage West Theatre. Coach boarding at Fennell at 9:15 am and the planned return is 4:30 pm. Cost: \$73 per member/spouse; \$78 others. For more details, see enclosed flyer or contact Santosh Dalal, (905) 679-3561. (Simple dress code in effect.)

See You There!

~~~

## Philosophy Lesson

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schultz, the creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America Contest.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with

Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

(via Internet, author unknown)

## The Banister of Life

As you slide down the banister of life, remember ...

1. Jim Baker and Jimmy Swaggert have written an impressive new book. It's called *Ministers Do More Than Lay People*.
2. Transvestite: A guy who likes to eat, drink and be Mary.
3. The difference between the Pope and your boss... the Pope only expects you to kiss his ring.
4. My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash and it is gone.
5. The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.
6. I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled and that ice, well, it really chilled the mood.
7. It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.
8. A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.
9. My next house will have no kitchen - just vending machines and a large trash can.
10. A blonde said, "I was worried that my mechanic might try to rip me off. I was relieved when he told me all I needed was turn signal fluid."
11. I'm so depressed. My doctor refused to write me a prescription for Viagra. He said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.
12. My neighbor was bit by a stray rabid dog. I went to see how he was and found him writing frantically on a piece of paper. I told him rabies could be treated, and he didn't have to worry about a Will. He said, "Will? What Will? I'm making a list of the people I want to bite."
13. Definition of a teenager? God's punishment for enjoying sex.
14. As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way

(via Internet, author unknown)

Deadline for next issue: April 13, 2007 (editor@fodoweb.ca)



