



Summer 2012

# Newsletter

Of the  
**Retirees**  
**Association**  
Of Mohawk College

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **TUESDAY JUNE 5th, 2012**

**T**he Annual General Meeting of the Mohawk College Retirees Association was held Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre with about 80 in attendance.

Donna Dunlop was the mistress of ceremonies.

A pen with the MCRA logo to recognize the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association was available to each person attending the AGM.

There was a social time beginning at 1130 hours. Donna welcomed all present at 1210. Marie Yakimoff said grace after which a hot lunch was served. The meal was subsidized by the MCRA.

Susan Tkachuk introduced the guest speaker, Sharron Orovan Johnston, RN. She is associated with the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Grandmothers of Steel, and the 'Grins and Giggles' Event and is the author of the book, *Take the Wheels Off Your Worry Bus*.

*Continued on page 4 ...*

### **Newsletter of the Retirees Association of Mohawk College**

#### **Board Members:**

<b>Chair:</b>	Isabel Kerr	905 385-7109	iikerr@shaw.net
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Donna Dunlop	905 388-2394	bddunlop@shaw.ca
<b>Past-Chair:</b>	Hans Bastel	905 679-8173	hebastel@sourcecable.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sylvia Hillyard	905 628-2313	shillyard@cogeco.ca
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joanne Wolfarth	905 679-3902	jwolfarth@sourcecable.net
<b>Treas.-Elect</b>	Elaine Dunkey	905 662-4986	elaine.dunkey@mohawkcollege.ca
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Aldrey	905 386-6516	liz.aldrey@mohawkcollege.ca
<b>E-Com.:</b>	Gaye Yachetti	905 526-8453	gaye.yachetti@mohawkcollege.ca
<b>Hike Co-Ord.:</b>	Bill Fulton	905 627-9718	ibtcrbguu@hotmail.com

#### **Ex-officio Members**

<b>Web/newsletter:</b>	Fred Oldfield	905 643-3442	fdo@elmlane.com
	Brad Berry	905 648-1904	bgbjberry@aol.com
	Marie Yakimoff	905-522-7370	

#### **Honourary Life Members**

Alan Gregson  
William Stafford  
Al Dalsto

Website: [www.mcretirees.com](http://www.mcretirees.com)  
Published four times a year.  
Deadline for next issue:  
October 5, 2012

## Tales of the Gypsy, 2012 (part 2)

In the last report we were preparing to head into central Utah and the surrounding National Parks. Our plan was to head to Escalante and from there visit Bryce Canyon and Escalante/Grand-staircase. Then we would head for Torre, Utah and Capitol Reef NP and finally to Moab, as a base from which to visit Glen Canyon, Canyonland and Arches National Parks.

The campgrounds were all booked but on the road to Escalante our friend's coach encountered a severe engine problem and we decided to simply stay at Escalante and travel by car to the surrounding parks and cancel our planned visits to the three parks around Moab. While at first it was disappointing, it worked out well.

Zion had been exciting because visitors there travel and hike in the bottom of the canyon surrounded by towering walls of rock. At Bryce, it is just the opposite. Visitors drive along a 20 mile "mountain crest" from which there are many viewpoints down into the canyon that stretches for more than 30 miles. It is hard to describe the beauty of the rock formations. Thousands of sandstone spires rise up from the Canyon in as many different shapes and configurations. There are hiking trails at each of the viewpoints and some allow you to venture down to explore the bases of these spires. The furthest viewpoint, at the end of the road, at just over 2500 metres, was not conducive to long hikes but others at lower elevations were. Two days before our visit a 40 cm snowfall blanketed the canyon. The resultant views were even more spectacular than we had anticipated. A relatively few people get

*Continued on page 3 ...*

## Spinning the Web

I've mentioned our three cats before. They are now nearly three years old having survived, so far, their decision to allow us to adopt them. To the best of our knowledge they are siblings, but no set of three siblings could ever be more divergent.

First of all there is Blaze. From the very first day he seemed to be the leader. Blaze is the first to explore, the first to pick a fight and, judging from his stupendous weight, the first, last and foremost to eat. The amazing thing is, set the three of them beside each other and you'd swear they were roughly the same size. Blaze, however, easily outweighs the other two. Blaze has taken a fancy to my wife and loves to jump in her lap while she is knitting or hand sewing. Needless to say, my wife isn't always enthralled by his presence. Blaze is probably your typical alpha cat.

Bandit is the female. Although she appears to be the same size as the others, she is truly all hair, skin and bone. She spends much of her day asleep in the basement where it's a little cooler and lot less congested with other cats and people. Bandit has a very soft, raspy voice, almost as if she had something wrong with it. She doesn't meow unless she clearly has no alternative. Unfortunately, she has learned a "game" we inadvertently taught her. If she wants in, out, food or whatever, she will climb the window screen, scratch at the furniture or scratch the rug outside our bedroom door to get our attention. She has even taught the bedroom trick to her two brothers, Amazingly, there is no visible damage so far, but how long can our luck hold out?

When I am in the family room and Bandit does her thing, I will yell at her and struggle up to chase her - which, unfortunately is essentially what she wants. We then play a little game of stop Bandit from escaping the family room. I can hold her at bay for a while, but sooner or later she escapes. Her food and the door to the outside is in our kitchen/dining room, but she invariably takes the long route

*Continued on page 3 ...*



Summer 2012

Page 2

Newsletter  
Of the  
Retirees  
Association  
Of Mohawk College

... Continued from page 2

to see Bryce Canyon after a snowfall and that combined with the work of Mother Nature over the millennia was awesome.

Every day from Escalante we visited a different National or State park. On one long day we drove the 125 km to Capital Reef National Park. The drive was as spectacular as the park. From Escalante the highway drops down into the Escalante River Canyon by way of continuous hairpin turns dropping some 1000 metres then through a narrow canyon with cliffs that hung over the road only to climb back up on to Devils Backbone. This 8 km stretch of the road is along the crest of a mountain with narrow shoulders and steep drop offs into the canyons on either side. In a way we were thankful that the coach problems had occurred. This road would not have been a pleasant drive in the coach.

Capital Reef was the shores of an ancient sea which heaved upward during some cataclysmic period and now is a series of cliffs and canyons. Our biggest encounter, in addition to the beauty of the landscape, was a huge Mountain Ram standing right beside a narrow canyon road posing for our cameras. There are many paved roads leading through the park but we like to "check out" the less travelled so we spent a lot of time driving and hiking dry riverbeds, that doubled as roads, into remote canyons. Folk lore has it that Butch Cassidy travelled through this area so there is a rock arch named after him.

Grosvenors Arch (some 35 km back in the desert) was another destination of note. A wind and weather carved arch near the top of a 100 metre butte some 15 metres wide and 40 metres high towers over the dry landscape. Then on another day we drove to the Devils Garden. Dozens of sandstone hoodoos provided a great setting for a hike and then a picnic. There were arches here too but here we were able to climb and view the "garden" from the top of the arches and some hoodoos. On this same day after a further 70 km drive into the desert, we decided to hike down into the Escalante Canyon. After a 60 minute hike down towards the bottom we checked the time and it was already 4 PM so we reevaluated our plans, turned around and started

*Continued on page 4 ...*

... Continued from page 2

through the living room. If she stops in the kitchen, she wants a treat (I've taught her and Blaze to sit before they get a treat and Bandit will shake paws - with a little help). Otherwise she goes to her dish for food or the door to go outside. All of this without mewing a word.

Bandit loves attention. She will almost always come visit me in the "reading room" and will stay for as long as I keep petting her. The same is true if I am sitting at my desk or on the sofa. She will stay as long as she's getting the attention she wants. Within a few seconds after one stops petting her, she's gone.

There have been a few times, however, when she will lie down on the bed, usually at the foot, or find a place amidst the mess on my desk to sleep.

Flash is the pretty boy. He has a slightly larger head than the other two and is without question a very beautiful feline. We call him our million dollar cat because two years ago he was attacked and nearly died from a large gash on his stomach. After emergency surgery and "thousands" of dollars, he has made a full recovery.

Flash likes attention too. He has a habit of nudging his nose into your face that can almost become painful. Speaking of nudging, whenever I try to scoop some food into his dish, he has to nudge the scoop so some morsels land on the floor. That wouldn't be so bad, but, none of the three cats will eat any food that has been spilt on the floor (except their treats).

Flash is the talkative one. He meows a greeting every time he comes in. In fact, I have carried on quite a conversation with him on numerous occasions. He meows and I reply.

*Continued on page 4 ...*

**Newsletter**  
Of the  
**Retirees**  
**Association**  
Of Mohawk College



**Summer 2012**

**Page 3**

... Continued from page 3

the 2 hour hike/climb back up the rocks and narrow ledges. Maybe next year we will get to the bottom and see what is supposed to be an amazing canyon with polished rock walls and a cascading waterfall out here in the desert.

Kodachrome State Park and Red Rock Canyon occupied another day and then on our last day after another conversation with the local residents, we found a back road that led to a hiking trail into the bottom of Bryce Canyon. This way we were able to have a "view from the bottom" to add to our birds-eye view. The spires are even more massive from the bottom.

The trip from Escalante back towards Richfield was slow (friend's engine problems) but he made it to the repair shop, repairs were made (a fuel lift pump) and we were back on the road the next day.

Our friends had a deadline. They had to be back to Abbotsford (a grand child's second birthday) so we did not stop in Salt Lake City. That was Ok with us because many years ago we had visited Salt Lake when we were travelling with our family. We had toured the city and visited The Mormon Tabernacle and met a number of the young men who were about to travel to various countries and cities to serve their missionary requirements. Even today we can spot them (white shirts, ties and black trousers) as they walk down streets. They are fine young men and whenever we see them in Brantford we invite them to our house for dinner but no religious indoctrination. We have met others in Santa Barbara, California, Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, BC.

So it was a trip straight through Salt Lake City to Garland, Utah to a hot springs spa resort. Three days of R and R and soaking in either one of the two natural springs hot tubs (each at a

*Continued on page 5 ...*



**Newsletter**  
Of the  
**Retirees**  
**Association**  
Of Mohawk College

Summer 2012

Page 4

... Continued from page 3

He meows back and I say something else. It seems just as if he understood what I was saying and was answering me. Of course, maybe he does. Unfortunately, I haven't been as successful.

I am, however, in the process of developing a Flash Dictionary. So far, it goes like this:

meow - I want some food  
meow - I want some water  
meow - I want out  
Meow - I want in  
Meow - I want a treat (Seldom used because Flash doesn't like treats.)  
Meow - I want attention  
Meow - I want more attention  
Meow, meow- I don't know what I want, but I want it now!

- Fred Oldfield

## **Mohawk Retirees Hikers**

**O**n Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, a small band of "soldiers" met at Veever's Park, to band together to "march" off to battle. We were off to join the troops at Battlefield Park in Stoney Creek to assist the army & natives in defending Upper Canada. Our Captain announced a change in our strategy for entering the battlefield. As he was concerned that our path to battle may be flooded, he announced that our strategy was to make an approach from the Kings highway. Now, this approach did take us along a scenic road with lovely homes (not tents) and beautiful gardens but left us vulnerable to attack. I must admit we did not march as smartly to battle as how we saw the army enter battle later. On arrival, we were greeted by a band - we were an impressive group. We did note that we had not dressed appropriately & will remember that for future adventures. Of course the women had to visit the crafters. The bakery was deemed the best (and this was before lunch). The men were off to enjoy some entertainment from a fire eating magician.

*Continued on page 6 ...*

... Continued from page 4

different temperature) or swimming in the huge natural spring's pool. In addition they had a hot springs "lake" exclusively for scuba diving and a cooling river for snorkelling. I had planned to snorkel the ½ mile long cooling river but the weather turned cold and rainy so that was cancelled. That is on hold for another time like the hike to the bottom of Escalante Canyon.

As we travelled up through Utah and into Oregon we tried to beat a forecast snow storm in the mountains. We didn't beat it and after a very slow 80 km behind a tractor trailer we were able to get off the highway at the first community we came to. By the time we got into a campsite at 10:30 am there was at least 25 cm on the ground. It warmed up so quickly that by 6 PM the snow was almost all gone. It was a good thing we stopped though because checking the highway webcam we knew that "Potato Pass" was completely closed by the State Troopers.

Our final stop in the US was at Crescent Bar, Washington. Abbotsford was calling our friends so they went ahead. We remained there for two weeks and visited with friends who have a home there (they are the same ones that we visited at their winter home in Phoenix while we were in Arizona).

By this time our travel insurance was about to expire so we headed for Chilliwack BC and our Thousand Trails campground on Cultus Lake for three weeks to prepare for our Alaska trip. While there we visited with my older Sister and younger Brother (both live in Vancouver) and my younger sister and her husband had travelled to Vancouver from Ontario for the start of their Alaska Cruise (celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary). The result was a very enjoyable family reunion.

By this time we had been on the road for 3 ½ months and the best part was still to come... a further 3 ½ month trip though BC, The Yukon and at least 7 weeks in Alaska (we left Chilliwack on May 9). We are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary too. So from somewhere in the North West... we are still On The Road... "gypsyficing".

- Vern and Beth Pich

... Continued from page 1

Sharron spoke on the importance of humour in our lives. She actively involved those present with various activities to illustrate some of her points. She suggested practical and easily implemented ways to decrease the stress present in our lives and noted that laughing is a protective reflex.

Sharron's presentation was very well received and Sylvia Hillyard thanked Sharron on behalf of those present.

A short business meeting followed.

Isabel Kerr began her chairperson's report by expressing her thanks to the MCRA Executive. Isabel noted the efforts of Gaye Yachetti re her work with social media ie E-mail, Twitter, and Facebook for the Association. E-mailing a significant number of newsletters has saved considerable money.

Isabel noted that it has been a good year for the MCRA, with many successful events as well as a few cancellations.

Isabel mentioned upcoming events - Shaw Festival (October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012), Carmen's (November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012), and St.Jacob's (December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012). She noted that there was a successful event at the Art Gallery of Hamilton in April and that the hiking group remains active.

Isabel commented that it is difficult to please all members of the MCRA re events but she encouraged members to support the Association.

Isabel acknowledged two members, William Stafford and Al Dalsto, as founding members of the MCRA and members of the first Board of Directors and presented plaques recognizing their contribution to the MCRA.

- Sylvia Hillyard

Newsletter  
Of the  
Retirees  
Association  
Of Mohawk College



Summer 2012

Page 5

## What's Your Story?

Everybody's got a story. Your vacation, your second career, where you volunteer, the event that changed your life, the family moment you'll never forget. Why not share your story with the rest of the retirees. We'd love to publish it here.



While the editor recognizes a few of these faces, he'd be most grateful if someone could put a name to one or more of these retirees - or any of the other retirees in the photos we've published previously. Many thanks!



Summer 2012

Page 6

Newsletter  
Of the  
Retirees  
Association  
Of Mohawk College

## Coming Events

Monday, October 1: Hike.  
Details to follow.

Friday, October 5: *Ragtime* at the Shaw Festival. See enclosed flyer.

Thursday, November 8:  
"Barbara and Frank Concert" at Carmen's. See enclosed flyer.

Wednesday, December 12:  
*Love Lies Bleeding* plus shopping at St. Jacobs. Flyer enclosed.

### Other events being planned:

Cooking Class at the Ancaster Old Mill

Social Media Workshop. Now you can tweet like the birdies do!

... Continued from page 4

Our lunch was at the Village Restaurant with most of Stoney Creek in attendance. Sure better than the food we heard that they served at the tents. Mind you they could always go to the bakery for a shortbread cookie!

Back to the battlefield to learn how to fire muskets & cannons. As we found out, we were defending Fort George. This did not go well so we all retreated back to Burlington Heights (or home in our cars). We heard rumours that the next day we came through in splendid fashion by defending our land and driving the Americans back. Next year, marks the bicentennial of the battle of Stoney Creek. Mark it on your calendars.

Watch for an announcement on a fall hike.

From a demoted sergeant who gave the captain a rough time

- Barb Hallam

RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE

---

**Invites You to Join Us and Enjoy**

**“RAGTIME ” by Terrence McNally**

**directed by Jackie Maxwell**

**at the SHAW FESTIVAL THEATRE in Niagara-on-the-Lake**

**Friday, October 5, 2012**

**A SHAW COMPELLING MUSICAL**

Book by Terrence McNally, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, music by Stephen Flaherty. Based on the novel Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow and directed by Jackie Maxwell.

In this powerful musical portrait, an era of innovation and unrest is set to the rhythms of ragtime. A sweeping saga of turn-of-the-century America, seen through the eyes of three families – the suburbanites of New Rochelle, the African American community in Harlem and the Eastern European immigrants of the Lower East Side. Writer E.L. Doctorow’s kaleidoscopic groundbreaking novel set to a Tony Award-winning score.

10:15 a.m. Our Coach leaves Fennell Campus, Main Entrance

11:30 a.m. We arrive at the popular Betty’s Restaurant

1:00 p.m. Our Coach takes us to Niagara-on-the-Lake

2:00 p.m. Our Show Begins

5:30 p.m. Estimated Return Time to Fennell Campus

Please make cheques payable to RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE and mail to:

ANN DUNN, 126 WEST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, HAMILTON, ON L9C 3N2

**PHONE: 905-383-9772 - by Friday, Aug. 31, 2012**

\$92.00 ea. for Members and Spouse

\$95.00 ea. for Non Members

---

**“RAGTIME ” BY TERRENCE MC NALLY, Friday, Oct. 5, 2012**

Please reserve ..... seats @ \$92.00 each for members & partners and .....\$95.00 each for non-members.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Payment for ..... x \$92. = .....

..... x \$95. = ..... = \$..... Is Enclosed

Please make your cheque payable to Retirees’ Association of Mohawk College and mail to:

Ann Dunn, 126 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton, ON L9C 3N2 - (905) 383-9772

**Please date cheques no later than Friday, Aug. 31, 2012**

Invites You to Join Us to Celebrate Our 20 Year Anniversary  
while enjoying a Luncheon Matinee Musical

***“A BARBRA & FRANK MUSICAL TRIBUTE - The Concert That Never Was”***



*at*  
**Carmen’s Dinner Theatre**  
**1520 Stone Church Rd., E., Hamilton, ON**  
*on*  
**Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> 2012, 11:30 a.m.**

**Lunch: 12:00 p.m. Menu seasonal**  
**Show: 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Cost: \$39.00 members/non-members (Includes HST and Service Charge)**

**Note: Price reflects discount given to us as compensation for our prior unfortunate experience with Carmen’s Theatre in 2011. Tables are guaranteed 4<sup>th</sup> row from stage. Table space will be reserved under the Mohawk College Association name. Each table seats 10-11 people. On entering, just ask for the table number. You will not need a ticket to enter.**

Please apply by September 15/12 as Carmen’s provides NO REFUNDS after that date. Note: There are no refunds on cancellation; however, substitution arranged by the ticket holder (or from the waiting list if there is one) will be accepted.

**“Barbra & Frank Concert”- Carmen’s Luncheon Show - Thursday, November 8, 2012 - 11:30 a.m.**

Please make cheque payable to **RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE**, postdated **no later than September 15, 2012** and **mail** to Donna Dunlop, 123 San Francisco Ave., Hamilton, ON L9C 5T8  
Tel: (905) 388-2394

Full payment for ..... x \$39 = .....

**Names(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE RETIREES' ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE**

**invites you to join us and enjoy a Christmas in Mennonite Country  
and Norm Foster's Comedy**

**T H E L O V E L I S T**

**At the historic St. Jacobs Schoolhouse Theatre  
Wednesday December 12, 2012**

**As we did a few years ago, we will combine some Christmas Shopping in St. Jacobs with a hot buffet lunch at the town's Stone Crock restaurant, followed by Norm Foster's hilarious Comedy The Love List at the Schoolhouse Theatre.**

This delightful tale of perfection and the pursuit of happiness is a testament to men who don't get what they wish for – but get what they deserve!

As a present for his best friend's birthday, Leon has decided to help Bill find his soul mate. Bill is a mild-mannered civil servant who has been divorced for seven years and dateless for almost as long. Together they concoct a Top Ten list of the attributes of the ideal woman. But when the fantasy woman arrives in the person, the men quickly learn that their foolproof list could stand a few revisions!

- 9:15 a.m. The coach leaves Fennell Campus, south entrance
- 10:15 – 12:00 noon Shopping in downtown St. Jacobs
- 12:00 noon Lunch at the "Stone Crock" Restaurant
- 2:00 p.m. The theatre entertainment begins

Cost: \$90 per member and one guest - \$95 for all others  
Includes: Coach, lunch, the show and all taxes and gratuities

Need more information? Contact Hans Bastel at 905-679-8173  
(e-mail: [hebastel@sourcecable.net](mailto:hebastel@sourcecable.net) )

---

**Christmas in Mennonite Country, December 12, 2012**

Please reserve . . . . . seats @\$90 and/or . . . . . seats @ \$95 for "The Love List"  
for Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Name(s) .....

Telephone (.....).....

Full payment for ..... x \$90 = .....  
..... x \$95 = .....  
Total: \$..... enclosed.

Please make your cheque payable to **Retirees Association of Mohawk College** and mail to:  
Hans Bastel, 295 Silverbirch Blvd., Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0  
**Cheques must be dated not later than November 21, 2012**