



**ST. CLAIR
COLLEGE
RETIRES'
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2004

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



A lot has happened since our last newsletter.

Two very successful Christmas parties were held in Windsor and Chatham. The Thames party was standing room only and the Windsor party, for the very first time, pierced the 100 mark in attendance. Dr. John Strasser attended both and invited retirees to the Christmas staff brunch held at the South Campus. Again, retiree attendance was excellent.

On January 25/2004 the Retirees' Executive hosted a seminar on Long Term Care Insurance. Despite dangerous driving conditions, over 25 people attended. Our one person telephone committee, Suzie Korchnak, tells me that many of the retirees she spoke to expressed interest in attending. Please contact me if you think we should repeat the presentation.

A communication glitch with the United Way seems to have delayed the distribution of solicitation letters from that

agency. Although we sent them our mailing list in late November, they indicated they did not receive it. We re-sent it in late January. If you have recently received your letter, please give generously.

Brian Agar, recent Thames retiree, has very generously offered to maintain the retiree website. He has already updated the calendar of events and added a "picture gallery." You can now see pictures of a number of our social events, including the two Christmas parties, RM Classic Car tour, Sanson Estate Winery tour, and, most recently, the winter trip to the Dominican Republic. Brian requests that anyone wishing to submit digital pictures should take them in the highest resolution possible. This will increase the clarity of the pictures. The website can be accessed by going to www.stclaircollege.ca/people/retirees or to the College website www.stclaircollege.ca and then going to About St.Clair College and then to Retirees.

The winter trip to the Dominican Republic (reported elsewhere in the newsletter) was a most successful first venture. It was wonderful get-away!

Now that the retirees have their own meeting room (Rm 45U in the new computer lab complex under the Student Centre) the archives/memorabilia project will resume in earnest. A meeting has been scheduled for February 16/2004 and a meeting schedule will be made for the rest of the school year. If you have any objects of interest (pictures, news articles, clothing, etc. you wish to donate, please contact Pat Hallahan or Bill Totten.

The Art Collection project has also received new life. The 408 piece art collection is now in binder form and on a CD. And, Bill Rawlings, rookie professor in the Interior Design Department, has agreed to take the lead in rationalizing the collection. Once he is thoroughly familiar with the collection, he will make recommendations regarding the distribution of the collection as well as identifying pieces which need repair, reframing, etc. We are working with the President to identify a senior manager who will be accountable for this College asset and to create an Art Collection Advisory Committee. The executive will have a breakfast meeting with the President on February 18/2004.

John Charlesworth, our one-person social convener, continues to plan a variety of social events. If you are interested in working with John, please contact him or anyone on the executive.

It's been a busy and exciting year so far. We look forward to seeing many of you in the months ahead.

V.I.P. ATHLETIC PASSES

During his remarks at the Windsor Christmas Party on December 3/2003, Dr. Strasser highlighted the achievements of the St. Clair College Varsity Teams, and urged retirees to attend games and to share in the excitement while supporting the athletes. He then announced that he would ask the Athletic Department to provide retirees with "V.I.P. Athletic Passes". The day after this announcement, the Retirees' Association was contacted and asked to provide names and

addresses for retirees in Essex and Kent Counties. However, anyone from outside of this area who wishes to attend the home games of any of our teams can contact Pat Hallahan and request, with name and address will be given to the Athletic Department, and a pass will be provided.

We are very fortunate that Dr. Strasser supports the retirees as he does and we extend our thanks for his consideration.

Letter from Dr. Q. (Sir Richard of Bowser)

"Dear Bill:

Thank you very much indeed for the beautiful copy of the Anniversary Issue. You really did a job on that weirdo Q. He will certainly be a legend now. Please thank all those who worked on the project and give Hoff a special hug from me. It is a very nice piece of work, of which you all can be proud.

Diane and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 22. Our recipe for a long marriage is a simple one, have lots of laughs along the way.

Love and peace
Q"



NEWS FROM OCRA

The Ontario College Retiree Association may soon be emailing, to all members on their mailing list, a communique from the CAAT Pension Plan regarding a recent 1.5% increase in contribution rates from all current staff. Although we emailed this to you in December, those not registered with OCRA and those not on our email list may not have seen it.

It is too long to include in the newsletter but it can be accessed on the Pension Plan Website, www.caatpension.on.ca or by contacting the plan. The increase does not affect retirees.

Bob Pando, OCRA Chair, is concerned that this information is not being communicated to retirees by the pension plan. He is further concerned that retirees do not have a “seat at the table,” so to speak,

regarding pension matters, despite the fact that we are most affected by their decisions. He has a point.

When you consider contributing to OCRA, be advised that its role is not limited to negotiating health benefits for retirees. It may also include monitoring the activities of the pension plan. To date, the pension plan has refused to recognize the role of OCRA in representing retirees despite repeated attempts by OCRA to establish a relationship.

The activities and performance of the pension plan are of vital interest to us. It only makes sense for us to be in position to monitor its activities. As your executive, we will do our best to keep you informed. Bill Totten is Vice President of OCRA.

Submitted by: Pat Hallahan

PARKING DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

We have just received new Retiree Parking Permits. These complimentary Permits are available to all members of the St. Clair College Retiree Association and are valid in Visitor Lot “I” and all Student Lots.

If you require one of these Permits please contact me two days prior to your next visit to the College (972-2727 Ext 4306). If leaving a message please state your name and at least one License Plate #. I will then leave the Permit for you at the Main Lobby Parking

Office on the date of your visit.

Retirees who have had their Permit for some time may exchange those older Permits, if you desire, for a newer one by contacting me as noted above.

Please remember that the Retiree Parking Permits are for your use only and can not be shared with family friends.

Ross Langill, Parking Coordinator

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENT

Performance Preparation Program/Music Theatre Performance Program

St. Clair College has introduced a new focus in arts and cultural programming at Thames Campus. Trish MacFarlane, Principal, Thames Campus, recently announced the appointment of Katherine Kaszas as Artistic Director to provide the leadership in the development of arts and culture programming at St. Clair College with particular responsibility for a one year Performance Preparation program and a three

year Music Theatre Performance program.

She has served as the Artistic Director for the Blyth Festival and as the Associate Artistic Director of Canadian Stage. She has taught at the University of Toronto and in the Sheridan College Music Theatre program.

This appointment heralds a very exciting direction for St. Clair College.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY BERT HUNEALT

Over a period of some twenty-five years a series of incidents, coincidences and decisions - - with a little serendipity thrown in - - eventually led to my teaching career at St. Clair College.

To examine these events from the beginning, let's turn back the clock to the summer of 1944 when I was a teenager having just finished first year high school in Montreal.

Wartime had aroused in me a keen interest in aviation, and I had ordered from the Macmillan Company in New York a book titled *Aircraft Navigation* which cost \$2.00; to me that was a lot of money, but I somehow managed to scrape up the two bucks and purchased the book.

It turned out to be most interesting. In addition to covering basic aircraft navigation concepts, the book touched on the dynamic science of meteorology which I found so captivating that I started thinking about a career in that field.

The book also dealt briefly with celestial navigation, and the chapter on star identification intrigued me. But it did not explain *how* fliers used the stars to navigate, and I wanted to know; so I wrote the Macmillan Company and asked them to explain just how aviators navigate by the stars. In retrospect, I guess it was a pretty tall order but I didn't know any better then!

At this point, a wonderful man entered the picture: Charles L. Skelley, an editor at Macmillan's. He answered my letter and regretted he had no knowledge of the subject, but he had gone to the trouble of contacting an officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps and had asked him to answer my query. Mr. Skelley had enclosed the officer's three-page long explanation and informed me that a brand new comprehensive textbook titled *An Introduction to Navigation and Nautical Astronomy* was available from Macmillan's at a cost of \$8.75.

Purchasing the new book was out of the question; I didn't have that kind of money. I was quite impressed by the interest Mr. Skelley had shown, so I wrote him a thank you letter explaining that although I would love getting that book, as a student I did not have \$8.75 to spare. That was a lot of money back in those days!

Well, you can imagine my surprise when, a few days later, I received a complimentary copy of the book

from Mr. Skelley. It really got into the nitty gritty of navigation, both terrestrial and celestial, and even taught me logarithms and trigonometry, necessary to solve the numerous navigation problems. Incidentally, that new knowledge came in quite handy when logs and trig were studied during the following term in high school.

Although I found astronomy and navigation extremely interesting, the subject of **meteorology** had really fascinated me and I eventually decided that after high school I would go to university to study math, physics and the atmosphere, and eventually become a meteorologist.

Throughout my high school years I kept in touch with Mr. Skelley. He encouraged me towards a career in meteorology and kindly sent me books on weather. However, by the time I reached Grade 12, I realized that family finances would not allow me to go to college. Upon learning this, Mr. Skelley astounded me by trying to arrange a university scholarship for me through his friends. My parents and I were flabbergasted by this man's kindness and generosity; after all he was in a different country and knew me only through correspondence. Unfortunately, although the war ended in 1945, it turned out that his friends had not yet returned from military service and he was unable to access funds for the scholarship.

I had studied basic electronics in Grade 12 physics and found it very interesting. With my knowledge of navigation and the lure of the high seas, the thought of becoming a radio officer in the merchant marine began to appeal to me; and I had already learned Morse code in the Army Cadets while in high school. So after Grade 12 I enrolled in a Marine Radio course at a technical school in Montreal. Mr. Skelley then started sending me books on electronics and radio communications; there was no end to this man's kindness!

Upon graduation I obtained a "Certificate of Proficiency in Radio" from the federal government and I applied for employment with various marine and aviation companies. I soon received a telegram from Canadian Pacific Airlines, granting me an interview. It so happens that one of our Marine Radio instructors, familiar with my interest in meteorology, had encouraged me to write an article on the subject

and suggested I submit it to a magazine. I had done that, and much to my surprise the nine-page article was published just when I completed the course. Knowing that weather was very important in aviation, I took the magazine to the interview, along with my radio operator's licence. One of the first questions the airline official asked was "Do you know anything about weather?". When I showed him the magazine with my article, he said, "That does it, you're hired!" I thus became a commercial radio operator - - not on an ocean-going vessel like I had originally envisioned, but in a log cabin in the Labrador bush country where the airline sent me to work as a wireless operator and weather observer!

During my stint up north, solar activity (sunspots, solar flares, geomagnetic storms) was at a peak, resulting in incredibly awesome displays of northern lights; but it also frequently interfered with shortwave radio communications. I remember once being completely out of radio contact with the outside world for a long four days. This kindled a special interest in solar astronomy, the ionosphere, shortwave radio propagation, aurorae, sunspots, etc., subjects which continue to fascinate me and became lifelong hobbies.

Following two and a half years in the Labrador wilderness, I quit my job with the airline and went to the Radio College of Canada in Toronto to study radio and television technology. Upon completion of the course, I had a radio/TV technician job lined up in Toronto, at a starting salary of \$35. a week. But on the last Friday of the course I had a half-hour to kill between two exams, so I went for a cup of coffee in a restaurant next door. There, as luck would have it, I ran into my former TV instructor who had left the college a few months earlier to accept a job in Windsor. When I asked what he was doing back in Toronto, he said he was "looking for a good TV technician". So I kiddingly said, "Well, what's wrong with me?", to which he replied, "OK, you're hired; get yourself down to Windsor; you start Monday morning!" When I asked how much the job would pay, he said, "How about \$55. a week?". Without hesitation, I jumped on the offer and moved to Windsor to begin a career as a TV technician in a radio, television and appliance store. A year later I was promoted to Service Manager and, in 1954, I bought the electronics repair department from the dealer and

I operated a radio & TV service shop on Drouillard Road. An employee of mine at the time was an excellent technician by the name of Joe Vernes. He eventually left my employ to accept a position in the computer department at Chrysler's. Years later, upon retirement from Chrysler's, he joined St. Clair College as a teacher in the business department. Joe eventually retired from the college and passed away last year.

Early in 1962, I learned that the Canadian Vocational Training Program - which was already operating under the administration of the Windsor Board of Education -- was looking for someone to start a one-year course in radio & TV servicing. I enquired and was interviewed by the man in charge of the program, Col. D.C. O'Brien. The Colonel offered me the job, and I decided to take the plunge into teaching. So I put my business up for sale and burned the midnight oil designing the curriculum, purchasing textbooks and lab manuals, and equipping a lab with the government funds made available. Our location was to be the vacant second floor of the Essex Packers plant on Mercer Street downtown. We were to start with forty students (two classes of twenty) sponsored by the Canada Manpower Centre, and the Colonel authorized me to find someone to teach the course with me. We were told to teach seven hours a day, five days a week (a 35-hour teaching load!). I contacted Bill Swayzie who had previously been in charge of the Canadian General Electric TV service department here in Windsor and he accepted the job. I managed to sell my business at the end of June; just in time, as we started teaching the course on July 2nd.

After graduating the first class at the end of June 1963, Bill and I spent the summer at the Ontario College of Education in Toronto; we did it again the following summer and obtained our teaching certificates. By this time Joe Mencil had taken charge of adult retraining (by then renamed Ontario Manpower Retraining Program) and had moved our electronics course to new quarters on Walker Rd., and then eventually to the Adult Education Centre on Erie St. East.

In the late 1960s, the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology were born, and the local manpower retraining program amalgamated with St. Clair College. In 1970 the "F" building was

completed on South Campus, allowing adult retraining classes to move from Erie Street, finally getting a permanent home. As Coordinator of the one-year program in electronics, I continued teaching the radio-TV technician course; and we eventually added industrial electronics and radio communications options. As union contracts gradually reduced the maximum number of teaching hours, additional staff was added to our department, including Sherm Willows and, later, Pat Gadoury, Phil Poupard and Jim Barden.

In 1988, after teaching electronics for 26 years, and gratified with the wonderful success stories of so many of our graduates, I decided to take early retirement. Bill Swayzie had retired a couple of years earlier and unfortunately passed away in 1991.

I've now been retired for over 15 years and I continue enjoying the hobbies acquired over the years - - astronomy, meteorology, aviation, shortwave radio and computers. With the amazing number of resources now available on the Internet, those hobbies are even more fascinating than ever. And now, as I contemplate the 60 years that have elapsed since that fateful day in 1944 when I ordered that two-dollar *Aircraft Navigation* book, little did I realize then that

it would turn out to be a milestone, the start of an adventure which led to an interesting forty-year career in electronics and lifelong enjoyment of engrossing hobbies.

In the 1950s, I unfortunately lost track of Mr. Skelley. My preoccupation with career, marriage, raising a family, etc., brought an end to our correspondence. However in the 1980s, as I reflected on the strong influence this kind gentleman had had on my career and hobbies, I found myself wishing I could discover him again. So I made enquiries and was indeed able to re-establish contact. Then, in the summer of 1988 during a visit to the Big Apple, I finally met this wonderful friend. He was 98 years young! We spent a few pleasant hours visiting with him and his wife, and recalled many highlights of our correspondence from the 1940s. Characteristically, he even insisted on giving me a few books from his bookshelves! Sadly, Mrs. Skelley informed me the following winter that her husband had passed away.

What about the two navigation books acquired 60 years ago?... I still have them on my bookshelves as lasting mementos of the early events that ultimately led to my teaching career, got me involved in captivating avocations, and gave me an amazing friend in New York City.

In Memoriam

Donald Becker

Jan Zygmunt Armata

Gareth Lucier

Ronald Spencler (husband of Diane Spencler)

Iolanda Sartori (mother of Del Zangari)



LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

On January 14/2004 the St. Clair College Retirees' Association Executive hosted a presentation on long term care insurance. The presentation was conducted by Mike Rice of Clarica Insurance. Rick LaChance and Marc Evon were also present.

Despite treacherous driving conditions 25 brave souls were in attendance.

The information focused on Clarica's Long Term Income Plan approach to providing income support in the event that, due to a disabling illness or injury, in home or residential care is required. The cash made available is tax free and can be used as the client sees fit. It is often used to support the elderly in retirement homes, nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

One example given demonstrated that a 50 year old, paying \$729 per year, could be eligible for \$26,500 annually. Because everyone's needs differ, personalized plans are developed.

Long term care insurance, in various forms, is also available through Liberty Health, Manulife, RBC, and Johnson Insurance.

Further information is available regularly on the AARP and CARP web sites. Mike Rice will be repeating his presentation for the Thames Group on Wednesday, March 31, 2004 at the Satellite Restaurant in Chatham at 12:00 noon.

Please contact: Eunice Robinson at (519) 351-2670 or robsan@mnsi.net

Windsor Raceway Evening

Thirty-eight people came out for an enjoyable evening on Wednesday, November 19, 2003.

In a private room overlooking the race track, we had a nice dinner.

We thank Jack Costello for hosting and organizing the event along with John Charlesworth.

ONTARIO OMBUDSMAN

Do you have complaints about Ontario Government Services?

You may not be aware that there is an office whose purpose it is to help resolve complaints involving Ontario Government services. If you have exhausted all local complaint and appeal procedures, then you may want to contact Ombudsman Ontario. Although this office does not deal with federal services (e.g. immigration or the Canada Pension Plan) or municipal services (e.g. public housing or garbage pick-up) it can help with provincial services, such as Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals.

If any provincial government service has treated you

in a way that is unfair, illegal, unreasonable, mistaken or just plain wrong, you should feel free to contact Ombudsman Ontario.

All inquiries are conducted free of charge and are confidential. Complaints can be made in writing, in person, by telephone, by internet or TTY. Call 1.800.263.1830 or visit www.ombudsman.on.ca

The preceding was obtained from the Renaissance Magazine published by the Retired Teachers of Ontario.

INAUGURAL WINTER TRIP

The toast on the last night said it all: the St. Clair College Retirees' Association inaugural winter trip was an unqualified success!

The Signature Vacations all inclusive one week stay at the Iberostar Costa Dorado in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic started at 6:00 a.m. at Windsor Airport. The 3+ hour flight was cramped but uneventful and a small price to pay for the rush of warm air which greeted us on arrival. After a short drive to the hotel, we were greeted by friendly, courteous staff at a beautiful hotel in a complex of gated hospitality centres. Our hotel was especially lush and spacious with a large pool in the centre of the grounds which were flanked by nine low rise buildings housing our rooms. Interestingly, the rooms in all inclusive hotels are all the same, except for the view. Our rooms were spacious and included balconies.

If there was one feature which really stood out, it was the food. Most of us took full advantage of the three full meals each day and have waistlines to prove it. The hotel had three theme restaurants and one exclusively buffet style. Reservations were required days in advance for either the Brazilian or Mexican restaurants and some of us took advantage of the table-side service. Mostly, we "claimed" a few areas in the buffet room and gathered nightly for a wide variety of soups, salads, meats, seafood and "desserts."

The hotel also had a lovely beach with a large shaded area, which was a bonus if you wanted to see the ocean without burning up. The weather was in the high 20's most days, and although a number of days were overcast, it rained only one day. The beach was also a place to participate in hotel organized activities, such as dancing, exercise and sailing or kayaking for the more

adventuresome. The beaches in Puerto Plata have seaweed, but at our hotel it was raked regularly. Another bonus was that peddlers were not allowed on our beach. Beach shopping was available close by.

The hotel also offered nightly entertainment in an outdoor auditorium just off the main reception area. Whether it was The Lion King or local folklore, the entertainment was always fresh and energetic. The choreography, dancing and sets were quite professional and having a different show every night was an unexpected bonus.

The group also took advantage of a few outings. The cab ride downtown was disappointing, with limited souvenir shopping and a stop at a cigar factory. We found out later we were taken advantage of by the cabbie. The Outback Safari, however, was another matter. Although not cheap, it was an all day affair which took us deep into the mountains of the Dominican Republic where we saw how the locals live in the shadow of European-owned mansions. The road was bumpy, and the boat ride uneventful, but our guide, who had lived in Germany and Miami, spoke perfect English and was very entertaining and informative. We're all much more aware of the history, politics and industry of that country.

There were many memorable moments during our stay: the warmth and beauty; helpful staff, one of whom was the national chess champion; the food; but one feature which really stands out was the companionship of the group. Although it was easy to spend time alone or meet other people, it was comforting to know that there was always a familiar, friendly face close by.

For most of us, this was our first group trip. It's not likely to be the last.



THAMES CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Thames Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2003 at the Countryview Golf Club in Chatham. Thirty people attended and enjoyed an excellent buffet dinner. Eunice Robinson and Lynn Wraight arranged the gift exchange and door prizes. People enjoyed their social time especially with presentations being made by Santas Eunice and Jim Robinson.

Dr. Strasser gave an update on the college's accomplishments during the year. Highlights included the opening of the Ford Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing, student awards with repeat winners at Canada Skills for Mechatronics and the plans for a residence and five new programs at Thames Campus. Members appreciate hearing about the exciting progress being made at the college from Dr. Strasser and the ongoing support for retirees.



THAMES RETIREMENT PARTY

Congratulations to a number of Thames Campus friends and co-workers who are planning on retiring in the spring. Plans are under way to host a celebration honouring the six or seven retirees in one big party on Friday, May 7, starting at 3:00 p.m..

Mark your calenders and hold this date open!

You will be hearing more from us as arrangements come together. Looking forward to a great evening.

The Party Planners

The Cocoa Cure

With cold weather here in many locales, there's new reason to drink hot chocolate: a study in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry reports that hot cocoa contains twice the cancer- and heart- disease-fighting antioxidants of red wine.

Time Magazine - November 17, 2003

Heinz “Company Store” Again Available to St. Clair Retirees

Last year many retirees took advantage of the offer from the H. J. Heinz Company to take advantage of the terrific bargains at their “Company Store” in Leamington. We are pleased to inform you that the Heinz Company Store is again opening their facility to all members of the St. Clair College Retirees’ Association on the following days:

March 22, 23, 24, 27

March 29, 30, 31, April 3

April 5, 6, 7 (Closed April 10 for Easter weekend)

April 13, 14, 17 (Closed April 12 for Easter Monday)

A variety of products are available at discount prices at **85 Wilkinson Drive, Leamington (AMCO storage building)**. Store hours are 9:00 - 4.45 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 8:00 - 11.45 a.m. on Saturday. Proof of retiree status must be provided in the form of a membership card (available by contacting Anita Blair at).

All shoppers are required to abide by the “Company Store” rules as stated below:

- No smoking or drinking in the facility
- No children under 12 years of age allowed in the facility
- Only one case per variety per person per day
- Products cannot be sold, they are for personal use only
- Products cannot be used or sold in public establishments
- **Payment by debit card only**

Human Resources will have a limited supply of copies of the Heinz letter for pick-up in the H.R. Office. (See map below)



OCRA™ REPORT

The Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association (OCRA™) continues to grow. Of the approximately 1200 members in OCRA™, 183 are St. Clair College retirees, second only to Mohawk college with 240. This reflects the fact that the membership year coincides with the calendar year - January to December. In past years, the St. Clair College Retirees' Association collected \$20.00 in annual fees of \$10.00 which was forwarded to the OCRA™, making all registered St. Clair College Retirees' Association members also members of OCRA™. In 2004, Dr. John Strasser has agreed to pay the St. Clair College Retiree membership fee. As a result, we must now individually take the initiative to renew our OCRA™ memberships by submitting the \$10.00 OCRA™ fee. Anita Blair has agreed to collect and submit this fee on our behalf. This fee can be sent to

Anita at 1762 Malden Rd., R.R. #1, Essex, ON N8M 2X5. You may also register with OCRA™ by completing the membership form contained in the OCRA™ newsletter.

The St. Clair College Retirees' Association has become a model for new Retiree Associations. A group of Durham College retirees interested in establishing an association in Oshawa, asked Bill Totten to make a presentation to a group of 18 Durham College retirees on how to start up an association. This presentation is based upon the successes and failures experienced by the St. Clair College Retirees' Association, and was very well received.

OCRA continues to work toward a working arrangement with the CAAT Pension Plan, with little success.

Submitted by: Bill Totten

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

A Board of Governors meeting was held on February 3/2004. The big news was the approval from the Board to proceed with a second floor addition to the Student Centre. At a cost of \$2.7M, the addition will be funded exclusively from the continuation of a \$50 student levy which was initiated to cover the cost of the first floor of the Centre. The second floor will house a lounge, a 216 work station computer lab (the Rm 206 lab will be moved to the new lab), meeting rooms, a Griff's Cafe and a convenience store. Occupancy is slated for August 2005.

Implications of the new College Charter are beginning to surface. In addition to giving the Colleges much more freedom in program development and approval and land management decisions, College credentials are being renamed. Programs of less than one year will grant a College Certificate; one year programs, an Ontario College Certificate; two year programs, an Ontario College Diploma; three year programs, an Ontario College Advanced Diploma; four year programs, a College Degree. Some post

diploma programs will grant an Ontario College Graduate Certificate.

The Mechanical Techniques-Machine Shop Program will be renamed Mechanical Techniques-Precision Metal Cutting. The Registered Practical Nurse Refresher Program, dormant since 1993, has been resurrected due to local demand from Practical Nurses, many of whom graduated from the now defunct three semester program. Pending Ministry approval, the go ahead was given to develop a Pre-Apprenticeship Automotive Service Technician program.

The Huron Lodge land swap with the City of Windsor is a done deal. Look for the City to begin construction of a new Huron Lodge on the College Campus. The College has a good offer for the Rhodes Drive Campus, which is for sale. If all goes well, the sale could be finalized by Labour Day. And, the College continues to negotiate the purchase of land west of the Student Residence.

RETIREES' CHRISTMAS PARTY - 2003



DR. STRASSER'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
Friday, December 19th



TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES IN CHINA

If you are interested in adventure, travel and enhanced income, you may want to consider teaching in China. The China Teaching Program of World Exchanges invites retired teachers to teach at Chinese universities/colleges. The benefits include high Chinese salary; paid holidays; paid accommodation, international airfare and medical care; Mandarin lessons; travel opportunities in China. They are recruiting teachers for the following subject areas; English, computers, business and social sciences. For

further information you can visit their website: www.chinateaching.com or call 416.369.0515

Another opportunity exists with Lambton College. They are recruiting teachers for their partner colleges in China to teach English, ESL, business and electronics. If you are interested you can visit www.lambton.on.ca or contact Nan Elliott at 519.542.7751x3500.

Thanks to the Retired Teachers of Ontario publication Renaissance for this information.

COMING EVENTS

March 27 & 28	Windsor Dog Show St. Clair College Gym Time 8 am - 5 pm Nominal Entry Fee
April 20	Stratford Trip "Guys and Dolls" (Sold Out)
May 5	Annual General Meeting Meeting 2 pm/Social 3 pm
June 4	St. Clair Day Memorial Plaque Dedication

MECONI TRAVEL AGENCY

1646 Ottawa Street

2004 Bus Trips

1. Apr 24-25 with MacKenzie Hall Arts Express
Stage West hotel/dinner/theatre "Fiddler on the Roof"
"The Producers" single \$494.00 double \$441.00
2. May 25 1 day Stratford centre balcony "Anything Goes" Avon Theatre
\$101.00 including Elmhurst dinner
3. Aug 14-16 with MacKenzie Hall Arts Express ---Shaw Festival
"On the Importance of Being Ernest" details and price to be advised late February
Hotel accommodation, some meals, shows, 2 winery tours
4. Oct 16-17 2004 with MacKenzie Hall Arts Express —Stratford "The Count of Monte Cristo" and
"Guys and Dolls" Arden Park Hotel shopping, meals, shows
Details and price to be advised late February
5. Nov 02 1 day Stratford centre balcony "Guys and Dolls" Festival Theatre
\$105.00 including Elmhurst dinner

If interested 1 day trips to Toronto are offered –"Hairspray" price about \$160.00 for show, dinner and bus

Also possible is an overnight trip to Chicago in June and another overnight trip to Shaw in September.

Call for more information 519 254 9285 Email meconitravel@hotmail.com

STRATFORD TRIP

Our 2004 outing to Stratford will be on April 20, 2004. The show this year is **Guys and Dolls**. The cost is \$105.00 per person, which includes bus, dinner at the Elmhurst and the matinee show.

There are 54 seats available; 14 will be in the orchestra in section 7. The others will be in the balcony in either section 3 or 4. The seating will be much more central this year. Seats will be assigned randomly by the travel counsellor.

Seats will be available to retirees and their spouses/partners until February 9, 2004. After that date, they will be available to friends, relatives, current staff, etc. on a first-come, first-served basis.

A \$35.00 deposit per person is required immediately with final payment due by March 20, 2004. Kathleen Warren of Meconi Travel is handling the arrangements. Meconi is at 1646 Ottawa. Phone 254-9285

Editor's Note: The Stratford trip has been sold out but, if you wish to put your name on the waiting list, Meconi Travel will contact you if there is a cancellation.

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. *Throw* out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay them.
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, craft, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.
4. Enjoy the simple things.
5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.
7. Surround yourself with what you love. Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is our refuge.
8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.
10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.



SIR JOHN CHARLESWORTH
GREETING A "WALK IN" AT
THE RETIREE'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH.

TOMAS