



**ST. CLAIR
COLLEGE
RETIREES'
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER - 2008

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etirees



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's my pleasure in my third term as President to welcome the new retirees to the St. Clair College Retirees' Association. We are often referred to as the Retirees' Social Club because that's what we do. We have an excellent Social Program and it's a lot of fun. We communicate with our membership through Newsletters in the Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring, regular e-mails and our web site which is kept up to date by Brian Agar, our web master. The web site is a good reference point for Activities, Newsletters, and our Picture Gallery. www.stclaircollege.ca (college board and staff).

Again this year, the social season begins with the Annual Fall Social. Some of the **Fall Highlights** include:

- Annual Fall Social (Aug. 20)
- Bridge Club (Sept. 9, 23; Oct. 7, 28; Nov. 11, 25; Dec. 9)
- Thames/Windsor Luncheon - Lighthouse Inn (Sept. 24)
- War of 1812 Bus Tour (Sept. 25)
- Winery Tour - Viewpoint Estates Winery (Oct. 1)
- CCAC Educational Workshop (Oct. 15)
- RM Classic Cars Tour (Oct. 22)
- Trivial Tuesday (Nov. 18)
- Annual Windsor Christmas Party - To be announced
- Annual Thames Christmas Party - Countryview Golf Club (Dec. 10)
- Winter Trip to Mayan Riviera (Jan. 14 to 21)

We have a great time and we look forward to having you join us.

As an update on **Retiree Business**, in 2008/2009 we plan to continue with our Retirement Planning Service and investigating alternative Benefits options, support the Retiree Tutorial Service and continue with the Archive Project. For those unable to attend Paul Owens' presentation in May '08 on the CAAT Pension Plan his presentation has been posted on our web site. We thank Anita Blair, Pat Hallahan, and Bill Totten for continuing to encourage OCRA to support and foster the creation of strong functioning local associations at the Colleges. In 2005, it was through St. Clair and OCRA lobby efforts that resulted in the creation of an alternative Health Benefits Plan for retirees. Members of the Executive are planning to present the 2nd Health Benefits Brief to our representatives on the CAAT Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee (CRGIAC) which advises the Council on the benefits and premiums of the Sun Life Retiree Extended Health Benefits Plan.

Throughout the year, we receive tremendous support from Dr. Strasser and the College. We wish to thank Dr. Strasser and the College for their ongoing support and especially for including the retirees at the President's Staff Appreciation Brunches and truly demonstrating a sincere interest in keeping the retirees as part of the College Family. Fundraising is now underway for the College Recreation and Wellness projects in Chatham and Windsor which are planned for 2010. Dr. Strasser has asked the retirees to help through their contacts with small businesses in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent. Please pass on your suggestions to any member of the Executive or contact Lynn McGeachy-Schultz – Chatham, Susan Maxwell – Windsor. College brochures are available to help canvassers with this fundraising endeavour.

President's Report Continued:

We cross paths with many helpful staff throughout the year when we visit the College to conduct retiree business and we wish to give special thanks to: Duncan Almond (Human Resources), Becky Beneteau (VP Academic's Office), Susan Favaro (President's Office), EP Chant (Saint Newspaper), Paul Chortos (Printshop), Ray Dagenais (Mailroom), Jayne Dillon (Registrar's Office), Kevin Fochuk (Campus Residence), Don France (SRC), Patti France (Vice President), Sue Garrant (Board Of Governors), Ken Garber (IT Enterprise Services), Irene Helinski (Scheduling), Ann Hetherington (Marketing), Marcie Hommel (Human Resources), Andy Kovosi (Maintenance), Ross Langill (Parking), Paul Louviere (St. Clair Centre for the Arts), Romona Mastrogiacono (Registrar's Office), Carol Morneau (Printshop), Mary

Beth Rush (Thames Campus), Heather St. Pierre (St. Clair Centre for the Arts), Amar Singh (It Client Services), Jay Shewfelt (Athletics & Recreation), Irene Stewart (Tutoring Services) Tom Stokes (Physical Resources) and Don Tellier and Team (Horticulture), Dusan Vucak (Audio-Visual) and Sandi Webster (Human Resources).

In closing, I want to thank the Executive and the many of our retirees who have been working very hard to plan a quality program for 2008/2009.

We wish you all the best in your retirement and we look forward to seeing you at our Fall Activities.

Jay Ertel, President

SPECIAL INVITATION

TO

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ST. CLAIR RETIREES

TO

JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL

FOR OUR

PIZZA & BEVERAGE PARTY

Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2008

Time: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Place: St. Clair Student Centre
(next to the bookstore and Tim Hortons
or ask security at the front desk)

Cost: \$2.00 ea. (plus cash bar for beer, wine, mixed drinks)

See you at THIS NEW LOCATION in August

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

The following members were elected to the **Executive** for the upcoming year.

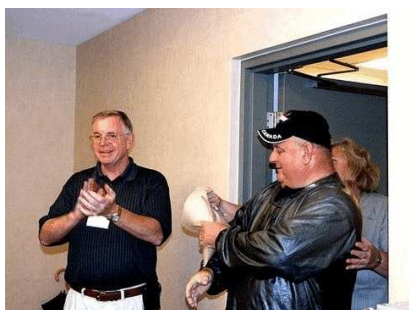
President Emeritus	Bill Totten	Membership Coordinator	Anita Blair
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Education Coordinator		Social Coordinator	John Charlesworth
President	Jay Ertel	Newsletter Editor	Del Zangari
Vice-President	Jim Martin	Thames Representative	Elizabeth Barr
Secretary	Lori Caba	Benefits Coordinator	Gary Docherty
Treasurer	John Payne		

At the AGM we thanked and recognized the Executive and the listed people for **Volunteering** to help the SCCRA deliver a quality program that has been a lot of fun and providing services to the College to warrant College support.

- Brian Agar, Web Site Manager for keeping our web site up to date with Association Information – Activities/Newsletters/Photo Gallery. The web site has had major changes and updates to tie in with the College's web site look.
- Suzie Korchnak and Eunice Robinson, Telephone Committee.
- Marilyn Charlesworth, Shirley Dzudz, Elsi Hallahan, Mary Loncke, Ida Totten, Hanno Barten, Les Taffinder, our BBQers and Hospitality Team.
- Jim Chambers, Auditor, Board Observer along with Jim Cameron.
- Dan and Mary Loncke, Bridge Club and Trivial Tuesday.
- Gary MacLeod, Social Convener, has plans to introduce many new social events.
- Ruth Hicks, Pat Hallahan, Jim Martin, Bill Totten, Student Elections.
- Sheila McCabe, Dick St. John, Retiree Tutoring Service. **Help!! We need more people involved.**
- Hanno Barten, Lea Garber, Dick St. John, Art Rae, Rick Erwin, Archive Project. **Help!! We need more people here as well.**

Submitted by Jay Ertel

Pictures taken by Silvio Carlini



ANNUAL STRATFORD TRIP

The Annual Stratford Trip was held on Monday, May 12, 2008 to see The Music Man. The story written by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey is about a community with strict values: people with a strong sense of who they are and those values haven't changed in a hundred years. It's 1912, a time without television or radio so people of River City are very insulated. We the audience discovered The Music Man to be a very modern musical that we totally enjoyed. The music, acting and the sets were excellent in this fast paced play which we saw at the Avon Theatre.

Thirty-five retirees and friends arrived by comfortable highway coach around noon to enjoy the local restaurants

for lunch and we had some free time to visit the local boutiques and sweet shops before the play. Following the superb performance of The Music Man the group dined at the Elmhurst Inn in Ingersoll. The buffet dinner is always top notch and it seems to get better year after year. People returned to Chatham and Windsor that evening. This was our 8th Annual Trip to Stratford. We thank Kathleen Warren from Allison's Travel and our driver Phil from Badder Bus Lines for arranging this successful bus trip.

Submitted by Jay Ertel



**WINDSOR SENIORS
ST JACOBS AND DRAYTON FESTIVAL
“LEGENDS”
SEPT 17 2008**

Come and visit the Village of St Jacobs. Enjoy over 100 shops and quaint restaurants and the simplicities of small time life. The farmer's market is not open but there are a lot of food, crafts and boutiques to sample.

After eating and shopping the bus will take us to Drayton for a performance of Legends a salute to Musical Pioneers. This is a musical review set on the “stage” of television host Roy Solomon – of classic songs by Elvis, The Beach Boys, the Everly Brothers, Elton John, ABBA, Sonny and Cher and more. The show is a combination of hilarious comedy, exuberant dance numbers and sweet music.

After the performance we will enjoy a tasty buffet dinner at either the Crossroads Family Restaurant in Elmira or the Elmhurst in Ingersoll – depending on the final numbers booked on the trip.

Date: Sep 17 2008

Pick up Location Glenwood United Church Grand Marais 7:30 am

and Times E C Row & Manning Rd 7:45 am

Belle River United Church 8:00 am

Bloomington Rd Truck Stop Chatham 8:45 am

Price: \$115.00 -non refundable unless ticket is resold

Book by: Aug 17 2008

Contact Kathleen Warren 519 258 5404 Insurance is available

Allison's Travel Agency Ltd
Corporate & Vacation Travel

167 Tecumseh Road West, Windsor, Ontario N8X 1E8
519-258-5404 . allisons@allisonstravel.on.ca Fax 519-258-4880

RETIREEES' BRIDGE CLUB

Attention all bridge players – or “wannabe” bridge players. Bridge Club starts up again on September 9 at 1:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room

If you might be interested, you should know that there is no commitment to attend each day, nor is there a level of ability required. We have folks who show up when they can and we have folks who are

still learning. The common factor is that we all have a good time, and we usually have a group which goes out for dinner following our bridge game.

Our Fall dates are: September 9 and 23; October 7 and 28; November 11 and 25; December 9. If you are interested, please contact Dan and Mary Loncke at 519 948-2906 or danloncke@yahoo.ca.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?



WAR OF 1812 – DETROIT RIVER

JOIN US FOR THIS EXCLUSIVE BUS TOUR ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2008.

Learn about the American Invasion of Canada and the British Capture of Fort Detroit. The Tour Will Be Fully Guided with Commentary and Stop at All of the Historical Points from Windsor to Amherstburg Associated with the War of 1812.

Includes Bus Tour, Refreshments, Admission to and Guided Tour of Fort Malden, and Special Lunch at Caldwell's Grant. There Will Be Some Walking Involved.

\$50.00 per Person (Please Reserve with Gary Macleod)

Tour Will Be Limited to 36 Participants.

St. Clair College Retirees and Significant Others May Book Immediately. Open to Friends after June 1, 2008.

CONTACT GARY MACLEOD (519-972-7080) OR DAN LONCKE (519-948-2906).

POST RETIREMENT EXTENDED HEALTH COVERAGE

As a result of the lobbying efforts of the Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association (OCRA) and the St. Clair College Retirees' Association, a post retirement health benefits program has been specifically developed for, and made available to, college retirees at the time of retirement. New retirees are presented with the option of enrolling in one (or non) of these plans. They range from Plan 1, which is essentially identical to the plan which covers full time college employees and will require annual premiums of \$4 - \$5000 for complete "family" coverage. Plan 2 has reduced extended health coverage & reduced, but

compulsory, dental coverage. Plan 3 is very basic health coverage at the lowest possible premium. Currently, coverage is provided by Sun Life, as it is for current employees.

The St. Clair College Retirees Association continues to monitor and suggest improvements to the post retirement health benefits program. A brief has been prepared and will be presented, in September in Toronto, to the CAAT Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee (CRGIAC) which recommends improvements to the plans.

CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM & HISTORIC VILLAGE

I have driven down the Arner Town Line hundreds of times, passing the “Heritage Village” without a thought. On June 11, 2008, the Retirees’ Association hosted a tour of the museum and village. Gary MacLeod organized this great day, even arranging for wonderful weather. Almost 30 retirees learned that the facility, now called the “Canadian Transportation Museum & Historic Village”, is made up of a very interesting village and a fascinating vehicle museum. There is also a well-stocked Gift Shop.

The Village is comprised of about a dozen Essex County structures, which have been moved to the site, many of which have been beautifully restored. These include an 1835 Schmidt log Cabin and the more recent Jack Miner Homestead. Among the interesting buildings are the 1854 Tecumseh train station; a 1921 Supertest Gas Station; the 1840 Olinda General Store and the 1885 Elford Methodist Church. The Miner

building was donated, complete with all internal furnishings, by the Miner Family following the passing of Jack Miner. The site includes numerous items and objects of historical interest, although many of the retirees present were able to relate to some of these items on a personal rather than a historical level. The state-of-the-art transportation museum includes a century of vintage vehicles. It also includes a realistic re-creation of a broadcast studio from the “The Big 8” radio station CKLW, AM 800. Art Rae, who had worked at the radio and TV station during the days of Bill Kennedy, Soupy Sales, Bozo the Clown and many others, treated us to some intimate details of the “Big 8”.

Following our tour the group enjoyed lunch in the authentic “50’s Diner”. Many thanks to Gary MacLeod for his efforts in arranging this very interesting day.



HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT LONG-TERM CARE?

On October 15/2008, representatives from the Windsor/Essex Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) and Windsor Regional Hospital will be making a presentation on Long Term Care at the South Campus.

CCAC is the single access point to a range of long-term care and community-based services. The focus of this presentation will be the assistance they provide for those contemplating either self-referral or referral of a loved one to a long-term care facility.

Windsor Regional Hospital provides public, institutional long-term care accommodation. Its participation will provide information regarding its services and its role in providing long-term care accommodation.

Many of us will eventually need the services of a long-term care facility, either for ourselves or for those very dear to us. This is a good opportunity to better understand the system and be much better prepared for the future. Please consider attending this presentation:

When: October 15/2008

Where: Multipurpose Room/South Campus

What time: 1:00 PM

PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

The College contact for all retiree questions on pensions and benefits is

Duncan Almond
Benefits Officer, Human Resources,
St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology,
2000 Talbot Rd., Windsor, On., N9A 6S4
519-972-2727 Ext 4687
dalmond@stclaircollege.ca

Please Note: “Retirees wishing to receive the detailed documentation on coverage for Extended Health Care Plan 1 (EHC Plan 1), Extended Health Care Plan 2 (EHC Plan 2) and Extended Health Care Plan 3 (EHC Plan 3) can contact Duncan Almond.”

Web sites to know:

www.caatpensions.on.ca - For answers on pensions
www.thecouncil.on.ca - For information on the three plans and costs and coverage
www.sunlife.ca/member - For information on your own benefit claims

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

Another busy year has passed and there have been a number of significant actions:

- the process of documenting the collection on the Surpass system is proceeding;
- we have four major segments which represent a comprehensive history of St. Clair College – a complete collection of Yearbooks; all copies of The Journal (the former Journalism Program newspaper); a collection of copies of The Saint (the student newspaper); and a comprehensive collection of Convocation materials (programs, photos, minutes).
- the identification of a vast collection of photographs is ongoing;
- we participated in the 40th Anniversary of the college by contributing the historical material for the ‘advertorials’ printed in the Windsor Star and the Chatham News.

We have identified four projects for the 2008 – 2009 year:

- compilation of a record of Community Service by Retirees;
- compilation of a record of college employees who are St. Clair College graduates;
- collection and re-recording of a large set of video tapes;
- development of a process which will expose retirees and college staff to photos which cannot otherwise be identified.

Hard-working members of the Archive Committee – Hanno Barten, Anita Blair, Lea Garber, Pat Hallahan, Art Rae, Dick St. John and Bill Totten would welcome anyone with an interest in working on these, or any other, projects related to the history and background of St. Clair College.

Submitted by Bill Totten

WINERY TOUR - FALL 2008

This year we have asked the VIEWPOINTE ESTATE WINERY to tell us about their wine making process and to give us a tasting.

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Time: 11:00 AM (prompt at the Harrow winery)

Cost: \$10.00 ea.

Car Pool at 10:00 AM - Tennis Court Parking Lot

Please confirm with: John Charlesworth (519) 966-3168 daturrah@hotmail.com

Detailed directions are available on the web site <http://www.viewpointewinery.com>

BITS AND PIECES DID YOU KNOW?

On June 14, 2008 in Peterborough **Brian and Ellen Desbiens** celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary. They were joined by their three children and many of their friends

Becky Queen, has been very active as a member of the Board of the Windsor- Essex Therapeutic Riding Association. She started as a volunteer, working with clients and horses and is now involved with organization and fundraising. Becky is always looking for volunteers.

Joe Dziver is a professor at the Panama Campus of Florida State University.

Pat McMahon has recently relinquished the Chair of the Windsor Public Library Board and has been replaced on the board by **Jim Stuart**. Pat is currently the Chair of the Windsor Mental Health Association Board.

The current Acting CEO of the Windsor Public Library Board is **Jean Foster**.

Lynne Watts and **Gaston Franklyn** are both members of the Board of Directors of Windsor Regional Hospital. Gaston was appointed in 2003 and Lynne, in 2007.

Anne Bennett, who is currently living in Charing Kent, England, returned to Windsor in early June for a very short, two day, visit. While here, she visited with a few former colleagues.

Following a Summer visit with his family in the Halifax area, **Roger Dube** has decided to move back to the Maritimes where most of his family lives. He will make the move to a son's home in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia in mid-August. We wish roger all the best.

Got news you want to pass on to St. Clair College Retirees? Mail to "Retirees' Association, 2000 Talbot Road, Box #41, Windsor, Ontario, N9A 6S4 or email to: retireesassociation@stclaircollege.ca or leave a message at 519-972-272 x 4439.

ST.CLAIR RETIREES TOUR OF CAESAR WINDSOR CASINO

The St. Clair retirees have been invited to have a tour of new Caesars Windsor Casino facilities on Wednesday, 05 November 2008, from 12:00 to 1300. There is no charge for the tour. Afterwards tour guests could stay for lunch and or partake in some gambling at your leisure.

If you are interested in joining us in this tour,

please contact Gary MacLeod by e-mail at gmacleod102@hotmail.com or phone at 519-972-7080. The actual place to meet will be given to you at that time.

We need to provide the Casino with an expected number of guests by 17 October.

Gary Macleod

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE – A MEASURE OF SUCCESS

At the year-end Staff Appreciation Brunch on June 6, 2008, Dr. Strasser highlighted the many college successes of the 2007 – 2008 academic year. In summary, these successes were described as Academic achievements; Athletic Achievements and Facilities improvements:

Academic Achievements

- Advertising Program won the gold award (for the 5th time in 11 years) at the annual Integrated Marketing and Communications Plan Competition;
- Mechatronics team won the Provincial and National Championships in both 2006-07 and 2007-08. They will compete for the World Championships in September 2009 in Calgary;
- Interior Design won the Gold medal in the Eastern Region Interior Design Educators Council 2008 Student Competition which encompassed students from the Eastern U.S., Quebec and Ontario;
- 5.23% enrolment increase (Provincial average of 4.67%);

Athletic Achievements

- Academic All-Canadians (Varsity Sports) – Luisa Masse (Soccer); Amy Howe (Badminton); Julie Schell (Badminton).
- National Champions in Women's Golf

Facilities Improvements

- First two residence buildings in Chatham (12 four bedroom apartments);
- One successful year for The St. Clair Centre for the Arts;
- A commitment to move forward with the Healthplex in Windsor (with \$1M donation from Andy Faas and financial support from the students);
- A commitment to build a \$7M Healthplex in Chatham (with support from the students).

Dr Strasser also reported that St. Clair College was the only college in the province to score in the top five in the Key Performance Indicators of 'Student Satisfaction', Graduation Rate' and ' Employer Satisfaction'.

Important Notice

The OCRA Website Domain Name has now been changed to:

<http://www.ocraretirees.ca>

Please remember to change your bookmark.

The old Website address will remain functional for a limited time and automatically direct you to this new address.

Please note that E-mail addresses have been modified to reflect the change.

AL HOFFMAN ENTERING THE WINDSOR/ESSEX COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME



Al Hoffman is to be inducted into the Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of Fame in the Fall, 2008, this fall. Al will enter the Hall in very good company, with a former Major League ball player, a former NHLer, and a three-time Grey Cup Champion, among others. Al Hoffman, who was responsible for building St. Clair College's athletic program is being recognized as well for his administrative contributions at the provincial and national levels. Hoffman posted a 175-54 mark as the Saints men's basketball coach, winning three division titles, an OCAA co-championship in 1968 and was named OCAA coach of the year twice. However, it was in administration where he really excelled. In addition to his achievements at St. Clair, Hoffman held a variety of posts at the provincial and national levels, including being the president of both the OCAA and CCAA. "This rounds off my profile in terms of my involvement in sports," the 71-year-old Hoffman said. "It's a nice achievement for just a guy from WD. Lowe."

Submitted by Bill Totten

MECHATRONICS STUDENTS TAKE GOLD MEDAL SECOND YEAR IN A ROW AT CANADA SKILLS COMPETITION

Chatham, ON ~ May 28, 2008: For the second year in a row Jamie Feentsra and Andrew Marcolin have won the Gold Medal in Mechatronics at the Canada Skills Competition held in Calgary May 26 – 27, 2008. This is on the heels of their Provincial Gold Medal win just two weeks ago in Waterloo.

It's the second National Gold medal for the pair as they won the Canada Skills Competition in 2007 as well.

"We are feeling pretty good right now," says Andrew Marcolin, who is graduating from the Mechatronics program in three weeks. "We had a bit of a curve thrown at us on the second day that we weren't quite ready for but the training we did for

this competition with our Faculty Ryan Pepper and Technologist Jordan McGrail really paid off."

The pair competed against four other teams from Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. As a result of this win, Marcolin (Wallaceburg) and Feenstra (Petrolia) have qualified to compete in the World Skills Competition to be held in Calgary in September 2009.

"It was a very intense competition for both Jamie and Andrew," says Jordan McGrail. "They both came to the competition with complementary skills and capabilities and that is what makes them a winning team"

TRAVEL VACATION TO THE EAST COAST WITH THE TOTTEN FAMILY

Driving 5057 km in three weeks was not my idea of a relaxing vacation, but our son and daughter-in-law wanted to expose our two grandsons to the Eastern part of our country so we hooked up our trailers early in July and off we went. After meeting up with our son, who lives in Ottawa, around Cornwall we travelled through the quaint towns and villages of Quebec and then headed South into New Brunswick. Here we encountered the most beautiful and breathtaking scenery of the entire trip. The Appalachians in N.B. present definite challenges for those pulling trailers, but the brand new four lane Trans Canada Highway and the views of the St John valley made it all worthwhile. We stayed for several days on the N.B. shores of the Bay of Fundy where we were able to walk on the ocean floor where 12 hours earlier there had been 20 feet of ocean water. Leaving N.B. we arrived at the Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island. What an amazing feat of engineering! (Did you know that there is no fee to travel ONTO the island? You only pay to leave.) The red sand beaches of P.E.I. are unique as are the acres of potato fields in that red soil.

We left the Island by ferry (where we paid to LEAVE) and moved on to a trailer park near Halifax from which we took day trips to Peggy's Cove (where we were moved at the sight of the Flight 111 memorial), the Halifax Navy Yards, Pier 21 and Citadel Hill. Thanks to a very kind and helpful campground owner we had a lobster roast right at our own site in the trailer park.



Bill and Ida Totten at Peggy's Cove

Leaving Halifax, we went to Moncton where we saw the tidal bore and Magnetic Hill. From here we headed toward Ontario, stopping to see the beautiful Grand Falls in central New Brunswick.

This is just a quick overview of a three week trip, but let me leave you with some overall impressions. The people of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia were very accommodating, friendly and helpful wherever we went. I wish that we could say the same for Quebec, While P.Q. is a beautiful area with its pretty towns and villages, its unique farmlands and, especially its churches, we were amazed at the way tourists are made to feel unwelcome. And it wasn't the language, because our daughter-in-law and our grandsons are all fluently bilingual. It was the poor roads, the inadequate signage (all in French) and the general attitude of those we encountered – people in the tourism business who, in the other provinces, were so helpful but in Quebec who didn't seem to care. Our impression was so unfavourable that we drove 11 ½ hours from Grand Falls, N.B. to Ottawa so that we wouldn't have to stop in P.Q. on the way home.

That being said, we wouldn't have missed this trip and would recommend it highly. While we didn't have time to see all that there was to experience, we saw enough to realize that this is a gorgeous country we live in and it's too bad that every Canadian can't experience this part of it at least once.



Totten family, Paul, Ryan, Kyle, Ida and Bill

RETIREES ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE



The purpose of this new feature in our retiree newsletter is to recognize some of our retirees who make a significant contribution to our community by volunteering their time and expertise to various non-profit organizations. A number of you have responded to our request for self-identification.

It is hoped that this regular feature will motivate others of you to do the same.

Frank J. Sheehan retired from the College in 1991 and immediately became President of the Windsor-Essex Chapter of the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario. This organization provides emotional support and advocacy for families, educates families and the public, raises funds and lobbies the Ontario government for improved services.

In 1999 Frank, along with Tom McCarthy and others started the process of developing a home for those with a persistent serious mental illness (PSMI). This group formed a non-profit corporation called IRIS Residential Inns and Services in order to provide supportive housing for those with PSMI. Located at 1280 Ouellette in

Windsor, (site of the former Bali Hai/Bavarian Inn), IRIS House currently provides housing for 60 residents.

IRIS House operates under the direction of a volunteer Board of Directors with Frank as Chair and Rick Erwin as Treasurer.

Frank has local roots and is a graduate of the former Assumption University with a Bachelor of Science. He eventually earned a Masters in Chemistry from the University of Detroit. Prior to becoming an educator, Frank worked in the laboratory at Hiram Walker for 9 years and the laboratory at Chrysler for 5 years. In 1961 he joined the staff at WOIT and taught chemistry for 4 years. He then became Department Head and subsequently Vice Principal. In 1967 when WOIT evolved into St. Clair College, Frank became Dean of Technology.

Frank has three children: a daughter who is manager of IRIS House, and twin sons, one of whom works in computer science in Oakville, and the other of whom, along with additional relatives, has schizophrenia.

Frank enjoys golf and takes pride in having been a founding member of the St. Clair College staff golf league.

Submitted by Pat Hallahan

RETIREES ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

"This is the second installment in our attempt to recognize St. Clair College retirees who volunteer their time to provide valuable community services. If you are one of the many who do so, please contact us so we may both recognize you and edify our other members.

Jim Stuart has been a member of the Windsor Library Board of Directors since 2007 and is currently its Vice Chair. The Board is responsible for governance, contract negotiations, staffing, service, budgeting, maintenance, outreach, etc. for the Library.

The embattled Board, embroiled in an adversarial relationship with Windsor City Council, has become a kind of second home for former St. Clair College employees. Pat McMahon recently finished her term as Chair of the Board, Maxine Jones has recently joined the Board and Jean Foster is the interim CEO.

Jim is a born and bred Windsorite who, after high

school, worked for 2+ years as a copy boy for the Windsor Star. He then attended Teachers' College after which he taught for 2 years in the Kingsville Public School System. Jim left teaching to pursue a university degree and graduated from the University of Windsor with a BA in History. He subsequently obtained an M. ED from the University of Toronto. While pursuing his BA, he worked in adult education on Erie Street for the Windsor Public Board. In 1969 Jim took a leave of absence from adult education to teach and travel in England for a year. In 1970 he returned to Windsor and his job in adult education, which had been turned over to St. Clair College.

Jim taught immigrant students in Basic Education until 1975. He then worked for a time in Continuing



Jim Stuart continued:

Education. In 1981 Jim taught in Applied Arts until his retirement in 1997.

Jim is very proud of his two daughters. Kate, who obtained a diploma in Mechanical Engineering from the College, is in Toronto. After working with Sarah Richardson of HGTV for four years, she currently provides interior design services on a part time basis.

Kate has three boys, including twins.

Younger daughter Heather is married with a young son and lives in Morgantown, West Virginia. She has a Masters in English and is a sessional instructor at the University of West Virginia.

Submitted by Pat Hallahan

ANNUAL WINTER TRIP JANUARY 2009

Plans for our annual trip to the sunny south in January are now coming together nicely. After examining a number of possibilities - Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Puerto Vallarta and Cozumel, we are back to the Mayan Riviera again. Those who have attended past trips feel that there is still plenty to do in that area which meets our criteria for sun, fun, sand, good food and relatively short flight. The most important criterion was – a fun group! This is not an exclusive group and we encourage anyone who wants a winter break with a great group of people to consider this trip.

After all our searching, we have selected the Sandos Playacar Beach Resort which is not far from the Riu Playacar and the Riu Yucatan where we have stayed in the past.

The tour will be with Northwest World Vacations, a Tour Company which Kathleen Warren at Allison

Travel has dealt with and with whom she has been very satisfied. Travel will be on a scheduled Northwest flight which departs from the new terminal in Detroit. We leave at 10:24 am on January 14 (arrive in Cancun at 1:10 pm) and depart Cancun on January 21 at 2:10 pm (arrive Detroit at 7:05 pm). There is apparently a price guarantee for early booking. This means that eventual (fuel surcharge) increases would not apply.

The cost is still to be determined, but it is anticipated that it will be no greater than \$1450 (US) per person, all inclusive, with a booking deposit of \$200 per person."

Contact any of the following for more information: Anita Blair (ablair4@gmail.com); Bill Totten (wtotten@sympatico.ca); Jay Ertel (jertel@netrover.com).

In Memoriam

Seraphine (Sara) Quigg

Cynthia (Cindy) Bissonette's Mother-in-law

Carol Middaugh's Mother Marian

May they Rest in Peace

RM CLASSIC CARS TOUR

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Chatham, ON

...The New Museum is now open...

RM Classic Cars, based in Blenheim, is the world's largest volume dealer in classic and collector cars. They typically have an inventory of over 100 investment grade vehicles catering to collectors of pre-war classic and important post-war sports cars. **The cars on display change regularly so the 2008 tour will be completely different from previous years.**

Website: www.rmauctions.com

Itinerary

- 8:45 AM Car Pool – Lot T, St. Clair College
9:00 AM Departure for Chatham
10:00 AM RM Classic Cars Tour (approx. 1 ½ h)
- 401 East from Windsor to Chatham
 - Exit at 2nd Chatham Exit (Hwy. 40)
 - Turn right (south) towards Blenheim
 - Travel several hundred metres to Classic Car Drive
 - Turn left at RM Classic Cars entrance
- 12:00 PM Lunch with Thames Retirees Group
Chatham Breakfast House and Grill, 525 Grand Ave. E. Chatham
1:30 PM Return to Windsor

Cost: \$4.25 ea. for tour plus lunch at own expense

We need to know the number to make lunch and tour reservations. Please confirm with:

John Charlesworth tel. (519) 966-3168 e-mail: daturrah@hotmail.com or

Eunice Robinson tel. (519) 351-3670 e-mail: robsan@mnsi.net

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAX SAVING INCENTIVE

The 2008 federal budget proposed a new savings vehicle, a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA), which would allow Ontarians to earn tax-free investment income.

Beginning in 2009, Ontarians would be able to contribute up to \$5,000 annually to a TFSA. Contributions would not be tax deductible but capital gains and investment income earned within the TFSA and withdrawals from the TFSA would be tax-free. Withdrawals and unused room would be

carried over for future contributions. A TFSA would be able to hold the same qualified investments as a Registered Retirement Savings Plan, such as bonds, stocks, mutual funds and Guaranteed Investment Certificates.

This new savings incentive would automatically be adopted for Ontario personal income tax purposes when the federal legislation receives Royal Assent.

Submitted by John Charlesworth

THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

**The next time you are washing your hands and complain the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.
Here are some facts about the 1500's!**

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house also had the privilege of the nice clean water, then the women and finally the children-last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose some one in it. Hence the saying "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fell off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs." There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house, that posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle and always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas, porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat."

"They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat,"

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes so to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous. Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf. The family got the middle, and guests got the top! Of "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake,"

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch mark on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Some one would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell: thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was! Considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth....

Now, whoever said that History was boring!

Submitted by John Zangari

COMING EVENTS

1. Retirees' Bridge Club -
Dates - September 9 & 23 , October 7 & 28, November 11 & 25, December 9
Contact Dan & Mary Loncke (519-948-2906)
2. War of 1812: Detroit River Bus Tour
Date - Thursday, September 25
Contact - Gary MacLeod (519-972-7080) or Dan Loncke (519-948-2906)
Cost - \$50
3. Trivial Tuesday
Date - Tuesday, November 18
Place - Multi-Purpose Room, St. Clair College
Contact - Dan & Mary Loncke (519-948-2906)
4. Annual Fall Social - Pizza & Beverage Party
Date - Wednesday, August 20
Place - St. Clair Student Centre (next to bookstore and Tim Hortons)
Time - 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Cost - \$2 each (plus cash bar for beer, wine, mixed drinks)
5. Thames/Windsor Luncheon - Lighthouse Inn
Date - September 24
6. CCAC Educational Workshop for Long Term Care
Date - October 15
7. Winery Tour - (Viewpoint Estates Winery)
Date - Wednesday, October 3
Time - 11 am (at the Harrow winery to start the tour) - Car pool leaving College Parking Lot
Call John Charlesworth - (519-966-3168)
Cost \$10 per person
8. RM Classic Cars Tour
Date - Wednesday, October 22
Contact John Charlesworth (519-966-3168) or Eunice Robinson (519-351-3670)
9. Tour of Caesar Windsor Casino
Date - Wednesday, November 5 from 12:00 to 13:00
Contact Gary MacLeod 519-972-7080
10. Annual Windsor Christmas Luncheon Party - To Be Announced
11. Annual Thames Christmas Luncheon Party - Countryview Golf Club (Dec. 10)
12. Winter Trip January 14 -to 21, 2009 - Mayan Riviera