



**ST. CLAIR  
COLLEGE  
RETIRES'  
ASSOCIATION**

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER - 2009

DEL ZANGARI - EDITOR

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Mail  
972-2727 Ext 4439

### Retirees' Website

www.stclaircollege.ca/people/retirees



Our 2008 Fall and Christmas Social Programs were very successful again this

year. Large groups of retirees attended the Thames and Windsor Christmas Parties. We thank John Charlesworth, Gayle Harrick, Elizabeth Barr, Eunice Robinson and the Executive for organizing these events. Dr. Strasser and Lynn McGeachy-Schultz, Director of College Advancement for Thames Campus joined us for the parties. This was our second Christmas Party at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts. SCCRA plans to support the performances and program activities at the Centre. We were very pleased with the meal and the ambience created this year at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts. A group of 25 retirees attended the Student Christmas Performance. The Music Theatre Performance and Entertainment Technology Students were excellent. This was a top level performance that could compete with many Professional Theatre Venues.

We appreciated Dr. Strasser including the retirees

for the St. Clair College Christmas Brunch. 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 retirees at the President's Staff Appreciation Brunches and truly demonstrating a sincere interest in keeping the retirees as part of the College Family.

As of this date we have 176 paid members. We are behind this year in collecting fees after having missed a number of dues paying members at the Christmas Party. The membership fees drive is still underway and we encourage all retirees to continue forwarding their membership fees to Anita Blair.

Spring is now in the air as members return from their warm winter vacations. A big thank you again to Bill Totten for orchestrating our Mayan Riviera trip to Playa Del Carmen. We had a terrific time as always. In reviewing the **Upcoming Events** retirees are reminded to purchase their Drayton Theatre tickets right away. We expect this event to sellout.

- Bridge Club (April 07, 21)
- Student Spring Performance - Carousel (Apr. 23)
- Drayton / St. Jacobs Theatre Trip – Country Legends (May 07)
- AGM (May 06)
- Retirement Planning Workshop – (TBA)
- Thames Luncheons (Mar. 25, April 29, May 27)
- Historic Aircraft Tour (June 11)

**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 Benefit options and addressing questions on our Pension Plan, support of the Retiree Tutorial Service and continue the Archive Project.

We were pleased to have Anita Blair and Jim Martin elected as Directors to the OCRA Board who have now attended their first meeting. Progress was made

in making the Council aware of our concerns with the escalating costs of our Health Benefits.

The HealthPlex Campaign is now well underway. The Executive advised Dr. Strasser of our support by unanimously passing two motions at an emergency meeting in the fall:

1. That the Executive Support the College's HealthPlex Fundraising Campaign and that the support be recommended to the SCCRA general membership.
2. That the SCCRA Executive agrees to support the HealthPlex Fundraising projection/goal of \$30,000 (\$3,000 for 10 years)

Be part of the Retirees' Campaign by pledging your

support to the College's HealthPlex Campaign. Members interested in helping with fundraising through their contacts with small business in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent are asked to contact Jay Ertel, Coordinator for Retiree Fundraising. The SCCRA HealthPlex Fundraising projection/goal of \$30,000 could be met for example through member donations (eg. 300 retirees @ \$10/year for 10 years) or a combination of fundraising and donations.

In closing, we look forward to having you join us at our Winter and Spring Activities.

**We wish you all the best in your retirement and for 2009.**

Jay Ertel, President

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.caatpensions.on.ca) - For answers on pensions

[www.thecouncil.on.ca](http://www.thecouncil.on.ca) - For information on the three plans and costs and coverage

[www.sunlife.ca/member](http://www.sunlife.ca/member) - For information on your own benefit claims

## INCOME TAX REMINDER

Diane Easterby reminds us that premiums paid for your Health Benefits and Dental Benefits Plans may be claimed as medical expenses on your income taxes. You may receive a statement of premiums paid by contacting the college Finance Department's Shelley Armstrong at:

519-972-2727 ext 4286 or [sarmstrong@stclaircollege.ca](mailto:sarmstrong@stclaircollege.ca)



**ST. CLAIR  
COLLEGE  
RETIREES'  
ASSOCIATION**

## **MEMBERSHIP FEE**

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2009**

It is membership renewal time again for the St. Clair College Retirees' Association. The dues remain at \$10 and once again our president, Dr. Strasser has agreed to match the funds collected.

As a convenience to our members who are not already life time members, we will continue to collect the \$10 fee for the Ontario College Retirees Association (OCRA) and send it on to them.

Please make cheque payable to the St. Clair College Retirees' Association and forward to:

**St. Clair College Retirees' Association - c/o Ms. Anita Blair  
1762 Malden Road, R.R. #1 ESSEX, ON N8M 2X5**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial. Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Province Postal Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty ☐ Windsor/Essex ☐  
Support Staff ☐ Chatham/Kent ☐ Administration ☐

**FEE ENCLOSED FOR 2009 SCC \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OCRA \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Note: members of St. Clair Retirees' Association receive FREE parking.**

### **TO WILL OR NOT TO WILL!**

**Question:** My son and his wife don't have a will. They have a mortgage on their home and two daughters in university, and they feel that in the event of their deaths their estate would automatically go to their daughters. We've tried to convince them to have a will drawn up, but they don't think it is necessary.

**Answer:** Your son and his wife are flirting with grief by not drafting a will. In its absence, control of

all their worldly assets will revert to the government's trustees while the courts try to ascertain what belongs to whom. All those assets, be they real estate, bank accounts, credit cards, or investments, will be frozen, and only after what may be prolonged and costly legal proceedings will their daughters have access to what is rightfully their own property.

*Provided by Good Times Magazine, March 2008*

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*White shelled eggs are produced by hens with white feathers and ear lobes.  
Brown shelled eggs are produced by hens with red feathers and red ear lobes.*

## SPRING BUS TRIP – DRAYTON / ST JACOBS

We have traditionally organized a Spring bus tour to one of the plays at the Stratford Festival. The last few trips to Stratford have not been fully filled and we felt that maybe it was time for a change. We will combine a theatre experience with some unique shopping.

**Date: Thursday, May 7, 2009**

**Drayton Theatre: Country Legends**

**Shopping: St. Jacobs Flea Market**

**Dinner: Crossroads**

**Cost: \$115**

(opposite the Residence) at 7:30 am, with a pickup at Chatham. There will be a highway stop on the way. We will arrive at the St. Jacobs Flea Market in plenty of time for shopping and lunch on our own. The bus then takes us to Drayton for the Country Legends show. Those who have seen these shows have been very impressed and we look forward to the music of Johnny Cash, Hank Williams and other country stars. Dinner will be at Crossroads, a Mennonite restaurant which comes VERY highly recommended. It is expected that the bus will arrive back at the college parking lot around 9:00 pm.

The bus will leave the college north parking lot

*Submitted by Bill Totten*

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## TRIVIAL TUESDAY REPORT

**Where would you find the London Bridge?  
What insect is destroying Ash trees in Essex County?  
Who named the Pacific Ocean the “Peaceful Sea”?**

Once again seven teams competed at November’s Trivial Tuesday Event. The winning team consisted of Helen Trotter, Mansell Blair and Terry Lawrence. Coming in a close second was the team of John Payne, Ruth Hicks, Keith Brown and Helen Campagna. For third place Phil Eyraud, Pat Hallahan and Julie Lawrence just edged out Jim Martin, Bill Totten and Denise Brown. Tasty snacks brought by all participants were in abundance at half-time.

Reminder: Our most eastern province is now known as Newfoundland and Labrador and Tonto was played by actor, Jay Silverheels.

Our next **Trivial Tuesday is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>**, 1:30 PM, in the Multi-Purpose Room at the college. All are welcome to enjoy some fun and food with fellow retirees and friends. Please reserve your place with Dan & Mary Loncke at 519-948-2906 or by email ([danloncke@yahoo.ca](mailto:danloncke@yahoo.ca)).

## AVOID THE RUSH SIGN UP NOW!

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### *PUNS FOR FUN*

*A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse.*

*“But why?” they asked, as they moved off.*

*“Because”, he said, “I can’t stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer.”*



## WINDSOR CHRISTMAS PARTY 2008

Although the numbers were down slightly, the 2008 Windsor Christmas Party was a resounding success. With attendance at over 100, the Detroit skyline never looked so good.

Credit must be given to members of the Association Executive who met with staff at the St. Clair Centre For The Arts to ensure that improvements were made to last year's initial experience.

As a result of some very cordial exchanges, it was agreed to serve the food family style as opposed to individual plates. This ensured service was faster and that the food was warmer and more plentiful. The staff was true to its commitment re the agreed upon menu and to the additional staff for bar service.

As a result of these changes, the Executive received many favourable and enthusiastic comments about this year's party. Also, with the help of Don Tellier, all tables looked more festive with poinsettias.

The Retirees' Association is pleased to continue to support the College by holding its annual Windsor Christmas Party at a College facility.

Although it takes many to organize such an event, special thanks must be given to John Payne for his inspirational moment of reflection and to Jay Ertel and Gayle Harrick for pulling together this year's event.

*Submitted by Pat Hallahan*



*Windsor Christmas Party Pictures Continued:*





## H. J. HEINZ COMPANY OF CANADA LTD. INVITATION

St. Clair College Employees and Retirees:

**The H.J Heinz Company of Canada Ltd is pleased to open their “Company Store” to you on the following days:**

§ February 2, 3, 4, 7  
§ February 9, 10, 11, 14  
§ February 16, 17, 18, 21  
§ February 23, 24, 25, 28, 2009

§ July 13, 14, 15, 18  
§ August 4, 5, 8 (Store closed Mon., Aug. 3 – Holiday)  
§ August 10, 11, 12, 15  
§ August 17, 18, 19, 22, 2009

Your organization will be entitled to purchase a variety of products at a discounted price. The “Company Store” is located at **85 Wilkinson Drive in Leamington (AMCO Storage Building)**. *Please note that inventory levels at the Company Store fluctuate and some products may not be available during your scheduled shopping days.*

The store hours are: **9:00 am – 4:45 pm (Monday thru Wednesday)**  
**8:00 am – 11:45 am (Saturdays)**

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 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 is by debit card only**

**Proof of employment or retirement must be provided in the form of an I.D. Card or pay slip, or a list of employees’ names provided in advance (fax 322-4103 or e-mail).**

If you require any further information please don’t hesitate to call Barb Wiper at (519) 322-4056 or the Company Store at (519) 326-5701 Ext 4361.

Sincerely,  
Barb Wiper  
Executive Assistant  
[barb.wiper@ca.hjheinz.com](mailto:barb.wiper@ca.hjheinz.com)

# HEINZ COMPANY STORE

## 85 Wilkinson Drive, Leamington

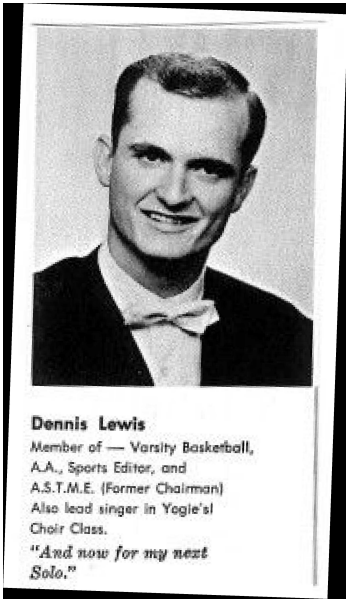
### RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **This Store Is Not Open to the Public**
- **No Smoking or Drinking in Facility**
- **No Children under 12 Years of Age Allowed in Facility**
- **Quantities Sold to Individual Customers May Be Limited**
- **Not All Products Made Are Available for Sale**
- **Be Aware of Expiry Dates**
- **Products Cannot Be Resold - for Personal Use Only**
- **Products Cannot Be Used in Public Establishments - for Personal Use Only**
- **Payment Is by Debit Card Only**





## COLLEGE GRAD MAKES GOOD



**Dennis Lewis**

Member of — Varsity Basketball,  
A.A., Sports Editor, and  
A.S.T.M.E. (Former Chairman)  
Also lead singer in Yegle's  
Choir Class.  
*"And now for my next  
Solo."*

This is the second installment in a new feature in our newsletter. Its purpose is to identify College grads who went on to work at the College. The first graduate we could find was Rollie Deschamps, featured in the last newsletter. This edition will focus on the College's second graduate cum employee: Dennis Lewis.

Dennis is a born and bred Windsorite who graduated from W.D.

Lowe and then completed grade 13 at Kennedy. After high school, he worked at various jobs, including the railroad, before joining the Canadian Air Force. Dennis always wanted to become a pilot.

After 6 months of training, Dennis was informed that he was tone deaf at high frequencies. He was directed to switch to the army for sub-sonic flying. Before too long, he realized he was not politically connected enough to either become a pilot or even get into the Royal Military College. After 3 years in the Army, he left and entered the 3 year Mechanical Engineering Program at WOIT.

After graduation Dennis got a job in Sarnia at Catalytic Construction designing pressure vessels for the petrochemical industry. Subsequently, he managed a project for an Edmonton company and had 15 engineers reporting to him. When he requested a raise given his new responsibilities, he was told to get a degree. Dennis then pursued an opportunity in Windsor at L-K Metal as an HVAC designer while also pursuing a degree at Wayne State University.

Upon graduating from Wayne State, Dennis worked in commercial sales for Union Gas as a consulting sales engineer. Among other things, he worked in the greenhouse industry in Leamington helping them make the transition from oil to gas. He also worked

in a similar capacity with Chrysler and General Motors.

He was then hired by Chrysler as a Retail Facilities Engineer in the identification of the mechanical requirements for new car and truck dealerships in Alberta and British Columbia. This work obviously required significant travel, so that, when he ran into former teacher Peter Jaffray in a downtown coffee shop, he was very open to the offer to teach physics part time at the College for the '69-'70 school year.

Dennis subsequently taught physics for two years and math for three years before settling into the Mechanical Engineering Department for the balance of his career, including time as coordinator of the Mechanical, Product Design and Cad departments. He also spent two years in the Professional Development Department as a teacher trainer.

Dennis was also heavily involved with the international community through CIDA: he trained Thai teachers in cad/cam; upgraded facilities and training in Jamaica to help move the workforce away from exclusive reliance on the sugar cane industry; and developed a two year mechanical maintenance program in Barbados.

In addition to some part time international recruiting, Dennis most significant international experience was a two year stint in Singapore where he developed a cad/cam centre. This work included the selection, purchase and installation of equipment, along with teaching and training teachers in the use of software.

Despite a very full career at the College, Dennis found time to obtain a Master of Education degree from Wayne State and to marry spouse Lynne Watts. Both Lynne and Dennis work together with the International Film Festival and Habitat For Humanity.

Dennis also enjoys his many interests which include singing with the Windsor Symphony, golf, skiing and travel. His fondest memories of the College are its people and working with them as pioneers in the development of new programs.

*Submitted by Pat Hallahan*

## THAMES CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Thames Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at the Countryview Golf Club in Chatham. 40 people attended and enjoyed an excellent buffet dinner. Eunice Robinson and Elizabeth Barr were thanked for arranging the door prizes and organizing another successful Christmas Party. People enjoyed their social time especially with presentations being made by Santas Eunice and Jim Robinson. The luncheon moved to noon for the first time. The noon format was well received by all and will continue next year.

Lynn McGeachy-Schultz the Director, College Advancement for Thames Campus gave an update on the Campus plans for programs and facilities. She highlighted the Alumni Reunions for Mechatronics and Nursing, the occupancy of the Student Residence at 46 of 48 rooms, the fast tracking of program plans for Office Administration, Welding and DSW, the new Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Assistant Program planned for 2010 and the progress of the HealthPlex Fundraising Campaign.

*Submitted by Jay Ertel*





*Thames Christmas Party Pictures Continued:*



## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SERVICE



In an effort to continue featuring retirees who dedicate themselves to serving our communities, this newsletter will recognize retired nursing professor Luella Surgent.

“Lou” is very active in a variety of service capacities, most notably with her church and with the health community. A resident of Essex, Lou is

involved with Holy Name Of Jesus and St. Mary Churches as a sacristan, reader, money counter, and Eucharistic minister; she also sings with two different church funeral choirs. She has also done lots of committee work over the years and is currently on a special committee attempting to set up 24 hour adoration prayers. If successful, prayers will be in place 24/7 somewhere in the Diocese of London.

In addition to church work, Lou continues to be active with nursing education. Working with both the College and University, Lou volunteers as an actress, portraying herself as a patient who is subsequently assessed by the student nurses. This work involves extensive preparation as numerous scripts must be both memorized and acted.

Lou also volunteers with the Hospice of Windsor. For home patients registered with Hospice, Lou does both home visits as well as telephone calling. This can involve 5-10 contacts weekly. And if this isn't enough, Lou also does volunteer work in nursing homes. This involves both patient visitations and

helping set up mass for the church goers.

Luella was not born and bred in Essex County. She grew up in Stratford, and, at age 12 moved to the Niagara-on-the-Lake area. She received her nursing education in Hamilton, obtained a diploma in education from Western and finally her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Windsor. Upon completion of her degree, she taught at Hotel Dieu for 12 years. When nursing education was being moved from the hospitals to the colleges, Lou had to make a career decision. Although a number of other offers were on the table, she opted to work with Dolly Goldenberg at St. Clair to pioneer nursing education at the College. This occurred in 1972 and Lou remained at the College until she retired.

Lou's husband passed away 5 years ago. He had been working in real estate. Lou also has an entrepreneurial daughter currently working in marketing in the wine industry, and has a granddaughter studying journalism at the College.

Other than work and family, if Lou has another passion, it is travel. She has travelled extensively in Europe and the Mideast. Some of the most memorable trips included Turkey, Greece, Egypt and Israel.

Lou loved everything about working in the nursing program at the College, but has especially fond memories about bringing students on agency visitations and to Detroit hospitals, teaching biology both during the day and at night, doing extensive liaison work with the hospitals, and even driving to a conference once with Dr. Q.

Luella Surgent is clearly a giving and caring retiree and worthy of our recognition and admiration.

Submitted by Pat Hallahan

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### AN AD AS IT APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER!

*FOR SALE: Eight puppies from a German Shepherd and an Alaskan Husky.*



**KEITH STUDMAN**  
**June 29, 1929 - December 12, 2008**



On December 12, 2008, the St. Clair College community lost one of its 'builders', when Keith Studman lost his lengthy battle with cancer. Keith was one of the college 'originals'. He started at the Western Ontario Institute of Technology as the Bursar, where he managed the Institute's finances and administrative processes. He continued in that

role as St. Clair College came into being and he was responsible, as the Purchasing Director, for the monumental task of supplying and equipping the new, rapidly growing, college. He took on a number of roles as the college grew, retiring as the Director of Budgeting.

Keith had a unique sense of humour and his happy outlook was responsible for lifting the spirits of many college employees on a regular basis. His writing skills were legend and his insightful, humorous and sometimes cynical view of the world around him brought joy to all who read them.

*Submitted by Bill Totten*

*In Memoriam*

*Henry Burgess*

*Mary Evangeline Krakana*  
*Wife of Mike Krakana*

*Sherie Ecker of Chatham*

*Eileen Mearns*  
*Mother of Patricia & Frank Harnadek*

*Keith Studman*

*May They Rest In Peace!*



## MEXICAN ADVENTURE – JANUARY 2009

This year's 'Sun and Surf' trip was to the Sandos Playacar Beach Resort and Spa on the Mayan Riviera, located in the same general area as the hotels we visited in the last two years. We picked the perfect week – cold and heavy snow in Windsor while we were away. The Sandos Playacar is an elegant hotel, the largest of any we have visited, but the size in no way detracted from the service, the food and the many amenities. Our daily routine consisted of more breakfast than any of us needed; a morning of lounging, swimming; sunbathing and reading; then, more lunch than any of us needed; followed by more lounging, swimming; sunbathing and reading. Later, we all gathered for a daily 'Happy Hour' before a dinner – which was more food than any of us needed. Various shopping trips, long walks and excursions were fitted in as well.

The first full day did not portend well for the weather – cool and heavy rain. However, the weather broke and for the rest of the week we enjoyed bright, sunny weather with temps in the mid-eighties. Anyone attending this hotel should be aware that it is rated as a "family" hotel, meaning that there were a large number of families with young children. Except for a few meals however, this did not create a problem.

One very interesting feature of this year's trip was the presence of a family (three adult and one baby) of monkeys. The first sighting was on our second day, when even the staff of the hotel were intrigued as the monkeys, with the baby hanging below its mother's belly, clambered about the hotel roof within easy

viewing range of the guests. While we were in Mexico we were unable to determine the species, but they were considerably larger than the well-known Spider Monkeys regularly seen in the Mayan area. Upon our return home they were identified as the Yucatan (Guatemalan) Black Howler Monkey by our resident expert, Dan Loncke.

The only 'downer' of the trip was the flight to Mexico from Detroit on Northwest Airlines. We were delayed for almost two hours in Detroit while a mechanical problem with a door was corrected and while a baggage mix-up was rectified. Once in the air we learned that there was not enough food to meet the demand. Then, there was an insufficient supply of an essential customs declaration form which caused a lengthy delay once we landed in Cancun. These problems were all soon forgotten when we emerged into the warmth of Mexico after leaving the extreme cold of the Windsor winter.

On the last night it was Mexican Night at dinner and the Sandos staff added to the fun with some highjinks and a round of traditional "tequila cheers" with the group: "Arriba ... Abajo ... Centro ... Salud"!

One of the most rewarding aspects of a trip like this is the camaraderie amongst the group. We weren't even home yet and we were already talking about what we should do next winter. We not only have room for more, if you are interested, we would welcome suggestions for alternate adventures.

Submitted by Bill Totten

**January 2009**

**St. Clair College  
Retiree Group  
Mexican Vacation**







**More Ocean Front Fun!**



**Ocean Front Fun!**



**Santos Playacara Meeting Lobby**



**Some More Monkeying Around!**



**Going Home!**



**Cancun Airport Eatery**

## COMING EVENTS

1. Bridge Club  
Date: March 10, 24, April 7, 21  
Multi-purpose Room at 1 pm
2. Trivial Tuesday  
Multi Purpose Room  
March 31 at 1:30 pm
3. Student Spring Performance  
Production - Carousel  
Place St Clair Theatre for the Arts  
Thursday, April 23
4. Drayton/St. Jacobs Theatre Trip - (Call Kathleen at Allison Travel for reservations)  
Country Legends  
Date: May 7  
Allison Travel - 519-258-5404
5. Annual General Meeting  
Date: May 6 at 3:00 pm  
Location to be announced.
6. Retirement Planning Workshop (TBA)
7. Thames Luncheons  
February 25 - Breakfast House Grill 11.30  
March 25 - William Street Café 11.30 am  
April 29 - Thames Grillhouse Restaurant 11:30 am
8. Alternative Energy Presentation  
Elizabeth Barr - 519-354-3274  
11:30 am at Deer Run Golf Course  
Wednesday, May 27
9. Historic Aircraft Tour - Call Gary McLeod - 519-972-7080  
Date: Thursday, June 11