ST. CLAIR COLLEGE
RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Autumn 2026

Published on November 18, 2026

From the President

Ross Langill



This time around, we have a shorter time than usual between editions of the newsletter, so this report will be shorter.

One change that has recently occurred is that the Executive of the Retiree Association no longer requires a Board of Governor Observer. In September, the College Board of Governors informed several groups, including the SCCRA, that their observers at Board of Governor's meetings are no longer needed. However, the Board will hear presentations from each group once a year.

We are still hopeful to fill the position of Vice-President of our Association, which has been vacant since May of this year. If you are interested in this position, please contact me at presidentvice53@gmail.com Thank you for your consideration of this request.

The College will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2027. Keep an eye out for articles in our newsletter and/or emails regarding any events planned to mark the anniversary. There was discussion about listing the top 60 milestones pertaining to the College from the last 60 years, so you may want to turn your mind to which milestones you recall. I have already been forewarned that neither my hiring at the College and then my retirement 36 years later will be worthy of a ranking in the Top 60 milestones list….lol. An article may appear elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the anniversary and related events.

Since the start of September, we have had several social gatherings, with more to come. We started by having 50 people in attendance at our gathering at Kingscoast Winery in Kingsville. Many of us were there for the first time and were impressed by the venue and the food service. I imagine that there will be more visits by our association to Kingscoast Winery in the future.

October saw us attending two events. The first was a tour in Buxton, followed by dinner in Merlin. Many left the tour feeling they had learned a lot that they had not known previously. There was a good mix of folks from the Chatham and Windsor areas totaling 25. I was personally disappointed, as I had never been to Buxton and I was unable to attend this event.

Between the deadline for submission and the publication date of this newsletter, we had two lunch events. The first was lunch at Suite 46 inside the Retro Suites Hotel in downtown Chatham on October 28. Lunch was followed by a tour of the hotel. On November 18, the Out-To-Lunch-Bunch met for lunch at Cramdon's restaurant in Windsor. Therefore, my "expert" review skills will not be put to the test until our next edition.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our two Christmas gatherings. December 2 is the date for the Chatham Christmas luncheon at the Links of Kent Golf Course in Chatham. On December 12 we will host the Windsor Christmas luncheon at the St. Clair College Centre of the Arts in Windsor.

Wishing you and yours the best for the upcoming season. ⁂

Ross



The Executive Board of the St. Clair College Retirees' Association extend their best wishes for a Joyous, Peaceful, Healthy, and Safe Christmas Season to all College retirees and to the entire St. Clair College community.







From left - Mary Beth Rush, Lyn Medler, Dolph Barsanti, Tony Ellul, Bill Totten, Tom Williams, Marilyn Portt, Rob Barsotta, Silva Stamboulian, Ross Langill (& friend), Sue McLelland.

We cordially invite you and one guest to attend the Annual Chatham Retirees Christmas Party

Date: ***Wednesday, December 2, 2026***

Location: ***Links of Kent Golf Club***
120 Indian Creek Rd. West, Chatham
River Deck Room – Enter directly from the parking lot at the east side of the building.

Time: ***Doors and cash bar open 11:30 a.m.***
Plated lunch served 12:30 p.m.

Cost: ***$30.00 taxes and gratuities included***
Cash or debit accepted at the door

Served to your table
Garden salad, roast turkey with gravy and cranberry sausage stuffing, garlic mashed, vegetables, and dessert
Coffee or tea

DRAW!

New this year. One member will win a full refund of the $30 dinner price plus the annual $10 membership fee. Total prize $40.
Must be present to win and have paid 2027 dues.
(Marilyn Portt will be available to collect dues payments and hand out membership cards)

Reservations and dietary requests required on or before November 26.
Call or text Mary Beth at 519-359-9452 or
Email - rush@cogeco.ca

Nonperishable items to support the Chatham student food bank are sincerely appreciated, with thanks.

To those that attend regularly, thank you for your continued support of this event. This year, why not bring along a new retiree or someone who has not joined us in the past? Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

You and one guest are cordially invited to attend the Retirees' Annual Windsor Christmas Luncheon and Show (The Christmas Cat Lady)

***Date**: Saturday, December 12th, 2026*
***Time**: 11:00 am – Meet and Greet in Dieppe Room (Ground Floor)*
12:00 pm – Lunch is served
2:00 pm – Student Christmas Show begins in the Chrysler Theatre

***Location**: St. Clair Centre for the Arts, 201 Riverside Dr. W., Windsor, Ont.*
***Tickets:** We are pleased to offer this event once again this year for $40.00 Per person. This includes the Luncheon & Show Ticket*
**Note – the Show tickets are normally $30 each, however the College is providing them as a complimentary gift to our retirees.*
Also, your Retirees Association is subsidizing this dinner to keep your costs down.

Family Style Luncheon includes Penne Rigate with Tomato Basil Sauce, House Salad, Traditional Turkey (white and dark meat) with gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Maple Glazed Carrot Coins, dessert, as well as soft drinks
** Please advise when confirming your reservation if you have special dietary needs – We will accommodate.*

Reservations must be made by Monday, November 30th 4 pm
Tickets must be paid in advance (no walk-ins). This is a ticketless event.

To Reserve please contact
Sue McLelland – 519-564-2442 or suemclelland1@outlook.com
E-Transfers are accepted at sccramembership@gmail.com.
"Retirement" is the answer to your question.
Or mail a cheque payable to St. Clair College Retirees' Association and send to Sue McLelland, 109-819 Westminster Blvd., Windsor, Ontario N8S 2B9

We will be collecting hats and gloves for both children and adults this year. A bin will be available. There will also be an opportunity to provide a cash donation to the Student Food Bank.
There will be a 50/50 draw as well as door prizes. One of the prizes will be the cost of your 2027 Retirees Association Membership as well as reimbursement for your Christmas party ticket.
To qualify you must pay your 2027 membership fee up front.

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Lest We Forget

In Flanders Fields



In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lt. Col. John McCrae M.D. Canadian Army Medical Corps



Attention All Retirees

If you believe that you are not receiving e-mails from the Retirees' Association, please send an e-mail with your name and phone number to sccretirees2025@gmail.com.
But first, check the contents of your Junk/Spam folder(s).

Trivia Quiz by Lyn Medler

Questions:

1. How many times did Captain Kirk say "*Beam me up Scotty*" during the Star Trek seasons?
2. Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of what?
3. Name the Olympic event held between 1912 and 1948 that is no longer in the Games.
4. How did Minnie Mouse and Mickey Mouse play Cupid?
5. What is the maple syrup capital of the world.

Answers on page 6

Celebrating 60 Years of St. Clair College and the founding legacy of WOIT

As St. Clair College celebrates its 60th anniversary, we're taking time to reflect on six decades of learning, innovation, community impact, and the many people who have helped shape the College into what it is today. From its beginnings as the Western Ontario Institute of Technology (WOIT) to the vibrant institution we know today, St. Clair's story is one of growth, educational transformation, and lasting connections.

The celebrations will continue throughout the coming year, with a series of special events and activities honouring both the college's 60th anniversary and the legacy of WOIT. From our annual Alumni of Distinction ceremony to the Saints Nation Golf Tournament, we'll be putting a 60th-anniversary spin on our celebrations as we recognize the people, traditions, and milestones that make St. Clair College so special.

We'll also be planning special anniversary events closer to the end of 2026 to mark this significant moment in our shared history while marking St. Clair College's diamond anniversary.

We'd love to hear your stories! Our alumni and retirees have played an important role in shaping St. Clair's history, and we invite you to start sharing your favourite memories, memorable moments, photos, and stories from your time at the College. Whether your memories take you back to the WOIT days, the early years of St. Clair College, or more recent times, we want to hear from you. We hope to share these stories on our website and social media throughout the anniversary year.

As we look back on 60 years of achievements and look ahead to the future, we know that our College's greatest legacy is its people. Thank you for being part of our story. We look forward to celebrating this diamond milestone with you.

Have a memory to share? We encourage you to send us your stories and photos to help us bring St. Clair College's history to life for a new generation. We will have an interactive website and social media page where you can add memories and post pictures and other media – more to come on that.

Let's collaborate to celebrate 60 years of memories, milestones, and you – the people who helped make them possible.

Fabulous Fall Social at Kingscoast Estate Winery

The heavy dark grey rain-saturated clouds that hung weightily over Essex County on Wednesday, September 9 did not deter 50 of our members to gather for our annual Fall Social at the recently inaugurated Kingscoast Estate Winery on the north shore of Lake Erie in Kingsville, a beautiful and elegant new venue for our group.

In past years, we usually held our annual fall social outdoors in the shade of trees, umbrellas, and tents. It was our good fortune that this year we held our fall social indoors. The rain-laden clouds seemed to have waited until we were all safely indoors warmly greeting and chatting with each other, before they released their burden of rain.



The rain did not dampen our spirits as we sat down to enjoy great food and top-notch service. Everyone really enjoyed getting together at the winery, and we certainly look forward to returning there in the future. As if by magic, the rain stopped shortly after the social ended, allowing all of us to return to our homes in safer driving condition. ⁂

Contributed by ***Sue McLelland*** and ***Tony Ellul***
Photo: Tony Ellul

Please Note ...

You'll find the main College home page at https://stclaircollege.ca/

The Retiree pages are found by clicking on "About Us" or you can click on the following link https://stclaircollege.ca/retirees. You can then save it in your bookmark folder.

Down the right side of the Retiree page, you'll find a plethora of menu items from which to choose. Enjoy!

2027 Membership Renewal Reminder

Hello everyone, it is the time of the year for renewing your St. Clair College Retirees' Association Membership.

Your association has plans in the works for more activities and events such as socials, luncheons, Christmas parties, winery tours, educational seminars, and other events in the coming year. Refer to the Coming Events item on the last page of this newsletter for a preview **of some of the events.**

Along with this newsletter, we are sending a copy of the Membership Renewal form for 2027. We look forward to seeing many of you at various events and activities.

Please pay by cheque payable to SCCRA or by **e-transfer** at sccramemberhip@gmail.com using security answer ***Retirement***.

Marilyn Portt
Membership Secretary

Retiree Parking Update

The College has a new parking system, and it has been determined that it is beneficial to have the Retiree Parking permits run on the same cycle as that for active staff members. Therefore, our current permits will not expire until June 30, 2027. The timeframe for Retiree Permits after that date will run from July 1st to June 30th annually.

Answers to Trivia Quiz

1. Zero. He never actually said that exact phrase.
2. Ironically, it is the fear of big words. The 36-letter word was first used in the first century BCE to criticize writers with an unreasonable penchant for long words.
3. Competitive art used to be an Olympic sport. The international sporting event awarded medals for music, painting, sculpture, and architecture.
4. The real-life voice actors for Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse, Wayne Allwine and Russi Taylor, got married in 1991.



5. The province of Quebec produces over 70% of the entire world's maple syrup. They even have a "Global Strategic Maple Syrup Reserve" to ensure the world never runs out!

Around The College

1. St. Clair College's longstanding Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and Chief Information Officer (CIO) collected a nomination for a prestigious ORBIE Award, a recognition for years of leadership excellence among C-suite leaders across North America. Amar Singh has 28 years of experience in information technology and leads a robust team of IT professionals at St. Clair College dedicated to strengthening services, enhancing security posture and supporting organizational innovation.
2. Another season is underway for the St. Clair Saints Baseball team, which opened with a pair of splits against rivals the Durham Lords and Lambton Lions. The Saints finished their 2025 campaign with an OCAA silver medal.
3. More than 1,000 students packed into the Student Life Centre at St. Clair College during the first two sessions of Fall Orientation on Sept. 1, marking the unofficial start of the school year for the newest Saints. Orientation is the best way to kickstart their academic journey and to help dispel the first day jitters, meet people in their programs, become acquainted with faculty, and become familiar with the campus.
4. A Toronto-area biomedical engineering firm is investing in students in the Biomedical Engineering Technology – Equipment and Devices program at St. Clair College in a big way. Through consultation with faculty members, MARS BioMed provided a total of $10,000 in scholarships directly to two students in each year of the three-year program, providing direct support to six students.
5. Delegates from government, industry, unions and higher education (including President Michael Silvaggi and Sr. Vice President John Fairley) gathered on July 24 to inaugurate the Gordie Howe International Bridge at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and hockey game to mark the historic opening. With the work of hundreds of St. Clair College graduates and thousands of others, the $6.4 billion Gordie Howe International Bridge connecting Windsor and Detroit finally opened to the public on July 27, 2026.
6. The St. Clair College Women's Softball team were crowned National Champions on Sunday for the fourth time in program history at the Canadian Collegiate Softball Association Championship hosted by Durham College in Oshawa, on October 11, 2026..
7. The province of Ontario is investing $44 million to fund 2,077 additional seats at St. Clair College, the University of Windsor and Lambton College to connect more students to good-paying, in-demand STEM, health care, education, and trades programs. From that funding, St. Clair College will have 108 newly funded seats for health care programs.
8. A special smudging ceremony, flag raising, and walk of reconciliation highlighted a day of reflection, engagement, and learning for students and staff at St. Clair College in honour of Orange Shirt Day – the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2026.
9. On Sept. 29, 2026 about 1,000 recent grads received their diplomas, degrees, and certificates during the Windsor convocation session at the WFCU Centre in Windsor, Ont.,
10. Students in the Protection, Security, and Investigation, and Police Foundations programs took part in the Pie the Professor event at St. Clair College on October 7, 2026, as part of the annual United Way Week. "Donating is what it's all about, but it's kind of a fun way to do it.", one student said. ⁂

Contributed by ***Bill Totten***
Content from the St. Clair College website, with permission





Contacts for Health Benefits and Pension

The College contact persons for retirees seeking information on pensions and benefits are:
Benefits: Jayme Gardiner 519-972-2727 Ext. 4190
pensionandbenefits@stclaircollege.ca
Pension: Wintre McConnell 519-972-2727 Ext. 4087
pensionandbenefits@stclaircollege.ca
located in Human Resources, room A2342
The CAAT Pension can be reached at
1-866-350-2228 or 416-673-9000, or
Fax: 416-673-9028
For general inquiries: contact@caatpension.on.ca

OCRA Membership

We highly recommend taking a membership in OCRA (Ontario College Retirees' Association) when renewing membership in our association. The cost is $10.00 annually (or a lifetime fee is available).

OCRA represents the interests of retirees of Ontario colleges and actively advocates on our behalf regarding post-retirement benefits.

The link to the OCRA website is **ocraretirees.ca**. There, one can find information about the CAAT Pension Plan, health benefits and health providers, websites of other retiree associations of other Ontario colleges, and a membership application form. Access to other Retiree Association newsletters can also be available.

Buxton National Historic Site and Tour - October 8

We had perfect weather and a great group of 25 retirees and guests for our tour of the museum and historic site in Buxton. We were fortunate to be hosted by Michelle Robbins, Museum Curator. Our 90-minute tour began with ringing the huge bell that sits in front of the museum entrance. The Buxton Liberty Bell, cast in Pittsburgh in 1850, was a gift from the coloured inhabitants of Pittsburgh to Rev. William King and the coloured settlers at Raleigh, Canada West. Michelle explained that each time an enslaved person arrived in Buxton, they would ceremoniously ring the bell, having survived the perilous journey to freedom via the Underground Railroad. Can you imagine the joy, relief and emotion they might have felt in that moment? The museum bell is a replica of the original bell, which hangs in the steeple of St. Andrews Church in South Buxton, just down the road.



Founded in 1849 by Rev Wm King, the "Elgin" settlement, now Buxton, is considered to be one of the largest and most successful of four Black settlements in Ontario. The settlement, some 9000 acres, grew to approximately 2400 residents and was known for its excellence in education. Buxton today is much smaller, however its importance is not diminished by its size. The museum contains many artifacts (some disturbing) as well as historical documents, managed for the most part by descendants of the founders. They have an extensive genealogy and research department as well, whose purpose is to help descendants of early settlers trace their roots.

Also on site is the Colbert-Henderson log cabin originally built in 1852. The Henderson family donated the cabin and it was moved to the museum grounds in 2002 to be restored. One of the requirements of the original homes in the day was that they must have a picket fence surrounding the property and a flower and vegetable garden. According to Michelle, this was meant to show that homes in Buxton could be just as nice as or better than in other nearby communities.

Behind the house is the Abraham Doras Shadd barn, built 1853-1855. It was constructed by the first Black man elected to political office in Canada. Many farm and household tools and implements were on display.

Lastly, the S.S. #13 Schoolhouse, constructed between 1861 and 1863. It remained an active school for 107 years until 1968. We were invited to take a seat, and it wasn't until I squeezed into one of the old wooden row desks that I realized there were about seven rows of desks in varying sizes from very small to what might be considered adult size. This was to accommodate the grades one to ten that shared the same space!



It is the only known Underground Railroad school still standing on its original site and is the oldest schoolhouse in Canada built by former slaves. The schoolhouse once accommodated up to 100 students and was known for high academic standards. It had many notable graduates (forgive me for not remembering the names) that went on to make their mark in the world. Before leaving school for the day, we had a spelling challenge. We were to listen to a short passage and then Michelle would give us one of the words to spell out using chalk and an original slate located on each of our desks. How cool I thought – I'm a pretty good speller. To my chagrin, I had never heard the word before but thought I could make a fairly good effort at spelling it. Wasn't even close. Then Michelle informed us it was from a grade four reading. Oh my. High standards indeed!

With thanks to Michelle, we departed just a few minutes down the road to the Garage in Merlin for a delicious dinner. Perch is my favourite and I did see a number of those going by. Judging by the smiles and boisterous conversation, I'd say everyone enjoyed their dinner and their day. ⁂

Contributed by ***Mary Beth Rush***

Photos: Sue McLelland
Michelle Robbins

In Memoriam

We remember the following Retirees/Full-time Staff who passed away during the period August 19, 2026 - October 21, 2026



Dr. Owen Klein, passed away on August 28, 2026. He is survived by his wife Jeanne Marie Miclot and three children: Andrew Owen "Drew" Klein, Laura Marie Klein, and Katherine Alison "Kate" Klein. He had a lifelong love of golfing. At St. Clair College was instrumental in developing the drama programs, and taught in the English Department.



Maria A. Carlini passed away on September 21, 2026 at the age of 81. Maria was the beloved wife of Silvio Carlini and mother of Michelle (Mauro) Santin, and Lisa (Blayne) Beers. Maria was a long time and much appreciated member of the cafeteria staff in the early days of the College.



Correction

Denis Lortie passed away on July 7, 2026, at the age of 81. He was predeceased by his daughter Sandra (2018), and leaves behind his wife, Jo-Anne; his three children Lisa (Stephen Gammon), Jason (Heather Grondin), and Mark (Sarah Abson). Denis was the **brother-in-law of St. Clair retiree Bob Martyniuk.** Denis was a skilled tradesman, working at tool shops before he became a respected professor at St. Clair College, sharing his knowledge with generations of students.



We remember also the family members of Retirees/Full-time Staff who passed away during the period August 19, 2026 - October 21, 2026

"Barney" Arthur Crichton passed away on September 13, 2026 at the age of 91. "Barney" is survived by his wife, **St. Clair retiree, Diane (Fisher/Keck).**



Executive Board 2026-2027

President	-	Ross Langill
Vice-President	-	Vacant
Past-President	-	Sue McLelland
President Emeritus	-	Bill Totten
Secretary	-	Lyn Medler
Treasurer	-	Dolph Barsanti
Membership	-	Marilyn Portt
Chatham Rep.	-	Mary Beth Rush
Social Director	-	Sue McLelland
Newsletter	-	Tony Ellul
Goodwill	-	Silva Stamboulian
Email/Mailchimp	-	Rob Barsotta
Archives	-	Vacant
Member at large	-	Tom Williams

SCCRA Telephone Number/Voice Mail -
519-972-2727 Ext. 4439

SCCRA e-mail address
sretiree@stclaircollege.ca

SCCRA Website -
https://stclaircollege.ca/retirees

Coming Events

Nov. 2	Daylight Saving Time **ends**	
Nov. 11	**Remembrance Day**	
Nov. 18	Out-to-Lunch Bunch	Cramdon's Restaurant, Windsor
TBA	College - Fall Open House	Volunteers welcome
Nov. 18	Executive Meeting	Room A0308 (IT Conference Room)
Nov. 18	Fall Newsletter Distribution	
Nov. 26	**U.S. Thanksgiving**	
Dec. 2	**Chatham Christmas Party**	Links of Kent GC at 11:30
Dec. 12	**Windsor Christmas Party & Show .....**	11:30 Meet & Greet 12:00 pm Lunch 2:00 pm Student Show
TBA	President's Holiday Brunch	
Dec. 25	**Christmas Day**	**College Closed**
Jan. 1	**New Year's Day**	**College Closed**
TBA	Staff Return	
TBA	Post Secondary classes start	
Jan. 13	Executive Meeting	Room A0308 (IT Conference Room)
Jan. 27	Newsletter Content Due	
Feb. 10	Newsletter to Print Shop	
Feb. 15	**Family Day**	
Feb. 17	Executive Meeting	Room A0308 (IT Conference Room)
Feb. 17	Winter Newsletter Distribution	

For the Retirees' Association
Quarterly Calendar of Events
and listing of activities
visit our calendar webpage at
https://stclaircollege.ca/retirees/calendar

Have you changed your address?

Please update your address to continue receiving the Retirees' Association information.
We **do not share** your contact information with anyone.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street/Apt. City Postal Code

E-mail address: _____

Mail to: St. Clair College Retirees' Association, Box 41, 2000 Talbot Road, Windsor, ON N9A 6S4 or
E-mail to: sretiree@stclaircollege.ca