

From the President
Ross Langill



Whether you travelled afar, took day trips, or just stayed home, I hope you enjoyed your summer. If anyone wants to submit an article to our newsletter related to anything they did over the summer, or at any time, please feel free to do so. Perhaps your article might spark an interest

in someone else to do the same thing. The only thing I ask is that the article not be “commercial” in nature.

The summer generally sees a bit of a slow-down in some of the Retirees-led activities but I’d like to thank Marilyn Portt, Sue McLelland and Mary Beth Rush for continuing their lead in social activities...along with the volunteer group that they have commandeered to assist them. By the way the volunteers get paid as much as the leaders....absolutely nothing but our gratitude. The weather/wildfire smoke had a small effect on our lunch at the Wolfhead Distillery but a fair number of people still showed up at this popular event and I’m sure we will return there. Additionally, by the time you read this, our Fall Social and another event or two will have occurred but reporting on them would have been too late for the printing deadline of this edition.

Marilyn Portt, our Out-To-Lunch-Bunch organizer (seems funny to give her that unofficial title), is looking at the possibility of running some Lunch and Learn activities, so keep your eyes open for emails or newsletter articles regarding this. Also, Mary Beth Rush is looking into an event during the October/November timeframe so expect some notice regarding that.

A quick note regarding another couple of social activities. It will be at least late-September by the time you read this so that means plans will be under way for our two annual

Christmas get-togethers. There will be a Christmas dinner in Chatham at the Links of Kent Golf Course (scheduled for December 2nd), as well as a Christmas dinner in Windsor at the College’s Centre of the Arts tentatively scheduled for December 12th (plans to see a Student show-production in Windsor are still up in the air as of this writing). Prices and further information for both of these events will be sent out in the future via email and/or included in our next newsletter.

Changing pace here to my first ever “plea”. We have two important positions on the Retirees’ Executive which need to be filled. One is the role of Vice-President. This role has the VP assisting the President with duties, which can include running any Executive meeting which the President cannot attend (no prior experience necessary to run meetings as there are enough folks at the table to help you out). Additionally, the VP has the leeway to help out in any other way that s/he deems fit. This includes assisting any of our committees if so interested. The second position which requires filling is the Observer to the Board of Governors. This person would obviously attend the College’s Board meetings and give a report on the activities of the Retirees’ Association, as well as providing a report to our Executive on what occurred at the Board meetings. Each Board meeting usually includes a dinner. Both of the above-noted positions are for our current term of office, which expires as of our next General Membership meeting in late-April/early- May 2027. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact me via email at PresidentVice53@gmail.com. A successful candidate would have to be approved by the Retirees’ Executive.

There are a couple of items that need clarification, as they seem to be the most asked about items by our members. Our annual dues, currently \$10, run on a calendar year basis from January to December. We try to send out ample notification for when the dues should be paid and we truly appreciate those who act on those notices.

Around The College

1. A total of 79 St. Clair varsity student athletes have earned OCAA All Academic honours for the 2025-26 season. Building on last year's total of 73 recipients, the Saints remain one of the top members for success in the classroom while continuing to thrive in competition.

2. St. Clair College is receiving more than \$641,000 to expand skilled trades training, including \$291,065 through the Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program to train 20 participants, primarily youth and other underrepresented groups, for careers in tool and die making, as well as \$350,000 through the Apprenticeship Capital Grant to upgrade Computer Numerical Control machining equipment and controls with modern, industry-standard technology.

3. Community leaders across industry, education, and entrepreneurs gathered in downtown Windsor to celebrate the official launch of the Windsor Innovation District. The initiative is being led by WEtech Alliance, in collaboration with Rocket Innovation Studio, St. Clair College, the University of Windsor, Invest WindsorEssex, the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN), Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI), and the City of Windsor. The Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) is accelerating advanced automotive technologies, electrification, battery manufacturing and smart mobility innovations in southwestern Ontario through renewed Regional Technology Development Site (RTDS). St. Clair College received funding through the RTDS which will go towards its annual Ford Innovation Showcase, where student-generated ideas get exposure to industry and can serve as a launchpad for ideas and knowledge expression.

4. On June 18, the Windsor Safety Village, the interactive educational 'mini city', was re-launched as the Zekelman Safety Village. St. Clair College has a building on site modelled after the Ford Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing. Architectural Technology students put their craft to practice, getting experiential learning opportunities during the refurbishment project.

5. On June 12 and 13, 2026, the Classic Gym at St. Clair College was transformed into a wrestling venue. But this time, it was for a series of episodes of 'MLP Mayhem,' which was taped and later broadcast on TSN. It's the first time in four decades that Canadian-produced professional wrestling went to air on national television.

6. More than 3,000 graduates from programs across the College were recognized during four convocation sessions in Windsor on June 2 and 3, and one in Chatham on June 8.

7. Members of United Way Windsor/Essex attended St. Clair College during United Way Week in February to receive a cheque for more than \$7,300. These funds were raised at unique College events during the 2025-26 school year.

8. Hundreds of students from high schools across the Greater Essex County District School Board gathered at St. Clair College on May 26, 2026, to celebrate Black identities, history and excellence. The Black Joy Black Excellence symposium is organized entirely by students, the school board and the Black Student Advisory Committee. The day of events and activities featured poetry, a hip-hop performance, and break-out activities across the College campus, exposing students to programs and spaces at St. Clair. Students attended sessions focused on financial literacy, local history, protecting mental health and well-being.

9. 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 officially opened to vehicular traffic on July 27, 2026, following an inauguration ceremony on July 24. is finally set to open to the public, starting July 27, 2026. Multiple St. Clair College graduates secured technical roles working directly on the bridge's construction and multi-use trail developments. St. Clair College representatives, including former President John Strasser and current Sr. Vice President John Fairley were involved in early discussions around community benefits to support host neighbourhoods in Sandwich Town and Delray, Michigan.

10. The St. Clair Saints Esports program celebrated another award-winning season at the Annual National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) Awards, earning six national honours while achieving recognition as finalists in several additional categories.

11. St. Clair College is the first college in North America to receive the newly released Unitree R1 humanoid robot, which was delivered to the Research and Innovation department this July. The robot can walk, run, talk and even dance – but the real potential lies in its ability to provide a powerful applied research platform for exploring how advanced robotics, artificial intelligence and large language models (LLMs) can improve industrial efficiency, productivity and operational decision-making. **



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



However, the mix-up seems to come when dealing with our Parking Permits, since the timeframes are different from those of our dues. For those of you who have a current permit which states it expires in December 2026, they will now not expire until June 2027. After that point, the permits will run from July 1st to June 30th annually. The College has informed us that they made this change so it matches closer to the dates of their other parking clientele. We will also give ample notice/reminders to our members regarding this change.

Finally, regarding the Retirees' Executive. I sent out an email to the members a couple of days after our April General Membership meeting. If you have a question about the Executive and/or who we are, please email me at the above-noted address.

Wishing everyone the best. **

Ross



Tour of Our Lady of the Assumption Church Followed by Lunch at Jake's in Sandwich Towne

On the morning of Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026, a group of 32 of us met at the beautiful Assumption Church here in Windsor, for a very interesting and informative tour of this amazing architectural and historical treasure. Frank Perissinotti, one of our retirees, provided a very captivating presentation, sharing his broad knowledge of the history and culture of the Windsor and Sandwich Town area as this parish was developed during the years of infancy for this part of our city. I believe we all learned a lot! I know I did.



Afterwards, 28 of us met just down the road in Sandwich Town for lunch at Jake's Olde Towne Tavern for a tasty lunch of pasta, salad, and sandwich. Jake and his wife were fabulous hosts for a very relaxed and enjoyable afternoon. **

Contributed by **Sue McLelland**
Social Committee Co-ordinator

Out-To-Lunch-Bunch – May 14, 2026 At Riverside Sportsmen's Club

We are pleased to say that our Out-To-Lunch-Bunch visit to Riverside Sportsman's Club was very successful. Our retirees look forward to meeting up at various venues to catch up on latest activities of co-workers, and just to reminisce about their working memories. As usual, the service provided was more than satisfactory, food plentiful. We acknowledge and thank Cindi Wheeler for taking photos. It was nice to see new faces like Carol Pratt, Gwen Gatt, and Dan Sooley. **



From Left - Pearl Roberts, Joanne Williams, Sandy de la Penotiere, and Ross Langill enjoying their lunch.

Contributed by **Marilyn Portt & Mimi McPhedran**

Summer's Farewell

What sound is that? 'Tis Summer's farewell,
In the breath of the night-wind sighing;
The chill breeze comes like a sorrowful dirge,
That wails o'er the dead and the dying.
The sapless leaves are eddying round,
On the path which they lately shaded:
The oak of the forest is losing its robe;
The flowers have fallen and faded.
All that I look on but saddens my heart,
To think that the lovely so soon should depart.

Eliza Cook



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.

Save The Date
Chatham Christmas Luncheon

Links of Kent Golf and Country Club
Indian Creek Road, Chatham

Wednesday, December 2, 2026, 12:00 noon

Details to follow
Watch your email and/or next newsletter
for more information
Contact Mary Beth
519-359-9452



Save the (Tentative) Date

Hello Fellow SCC Retirees

Join us downtown at the SCC Centre for the Arts
for a delicious meal and then a Holiday Themed
Show presented by the SCC Music Theatre Per-
formance students in the Chrysler Theatre.

Saturday December 12, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

Please note that this date is **tentative**. We are wait-
ing for confirmation of the schedule for the Music
Theatre Performance students' presentation.

Keep an eye on your email for further information

Save The Date
Out to Lunch Bunch

Suite 46, Retro Suites Hotel
Corner of King and William Streets, Chatham

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 12:30 p.m.

To be confirmed: Tour of hotel to follow
More to come.
Watch your email for additional information.
Contact Mary Beth
519-359-9452

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

Trivia Quiz by Lyn Medler

Questions:

1. A British scientist first invented the roller-ball device in 1946 while working for the Royal Navy, but the word "mouse" didn't get coined until 1965. The speed of the computer mouse has measurements. What do you think these are called?
2. One of Dr. Seuss' books uses exactly 50 words and no more. Which is it?
3. The movie, Barbie, was very popular and caused a global shortage of what?
4. "*An apple a day keeps the doctor away*"; but there is a darker side to this fruit, which is?
5. If someone holds their nose and says to you, "You have bromodosis!" what are they telling you?

Answers on page 5

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).

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!

St. Clair College 60th Anniversary Celebrations

As St. Clair College prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary beginning in January, we want our retirees to know that you will be an important part of the celebration throughout the year. We will be reaching out for your participation, stories, photographs and special memories that help tell the story of St. Clair College over the past six decades.

John Fairley, who is leading the 60th anniversary celebration, shared some of the early plans at our Retirees Association Executive meeting this month and is currently developing the communication plan for the year. More details will be shared in an upcoming newsletter and through the Retirees Association, once plans are finalized. We look forward to celebrating 60 years of St. Clair College - together.

John Fairley
Senior Vice President
College Communications & Community Relations
St. Clair College



Save The Date Buxton National Historic Site & Museum Guided Tour



21975 A. D. Shadd Road, North Buxton

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Dinner to follow at 4:15 p.m. at
The Garage, Merlin

Details to follow.
Watch your email for more information.
Contact Mary Beth
519-359-9452

Out-To-Lunch-Bunch at Wolfhead Distillery

Our plan was to have another lunch event on July 16 at one of our favourite places, the Wolfhead Distillery; but Mother Nature interfered and things went sideways for us.

The smoke from the forest fires in Northern Ontario reached the Windsor area on July 15. The smoke was thick enough to obscure visibility. Not only could you see the smoke, but you could also taste it, and feel its irritation on our eyes and breathing. Windsor and Essex County Health officials issued several health warnings to stay indoors, especially for young children and older folks like us.

It was disappointing, but at the same time encouraging that despite the obstacles, 20 of our intrepid members braved the adverse conditions and gathered at the distillery. Attendance was less than our usual turnout, but when we consider the difficult conditions, we are glad that so many made it. As always, service was excellent.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our next event. ✨

Contributed by *Marilyn Portt & Mimi McPhedran*

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.

Answers to Trivia Quiz

1. The speed of a computer mouse is measured in "mickeys".
2. Green Eggs and Ham – the author's editor bet him that he could not write a book with 50 words or less. The finished product contains 50 words on the dot.
3. Pink paint.
4. Apple seeds are toxic if consumed in large amounts due to the presence of cyanide compounds.
5. Stinky feet.

Out-To-Lunch-Bunch News

Hello Fellow Retirees,

The Out-To-Lunch-Bunch is planning a new format for the coming months. Be assured this will only be just once in a while. We are calling it *Lunch and Learn*. Our first event will be held at Riverside Sportsman's Club. We are thinking of ordering pasta for everyone to reduce complications.

The guest speaker is Pamela McBride-Smith. She was the commanding officer at Gander International Airport, Newfoundland on September 11, 2001 when planes landed during the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the US. We know a lot of you have seen the play "Come from Away", but Pam has many behind-the-scenes stories to relate. An inside story of what an unexpected day is like away from the media.

Watch for further details for date and time.

We are planning another *Lunch and Learn* event for next spring. It will be about the pitfalls of Travel Medical Insurance. We think this would be helpful for all you lucky travelers.

Of course, nothing is set in stone, so if you have any ideas, please let us know. ✨

Contributed by *Marilyn Portt & Mimi McPhedran*



My Day Trip To Port Burwell

This summer, my family and I made a day trip to Port Burwell (south of Aylmer) to tour the World War 2 submarine, called HMCS Ojibwa. This boat (not a ship) was used for spying between 1965 until 1998. It docked in Halifax and was scheduled for demolition. Luckily, a group saved it and bought for \$1.00. It cost \$90,000 to restore and bring down to Ontario in 2012. This boat is massive, and inside it is amazing to see how small the actual working space is.

The crew consisted of 6 officers and 62 non-commissioned seamen. It surely was amazing to think that so many men could actually move around. We learned that because it was a spy ship it had a different type of motor, must be very quiet. There was a radioman sitting by his dials all day listening, and two men on periscopes watching. I am thinking very boring. Can you image being under water for 9 months, (that was one of their longest tours)? Did I mention no showers at all, and only about 5 sinks, 2 for the cook, 1 for the doctor, 1 for the captain?

We have to be grateful to all those who served, as it must not have been that easy. Highly recommend taking a little ride east to check it out for yourselves. ✨

Contributed by *Marilyn Portt*

Aviation Tours AAR and Canadian Aviation Museum

On Wednesday, May 27th, a group of 21 of our Retirees enjoyed a tour of the Windsor AAR (Allen Aircraft Radio) facilities on County Rd. 42 adjacent to Windsor Airport (YQG). Ashley Deslippe, the HR Co-ordinator at AAR, made the arrangements for this event. She was so accommodating – working around our schedule for that day, and making sure we were all well taken care of and ensuring our safety (especially for those with mobility issues). Seeing the inside of the hangar at AAR, and being able to see up close the huge airplanes that they are able to fit in there to repair, was truly amazing.

Len McKay and Randy Butcher were the Technical Instructors who led the tour and provided a great presentation of AAR and what they are all about as an organization. Sara Nuhn, AAR's Administrative Assistant at the front desk provided us all with a very hospitable welcome that morning.

After the tour of AAR was over, we all met at the Route 42 Restaurant across the street from the airport for an early lunch. Following lunch, we proceeded over to the Canadian Aviation Museum on Airport Road. There,



we met up with the volunteer staff members as arranged by David Fluke, another volunteer at the museum. We appreciated that they worked around our schedule that day, and how they made sure that we were all well taken care of by their excellent and very knowledgeable volunteers. We were very impressed with how well versed they all were on every aspect of the museum!

All in all – a great day for those of us that are Aviation aficionados. ✨

Contributed by *Sue McLelland*

In Memoriam

*We remember the following Retirees/Full-time Staff who passed away during the period
April 23, 2026 - August 19, 2026*



Susan May Jennings passed away on June 3, 2026 at the Hospice of Windsor, at the age of 69. Susan is survived by her husband Bruce Jennings. Mother to Holly Jennings (Eric Freitas) and Brittany Jennings (Justin Tessier). Susan was a dedicated teacher at St. Clair College, where she taught in the Architectural and Civil Engineering Department for 23 years.



Katherine Jane Kaszas passed away on June 14, 2026, at age 71. Survived by husband Paul, and her four children, Elizabeth, Alanna (Jordan May), William, and Jane (Scott Manley Hadley). She was a strong proponent of new Canadian Theatre, and as an educator, she established the St. Clair College's Music Theatre Performance program, leading it as Artistic Director for two decades.



James "Jim" Gretes passed away on June 4, 2026 at the age of 86. Husband to Mary and father to Jennifer and Michael "Michele". Predeceased by his brother, St. Clair retiree Michael "Mike". A lifelong educator, Jim's career began with the Erie Street adult learning community and culminated in his role as Dean of General Education at St. Clair College.



Denis Lortie passed away on July 7, 2026, at the age of 81. He leaves behind his wife, Jo-Anne; his children Lisa (Stephen Gammon), Jason (Heather Grondin), and Mark (Sarah Abson). He 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
April 23, 2026 - August 19, 2026*

Ilda Viecele passed away on May 10, 2026 at the age of 96. Ilda was the mother of **St. Clair retiree Marilyn Viecele**.

Therese Adam passed away on May 13, 2026 at age 99. Therese was the mother of **St. Clair retiree Mary Anne Adam (Larry Kirk)**.

Elizabeth Ann "Beth" White passed away on June 24, 2026 at the age of 91. Beth was the mother of **St. Clair retiree Mary Beth (Joe) Rush**.

John Ulakovich passed away on June 30, 2026 at the age of 93. John was the father to **St. Clair staff member John Ulakovich (Anna)**.

Brian Darrell June passed away on July 3, 2026 at age 70. Brian was the brother of **St. Clair retiree Barry June (Shari June)**.

and

Colin "Peewee" June passed away on July 26, 2026 at age 69. Colin was the brother of **St. Clair retiree Barry June (Shari June)**.

Anne DeRoche passed away on August 18, 2026 at age 92. She was the mother of **St. Clair retiree David DeRoche (Carol White)**.



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 Stamboulion
Board Observer	- Vacant
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

Sep. 7	Labour Day	College closed
Sep. 8	Classes start	
Sep. 9	Annual Fall Social	King Coast Winery, 1 to 3 pm
Sep. 16	Executive Meeting	Woodland Hills, 9:30 am
Sep. 29	Fall Convocations	WFCU Centre. Volunteers welcome
Oct. 8	Buxton National Historic Site & Museum	For more details see page 5
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving	College closed
Oct. 21	Executive Meeting	Room A0308 (IT Conference Room)
Oct. 28	Chatham/Windsor Social	Suite 46 Restaurant, Chatham For more details see page 4
Nov. 2	Daylight Saving Time ends	
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day	
Nov. 12	Out-to-Lunch Bunch	Details to be Announced
Nov.	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 CC at 12:00 For more details see page 4
Dec. 12	Windsor Christmas Party & Show	For more details see page 4
Dec.	President's Holiday Brunch	Details TBA
Dec 25	Christmas Day	



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