

**From the President**  
*Ross Langill*



I will begin by acknowledging the sad and shocking loss of our colleague and friend, Ken Garber. Ken was an integral member of the Retiree Association executive, engineering and administering emails to members. Ken maintained a large email list and monthly-generated statistical

reports of how emails were received, opened, etc. He offered well thought out and helpful suggestions for a variety of subjects to do with the association. As he stated once, "my mind just doesn't turn off..." His technical skills and humour will be missed by the group. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Lea Simms (also a St. Clair College retiree) and his family and friends. A tribute to Ken can be found on Page 6.

We are ready to move into March, so I gather you've more than recovered from all the happenings towards the end of December. For our Retirees' group, we ended 2025 with our two annual Christmas luncheons. I'd like to thank all the organizing volunteers for another job well done and we are grateful to Pat Hallahan for graciously stepping in as Windsor's Master of Ceremonies this year. The lead organizers were Pat Taylor in Windsor and Mary Beth Rush in Chatham. It's sort of ironic that these two fine ladies are at opposite ends of the lead-hand spectrum.....with Mary Beth leading the group for the first time and Pat playing the lead role for the last time. Pat has retired from the Retirees' Executive as of the end of December. Thanks for all of the hard work Pat, and I hope we catch you at our many future events in a more relaxed state of mind as an attendee rather than as an organizer.

This coming year has a couple of major issues up for discussion by the Executive. While we didn't promise an immediate change in the distribution of our 4 annual editions of the newsletter via "email only" we are close to switching to that mode. We ask for your patience in seeing this switch come to full fruition.

Another item for this year is the possibility of raising our annual dues. Such an increase would have to be approved at our 2026 annual general membership meeting in April. The dues have been \$10 since the inception of the Retirees' Association. We are loathe to increase the dues, however, in light of the College's financial challenges which may hinder their ability to continue to subsidize some of the retiree functions, a nominal increase may be necessary. I hope in addition to any comments I have to make at the AGM, that our fiscal experts and long-time members on the Executive can give us all some true guidance regarding this issue. While there is no guarantee that an increase in dues would forego raising the cost of an event, they will help offset increased expenses that drive up the prices we have to charge.

One last item to ponder. Over the past couple of years, there have been a few discussions about the annual Windsor Christmas

Continued on page 2

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\***

**Newsletter Distribution Notice**

Hello St. Clair College Retirees,

Please note that **beginning with the Spring 2026 edition**, newsletters will be sent out by **email only**, with the exception of those individuals who have notified the Association that they do not have access to email.

Please note that current and past newsletters can be accessed from the SCCRA webpages on the College website at

<https://www.stclaircollege.ca/retirees/newsletters>

Thank you,

St. Clair College Retirees' Association Executive

## Around The College

1. St. Clair College Prof. James Linton is in the running to become TechNation's Biomedical Engineering Educator of the Year at this year's Tech Choice Awards.

2. Hundreds of new students rang in the New Year by joining St. Clair College faculty for Winter Orientation 2026 from the comfort of their homes. New Saints joined virtual faculty orientation sessions to meet their professors and instructors, learn important information about their programs, ask questions and prepare for a successful semester at the College.

3. Two sold-out Sleighing Hunger concerts were performed by The S'Aints Band at the Chrysler Theatre, in collaboration with St. Clair College, St. Clair Alumni and LiUNA 625. A total of \$123,000 was raised for Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent food banks.

4. St. Clair College Paramedic students recently dedicated their weekend to serving the Windsor-Essex community through a highly successful 'Fill the Ambulance' campaign. Students stationed ambulances at the Metro on Tecumseh Road East and Food Basics on Lauzon Road from Nov. 28 to 30, 2025, encouraging shoppers to donate non-perishable goods. The Fill the Ambulance food drive is an event organized and led by paramedic students that stands as a powerful example of how compassion, teamwork, and service can truly make a difference for those in need.

5. Dirt roads. Huts made of mud and sticks. Virtually no access to health care. That is the reality of living in the Village of El Triunfo, Guatemala. In January 2026, seven hand-selected students from St. Clair College's Pharmacy Technician, Paramedic, and Dental Hygiene programs will get the experiential lesson of a lifetime, providing essential health care to more than 1,100 people in the remote village.

6. The Salvation Army Windsor Centre of Hope helped make Christmas memories for hundreds of people at the annual Christmas Community Dinner at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. The special gathering brought together the community to share a free, delicious holiday meal, festive music and an evening filled with warmth and welcome on Dec. 10, 2025. The dinner, served with dignity and care by more than 100 volunteers, offered joy, connection and a sense of hope to some of the region's less fortunate during the holiday season. Sponsored by St. Clair Alumni, College staff supported the event by volunteering to cook and serve roughly 800 people who came out for the event.

7. St. Clair College Interior Design students helped keep a Windsor winter tradition alive and well at Willistead Manor. In mid-November and in partnership with the Friends of Willistead, Interior Design students participated in the annual holiday decorating of the dining room, north and east galleries, and primary bedroom.

8. St. Clair College's Esports program took home five Canadian National Championships to cap off their most successful semester to date.

9. Walter LaPlante, a graduate of the Mechanical Engineering Technology – Mechatronics program in 2009 received his 2025 Premier's Award in the category of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Innovation at a special awards ceremony on Nov. 24, 2025. With this award, Walter LaPlante becomes only the fifth Alumnus of Distinction from St. Clair College to receive the prestigious honour.

10. St. Clair College and the University of Windsor have announced a new academic pathway that expands post-graduate opportunities for St. Clair College Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant (OTA/PTA) students through a formal articulation agreement with the University of Windsor. ✨

Contributed by **Bill Totten**

Content from the St. Clair College website, with permission

### Our Association Caring For Our Students

At the Christmas Luncheon, several retirees generously donated at the door and through 50-50 draws held both at the Windsor Christmas Luncheon and at the Fall Social raised \$477 as a donation by our association to the Students' Food Bank at the College.



Shown in the accompanying photo, is our Treasurer Dolph Barsanti (R) presenting a cheque for \$477 to Ryan Peebles, General Manager of the Students' Representative Council at St. Clair College.

Photo: **SRC Staff**

### President's Report (continued from page 1)

Luncheon/Show, with some members indicating that they would not mind attending a luncheon or dinner and not having a show to see. This feeling has been noticeable at our events where members have left after the meal, or simply not attended the event at all. Whether the future sees us keeping things as they are or eliminating the show is obviously to be determined. I don't believe that this issue will be decided at the AGM, but perhaps we can get an indication from the members in attendance as to how they feel.....or members can simply express their opinion to one of the Executive members at any time.

In closing, we hope to continue our "monthly" luncheons and other social events at various locations throughout 2026 and I hope you can attend one or more of these activities. ✨

**Ross Langill**

## Windsor Christmas Luncheon 2025

It was a cold and windy day for our annual Christmas Luncheon but 84 hearty souls with St. Nicholas in their hearts attended a tasty lunch and a spirited Yule programme by our talented students. It is heartwarming to watch how much energy, heart and love these students put into their performances. This year seemed to be exceptionally lively and it certainly helped raise my level of Christmas spirit.



As in the past, our retirees stepped up to our call for warm hats, mitts, scarves and socks for the Windsor Youth Centre. Thanks to Bill Totten for dropping them off on our behalf and to Emma Ellul for her usual care in arranging their display. I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone who donated to the Student's Food Bank and those who bought 50/50 tickets. Our draw raised \$400.00, half of which was shared by a lucky winner. Many thanks to Pat Hallahan who graciously volunteered to act as our emcee for the afternoon. Marilyn Portt and Susan McLelland did an excellent job as greeters and Mimi McPhedran, and Silva Stambouljian held down the fort at the door prize table. Without our great volunteers, we would have a hard time pulling off an event like this.

Once again, we were treated to a delicious luncheon, and our thanks go out to Rosita Blackman Smith and the wonderful catering team at the Centre for the Arts. We lost several retirees this year. Our thanks go out to Tony Ellul for his excellent video paying homage to our departed co-workers and to their extended families.

An event like this takes support from many of our Association members and those who just want to be of service. As many of you know, I am retiring from the board at the end of December and I just want to say it has been an honour and a privilege, not to mention lots of fun, to act as your Social Director. I have met some tremendous people, explored more of Essex County than I ever expected to and drank some wines at the best wineries we have to offer. Please continue supporting our incoming Social Directors, Sue McLelland and Florrie Foster. Thank you everyone for joining me on this ride, it has been a slice! ✨

Contributed by *Patricia Taylor*

Photo: *Tony Ellul*

## Chatham Christmas Luncheon 2025

The Retirees Association was thrilled to welcome 34 retirees and guests to the Links of Kent Golf Club and Event Centre on December 3rd for the annual Chatham Christmas luncheon. A delicious plated turkey dinner with all the trimmings followed by a tasty dessert was served by the expert staff at Links. The quality of food, pleasant and efficient staff, and the lovely setting has always been excellent value, and as in other years, they did not disappoint.

Thank you to the Horticultural Department for donating the poinsettias that adorned the tables and to Sue McLelland for making the arrangements to pick them up and bring them to Chatham. The flowers added festive colour to the space and a number of lucky guests got to take them home as door prizes. Sue also brought greetings from the retiree executive.

I extend our appreciation to Tony Ellul for compiling pictures from many of the 2025 retiree events in Windsor and Chatham and including the "In Memorium" section in a video presentation. The video represents many hours of work and we all certainly appreciate his efforts to showcase the fun events held throughout the year, and to remember the friends and colleagues we have lost.



Clockwise from left - Cathy Beecroft, Barb Chapple, Kent McLain, Dawn Erickson, Mary Beth Rush

Dinner was followed by time to reminisce and catch up with friends. The volume of conversation (and yes, I mean decibels!) is testament to the good time had by all. The afternoon ended with draws for door prizes and we had a tableful this year thanks to many donations. That same generosity was extended to the Chatham campus student foodbank. Four large boxes of food were collected and delivered (thanks Dale) following the event.

Thanks to everyone who joined us this year - it would not be the same without you. If you have not attended this event in the past, save the date and please plan to join us next year! ✨

Contributed by *Mary Beth Rush*

Photo: *Sue McLelland*

## Precautions When Forwarding SCCRA Broadcasts

If you should feel like forwarding one of the broadcasts to someone, whether a Mailchimp member or not, take this precaution.

A. If you forward the whole message, remove the line displaying the preferences and unsubscribe links. Your personal Mailchimp info may be there.

or

B. If you forward the message link (view in your browser), remove the last bit of text starting with `?e=`  
For example - <https://mailchi.mp/9529da3952c7/from-the-sccra-2026-sccca-food-fests?e=2dxxxxxxx>

This is your Mailchimp member ID and should not be passed around. ✱

Contributed by *Ken Garber*

**Editor's Note** - This was Ken's final contribution to our newsletter before his tragic untimely demise.

## 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](http://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.

## Trivia Quiz by Lyn Medler

1. What is a zucchini called in the UK?
2. What is the name for a group of cobras?
3. Muhammad Ali was sentenced to five years in prison for what crime?
4. The adventurous sea captain of the SS Guppy whose first and middle names are Horatio Magellan, is the mascot of which popular cereal?
5. Which 1973 movie caused some audience members to faint, vomit, and have panic attacks due to the film's intense and graphic nature?

Answers on page 5

## Membership Renewal Notice

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**.

**Please pay by cheque payable to SCCRA** or by **e-transfer** at [sccramemberhip@gmail.com](mailto:sccramemberhip@gmail.com) using security answer **Retirement**.

**Marilyn Portt**  
**Membership Secretary**

## 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!

## Contacts for Health Benefits and Pension

The College contact person for retirees seeking information on pensions and benefits is:

Jayne Gardiner 519-972-2727 Ext 4190,  
[jgardiner@stclaircollege.ca](mailto:jgardiner@stclaircollege.ca)

located in Human Resources, room 274C.

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](mailto:contact@caatpension.on.ca)

## 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](mailto:sccretirees2025@gmail.com).

But first, make sure there's nothing sitting in your Junk/Spam folder(s).

## Letter to the Editor

I am writing on behalf of my father, John D'Angelo, who sadly passed away in late 2023. My mother, Rosalina, had been receiving the newsletter and it brought her happiness. I am saddened to share that she has also recently passed away.

Before my father passed, I would occasionally read the Retiree newsletter to him so he could stay connected to the happenings on campus. He was immensely proud of his work at St. Clair College (he was a janitor) and spoke fondly of his colleagues and the memories he made there. One story he loved to share was about recovering a bag of money belonging to the St. Clair Pub. A staff member had accidentally left it on the floor while closing up, and my father, on his night shift, found it and returned it to his boss the next day. When asked if he knew how much was in the bag, he said, "Enough to buy a new truck." His boss smiled, and my father replied, "I already have a new truck." Both shared a laugh, and it became one of his cherished memories. He was later awarded a plaque for his honesty, which hung proudly in his living room for years.

He was also deeply proud that I graduated from St. Clair College with the Dean's Award in Graphic Design in 1986. We attended the ceremonial dinner together, and, to my surprise, the College allowed my older brother Sal D'Angelo (who I believe had taught in the Electrical Department for a short time) to present the award to me in honour of my father's service. It was a very proud moment for our family.

With a heavy heart, I ask that you please discontinue sending the newsletter. With both my parents gone, the house will soon be sold, marking the close of another chapter in our family's story.

Thank you for your understanding, and for the joy your newsletter brought to my parents over the years.

Warm regards,  
Frank D'Angelo

**Editor's Note** - We seldom receive letters to the editor. Recently, Mr. Frank D'Angelo, son of deceased College retiree John D'Angelo emailed his letter of appreciation to our Membership Secretary Marilyn Portt who then passed it along to the editor. We are pleased to publish this heartfelt letter. Thank you Mr. D'Angelo.



## Spellbound

The night is darkening round me,  
The wild winds coldly blow;  
But a tyrant spell has bound me  
And I cannot, cannot go.

The giant trees are bending  
Their bare boughs weighed with snow.  
And the storm is fast descending,  
And yet I cannot go.

Clouds beyond clouds above me,  
Wastes beyond wastes below;  
But nothing drear can move me;  
I will not, cannot go.

*Emily Brontë*



### Retiree Parking Permits - 2026

College Parking Services are currently processing retiree parking permits.

Please go to the parking desk at either the Windsor Main Campus or the Chatham Campus, show your 2026 SCC Retirees Association Membership card, fill out a form provided by the staff there, and receive your new parking permit at that time.

Please remember that your 2025 parking permit will no longer be valid after March 31, 2026.

### Answers to Trivia Quiz

1. Courgette
2. Quiver
3. Refusing to join the army for the Vietnam war in 1967 - due to his religious beliefs as a Muslim and moral opposition to the war, famously stating he had "no quarrel with the Viet Cong" and wouldn't fight "poor hungry people" for America's "imperialist" war, leading to his title stripping, boxing ban, fine, and prison sentence, though his conviction was later overturned.
4. Cap'n Crunch
5. The Exorcist. Apparently, the realistic spinal tap scene was the culprit of most of the extreme reactions.

## Tribute to Kenneth Garber



The St. Clair College Retirees' Association has lost not only a friend, but also the one person who has maintained the critical link between all of the individual association members and the executive group, which coordinates all association actions and activities. Without this vital communication link, the Retirees' Association could not continue to function.

Ken has been involved with the Association since early in its fledgling days. Even prior to his retirement, he developed and maintained an internal system on College computers that allowed the association to contact its small number of members through e-mail, which was then in its earliest forms. Upon his retirement, Ken transitioned smoothly into the communications role, and as the membership grew, the Association began using a system used by the college known as Campaigner. This continued until Campaigner priced themselves out of the job. Ken investigated and recommended the use of MailChimp, which the association is still using today. He used his knowledge and skills to enable more sophisticated applications that not only enhanced administrative needs through valuable reports, but also benefitted the members using it through continuing information updates.

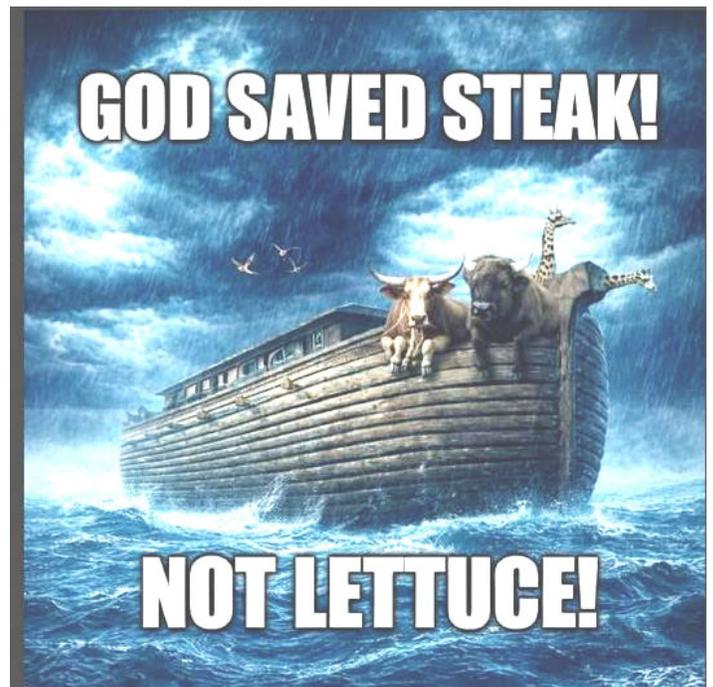
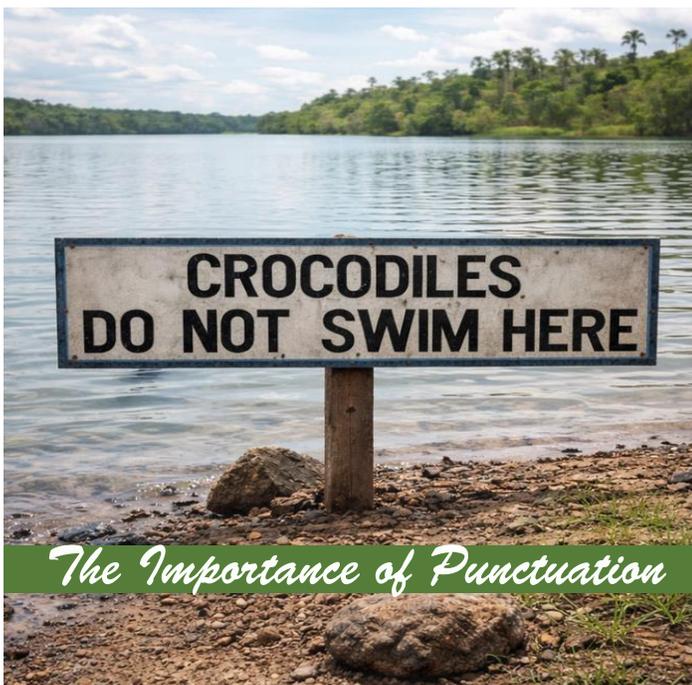
Ken's knowledge of e-mail applications also allowed him to include informational bulletins and articles in the association's newsletter, which benefitted members, clarifying their own computer use and educating retirees of the benefits and hidden dangers in using home computers. We will miss his weather updates; his weekly (attempts) at humour gleaned from You Tube; and, his valued computer systems advice.

An association such as ours could not exist without the maintenance and use of a sophisticated communication system, which maintains constant contact with over 500 members widely scattered throughout the province and the country.

We are so fortunate that Rob Barsottsa, a St. Clair retiree with previous IT experience and expertise, has stepped in to see the association through the transition and continued operation of this crucial role. We welcome Rob to the Executive Board of the Retirees' Association in the role of Mail Chimp/Email Administrator. ✨

Contributed by *Bill Totten*

## A Nod to Ken's Sense of Humour



# In Memoriam

*We remember the following Retirees/Full-time Staff who passed away during the period  
October 23, 2025 - January 28, 2026*



**George J. Rapaich** passed away on October 28, 2025 at age 91. He is predeceased by his late wife Helen (2021) and survived by his daughter Juliana (Robert Nahhal). He was a professor of finance and accounting at both St. Clair College and the University of Windsor, and he was an accomplished entrepreneur who built and successfully operated a tax and accounting business.



**Kenneth Garber** passed away on January 9, 2026 at age 75. Ken is survived by his wife, **St. Clair retiree Lea (Simms) Garber**. Ken was an active model train railroader, and also an amateur radio enthusiast among several other associations and clubs. Ken was a long-time employee of St. Clair College in the AV and IT Departments, and following retirement was an active member of the St. Clair College Retiree's Association where he was the email Administrator.



**John Wolf** passed away on October 28, 2025 at age 95. Husband of Elsie for 73 years and father of Vicki Baumert (Frank, 2012). John was an architectural draftsman with Giffels Associates for some 25 years. He thereafter joined St. Clair College teaching architectural drafting for over 20 years.



**Bernadette "Bernie" Morin-Gannon** passed away on January 21, 2026, at the age of 79. Bernie was the wife to Edmond "Vern" Gannon and the mother of Robert and Jean-Paul "John" (Tina). Bernie was a long time faithful member of the staff of the Registrar's office at St. Clair College.



**Jill Barden** passed away on October 29, 2025 at age 78. Jill was the wife of **St. Clair retiree James Barden**, and mother of Ron Moore, Lori Moore, and Derek Pflanzner. She is survived by brothers Glen Morgan, Al Morgan, and Dennis Morgan. Jill was a retired OPSEU staff representative and negotiator, and worked at St. Clair College in various departments including the Youth Employment Centre and the Switchboard.



**Joanne Elizabeth Marshall** passed away on January 25, 2026 at the age of 81. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, William, and daughter, Jennifer. A lifelong educator, she devoted more than three decades to teaching English-related disciplines. She taught at St. Clair College in the Applied Arts Department.



**Russell William Cunningham** passed away on October 31, 2025 at the young age of 40. He was the husband to Dayna and father to William and Jack. Russell had a deep love of nature, and especially enjoyed camping, hiking and fishing with his sons. Russell worked in the IT Department at St. Clair College in both the Windsor and Chatham Campuses.

*We remember also the family members of Retirees/  
Full-time Staff who passed away during the period  
October 23, 2025 - January 28, 2026*

**Pauline Grech** passed away on November 13, 2025 at age 68. Pauline was the sister of **St. Clair retiree Josie Grech**.

**Laura Elizabeth Aylesworth** passed away on January 19, 2026 at age 34. She was the daughter of **St. Clair retiree Phil Aylesworth** and niece of **St. Clair retiree Bob Aylesworth**.



## Executive Board 2024-2025

<b>President</b>	- Ross Langill
<b>Vice-President</b>	- Tom Williams
<b>Past-President</b>	- Sue McLelland
<b>President Emeritus</b>	- Bill Totten
<b>Secretary</b>	- Lyn Medler
<b>Treasurer</b>	- Dolph Barsanti
<b>Membership</b>	- Marilyn Portt
<b>Chatham Reps.</b>	- Mary Beth Rush
<b>Social Directors</b>	- Sue McLelland
	- Florry Foster
<b>Newsletter</b>	- Tony Ellul
<b>Goodwill</b>	- Silva Stamboulian
<b>Board Observer</b>	- Florry Foster
<b>Email/Mailchimp</b>	- Rob Barsotta
<b>Archives</b>	- Vacant
<b>Member at large</b>	- Brian Hucker

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

**SCCRA e-mail address**  
[sretiree@stclaircollege.ca](mailto:sretiree@stclaircollege.ca)

**SCCRA Website -**  
<https://stclaircollege.ca/retirees>



## Coming Events

Feb. 12	Out-to-Lunch Bunch	12:30 pm at Ciociaro Club
Feb. 18	Executive Meeting	A0216
Feb. 18	Winter Newsletter Distributed	
Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23	Archive Work Group	9:00 am Room A0216
Mar. 16 - 20	March Break	
Mar. 18	Executive Meeting	A0216
Apr. 3	Good Friday	College Closed
Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27	Archive Work Group	9:00 am Room A0216
Apr. ??	Golf Begins – Woodland Hills	
Apr. 15	Executive Meeting	A0216
Apr. 16	Annual Report distribute to m'ship	[via e mail only ?]
Apr. 29	RA Annual Meeting	Noon - SportsPlex - J2006
May 4, 11, 25	Archive Work Group	9:00 am Room A0216
May 18	Victoria Day	College Closed
May 20	Spring Newsletter Distributed	
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Archive Work Group	9:00 am Room A0216
June TBA	Spring Convocation	
June 17	Executive Meeting	Chatham Campus

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](mailto:sretiree@stclaircollege.ca)