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Retirees Association of Mohawk College News Letter August 1999

As another summer winds to a close, we can look back on a successful first half of the year for the Retirees' Association. Since the last newsletter, approximately forty members attended the Annual General Meeting on May 19. The meeting was preceded by a tour of Dundurn Castle and a cream tea.

On May 26, twenty nine members and guests visited the Toronto Zoo. They were guided to the different exhibits by very knowledgeable volunteers, making the visit both educational and enjoyable.

The June 8 visit to the Shakespeare Gardens in Stratford, followed by the musical "Westside Story", were both delightful events. Twenty nine retirees and their guests took part.

Twenty five of us and our guests enjoyed the luncheon cruise on the Grand River June 24. The roast beef lunch was delicious. The musical entertainment was well received. The history of the river and of Caledonia were both enjoyable and enlightening.

On July 8, we visited the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada, had lunch at the China Park Restaurant and visited the the Guelph Civic Museum and McCrae House. A both entertaining and educational day.

In Memoriam

It is with the deepest regret that we report the passing of the following members: **Robert "Bob" Paterson**, and **Neville "Hap" Holman**, both retirees from the Business Dept. Our deepest sympathy is extended to their families.

Lets Do Lunch

Joe Hibbert E-mailed to say that we had missed the two best Restaurants in Brantford, namely the **Gibraltar Point Oyster Bar** at the junction of Queen and West St. and the **Trattoria Juliana** at 33 St. George St. As the names imply, the first is a seafood house and the second specializes in Italian cuisine. At the **Gibraltar** the writer had the mussels in white wine, garlic and pepper flake sauce and Mary a seafood salad. Both were excellent. As Joe had warned, the mussels were spicy but extremely good. Mary found the salad excellent. At **Trattoria** your editor tried the cannelloni and Mary the lasagne. Both were first rate. Two thumbs up for these two; Joe was right.

Retirees Association of Mohawk College

Newsletter

Published four times per year

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A Mexican restaurant that we tried and can recommend is the Papagayo, 246 King St W.

Mohawk United Way Garage Sale

Saturday, Sept 11, 9 AM to 2 PM
(Rain Date Sept 12)

Space and Tables will be Provided by
Your Association

You do the selling and keep the money

Remember: Your Junk may be
someone else's Treasure

d three Mexican beers were available – moderately priced for lunch.

Cooks' Corner

John and Emily Leckie have submitted the following recipes for Hamburger Patties and Scones respectively.

Hamburger Patties		
1 lb ground beef	1 egg – lightly beaten	Combine first 6 items in a bowl; In another bowl mix remaining ingredients. Combine the two and form into patties
½ lb ground pork	¼ c milk	
2 t minced onion	½ c bread crumbs (2 slices of bread soaked in milk can be substituted)	
1 t salt		
¼ t pepper		
½ t Worcestershire sauce		

Scones		
3 c all purpose flour	1 c raisins	Sift the dry ingredients together and cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Combine egg, milk and vanilla and add. Stir in raisins and knead dough on a floured surface. Form dough into 3 equal balls and flatten on a baking sheet. Score top lightly into quarters, brush with milk and bake for 20 minutes in a preheated 400° F oven.
1 c white sugar	1 egg	
½ t baking powder	¼ c milk	
1 c butter (not margarine)	½ t vanilla	

Our Wandering Board Members Report

Geoff Booker on Travels in Bordeaux

For some reason France and the French have suffered from negative stereotyping. A recent Hamilton Spectator article however, bespeaks glowingly of Western Europe's largest country and our experiences certainly support that position.

Prices in Paris were somewhat higher than what Canadians have grown used to, although still not as high as in Britain. Further south things were not out of line.

Our main base was in Bordeaux near the Atlantic coast. After a very enjoyable Air France flight transfer in a not-too-convenient Charles de Gaulle Airport) we were met by our daughter and son-in-law and driven to their 'Old City' apartment. The Aquitaine area of France is not one of the most scenic - it is rather flat - but climatically it is mild (foliage being almost one month ahead of us) and does produce great wines. The stocky vines carry only a few branches but vineyards cover the country-side. Bordeaux wines are in a league of their own and visiting a chateau to taste the product is a very unhurried pleasurable pastime.

The city itself, like many European cities, has a very attractive historic core. Our apartment typical of the old city, boasted twelve foot ceilings and was constructed of limestone. It was about three hundred years old. While some cruise ships do sail up the Gironde River to visit overnight, the city is not really a tourist centre; nevertheless there are some lovely historic sights and excellent restaurants are everywhere. Sixty french francs (divide by four - Canadian dollar equivalent) would buy a Plat du Jour that included an appetizer an entre and dessert - and occasionally wine. Another plus in this deal is that the food is very good, the pace unhurried and tax and gratuities are included. Restaurant staff members often do not speak English but if visitors try their best using broken French and sign language not only are the results usually successful but lots of fun as well.

We had several excursions by car outside Bordeaux; the longest being south to the Mediterranean coast. On the toll motor ways which we thought were pricey (probably twice that of U. S. tollways) you could travel from the Biscayne coast to the Vermillion coast in about five hours. Smaller highways are always more enjoyable but do consume time. Space here does not permit more details but we would urge travellers to visit Calouri, an old fishing village on the south coast and Carcassonne, a restored mediaeval walled town in sight of the Pyrenees - there is no entrance fee.

The Rotary Club of Hamilton Mountain

is arranging a meeting of retired and semi-retired professional and business people in this community for the purpose of forming the -

Probus Club of Hamilton Mountain

The club will meet monthly, to hear guest speakers, socialize, and enjoy some special events.

Probus Clubs are non-fundraising, non-political, and non-sectarian. Annual fees are minimal and you are not required to have been a Rotarian. Those men or women, who are interested in becoming Charter Members are

invited to a meeting on:

**Thursday, September 9th at 9:00 O'clock
in the Morning,
At the
Hillcrest Restaurant**

on Concession Street in Hamilton. For further information please phone:
Bill Millar: 383-0626.

Oh, one final thought. Do practice your leg exercises particularly squatting. Motorway toilets are abundant but usually consist of a hole in the ground and places to put your feet. Of course there is always MacDonald's.

Alan Gregson on some Impressions of India

(Part the first)

Agra's stunningly ethereal white marble TAJ MAHAL reflected in the long rectangular pools at sunrise; majestic TIGERS moving stealthily through their natural territory after a night of hunting in Ranthambhore National Park; the HINDU people dedicated to their early morning spiritual and physical cleansing at the Ghats along the shoreline of their sacred river GANGES with its Ghats reserved for cremation pyres at the holy city of Varanasi; a vibrant galaxy of colourful saris of women crouched in fields cutting grain or walking proudly balancing on their heads their water jars or their gathered wood (or cow dung patties) to fuel their cooking fires; the wonderfully preserved 10th century complex of some twenty Hindu temples at Khajuraho where every surface is covered with sculptured form - gods, goddesses, warriors, animals, musicians, other human forms in various poses creating interesting discussion around the meaning of sex; a snake charmer; women working at every conceivable manual task while the men seemed to observe or gather for discussion; the restored hunting lodges and guest houses (mansions) of the former Maharajas in which we lived; the laughter of youngsters (some waving, some asking for pens or rupees!); the willingness of men to be friendly and talk while, in contrast, the women would rarely speak - possibly because many had never had the opportunity to go very far in school; the shining cleanliness of the sand-scrubbed cooking pans, the well swept outdoor floors and the whiteness of their whites even in a remote village; my difficulty in overcoming the inclination to shun my fellow humans (until I eventually swallowed my false pride and spoke with a man) whose mobility was restricted to "crawling" on all-fours as a result of childhood polio.....these are some of the new and memorable experiences - contrasts, pleasures and disturbances of our 22 days of travelling through a relatively small part of the Indian continent in March 1999.

Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Varanasi were the principal cities of our 17 member group's coach journey in North India before my smoothest ever, overnight sleeper train ride back to Delhi.

But ours was a WILDLIFE AND TIGER SAFARI.

(The second part of Alan's report will appear in the next issue of the News Letter.)

Editor's Notes

It is with great rejoicing that the editor thanks those who have contributed to this issue of the News Letter. We hope to receive more contributions from readers both for our new features and tales of the trials and tribulations of your travels. E-mail is the preferred method of submission (it is cheap) and easily copied. Second choice is on disk (3½ or 5¼) in WP, Word or most other common formats. Hard copy is also acceptable but please use a serif font such as Times New Roman in 12 pt. The OCR (optical character reader) tends to prefer them.