



Summer 2013

# Newsletter

Of the  
**Retirees**  
**Association**  
Of Mohawk College

## Annual General Meeting

More than 60 retirees and friends attended the AGM last June at Michelangelo's. As always, the food was superb. The meeting was mercifully "short and sweet".

Geoff Brooker and Bob Hooper provided the entertainment in the form of a "Guess That Tune" competition among the tables. The music was an eclectic assortment that covered nearly all musical genres with the possible exception of Hip Hop. The attendees had a good time both remembering old familiar tunes and puzzling over new ones.

Donna Dunlop is now our chair and the executive welcomes a new board member, our erstwhile adventurer through sun, snow and the Bruce Trail, Jack Freiburger.

*The Retirees Association of Mohawk College wishes to thank the Humber College Retirees Association for extending an invitation to Mohawk Retirees to join the Humber and Niagara retirees at the Medieval Times event*

### Newsletter of the Retirees Association of Mohawk College

#### Board Members:

<b>Chair:</b>	Donna Dunlop	905 388-2394	bddunlop@shaw.ca
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<b>Secretary:</b>	Sylvia Hillyard	905 628-2313	shillyard@cogeco.ca
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Joanne Wolfarth	905 679-3902	jwolfarth@sourcecable.net
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<b>Director:</b>	Jack Freiburger		jackfrei@shaw.ca
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<b>Hike Co-Ord.:</b>	Bill Fulton	905 627-9718	ibtrcbguu@hotmail.com

#### Ex-officio Members

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	Marie Yakimoff	905-522-7370	
	Hans Bastel	905 679-8173	hebastel@sourcecable.net

#### Honourary Life Members

Alan Gregson

William Stafford

Al Dalsto

Website: [www.mcretirees.com](http://www.mcretirees.com)  
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Deadline for next issue:  
October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

# Israel, dig it?

“So you went from the freezer [Labrador] to the furnace [Israel],” quipped Franz Brinkman, at our Wed breakfast club. Yup, I did.

From May 18 to June 1, 2013, I set a new record for a Catholic being on his knees: seventeen hours a day taken up with various aspects of being a “digger.” We rose at 3:45am, groped through breakfast from 4:15 while packing a lunch, grabbed a bus (with a/c) for the 40-minute ride to the site, hiked 0.6 km uphill to the dig, lugged gear from a storage shed 200m away, set up shade netting (day highs around 30C), then dug dirt, pried out rocks and lugged it all away until 1:30pm (1/2-hour lunch at 10:30), then put gear away and hiked back down to the bus. Forty drowsy minutes later we arrived back at the lodgings to scrub clean all the artifacts we found, then had about an hour to clean up for dinner. Then a one-hour lecture on the various cultures we were unearthing, then line up gear for the next day and fall into bed at 9:00pm. No, I wasn't tired; I was dead. I usually slept part of the way home. So did others half my age.

The host agency was the archeological wing of various evangelical churches, Associates for Biblical Research (Google them), who are driven to establish the historical accuracy of the Bible. While this is not my orientation, I was a welcome trowel. I learned of them at the Ancaster Fair. Many esteemed arch experts said the Canaanite town of Ai, mentioned as a conquest by Joshua as the Israelites invaded the Promised Land in “Joshua ch. 7 & 8,” simply never existed, so this was a red flag for this group. This is their eleventh year digging at

the site and much had been found already. However, Isrealites built on top of a previous community (Ai?) so the earlier town is hard to establish. That's why we were there.

Forty of us from New Zealand, Austria, a scatter of Americans, and three Hamilton Canadians shifted about 400 kilos of debris pp/pd for ten digging days. We found about 150 copper coins (largely thanks to a metal detector), a trunk-load of broken pottery, fortification stone walls with hinge stones for major gates (top stone like a donut for the pivot post to pass through, bottom one with a bowl-like depression), house stone walls with doorways and fenestrations (windows between interior rooms), vertical caves dug into the bedrock (cisterns lined with hydrologic plaster, grain storage unlined), and about six mitbahs (six steps carved into the bedrock, leading to a hollowed out small room) where Jewish women would ritually purify themselves after their periods.

I personally found the shattered remains of a large vessel, as though a whole one had been dropped straight down a hole. We photographed it in place once I had it dug out with a paintbrush, as we knew it would crumble to powder when I tried to remove it. It did. I also found six “sling stones,” perfectly round and about the size of billiard balls. Lots of pottery “sherds” (not “shards,” which are dangerously pointed) also came to light after 3000 years. One very neat one was an almost perfectly round disk with a small hole in the centre. The archies identified it as a piece of broken pottery that had been rounded and pierced to be used to weigh down yarn as it came off a spinning wheel. Recycling in 1200 BCE!

The scene of the dig was a rocky slope with touches of ancient lifestyle, overlooking the tiny village of Kirbet El-Maqatir, 12 km NW of Jerusalem. Every morning around 6:30, about 75 sheep passed between us, led by the shepherd on his donkey. At 12:30, a recorded Muslim call to prayer sounded from the minaret in the valley, telling us we had 90 minutes of work left. One day the Israelis had to test their air-raid siren system. So of course they tested at 12:30 and 7:00, just as the prayers began.



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On our two days off, we were taken into Jerusalem on Saturday to wander, sleeping in until 7:15am! On Sunday, we were taken on a guided tour of other famous digs in northern Israel: Shiloh, Shechem, Jacob's well, Jacob's tomb and other sites. Both days were 10 hours on the move. So much for rest! As we entered the Palestinian-controlled zone for Jacob's area, our Israeli guide had to leave the bus. A 3-metre square red sign warned that Israelite nationals were fair game to be shot on sight if past the sign! We picked him up on the way home. The Jewish-owned supermarket near Ramallah (Palestinian area) hires a good number of Muslim workers but the Muslim-owned supermarkets will not let Jews even enter the store. Such is daily life there!

Clearly the find of the period for a group with this orientation was a copper Egyptian coin, a scarab, with a cuneiform inscription added to it later. This item could have made the Exodus journey, then perhaps was converted into Israelite coinage with the inscription, much as we might stamp a maple leaf onto a US coin. This "product" (priority) item is old enough to have been dropped by an invading Israelite, potentially establishing the existence of the earlier community of Ai. Wow!

About half of the crew were repeat diggers, but I wouldn't do it again. Life is short and there's so much to see and do. But it will be a cause of satisfaction that I did it, and I'll certainly appreciate unearthed ruins elsewhere in the world as never before.

-Jack Freiburger

Tickets Available for Shaw Festival - See Attached  
October 11, 2013 Show & Lunch at "Betty's"



Contact [annie.dunn@shaw.ca](mailto:annie.dunn@shaw.ca)



**RETIREES ASSOCIATION**  
OF MOHAWK COLLEGE

## MOHAWK HIKERS

It was only natural that Beamer Conservation be a destination for the Mo "hawk" hikers. This area is a great vantage point for watching the hawk spring migration. The Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch is a volunteer group of birdwatchers dedicated to providing education to the public of the migrating hawks, recording a daily systemic count of birds spotted and the enjoyment of hawk watching. They were there watching from the tower. We learned from the information boards that in spring, the cold waters of Lake Ontario & Lake Erie do not provide the upward thermals the prey seek to make their journey north. Strong updrafts are created by the winds being funneled between the lakes and deflected off the Niagara Escarpment and the hawks use these to catch a thermal. As we were there at the end of the migratory season, we didn't see many of these birds but some turkey vultures and a red tailed hawk drifted by. There were many beautiful panoramic views over the escarpment and we got a wee peak of Beamer's Falls as we strolled along the main Bruce Trail. A great place to visit!

Having worked up an appetite, the group went to one of Grimsby's favorite eating hole's, Teddy's.

The next hike will be on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at Lowville Park, with lunch at the Lowville Bistro. More details will follow by email, at a time closer to the date.

-Barb Hallam and Bill Fulton

## ATTENTION!

While we await our brave new editor, Submissions should be sent to [fred.oldfield@gmail.com](mailto:fred.oldfield@gmail.com). (My other addresses are still valid but sometimes a little flaky.)

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From back to front: Steve Belcoski, Rick Knowles, Nick Atchison, John Blasinski, Andrew Jackson, Brian Shaughnessy, Craig Cooke, Bill Woodward, Tom Sutton, Ken Chow, Karen Lawrence, Sisir Pau-Chowdhury, Dave Lynch, Gary Helmer, Joe Chang, Al Atkinson, Mel Melconian, Len Marzec Gary Helmer, John Shields, John Cusick, Helen Dakin, John Kezys, Jane Wang, Gillian Leek - Millie Atkinson (photographer).

A spring reunion was held in Burlington which allowed most of the retirees from Mohawk's Math Department and many of the current mathematics faculty to get together.

-Helen Dakin, BMath, BEd



Birds of prey at Beamer's Falls

**Your Retirement Adventures could help fill our pages!**

**New Editor needed. Fulfill your life-long fantasy today!**



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# RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE

Invites You to Join Us and Enjoy

## “GUYS AND DOLLS ”

at the SHAW FESTIVAL THEATRE in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Friday, October 11, 2013

A Musical Fable of Broadway - Based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon - Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser - Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows - Directed by Tadeusz Bradecki

MUSICAL CLASSIC-In New York City, you'll meet wise guys and chorus gals, gamblers and actresses, cops and bobby-soxers. Pious Sarah Brown, a sergeant at the Save-A-Soul mission, wants to save their souls while Nathan Detroit needs \$1000 to save the city's oldest floating craps game. Enter high-roller Sky Masterson who takes Nathan's crazy bet to woo the virtuous Sarah! Who will take a real gamble on love? Will luck be a lady tonight? Guys and Dolls has been called the "greatest of all American Musicals."

10:15 a.m. Our Coach leaves Fennell Campus, Main Entrance

11:30 a.m. We arrive at the popular Betty's Restaurant

1:00 p.m. Our Coach takes us to Niagara-on-the-Lake

2:00 p.m. Our Show Begins

5:30 p.m. Estimated Return Time to Fennell Campus

Please make cheques payable to RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE and mail to:  
ANN DUNN, 126 WEST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, HAMILTON, ON L9C 3N2

PHONE: 905-383-9772 - by Friday, Aug. 23, 2013

\$93.00 ea. for Members and Spouse

\$98.00 ea. for Non Members

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### “GUYS AND DOLLS , Friday, Oct. 11, 2013

Please reserve ..... seats @ \$93.00 each for members & partners and .....\$98.00 each for non-members.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Payment for ..... x \$93. = .....

..... x \$98. = ..... = \$..... Is Enclosed

Please make your cheque payable to Retirees' Association of Mohawk College and mail to:  
Ann Dunn, 126 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton, ON L9C 3N2 - (905) 383-9772)

Please date cheques no later than Friday, Aug. 23, 2013