



Summer 2019

RAMC 2019 AGM

A synopsis of the **2019 Annual General Meeting, June 11, 2019** Royal Hamilton Yacht Club

Thirty-eight members attended the meeting. Liz Aldrey and Donna Dunlop co-chaired. Following introductions, Trish Loomis, Director, Office of the President and Laura D'Alessandro, Human Resources brought greetings and thanks from Ron McKerlie and the executive team at Mohawk. Trish also talked about Challenge 2025, Mohawk's commitment to ongoing social issues through projects such as City Schools, bringing the college into the community and offering free courses.

Budget: For 2018-19 it is noted that we had an expenditure of \$12,428 with \$9,697 carried over. There are **212 members**, including 17 new retirees. The donation of \$500.00 for emergency funding for students (2018 AGM) can be carried over into 2019-20.



Year in Review:

- **A memoriam tribute** was made for retirees who have passed away during the last year.
- **RAMC events** that occurred during the year, included: a trip to The Shaw Festival; fall & spring walk/hikes; the 25th anniversary event; Carmen's *Abbamania* & today's speaker on medical cannabis. The upcoming Shaw Festival trip to see *Brigadoon*, September, is sold out (59 people). More than half of the participants are from our partner associations, McMaster, Sheridan & Humber retirees. Thanks go to Lynda and Geoff Brooker for hosting the trip.

New Business:

After many hours of deliberation prior to the AGM, having asked numerous times for retirees to assist, the Board had come to the conclusion that they could not continue without additional volunteers. The conclusion was that if retirees are not stepping forward then perhaps there was no reason to continue in the present format. The current Board is stepping down and recommending dissolution of the Retirees Association of Mohawk College. Thanks were extended to the present Board for all of their hard work and years of service to RAMC - Liz Aldrey, Roberta Burke, Jane Cooper, Elaine Dunkey, Donna Dunlop, Nancy Fleming, Sylvia Hillyard, and John Schaeffer.

Discussion regarding the resolution to dissolve RAMC:

Some members wondered if RAMC could exist as a social network without the formality of an organizational structure.

Reasons for continuing RAMC:

- **Retirees Association of Mohawk College:** RAMC is a **primary vehicle for communication** for retirees not only from Mohawk but also from other colleges and McMaster University resulting in expanded social activities, volunteer opportunities, workshops etc. It was suggested expanding communication through social media such as Facebook. Although not available for a Board position, there are numerous members who are prepared to volunteer for individual projects in RAMC.
- **Membership in OCRA, Ontario College of Retirees Association:** Individual, \$10.00 memberships in OCRA is paid by RAMC, out of the \$25.00 yearly fee. Mohawk retirees make up at least half of the membership of OCRA. If individuals are left to pay OCRA membership on their own, numbers may decrease. As in any representative body, **membership numbers count. OCRA is important in representing the retirees with the union and management regarding pensions and other matters.**
- Free parking privileges, with parameters, at Mohawk College is a valued incentive.

Resolution for Dissolution of RAMC motion was voted down by a majority.

Election of Board of Directors for 2019 -20: Liz Aldrey, Roberta Burke, Nancy Fleming, Lynda Morgan Murdoch, Valerie Neely, Susan Pratt, John Schaeffer.



Following lunch a **presentation by Clinical Pharmacist, Vikas Parihar, McMaster University, on the topic of "Uses of Medical Marijuana"**. The presentation was extremely well received. Of particular note was the importance of being monitored by a medical professional in the usage of medical marijuana. Different types of plants and dosages of medical marijuana have very different effects and counter indications. A copy of the detailed slide presentation was sent out to members present.

Anyone who would like a copy of the PowerPoint presentation contact Liz Aldrey at

lizaldrey@yahoo.ca.

Hello Fellow Retirees and Former Colleagues,

It is good to connect with you and provide you with some updates about RAMC and also to remind you of the options available for paying your RAMC membership dues. We are also pleased to provide you with an update regarding complimentary visitor parking for members. A very special thank you to Lynda Morgan Murdoch on our Board for discussions with the College to achieve this excellent result!

You have two options for renewing your RAMC 2019-2020 membership:

- 1) Complete the attached membership form and return it with your cheque made payable to Mohawk College Retirees Association; or
- 2) Click-on the online registration link and pay by credit card,
<https://events.eply.com/2019RAMCMembershipRenewal>

Margaret Thurston is our new Treasurer / Membership Director. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact her at margareththurston@cogeco.ca or 905 319-9352.

- Membership is \$25.00 and is due September 30th.
- \$10.00 will be remitted to Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association (OCRA) on your behalf.
- **If you have renewed your membership and require a parking code, please email: roberta.burke@cogeco.ca and one will be sent to you via email.**
- We are looking forward to **Staying Connected** this year and seeing you at upcoming events. Trust you enjoyed a great summer!

Thank you to so many of our members who renewed their membership promptly. We value your support.

John Schaeffer, RAMC Board Chair

PARKING:

We are pleased to inform RAMC members that the College will continue to provide us with complimentary visitor parking at Fennell Campus **or** Stoney Creek Campus, and has requested that we observe the following parameters:

- upon request, members will be issued a parking code that can be used 10 times during the upcoming year;
- members will refrain from using codes during September and January to accommodate peak student demand for parking during start up periods;
- parking codes are for the exclusive use of RAMC members and are not to be shared with family or others;
- members can use codes when visiting campus for any reason.





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
 September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020
 Renewal Fee \$25

It is time to renew your annual membership for the coming year. From the renewal fee, \$15 remains with our Retirees Association of Mohawk College (RAMC) and \$10 is remitted to Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association (OCRA).

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name	First Name
Mailing Address (including postal code)	
E-mail Address	
Telephone Numbers Home	Cell
Year of Retirement	Last Department Prior to Retirement
PAYMENT OPTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheque payable to RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE • On-line Credit Card: https://events.eply.com/2019RAMCMembershipRenewal 	
PLEASE PRINT AND MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM (along with your cheque if applicable) to: <p align="center">Margaret Thurston (905-319-9352) 2302 Homer Drive Burlington, ON L7P 4T9</p>	

COMPLIMENTARY PARKING PRIVILEGES FOR RAMC MEMBERS ARE UNDER REVIEW BY THE COLLEGE.

2019 07 22

RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE ~ EST. 1992-1993
 Inform Encourage Unite Serve ~ Celebrating & Honouring Mohawk Retirees ~ Stay Connected!
retirees@mohawkcollege.ca



MEET YOUR 2019 RAMC DIRECTORS

Liz Aldrey accepted a position as a Library Technician with St. Joseph's School of Nursing when she graduated from College. When nursing programs became the responsibility of CAAT, Liz joined the College library staff working at St. Joseph's Campus at Chedoke Campus and later at the IAHS. Liz's main responsibility was the Health Sciences Audiovisual collection. She retired in 2005.

Roberta Burke started her 33 year career at the College in the Job Readiness Training Department. She was the Coordinator of Prior Learning and Assessment for 13 years. She taught in Humanities and Social Sciences before moving to the Centre for Teaching and Learning and retiring from Faculty Development in 2013.

Jane Cooper was hired as a full-time professor in the Office Administration (Legal) program in 2002. In 2006, she became Chair, Business Studies, which transitioned, over time, into Associate Dean, McKeil School of Business, which is the role she held until I retired from the College in 2017.

Nancy (Jones) Fleming started at the Library Resource Center in 1977, then to Academic Scheduling in 1982, and finally in 1986 moved into the position of Campus Manager in Brantford. She retired in 2008.

Lynda Morgan Murdoch began her 31 year career at Mohawk in Job Readiness programs and moved into the academic area as professor and coordinator in Language Studies. After being involved in the design and implementation of several projects focused on curriculum, program quality and student success she transitioned into administration and joined the Senior Leadership Team in the role of Strategic Plan Coordinator. She retired in 2011 from her position as Director, Quality and Strategic Initiatives.



Valerie Neely retired from the nursing faculty in June 2006, after having served as both faculty and Level 1 Coordinator, since 1986. Since retirement she has started her own business, PRN Consultants, a medical-legal consulting company and works as a professional actor. Last year she lost her spouse Glenn; friends, family and her five grandchildren have helped her deal with her loss.

Susan Pratt worked at Mohawk, 1971 to 2006, working full-time as professor & later as co-ordinator in the Child & Youth Worker Program (Child Care Worker Program) and later as a counselor in Counselling and Disability Services. She continued to work as a sessional counselor in the Counselling and Disabilities Services until 2009. Susan worked provincially on standards of practice and curriculum development in the Child and Youth Work profession. Susan has published chapters in professional books and journals, and has sat on a professional journal editorial board.

John Schaeffer came to the College in 1984 as General Manager of the Hamilton Industrial Training Center in Stoney Creek. Later he became Director and Chair of a variety of skills, retraining and post-secondary programs at Stoney Creek Campus. In 1996 he became Chair and then Associate Dean at Brantford Campus of a variety of skills, Apprenticeship and post-secondary programs. He retired in 2007. John is presently in the process of moving to Woodstock.

Margaret Thurston has assumed the responsibilities for membership and treasurer previously held by Elaine Dunkey. Margaret was employed in the Office Administration Department (Legal Option) for 30 years. She was co-ordinator of the Legal Program when she retired in 2002. Simultaneously, from 1978 to 1986 she was Program Manager for the Department's Continuing Education division. She is especially proud of her work in successfully launching the Law Clerk program, with considerable assistance from the legal community. She received the President's Award for Excellence in 1992. Margaret is looking forward to her new position on the board, but admits that it will be very difficult to "fill the shoes" of Elaine Dunkey who served in this role for many years.

STAYING CONNECTED

RETIREE, SYLVIA SIMPSON, FORMER PROFESSOR LANGUAGE STUDIES



Sylvia Simpson's CreativeWorks studio-shop-gallery offers original artwork in oils, pastels and watercolours. Limited edition prints, art cards and other items such as sketch books are offered.

Sylvia's specialty is creating amazing portraits of your home, cottage or place of business. These make the perfect memento of the family home, a perfect house warming, wedding, anniversary or retirement gift.

Sylvia also offers art classes for all skill levels and age brackets, 4 to 94. Classes are offered "one on one" or very small groups of 2 or 3 persons, and cover sketching, composition, colour usage and much more. Sylvia's students return for repeat sets of classes to advance their skills. <https://www.yellowpages.ca/search/si/1/Sylvia-Simpson-s-Creative-Works/Hamilton+ON> <http://www.tinyurl.com/sylviasimpson>

CICAN 2019 CONFERENCE

Along with members of the Niagara College Retirees Association, Liz Aldrey volunteered for the 2019 CICAN (Colleges and Institutes Canada) conference hosted by Niagara College at the **Scotiabank Convention Centre** in Niagara Falls.



Frans and I have really enjoyed working in the gardens here all this spring of 2019 with her wonderful life-giving rains and a temperate climate. And we continued through the humid heat of July.

On Monday, August 5th mid-morning I finally called it quits! With 2 transplants still not in the ground and a Jackmanii Clematis yet to be planted, I decided to take a shower, look pretty, put on a sundress, pour a glass of white wine on ice and sit in Frans's garden chair with my feet up never to move again.

I was soon enfolded in a deep silence and a heaviness that weighted down my entire body. I could not move a muscle, not even my eyes. I could feel only the presence of the garden and a vibrating presence it was. And I could hear that it was making a joyful sound. I was to do nothing, nothing but listen and give thanks for the beauty before me.

Welcome to the ever changing garden of Joyful Sound! Can I describe the life there as I have so recently experienced it?

Between the Nome-like wavy green cedars, I feel a joy vibrating throughout the garden plants.

I first see it voiced in the clump of velvety wine and gold throated Daylilies reaching out to me in song, literally singing their hearts out all in one day.

With a turn, I see the colourful grouping of Sombrero red and white and banana yellow Coneflowers dancing a flamenco in the sun.

Scattered across the width of the garden, four Limelight Hydrangeas, like ballerinas laden with creamy white blooms, sway to the music while the more perky, upright yellow and brown-eyed Rudbeckia clap in delight.

And back in the cooler shade of the oaks and maples, the spectators, the well-dressed Hostas wave in repose.

Thank you for listening to my experience of a joyful garden in our backyard.

I hope the photos I have taken help you visualize the reality as the lilies are almost sung out.

Heather and Frans Brinkman heatherjoynowe@yahoo.ca



'Tis truly uplifting to be greeted by the Daylilies of velvety wine with their lemony throats singing their hearts out all day long, each bloom living for only one day.



Together with the monarch butterflies, we love the deep banana–yellow Coneflowers, mixed with the bright red and the whitest of whites dancing a colourful flamenco in the sun.

The staining Daylily of brilliant red with a golden throat reaches out in song for recognition and appreciation of her eye - stopping beauty.



The return of the golden Daylily appearing as if in –flight is the greatest joy to behold as I wind through the garden on my early morning stroll.

The perky Rudbeckia so eager to please will droop in the heat of the late afternoon sun.



The creamy white clumps of the four Limelight Hydrangeas are a refreshing delight as they waltz in the breeze.

And the potted tropical Hibiscus, the lady in red, thrills us daily with her frilly fresh bloom her tongue extended out in exquisite pleasure.

Heather Brinkman, retiree from Language Studies

KATHY AND HANK VERSPAGEN VACATIONING LAST FALL IN PARIS



REMEMBERING WAYNE

One of Wayne Allan's sculpture's in a garden,
Horseshoe Lake, Parry Sound



Tell us about your summer. Send pictures and stories to share with all. Send to: spratt6@cogeco.ca or lizaldrey@yahoo.ca.



IN MEMORIAM



NANCY FELLOWS

The family of Nancy and Joe Fellows announce her peaceful passing from peritoneal cancer at home in Milton, Ontario July 24, 2019 at the age of 62. With great courage and an amazingly cheerful and benevolent attitude, Nancy battled through her 18-month illness. Her family, friends and clinicians all commented on her dignity and strength during her difficult illness. "I am a woman of faith" was a common comment heard from Nancy. Nancy was born in Halifax the daughter of Geraldine (Dean) and Alfred (Al) Brown of Bedford, Nova Scotia. She graduated from Oxford School, Saint Patrick's High School and the Halifax Infirmary's Nuclear Medicine Program. She later obtained degrees from Charles Stewart University as well as a Masters in Adult Education from Central Michigan University. Living in the Greater Toronto area since 1988, Nancy enjoyed a successful 37-year career in the Health Sciences and Education. Beginning her career as a nuclear medicine technologist she became a Program Manager for the Michener's Institute. She completed her career as an Academic Researcher at Mohawk College in Hamilton. Retiring in 2014. In 2005, Nancy and her husband Joe relocated to Milton, Ontario. During her last five years, Nancy enjoyed volunteering at Holy Rosary Church in Milton, working casually at Sheraton College in Brampton, Ontario. She was a faithful member of the Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church in Milton. Serving on several ministries. Nancy also held the honour of being a past president of the Catholic Women's League. In her early adult years she enjoyed traveling throughout Europe with her dearest friend Cindy. Cruises, vacations with friends in Florida and visits to historical civil war sites were some of her and her husband Joe's favourite destinations. All who knew Nancy will remember her kind and gentle heart.

VERN (ROY) PICH



Of Brantford, at the age of 81 years passed suddenly Wednesday, June 12, 2019. Vern was the beloved husband and best friend of Elizabeth "Beth" Pich (nee Turner) for 57 years. Devoted father of Carolyn (Tom Rollins), and Trish (Chris Biro), both of Brantford, and Brad (Susetta), Innisfil. Cherished grandfather of Meaghen, Andrew (Katrina), Tia (Brandon), Kristie, and Gavin; and great-grandfather of Harvey. Dedicated Dad to his two pups, Nikki and Charlie. Lovingly remembered by siblings, Juanita (Ben Allan), Emsdale, and Robert, Vancouver. Predeceased by his parents, James and Mabel (nee Lacina); brother Ben (Connie); and sister, Yvonne Ball. Vern was Dean of Mohawk College Brantford and a dedicated educator at the college for most of his career. He loved teaching.

After retirement, many of his students stopped him while he was out in the community to thank him for guiding and mentoring them. Dad was a devoted family man who strived to spend every moment possible with his loved ones. He was an avid boater, outdoorsman, handyman and had an amazing sense of humour.

SAMMARA JEAN WALLACE



Born in Constance, SK on May 16, 1932. Passed peacefully in her home on Wednesday April 3, 2019. Proud mother of Jon (Pamela) Wylie, James Brock Wylie, and Cara (George) Wylie. Predeceased by her parents David Robertson and Annie Wallace and husband Jim Wylie. She will be missed dearly by her granddaughter and her great-grandson, and by nieces, nephews and many loving friends from The Maids of the Round Table, Blooms for Africa, The Stephen Lewis Foundation, Canadian Federation of University Women CFUW, Body and Soul Dundas, BJRT Mohawk College, and Members of the Unitarian Church.

EVENTS

MO-HAWK HIKERS

HAMILTON BEACH (VAN WAGNER'S BEACH) JUNE 5, 2019



FALL HIKE

There will be a hike on Wednesday, October 16th at 10:30 a.m. We will meet at Old Ancaster Road Parking Lot 856 Old Ancaster Road, Dundas, ON L9G 5E3, for a loop hike with lunch at East Side Mario's at University Plaza, Dundas. More details to follow via email notice.

SHAW FESTIVAL – BRIGADOON



BRIGHT RUN

Coming up on Saturday September 7th, Bright for Cancer. More information go to: www.brightrun.ca.



In 2020 we plan on having RAMC team. Watch your Newsletter for more information.

"We want your ideas & suggestions for social activities, outings, get togethers. Send them to your Board member in charge of social activities: Jane Cooper jane.cooper@mohawkcollege.ca"



PET LOVERS

To all our pet loving members remember that blue green algae is very poisonous to pets. Don't let your pet drink the water or swim in it.

CAAT PENSION NEWS

CAAT Welcomes Employees from Three New Participating Employers: Postmedia, London Cross Cultural Learning Centre, and The Canadian Press joined DBplus design on July 1st. Since its launch a year ago, DBplus has attracted seven new employers with its innovative offering, which include guaranteed lifetime retirement income with conditional inflation protection, survivor pension benefits, and early retirement options – with the certainty of a fixed cost for both employees and employers. The CAAT Pension Plan is open for growth in membership where it is mutually beneficial, from the public, private or not-for-profit sectors in Canada. This includes workplaces currently offering defined benefit pension plans, defined contribution plans, group RRSPs, and those with no current workplace retirement savings plan.

OCRA

ANNUAL MEETING: St. Clair College Retirees' Association will host the Fall 2019 OCRA General Meeting on Wednesday October 23, 2019. The location for the meeting will be the beautiful St. Clair Centre for the Arts located on the waterfront in Windsor. Further information check the OCRA website: <https://ocraretirees.ca/>

CAAT Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee (CRGIAC): Retirees participating in the Retiree Group Benefits Plan with the colleges should be aware that there is a committee called the CAAT Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee (CRGIAC). It is an advisory body that assists the College Employer Council in ensuring the appropriate benefit design and cost effectiveness of the group insurance benefit plans. An important role of CRGIAC is bringing forward contentious claims for review when a claims problem with Sun Life is not resolved through the existing administrative procedure. The existing procedure is to first discuss any claim issue with Sun Life directly. If the issue is not resolved, the college's Benefits Administrator should be contacted. If the Benefits Administrator is unable to resolve the issue, the retiree can then contact their respective OPSEU or OCASA resource person.

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

askhr@mohawkcollege.ca

Phone: Human Resources: 905 5251312, ex. 2047

Rm. F102, Fennel Campus

There is no one person designated in HR, it is a team of four people, any of whom may respond.

Should you require assistance with a benefit claim issue, and you are unable to resolve it, here is the contact information:

For OPSEU CAAT Academic or Support retirees:

Kim Macpherson - Benefits Officer, OPSEU

1-800-268-7376 ext. 5564

kmacpherson@opseu.org

For OCASA retirees:

Erin Roberts - Executive Director, OCASA

1-866-742-5429 x 101e

erin@ocasa.on.ca

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SCAMMERS (source OCRA website)

Every year Canadians (seniors being particularly targeted) lose millions of dollars to scammers. The Competition Bureau Canada has considered it important to produce "The Little Black Book of Scams" to help protect Canadians from fraud. To access the "The Little Black Book of Scams", go to:

[https://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/vwapi/lbbs-web-2017-eng.pdf/\\$file/lbbs-web-2017-eng.pdf](https://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/vwapi/lbbs-web-2017-eng.pdf/$file/lbbs-web-2017-eng.pdf)

2019-2020 RAMC DIRECTORS

Chair: John Schaeffer
johnrschaeffer@gmail.com

Past Chair: Liz Aldrey 905-386-6516
lizaldrey@yahoo.ca

Secretary: Nancy Fleming 905-648-1960
nancy.brad.fleming@gmail.com

Treasurer: Margaret Thurston 905-319-9352
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Event Coordinator: Jane Cooper
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Director: Sue Pratt spratt6@cogeco.ca

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Webmaster: Fred Oldfield
905 643-3442 fdo@elmlane.com

CONTACT US:
Email: retirees@mohawkcollege.ca
Phone: 905-386-6516

The Retirees Association of Mohawk College has dedicated members who support the Board's mandate. Would you like to join? Do you have a special event that you would like to coordinate? Can we help promote a reunion? Contact us at retirees@mohawkcollege.ca.

RETIRES ASSOCIATION OF MOHAWK COLLEGE

CELEBRATING & HONOURING MOHAWK RETIREES!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 31, 2019

Share News, Photos & Articles!

Organizing a Reunion? Have an Idea for an Event? Let Us Know!

E-MAIL LIZ ALDREY: lizaldrey@yahoo.ca or SUE PRATT: spratt6@cogeco.ca

The Retirees Association of Mohawk College, a long-standing partner of the College, is the largest such organization in Ontario's college system. The Association was established in November 1992 and was formally approved by the President in January 1993. Our Charter was signed on May 18, 1993. Our Association is organized exclusively for the benefit of its membership and for assisting Mohawk College in its aims and objectives, especially as these relate to the support of students.

www.mcretirees.com retirees@mohawkcollege.ca