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## Retirees Association of Mohawk College News Letter February 1999

Spring, hopefully, is just around the corner and after a rather stormy January, February, to the date of writing, has been very good. In this issue of your newsletter we have the spring line up of events as well as a belated new years message from our chair.

On Dec. 4, fifty-two of us spent a very enjoyable time viewing the lights in Lewiston NY, Buffalo and Niagara Falls. Thanks to Shirley-Ann and Alan for organizing this trip

On Feb 2 the Mohawk College's President Reception and Awards of Excellence was held. Unfortunately advance notice could only be given members on the college's website.

An Internet workshop was held for retirees at the college on Feb. 7. Once again it was difficult to give advance notice, other than by e-mail and through the college's website. Thanks to Carl for organizing this for us.

### Coming Events

- ▶ Wednesday Apr. 14, *Les Belles Soeurs* St. Lawrence Centre, Toronto
- ▶ Tuesday May 18 Annual General Meeting Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek
- ▶ Wednesday May 26 Toronto Zoo

See accompanying sheets for details

### In Memoriam

It is with the deepest regret that we report the passing of the following members: **Joseph Marco**, retiree from the **Mechanical Department**, **Kathleen (Kaye) Saville**, retiree from the Stoney Creek Campus. Our deepest sympathy is extended to their families.

Our sympathy is also extended, to the families of **Sheilla Hammond** of the Cooperative Education Dept., **Raymond Jacobs** who taught in the Continuing Education Dept. at Stoney Creek Campus, and **Walter Sweet** of Marriot. The passing of **Helen Pogor**, wife of Vince Pogor, retiree from the Business (Insurance) Dept has also been reported. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Vince and his family.

Retirees Association of Mohawk College  
Newsletter

Published four times per year

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**Message For '99 on Behalf of  
Your Board:**

**We're into the last year  
of the 1900's so we truly  
hope that '99 will be  
one of the best years  
of your life.**

Haven't we all attended the College's Convocation ceremony at some time? I remember particularly a line from the Invocation which can have a real impact on all our lives, **"....seek out the best in everyone."**

Putting that into practice will also, I'm convinced, help us each rediscover the best in ourselves – throughout 1999 and beyond.

Your Association still endeavours to assist retirees and their partners in whatever way is needed. One way is the "keeping in touch" with former college colleagues.

Even if you haven't taken part in any of our activities lately I must tell you that you've not been forgotten.

For me, some evidence of this became apparent in after our last trip to the theatre in Toronto. One of my (non-college) car passengers said, "There was a lot of camaraderie among your colleagues..." True. Lots of talk and sharing. Your name

probably came up during some part of that day,,  
 "...have you seen...?" "I met...", "...has moved to..", "I'm glad  
 to know...". So it went. Absent but not forgotten!.

Our Newsletter is made more relevant when we all contribute  
 ideas and news – don' t hesitate.

Your Board members try to design a meaningful program for  
 you. We hope that you will be able to be a part of the  
 camaraderie in '99 and that you will be able to say, **"Yes, it  
 is one of the best years of my life"**.

### Things Your Board is Talking About

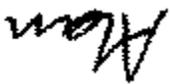
At every meeting of your board one of the most time consuming items is a discussion of future  
 activities that the members might enjoy taking part in. Some of the things discussed, some of which  
 have been firmed up as noted above, at our November 24, 1998 board meeting were:

- A second session on an introduction to the Internet:
- "Westside Story" at the Stratford Festival
- "The Stone Angel" by Margaret Laurence at the St. Lawrence Centre, Toronto
- Grand River Cruise and dinner
- Donkey Sanctuary of Canada Tours and tastings at three Niagra wineries and lunch
- Fall Colours, Kleinberg Gallery and lunch
- Royal Winter Fair
- Cullen Gardens Xmas Garden Show

If you have any comments or feelings regarding any of these possibilities we would welcome  
 them. Also and ideas or suggestions will most assuredly not fall on deaf ears.

### Sun Life Insurance

Those of us who are in the position of paying our own premiums for health and dental insurances  
 are aware of the substantial cost. For those retirees who are not yet paying, the full coverage  
 including optional life, extended health, vision/hearing, dental and PST exceeds \$2600 per year. At  
 the November Board meeting, Mr Derek May presented many of the concerns that are being  
 expressed by retirees. Among these are:

- ▶ Lack of information on how the premiums are arrived at
- ▶ Details of competitive bids reportedly solicited from companies  other than

Sun Life

### The Seasoned & Experienced Club

This organization is dedicated to the health and wellness of those of us who are actively living and enjoying the latter third of our lives (over 55). The president is Thie Convery, who many may know of for her articles in the Dundas Star News. The club plans bi-monthly events. The two most recent were: "Niagara Classic Day Tour" consisting of transportation to Niagara Falls, admission to the Butterfly Conservatory, lunch at the Queenston Heights Restaurant, and a matinée at the Shaw Festival (November 26 – \$59.95 per person) and the "Big Band Showdown" at the Hamilton Covention Centre including a buffet supper. (February 13. – \$30 per person)

To receive a copy of their news letter "Experienced Living" or for more information call the club hotline (905) 525-0462

between the three classes of retirees (Academic, Administration and Support)

- ▶ Outdated literature outlining coverages and limits
- ▶ Why we are divided into three groups, thus minimizing our negotiating power

Your board is in the process of attempting to contact other colleges' retirees associations to see if a united front can be presented. If you have any comments or suggestions on the insurance issue please let us know either by telephone to any board member, e-mail or by snail mail.

### Website News

*Carl Easton, page manager*

In the near future more features will be added to the Retirees Webpages. A links page providing instant access to other college pages of interest to retirees will be added. Human resources has a number of excellent websites listed. The Social Committee is becoming much more active and retirees are welcome to attend any social committee function.

We have recently used the page to publicize changes to events and send reminders, this will become more effective as we reach more people. If you have Internet access **please** let us know. If you don't want to have your e-mail address published on the website that is not a problem, just tell me. E-mail me at "windy.interlynx.net".

### 1998 President's Awards for Excellence Recipients

Laurie Barry – Budget Analyst,  
 Peter Dawn – Chair, Computer Science and Information Technology,  
 Rachel Matthews – Director, Counselling and Disability Services,  
 Rob McInnis,, – Manager, Information Systems, Registrar's Division,

Jim Vanderveken – Training Consultant, Business Development Division,  
Ken Chow, – Professor, Mathematics,  
Andrea Deakin – Professor, Nursing,  
Mary Guise, – Professor, Nursing

### Eastern Europe and Oberammergau 2000

Margaret (ret. Health Sciences '96) and Walter Marttila are hosting a trip to the world famous Passion Play performed every 10 years. The cast, by tradition, must all have been born in the Bavarian village of Oberammergau. It is a real experience! Walter and Margaret attended in 1990.

The 17 day tour (Sept.9-25, 2000)of Eastern Europe features Germany Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich), Poland (Warsaw, Krakow, a visit to Auschwitz), Hungary (Budapest), Austria (Vienna), and the Czech Republic (Prague). Most stops are at least two days. We finish with Oberammergau and fly home from Munich. For a trip brochure call Walter or Margaret at 632 2777 or e-mail [wrmam@bestnet.org](mailto:wrmam@bestnet.org).