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Retirees Association of Mohawk College News Letter January 2002

Writing this on New Year's eve, your humble editor is moved to reflect on the old year, ending in less than eight hours – at least in our time zone. Much happened in 2001, some good and some bad. Amongst the good was the formation of the Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association. Hopefully something can be done about the outrageous rates we are charged for health insurance. The January post will soon be bringing the invoice for an obscene amount.

Amongst the bad was the painful duty of writing *In Memoriam* notices for Kenneth Connolly, Elinore Dyck, Charles H Gamble, George Stewart and Harry Sutcliffe.

Since the last news letter we have had two events. **The Sound of Music** on October 28 at Stratford (Sam Kajiura reports on page 3) and on Dec.9 "Twas the Night before Christmas" celebration and dinner at the **Westfield Heritage Village** (Carl Easton reports on page 3).

Coming Events

Tuesday February 11 – **Chinese dinner** with Simon Kam at Le Chinois (See enclosed sheet)

Wednesday March 13 – Stage West "**Cash on Delivery**" (See enclosed sheet)

Saturday, April 20 – **A Day at the Races** (See enclosed sheet)

Friday May 17 - We have been successful in obtaining 55 tickets for the Stratford Festival

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In Memoriam

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It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of the following member: **Vinko (Vince) Francovitch** – retiree from Mathematics Dept.

"M Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

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Further information will follow in the April News Letter.

News of Members

Loyalty has its rewards: Retiree Ann Dunn and her husband were recently honoured by the Hamilton Tiger Cats for their loyalty and support of the team as season ticket holders for the past fifty years. Each received an official team crest to sew onto a jacket.

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ed years) – Ed

Mohawk Staff Newsletter

Let's Do Lunch

YHE recently joined the **Hamilton Air Force Association** – it is closer to home and somewhat less expensive than the Hamilton Club. Lunch is available there Tuesday to Friday to all comers, membership not being required. Lunch consisting of soup or salad, the daily special, desert and coffee is generally priced at about \$7.00 including tax. If soup and a sandwich with fries will suffice, they are available for about \$4.50. The fare is very good, and extremely good value. Beer, wine and spirits are available at the bar at a reasonable price. The **HAF** is located on King Street E (about 50 m west of East St.) in Dundas. Enter off the parking lot at the east side of the building..

A new Mohawk College News Letter is now available on line at <http://www.mohawkc.on.ca/dept/mpr/newletter>. It is published every other Monday. Back copies are archived at the above site. Acrobat Reader is necessary too view it

Akita is a new Japanese restaurant that opened last fall at 96 Main St. E, Unit 6. The buffet, all you can eat lunch, at \$8.99 is an excellent value. The cold buffet had various sushi rolls and Japanese salads and the hot buffet had tempura, and teriyaki as well as beef stew for the faint of heart. Akida was not yet licensed at the time of our visit. Lunch with tax and tip was about \$24.

Martin's Steak House at 946 Barton St. E is an old established restaurant specialising in, as the name implies, steaks. Mary and YHE had dined there many years ago and had been planning on lunching there for some time. The atmosphere is warm and the decor is somewhere between a gentlemen's club and an Italian bordello. It is very definitely a "white table cloth" restaurant with prompt impeccable service. Mary had the catch of the day and YHE had the roast beef. Both were very good. Lunch with beer, tax and tip was \$56.

The Jade Garden at the south west corner of James St. N and Vine Streets is a new Chinese Restaurant. Mary and YHE decided on the *Dim Sum* menu and ordered four items (sticky rice, pork balls, rice noodle with pork, and chicken feet). The food was a little slow in coming, but when it arrived, it was fresh, hot and delicious. The only complaint was that the Chinese tea was not warm enough. Lunch including tax and tip was \$14.50

Mon Bijou at 503 Brant St in Burlington is a "white table cloth" restaurant. What enticed Mary and YHE to lunch there was an entry in the *Entertainment Book* offering a free entrée "when etc. etc." What was missed was that it applied only to dinner, not lunch. Being rather upscale, wine rather than beer seemed to be in order. YHE therefore inquired about the house wine. It was a cheap French "plonk". (Although the French produce some of the best wines, they also produce some of the worst). A beer was, therefore, the order of the day. Mary chose the soup of the day, a very nice cream of mushroom and the chicken curry which she proclaimed to be very good. YHE had the soup and a linguine with mushrooms and smoked salmon, also very tasty. With tip and tax the bill was \$59.00 – not a place to lunch too often.

Sound of Music

On Friday, October 26, 2001, a group of 29 Mohawk retirees and their guests left the Fennell Campus at 9:45 A.M. by bus to Stratford to enjoy the Sound of Music.

We took the 403 to Woodstock and northward to Stratford, arriving at the Queen's Inn at approximately 11:20 A.M.. We did not have to wait long before we were welcomed in to have delightful buffet luncheon at the Queen's Inn.

Despite the inclement weather some of us ventured out to visit the shops of the local merchants after lunch.

Returning to the bus located at the Queens' Inn, we were driven to the Festival Theatre to enjoy the live production of the Sound of Music. Our seats were at an excellent location of Section A. Cynthia Dale and the entire cast gave a wonderful performance resulting in a standing ovation by both the

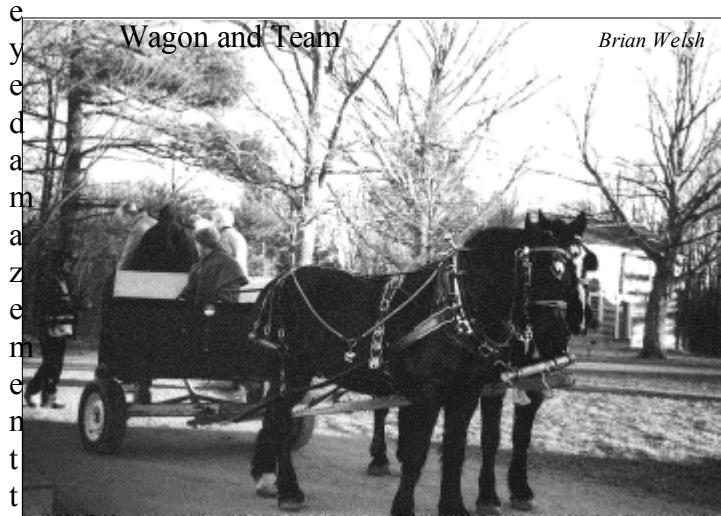
young students and us (slightly older) folks.

Left Stratford around 4:50 P.M. and arrived back to Fennell Campus around 6:30 P.M..

Many thanks to Mary and Brian Welsh for organizing a most enjoyable day and, also for assisting Gord Jamieson (our bus driver) to get us there and back safely.
Sam Kajiura.

A Victorian Christmas Dinner – Westfield Pioneer Village

Recently it has been reported that people who have had cardiac surgery frequently suffer from short term memory problems, thus, when YHE asked me how this report was going, the look of wide



hat he received was genuine. That is my story and I am sticking to it! I do hope that YHE was not taking advantage of the memory impaired.

I do not participate in a great number of retirees events as my interests tend to run more to the caloric than the cultural. The Victorian Christmas certainly seemed to hold the promise of being caloric. Getting there was a drive yourself and it had been quite a while since I had been out in that direction we left early, however, I am also a good navigator so we were among the first to arrive. It was very pleasant chatting and catching up with friends that we had not seen for a while and welcoming a few new people into the group.

A few of us wandered about admiring the village until the rest of the group gathered and things began to happen. A fine young lad, resplendent in Victorian garb appeared introduced himself as our guide for the evening. He gave us a brief history of Westfield Village. The village owes its existence and continued operation to a large group of historically conscientious volunteers. What they have managed to achieve is truly remarkable. The lack of government support is shameful.

While he was telling us the history and a little about the village and its buildings, a team of Clydesdales pulling a haywagon appeared, Aud and Sheila checked them out and reported them to have lovely soft noses.

The evening began with a wagon ride through the village to the church where an entertainment was

The evening began with a wagon ride through the village to the church where an entertainment was laid on. The wagon ride wound through the village and environs just as the sun was setting, a lovely sight on a crisp clear evening. In the church we were treated to the talents of the Playford Players, a pair of very talented gents who performed on a variety of period instruments, hammer dulcimer, mandolin etc. They performed some period music and also led us in carol singing. Our genial host kept things rolling with anecdotes and historical tidbits.

Following the entertainment we burned a Christmas tree, apparently this was something of a tradition at the turn of the century. It was truly spectacular. An inexpensive substitute for fireworks and just as thrilling.

Dinner in the restaurant followed the tree burning. Dinner covered a period from the early 1800's to the turn of the century. The dishes representing each period were cooked onsite by volunteers. All the servers were also volunteers. Our host introduced each dish with a short description and history. There were many courses, or as the Victorians referred to the "removes". The fare was certainly hearty and excellent. The meal was very different from our lean mean cuisine. There was certainly a lot more fat and than we are used to ...but it tasted so good! I do not think I will mention the meal to my cardiologist. But I am very likely to return again for another.

Thanks to Marie and Paul Yakimoff for organizing. I met no one who did not think the event a great success.
Carl Easton

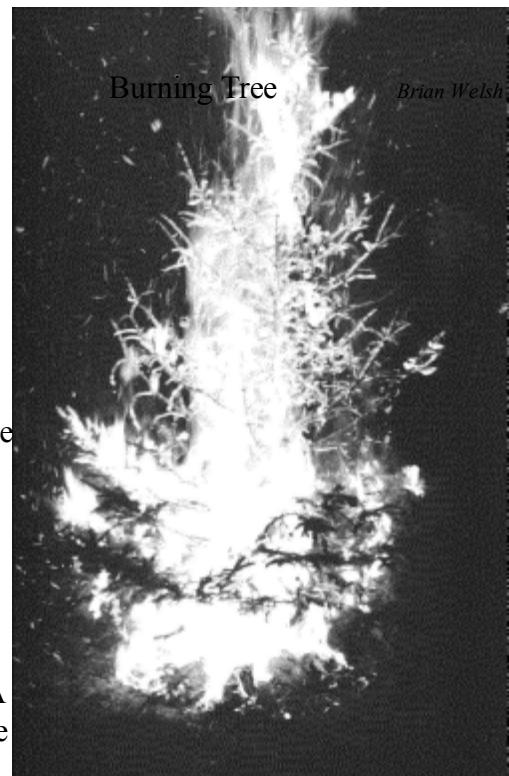
High Lights of the November and January Board Meetings

The board met at the College on November 20. Bob Pando was present and gave a report on the latest developments on OCRA..

- A website – www.caatiretires.org – will soon be up and running.
- Some college retiree associations are including the fee for OCRA in their membership fees. (This was discussed subsequently by the board and on going discussion planned.)
- Bob reported that the Council of Regents' interpretation of the Health Benefits is that if the retiree dies his spouse will only be covered for six additional months. OPSEU's does not agree with this. It apparently only applies to those taking early retirement. The questions still exists, however, as to what applies to those who are paying their own premiums. Can the surviving spouse continue as part of the group.
- President Cal Hadad has approved the mailing of the first OCRA newsletter by the College.

The board discussed a letter received from retiree Jim Newman concerning the change in the associations mailing policy. In his letter Jim suggested a study to determine how the association could be made more relevant to members. The board will cooperate with Jim and assist by including any survey questionnaires he produces in the regular mailings. At the January meeting Carl Easton reported that Jim had expressed his thanks.

Bob Pando had been invited to the January meeting but sent his regrets along with the following information. The OCRA now has about 400 members and is growing. Also they have been invited to sit in on the meetings of the Joint Insurance Committee's (faculty version) subcommittee set up under the last contract to look at the issue of retiree benefits. Bob believes that it is a big step for the OCRA as both OPSEU and the Council of Regents are



recognizing OCRA as the legitimate representative of the retirees.

At the Annual General Meeting last June, a suggestion was made from the floor that overnight or longer trips be investigated. To that end, Ann Dunn has prepared a questionnaire concerning a possible trip to Las Vegas. Retirees are asked to complete and return it to Ann if they are interested in such a trip or if they have suggestions for other trips.

Physiotherapy and the Retiree

For the first time, this past summer, my husband and I both required physiotherapy.

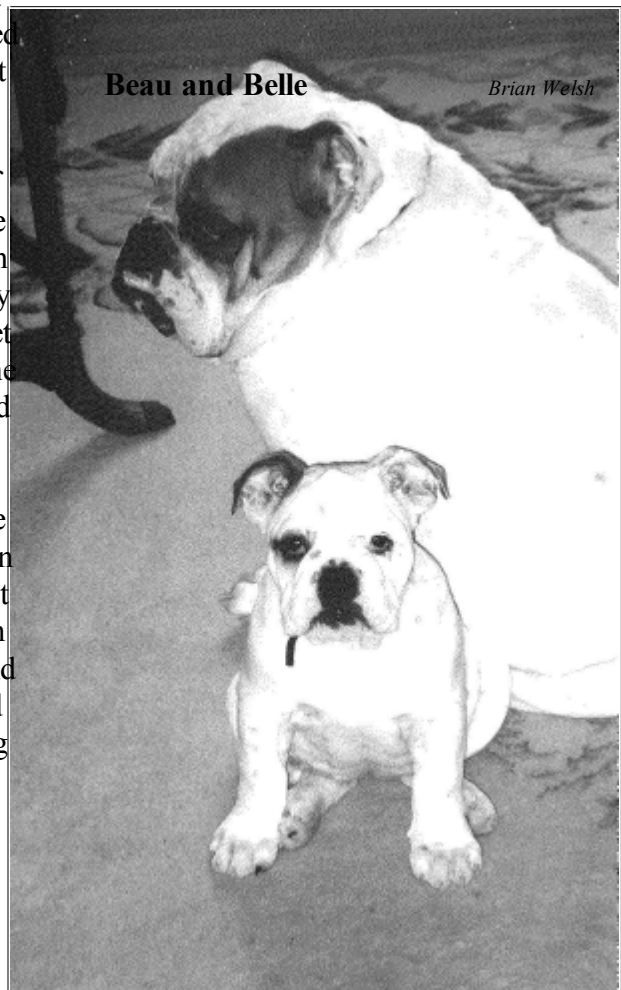
He attended a clinic suggested by his Orthopaedic Team, three times per week OHIP covered the cost of all treatments except for the initial assessment.

My choice was a "private" clinic where a well respected therapist I knew was employed. My treatments were not covered by OHIP however my Sun Life Plan (through Mohawk College) paid the \$65.00 per treatment up to \$300. and Paul's plan covered the remainder. His present Johnson plan also covers physiotherapy up to \$300 only since he is also over 65 years of age. Should one require more than nine or ten treatments a private clinic might not be the answer if one is over 65 and has limited coverage. Nonetheless, we both received excellent therapy.

In a recent conversation (January 2,2002) with a staff member at the Hamilton OHIP office (521-7100). she explained that in the 1980's, the Ministry of Health recognized that it could not fund any physiotherapy groups established after that time. The new clinics set up after that time are thus considered "private". She stated that most doctors have a list of OHIP funded clinics and people "need to shop around".

Most clinics are listed in the yellow pages of the phone book. When one phones to make an appointment, the receptionist will state whether or not the clinic is "private" or covered by OHIP. In retrospect, I would also ask if my treatments would be cheaper if I paid following each treatment and billed my Health Benefit Insurer myself by submitting my receipts.

Marie Yakimoff



The Pet Corner

It must happen to every editor, no matter how humble, now and again. There is half a page to fill and with no idea of how to do it. Thus The Pet Corner is introduced. Actually Mary suggested it when the

bleating about the difficulty of filling this space became too much for her.

Fortunately we had this appealing photo, amongst a hundred of others, of our two Bulldogs. Beau is a three year old neutered male. Rather large for his breed being about 80 lbs. Belle, at the time the photo was taken was four months old and about 20 lbs. She is, as the name implies, a girly and will be spayed in due course.

"Bullies" are strange creatures who manifest none of the characteristics they were originally bred for – bull baiting. They are friendly in the extreme but are exceedingly stubborn with a mind all their own which is often mistaken for a lack of intelligence,

Who would want two "bullies"? – why the family that has only one, of course.