



**ST. CLAIR  
COLLEGE  
RETIREES'  
ASSOCIATION**

# NEWSLETTER

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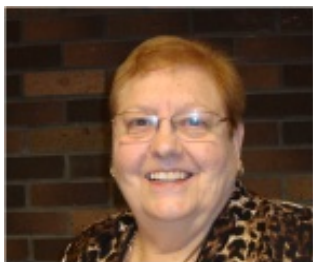
## **Retirees' Website**

[www.stclaircollege.ca/people/retirees](http://www.stclaircollege.ca/people/retirees)

WINTER 2015

DEL/JOHN ZANGARI - EDITORS

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



A belated Happy New Year to everyone. It's hard to believe that it is 2015 and almost two months have passed. Time keeps marching on. Thank you to everyone who had renewed your memberships this year.

It's not too late to send in your membership dues for this year. The dues can be mailed to Anita Blair at 1762 S Malden Rd Colchester North ON. N8M 2X5. Remember our dues are matched by Dr. Strasser. So the ten dollars we receive from you becomes twenty dollars and we are able to offer you a variety of programs at

a very reasonable rate. You also can send in your \$10 fee for OCRA –Ontario College Retiree Association. Jim Martin serves as Vice President on the OCRA executive.

The Christmas Parties at Windsor and Thames were very successful and an excellent meal was had at both. Attendance at Windsor improved this year and all who attended were treated to an excellent performance by the students for the Christmas Show. In Chatham, Santa visited and all received a small gift. Contributions were made to the Student Food Banks at each party. We were glad to share so that the present students would have a better Christmas. If you didn't attend this year keep these events in mind for next year. It is a good way to start the Holiday Season with your colleagues from St. Clair.

I have just returned from the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Trip as one of 45 retirees, family and friends. The trip this year was to Paraiso Azul Resort in Cayo Santa Maria, Cuba and we had excellent weather for our week's stay. The group enjoyed the beach and pools. Several went on tours to other parts of Cuba. As always, some things could be better but all in all the trip proved to be a welcome break in the Winter Season. Thank you to Kathleen Warren for arranging the details for us. More about the trip is included in the newsletter.

We are busy planning events for the spring. Trivia Tuesday will be held again on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Roseland Golf and Country Club. Join the group for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, we are planning a trip to Petrolia's Victoria Theatre to see the play Basement Church Ladies PART 2 (it's not necessary to have seen Part 1 to enjoy Part 2). We will be car pooling to Petrolia and have dinner after the show at one of the local restaurants. The Thames Luncheons will be the last Wednesday of the months at different restaurants.

As you may be aware, Dr. Strasser is retiring this August. We will keep you up to date on plans for his retirement. The search is taking place for his replacement and it is hoped an announcement will be made in May or June. We are grateful for the support he has given to our Association and plan to recognize his support at our Annual General Meeting in May.

Thank you once again for your support to our events and as always we are looking for ideas for things you would like us to offer for you. We are currently looking for people to consider joining the executive and need to find someone to attend Board of Governor meetings as our Observer. If you are interested please let me know and I can provide more information to you.

Enjoy the Winter and Spring. I hope to see you at some of our events in the next few months.

JoAn Dale, President

## HEALTHPLEX & SPORTSPLEX FUNDRAISING

**St. Clair College retirees have raised \$37,029 to date, 123% of our \$30,000 goal.**

We were pleased to advise Dr. Strasser that we retirees have surpassed our Fundraising Target.

The official opening of the SportsPlex took place early this fall. As of January '15 retiree memberships are available for us. **We are pleased to see the Bricks in place from our fundraising at both the HealthPlex and the SportsPlex. The Landscape Architect has done a nice job at the entrances of both complexes.**

We are now in year 6 of this 10 year fundraising campaign. We advised Dr. Strasser that the SCCRA will continue to support and contribute to the College fundraising initiatives.

Thank you to the retirees who have already made their contribution to the HealthPlex Campaign. The retiree pledges made during the Brick Campaign ranged from \$100 to \$10,000. **The HealthPlex Brick Campaign forms were included with the last Newsletter.** The SCCRA has purchased two bricks for \$150, one for both Thames and Windsor. **Please consider supporting the HealthPlex Brick Campaign.**

*Submitted by Jay Ertel*

### COLLEGE CONTACTS FOR HEALTH BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

The College contact person for retirees seeking information on **pensions and benefits** is Kim Bode, 519 972-2727, Ext. 4687. The **CAAT Pension** can be reached at 1-866-350-2228 or 416-673-9000, or Fax: 416-673-9028. For general inquiries: [contact@caatpension.on.ca](mailto:contact@caatpension.on.ca)

### EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

The second annual euchre tournament was held at Roseland Golf and Country on Tuesday, November 25. There were 16 participants with 4 tables and 2 spares.

Larry Smith and Sylvia Crozier tied for first place. They split \$45, so they each received \$22.50

Nicky Forcellini won second place and

received \$25.

Betty Michaud won booby and received \$5.

After the euchre tournament, most people adjourned upstairs to enjoy dinner and friendship.

Fun was had by all.

## “CATCHING UP WITH THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY” or “MAILING OR EMAILING NEWSLETTERS”

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**“It will never catch on. You can’t train a puppy on an electronic newspaper!”**

This issue of the Retiree newsletter has been distributed by both snail mail and e-mail (to those who have provided an e-mail address to the Retirees’ Association). We will try this approach for two issues to test our process and to obtain feedback from the membership regarding your preferences.

Currently we mail the newsletter via Canada Post to almost 500 retirees. We have just over 300 e-mail addresses.

So, that means that we could reduce the number of newsletters being printed and mailed by about 40%. However, we do not want to move ahead unless you are comfortable with this proposed approach. Please let us know if you feel strongly about how you receive the newsletter. We will provide an option, but we need to know how many readers would be comfortable with the e-mail edition. We do not want to proceed, as is the case with the print media today, unless our membership gives us a clear go ahead.

Please e mail Bill Totten [wtotten@sympatio.ca](mailto:wtotten@sympatio.ca) or

Anita Blair [ablair4@gmail.com](mailto:ablair4@gmail.com) to let us know how you feel.

### PETROLIA TRIP

Again this year, the Retirees are planning a trip to the Victoria Playhouse in Petrolia. The show this year is a comedy called A Second Helping (The Church Basement Ladies Sequel). This show was a great hit last season, so it will be a treat to see what the ladies are up to this year. We expect this show to be as fun filled as the past few

seasons we have attended. Save the date – Thursday, May 28 at 2:00 p.m. Matinee. The ticket price will be \$39.00 per person and it will be a car pool event. To reserve your spot, please contact Marilyn Portt at either 519-969-0693 or [mpportt@gmail.com](mailto:mpportt@gmail.com).

### DEFINITION OF A HUSBAND

*A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.*

## THAMES CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Thames Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at the Countryview Golf Club in Chatham. This was a mild day for the kick-off of the Holiday Season. Forty-seven people attended and enjoyed an excellent buffet luncheon. Eunice Robinson and Elizabeth Barr were thanked for arranging the door prizes and organizing another successful Christmas Party. People enjoyed their social time especially with presentations being made by Santas, Eunice and Jim Robinson. We wish to thank Jay Ertel for setting up Tony Ellul's excellent power point presentation which showcased the Retirees' social activities of 2014.

Lynn McGeachy-Schultz, Principal Thames Campus joined the group for the luncheon. Lynn gave an update on the progress of developments at Thames Campus.

The retirees were invited to attend the Christmas Pageant and the Windsor St. Clair Retirees Christmas luncheon on December 11, 2014 at the St. Clair Centre of the Arts and the President's Christmas Brunch on December 16, 2014.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Barr*



Mansell & Anita Blair, Karla Ertel, Elsie & Pat Lori Caba, Bill Totten,(Ida Totten), Lynn McGeachy-Schultz



Lena Robertson, Jean Trudell, Ron Smith, Eris McIntosh, Eunice & Jim Robinson, Trish McFarlane, Elizabeth & Mary Barr



Andrea & Dave Main, Janet & Gord Compton  
Cassey & Janet Huisman



Nancy Cameron, Milda & Walt Stetchysyn, Jim Martin  
Irene Helinski, Dawn Finlan , JoAn Dale (Del & John Zangari)



## RETIREE ASSOCIATION WINDSOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The 2014 edition of the Windsor Christmas lunch featured a few different wrinkles this year: after having returned to the Chez for a number of years, this year's lunch was back downtown at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts where it was combined with a matinee performance of the student Christmas show.

The student performance was spectacular. It featured a number of musical skits around the theme of Good vs Evil; predictably, Evil is unable to crush the Christmas spirit, but with the outstanding costumes and the magic of the Entertainment Technology students, it was all great fun.

As in the past, the end of the program includes choral singing of traditional Christmas carols. The power and harmony of 70 + students is truly a joy to

behold. A real bonus was listening to the most diminutive student on stage belt out O Holy Night. She certainly stood tall that day!

Lunch was held in the Skyline room after the show. This was a much upgraded lunch compared to past lunches. It was the same as the buffet dinner meal offered for evening shows.

Santas Jim Martin and Cindy Bissonnette were their usual efficient ELVES. Many thanks to Tony Ellul for the video show during the lunch. And a very special thanks to Jay Ertel and Gayle Harrick for organizing this event.

Many thanks also to John Fairley for offering this opportunity for only \$20 per person. It was extraordinary value!



*Susue Korchnak, Barb Barker, Bill Jones, Lori Caba  
Jim Chambers*



*George Rapaich, Shirley Freeman, Marge Preston*



*Marge Preston, Bob Chase, Business Faculty Member*



*Roy and Elvy Deline*



*Elizabeth Barr, Sara Getty, Becky Queen*



*Ida Totten, Dean & Helen Campagna, Pat McMahon*

## **PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS STAFF APPRECIATION BRUNCH**

It has been said (many times, in fact) that put on a free meal and they (retirees) will show up! How true that is for the President's Annual Staff Appreciation Brunch, this year held on December 11, 2014. The Hangar was packed, and a large number of the attendees were retirees. For retirees wanting to renew acquaintances amongst current staff and fellow retirees, this event has become one of the most anticipated events of the year. Not only has the festive season started and everyone is "in the spirit", but everyone knows that they will have

an opportunity to mingle with current staff with whom they have worked in the past.

This year, as in the past, Dr. Strasser provided a very positive and entertaining recap of 2014, including his musical journey through the years. Retirees thank Dr. Strasser for including us in this event. It is much appreciated.

*Submitted by Bill Totten*

## **GUESS WHO HAS RETIRED?**

Staff Caricature



Bill Stammer  
Tech/Trades C.N.C.

## HISTORY OF SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Saint Patrick's Day (Irish: La le Padraig) colloquially is the feast day which annually celebrates Saint Patrick (386-493), the patron saint of Ireland, on March 17. It is a national holiday in the Republic of Ireland

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated worldwide by Irish people and increasingly by many non-Irish descent. Celebrations are generally themed around all things green and Irish, both Christians and non-Christians celebrate the secular version of the holiday by wearing green, eating Irish food, imbibing Irish drink, and attending parades. The St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, Ireland is part of a five day festival, with over 500,000 people attending the 2006 parade.

The largest St. Patrick's Day parade is held in New York City and is watched by 2 million spectators. The St. Patrick's Day parade was first held in New York City on 17 March, 1756 when Irish soldiers marched through the city. Parades also take place in other Irish towns and villages. Other large parades include those in Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham, London, Coatbridge, Montreal, Boston, Chicago, Kansas City, Savannah, Pittsburgh, Denver, Sacramento, Scranton and Toronto. Large parades also take place throughout Europe and the Americas, as well as Australia and Asia.

As well as being a celebration of Irish culture, St. Patrick's Day is a Christian Festive celebrated in the Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland (among other churches in the Anglican Communion) and some other denominations. The day always falls in the season of Lent. In church calenders (though rarely in secular ones) Saint Patrick's Day is moved to the following Monday when it falls on a Sunday. It is traditional for those observing a lenten fast to break it for the duration of Saint Patrick's Day whenever March 17 falls on a Friday.

In many parts of North America, Britain and Australia, expatriated Irish descent, and ever growing crowds of people with no Irish connections but who may proclaim themselves "Irish for a day" also celebrate St. Patrick's Day, usually by drinking alcoholic beverages (lager dyed green, Irish beer and stout, such as Murphys, Smithwicks, Harp or Guinness, or Irish whiskey, Irish Cider, Irish Coffee or Bailey's Irish Cream) and by wearing at least one article of green-coloured clothing,

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### ***PARDON THE PUNS!***

*A man's home is his castle*

*Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.*

*A hangover is the wrath of grapes.*

*When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.*

*The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.*

*Once you have seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.*

*Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.*

*A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.*





## WINTER TRIP 2015



It was bound to happen. After eleven successful winter trips we could have either cool, rainy weather or bad food. It was the food. I think all 43 participants would agree that the food left something to be desired. Little selection, strange items like corn, onions and cabbage at the breakfast buffet, under or over cooked food. There were some exceptions - the warm croissants at breakfast, fresh orange juice, cooked- while- you- wait omelettes and fish.

This trip was to Memories Paraiso Azul in Cayo Santa Maria Cuba chosen because it was a good price, had good reviews on Trip Advisor and the plane left out of Windsor and not Detroit. This is a large all-inclusive resort. Unfortunately half of us were on one side of the resort and the rest on the other half. This made it difficult to find our people which is reflected

in the incomplete group picture.

One other problem we encountered was the water. The resort is on an island, 13 km long and 2 km wide, connected to the mainland by a causeway. The whole island with its numerous resorts ran out of water and was relying on water tanks. The severity varied depending on where you were in the resort, from toilets that wouldn't flush, to no hot water, to no water at all. This lasted for about three days. However, Cuba is a third world country and cannot be judged by our standards.

The weather held, a little windy on some days, the sun was hot and we didn't have 35 cm of snow as you did here. The beach was white and beautiful, and the Cuban people are warm and friendly.

*Anita Blair*





# *In Memoriam*

*The following retirees passed away during the period  
from*

*November 9, 2014 to February 7, 2015*

## **RETIREES/FULL TIME STAFF**



**ELLEN TICKNER** passed away on December 17, 2014 at the age of 90. . Ellen was a long time secretary in the Technology Division at St. Clair. Wife of Stanley Tickner (1970), and the mother of Ellen, Patricia and Arthur. Ellen was a secretary in the Technology Division and was known for her love of darts, golf and playing cards.

**The following family members of retirees and  
staff passed away during the period from November 9,  
2014 to February 7, 2015**

**James Coulter's mother Frances Coulter**

**Vicki Downes' mother Shirley E. Patch**

**Patti Frances' mother Eileen Marie Pollard**

**Bill Regier's father Godfrey (Bob) Regier**

**Andrew Ulicny's brother John Ulicny**

**The late Robert Wood's (2010) wife Josephine Ann (JoAnn) Woods**

*May They Rest In Peace!*

## ADDRESS CHANGE?

If you plan to change your postal address or your email address, please let us know, to make certain that you will continue to receive the Newsletter and email distributions. Please use this form to **UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS** as well. This Information is not shared.

**NOTE:** Retiree Association records are completely independent of any records maintained for Pension or Benefits.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Number	Street	City	Postal Code
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Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward to: Ms. Anita Blair, 1762 South Malden Rd., R.R.#1, Essex, ON, N8M 2X5, or by email to:

[ablair4@gmail.com](mailto:ablair4@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Wednesday, Feb. 25 - Thames Luncheon, 11:30 am, Swiss Chalet Restaurant
2. Bridge Club Dates:  
March 3, March 17, March 31, April 14 & April 28
3. Wednesday, Mar.25 - Thames Luncheon, 11:30 am, links of Kent Golf Course
4. Wednesday, Apr. 29 - Thames Luncheon, 11:30 am, Casa Bella Restaurant
5. April or May - Annual General Meeting, TBA
6. Wednesday, May 27 - Thames Luncheon, 11:30 am, Tru's Grillhouse
7. Thursday, May 28 - Victoria Playhouse Theatre, Petrolia - page 3  
A Second Helping (The Church Basement Ladies Sequel)