



**ST. CLAIR  
COLLEGE  
RETIREES'  
ASSOCIATION**

# NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Our Fall Social Program once again is proving to be a tremendous success. We are pleased to see the turnout at all the events to date and to see the participation of the new retirees. A sincere thank you to John Charlesworth, Carol Pratt, Elizabeth Barr, Eunice Robinson and Pat Hallahan for organizing the 2006 Annual Fall BBQ, the Windsor/Thames Luncheon at the Lighthouse, the Mastronardi Winery Tour and the Pandemic Planning Workshop. In reviewing some of the **Upcoming Events** retirees are encouraged to purchase their Christmas Party tickets early since these events are very popular every year. Dr. Strasser and the College have provided strong support for the retirees

in addition to the annual generous initiative to match our St. Clair College membership fees collection. We encourage retirees to accept Dr. Strasser's invitation to join the faculty and staff for the St. Clair College Christmas Brunch on December 21<sup>st</sup> in the Hangar. We had a great time on our Fall Trip to the Greek Islands and Tuscany. There is still time to book and join us for the Winter Trip to the Mayan Riviera. Those in the group that have been to Cancun highly recommend this trip.

- St. Clair College Christmas Brunch (Dec.21)
- Winter Trip to Mayan Riviera (Jan. 17 to 24)
- Thames Luncheon - 911 Services, Brian French (Jan. 31)
- Thames Luncheon - Riverview Gardens, Keri McGregor (Feb. 28)

**We look forward to having you join us.**

As an update on **Retiree Business**, the St. Clair College Retirees' Association along with the University of Windsor retirees will be co-sponsoring the CURAC (College and University Retirees' Association of Canada) Conference to be held in Windsor May 23, 24 & 25, 2007. We thank Jim Martin for taking the lead on this new initiative and we look forward to Conference topics that will be of interest to both College and University retirees. In 2006/2007 we plan to support Human Resources in offering the Retirement Planning Service. Investigating alternative Benefit options and addressing questions on our Pension Plans remain as high priorities. The Archive Project group is moving forward to help support the College's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and the Retiree Tutorial Service is up and going. These are two projects that continue to have a need for retiree participation. In closing, we look forward to having you join us at our Fall and Winter Activities.

**We wish you all the best in your retirement and for the upcoming Holiday Season.**

*Jay Ertel, President*

## BILL TOTTEN: BIOGRAPHY



It all started in South Walkerville over 70 years ago and continues there to this day. Bill Totten was born at Met Hospital in 1934, grew up there going to school at Hugh Beaton and Walkerville Collegiate, raised his own family there and lives just a few blocks from where

he grew up.

Bill's father was a comptroller at the local Chrysler plant and his mother was a stay at home mom caring for Bill, his brother and his sister, who worked in the personnel department at DaimlerChrysler. That company has been a major player in the Totten family.

After high school, Bill studied engineering at the University of Detroit for one year and then left to work, you guessed it, at Chrysler. After a year and a half on the assembly line, he spent 2 and a half years in quality control before getting married to Ida, a nurse, in 1958. In the fall of '59, after four years at the car

as Bachman Turner Overdrive, Chuck Berry, Wolfman Jack and Harry Chapin.

Bill was also a significant player at the provincial level. He founded CRAO (Committee of Registrars and Administrative Officers) chaired it twice and was instrumental in effecting consistent system-wide practices, such as common application and notification dates and common application fees. These ensure a level playing field in what is now a very aggressive recruiting environment.

Bill's reputation at the provincial level was surely a factor in his secondment to the Ministry to establish the Ontario College Central Application Centre. Of course he was asked to serve as its Director, but he declined.

During his time at the College, Bill was also responsible for convocations, financial aid, job placement, scheduling and College publications, reporting at various times to Roy Giroux, Brian Desbiens, Tom McCarthy and Larry Kirk.

It wasn't all about the College for Bill, however. He and Ida raised two boys: Paul lives in Ottawa where he works at Nortel. He has a degree in Math and

plant, Bill quit to go back to school, this time at the University of Windsor. Three years later he graduated with a B.Sc. in Math. It was Spring '62. That summer he attended Althouse Teachers' College in London and in the fall of '62 began teaching Math and Business Practices at Massey Secondary School.

Bill stayed at Massey from '62-67 and while there took Guidance Counselling courses from Roy Giroux, who was Guidance Coordinator. Once qualified in Guidance, he taught both Math and Guidance in the fall of '67 while also applying for the position of Assistant Registrar at St. Clair College. He was interviewed by Roy Giroux and Doug Watson at 660 Ouellette. Needless to say, Bill got the job, and although the de facto Registrar from day one, he was officially named Registrar in 1972, a position he held until his retirement 20 years later in 1992.

Bill was a major player at the College during his 25 years there, overseeing the computerization of the application and registration systems. He also fondly remembers founding the Alumni Association, serving as its Director, building the Amphitheatre and organizing the concert series which included such stars

Computer Science from Waterloo. His spouse has a Ph.D. in Glacial Geology and teaches at the University of Ottawa. They also have two boys.

Son Mark has a degree in Geography from the University of Windsor and works at the Ford Engine Plant. His spouse works in accounting and they have one daughter.

Also outside the College, Bill has been very involved in Scouts Canada since 1970. He has held many district and office positions in that organization and continues even today to offer training courses.

Bill's best memories of the College include participating in the development of the College from its inception. His worst memories are of the layoffs during downsizing.

At the Retirees' Association AGM in May 2006, Bill was named President Emeritus of the Retirees' Association. Although not the Association's founder, he has been its most key player in its development into a vibrant, service-oriented organization. There is no one more deserving of this honour. We are all most fortunate to have him as one of our leaders.

## STAFF CHANGES AT THE COLLEGE

**Dr. Lucy Kanary** has left the position of **Vice President of Innovation and Technology Development** and has left the college.

**Fred Sorrell**, formerly Executive Director of the Foundation, assumes the new position as **Head of College Advancement Services**, overseeing the Foundation, Alumni Association, Marketing & Communications, and Hospitality Operations (dealing largely with operation of the new Cleary Centre).

**Sandi Webster**, long time president of the faculty union, has been named **Director of Human Resources**, replacing Marg Dore who has retired.

Recently hired **Chief Financial Officer**, **Peter Farah**, has resigned to return to his former position.

The new **Vice President – Academic** is **Dr. Peter Tumidajski** who comes to St. Clair from George Brown College where he was the Director of the Centre for Advanced Building Technologies. He holds a Ph.D in Engineering from University of Toronto and a Master of Business Administration from Queen's. He has held professorships at University of Western Ontario and Ryerson.

**Tumidajski** announced the appointment of four new chairs:

**John Maceroni** (a St. Clair grad) – **Chair of Skilled Trades**

**Peter Bziuk** (Environmental Engineering, University of Windsor) – **Chair of the School of Building, Design and Construction Technology**.

**Dr. Adel Esayed** (Ph. D in Mechanical Engineering from University of Windsor) – **Chair of the School of Engineering and Manufacturing Technology**.

**Sandra Dupret** (BFA from University of Windsor and former Curator of exhibits at Wayne State University) – **Chair of the School of Creative Arts**. Sandra was a member of the St. Clair College Board of Governors during the past year.

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## RETIREE TUTORING SERVICE

The College Retiree Tutoring Service got off to a slow but very steady start shortly after the labour dispute. Requested by Dr. Strasser and coordinated by Kathy Tellier under her role as Learning Strategist in the Success Centre, 40 hours of tutoring has already been completed since its start-up in April. The courses most requested were Biology, Math, Accounting and Manufacturing Technology. There is still a great need for tutors in the Engineering & Manufacturing Technology area.

The College offers \$25 per hour to retiree tutors

who focus on these “killer courses” that are beyond the scope of peer tutors. Reports indicate that the service is being managed very efficiently.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information about what is involved, contact Marilyn Viececi, [mviececi@srclaircollege.ca](mailto:mviececi@srclaircollege.ca) or call 519-972-2727 x4406 or room 262M in the library.

Thames Campus has also expressed an interest in this service. If interested in offering your services, please contact Anne Tolhurst at 354-9100 x 3306 or email [atolhurst@stclaircollege.ca](mailto:atolhurst@stclaircollege.ca).



## ANNUAL FALL BARBEQUE

### **“This is the best one, ever!”**

The Annual Fall barbeque has been held every year since the St. Clair College Retirees' Association was formed. On August 23, 2006 over 70 retirees attended the barbeque which was held, again this year, in the Common Room at the Student Residence. Residence Manager, Kevin Fochuk has been very generous to the Retirees, and in spite of the fact that he had ten lacrosse teams in residence for a national tournament, the facilities were superb. Everyone consulted agreed that this one has set a new standard.

John Charlesworth had the day well organized (thanks to the help of his wife Marilyn) and Carol Pratt's hard work putting the food together was much appreciated by all. Chef Les Taffinder, assisted by Ida Totten, served up the excellent hamburgs and sausages to everyone's satisfaction. John Strasser, College President, once again attended and brought us all up-to-date on the latest developments at the college.

As in past years, there was no formal program and folks had an opportunity to mix and mingle, catching up on the latest gossip.



## WILL YOU BE TURNING 65 SOON?

If you answered yes to this question, you may wish to attend an information session on the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan.

At age 65 you are entitled to receive benefits from the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan at no cost. This means you have the option of cancelling your prescription drug coverage with Sun Life Insurance. This coverage costs about \$1900 per year for a family plan. However, since prescription drug coverage is included under the Extended Health Benefit Plan, you would also have to give up other benefits included under Extended Health. Some of these include the following:

- Paramedical Services
- Vision Care
- Hearing Care
- Out of Country Medical Coverage

Dental Care is also included under Extended Health but can be dropped without the loss of the other

benefits covered under Extended Health.

The decision to drop the Extended Health Benefit Plan is very tempting considering its cost, but it is also a decision which should be considered very carefully, especially given the number of drugs that have been delisted from the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan.

To help you sort this out, Yvonne McRobbie, retired Pharmacy Technician Program coordinator, has volunteered to conduct an information session. The session will also address deductibles and co-pays associated with the Provincial Plan, the role of the Trillium Drug Program and the impact of the delisting of many drugs.

Please note that individual drug therapy will not be a part of this presentation.

The information session will be held on Wednesday November 22/06 at 1:00 PM in the multipurpose room at the back of the cafeteria at the South Campus.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Pat Hallahan at 945.4304 or email [phallahan@cogeco.ca](mailto:phallahan@cogeco.ca).

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## TRAVEL MEDICAL INSURANCE RATES

The September 24, 2006 edition of the Toronto Star ([www.torontostar.ca](http://www.torontostar.ca)) contains the annual survey of travel medical insurance rates. The table and article are found on page A 18. It appears that there is a

charge for a reprint. Many have found the data to be most useful in comparing costs.

*Submitted by Gary Docherty*

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## A WEBSITE FOR ONTARIO SENIORS

A web site was launched in August to help Ontario Seniors access government services and information geared toward their age group. The main site [www.seniorsinfo.ca](http://www.seniorsinfo.ca) provides links to specific services

in 22 Ontario communities.

The information contained in the websites covers areas such as the guaranteed income supplement, OHIP coverage and retirement homes.

## ST. CLAIR BUILDS HOMES FOR LOUISIANA HURRICANE VICTIMS

The September 1, 2006 Edition of the Saint featured an article on the St. Clair Crew of 10 who went to Houma, Louisiana in August 2006 to build four new homes for people who lost their homes to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The group works with Habitat for Humanity (HFH) under the direction of Rob Lanoue, Professor, Building Design and Construction Technology.

Over the past eight years, Lanoue has led students

from his program to help build 35 HFH homes in the Windsor area, including the full construction of two homes in the west end of Windsor.

Lanoue and the crew of staff and students arrived in Houma on August 6<sup>th</sup> to begin their week-long build. The building site is in a 86 lot subdivision that HFH Canada helped purchase, marking the first time the organization has partnered with a US affiliate.



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### ***Murphy's Real Laws***

*Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.*

*He who laughs last, thinks slowest.*

*Back up my hard drive? How do I put it in reverse?*

*I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.*



## RM CLASSIC CARS TOUR & Jim Robinson Trains

On Wednesday, October 25, 2006, Jay Ertel and Eunice Robinson hosted the RM Classic Cars Tour in Blenheim, ON and the luncheon at T-Bones Restaurant in Chatham which followed. About 20 retirees toured the shop facility and the showrooms and then were joined by others for lunch. RM Classic Cars is the world's largest volume dealer in classic and collector cars with annual sales exceeding \$100 m per year. Each year the company is responsible for setting many of the annual top ten vehicle sales at auction.

Highlights of the tour included several Duesenbergs all worth over \$1 m (US) each and Mercedes-Benz classics. The shop area was near capacity with restoration work including a pre-war 1935 Mercedes and several high priced Pebble Beach, Best in Show

winners. This year the showroom had an abundance of vehicles following the October Toronto Classic Car Auction. There was an excellent selection of 50's and 60's classics including Cameros, Thunderbirds and Mustangs.

Following the luncheon Jim Robinson demonstrated his Robsan Valley Model Railroad. Engineer and Conductor, Jim's impressive Railroad with its 86 engines specializes in scenery with a wide range of displays including a Shell Oil Refinery, carnival, iron ore mine and lots more making up the 23 stations in total.

Again, this year many pictures were taken and the St. Clair College Retirees group fully enjoyed their day.



## **COMPLIMENTARY PASSES TO VARSITY EVENTS**

Again this year the St. Clair College Athletic Department is offering complimentary passes to Varsity events. A pass can be obtained by contacting Ted Beale in room 278A or Jay Shewfelt in room 278B at South Campus. Be prepared to show your Retirees' Association membership card to get your pass.

These passes will allow you to see the Saints hockey

team. The St. Clair Saints began their first ever season as a member of the OHA Senior AAA Hockey League on Saturday, October 14. They will play in the Southwestern division against the Brantford Blast, Dundas Real McCoys, Petrolia Squires and the Tillsonburg Vipers where they could eventually challenge for the Allen Cup.

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## **HAVE YOU WONDERED ABOUT 911 QUERIES?**

Mr. Brian French, a supervising police dispatcher with the Chatham-Kent Emergency Call Centre, will speak to our Chatham and Windsor Retirees on January 31, 2007, at the Satellite Restaurant, 145 King

St. W., Chatham.

He will answer our questions regarding 911 calls. Please respond to Eunice Robinson at (519) 351-3670 or Email - [Robsan@mnsi.net](mailto:Robsan@mnsi.net)

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## **FORTY YEAR REUNION AT THAMES PHOTO SEMINAR**

The seminar presenter at the September 26th Retirees' Digital Photo seminar held in Chatham got a surprise when the attendees started showing up. Among the retirees in attendance was none other than the instructor from W.O.I.T who had taught him Economics forty years ago in 1966 at the Mercer Street Campus.

"I was so pleasantly surprised to see Mr. Doug Austin come through the door," said Art Rae the seminar presenter. "I had not seen Mr. Austin since I left school back then in 1966. I recognized him like I had just been to his class. I said to myself he hasn't changed much since the W.O.I.T days". Student and teacher reminisced about the people of W.O.I.T some of whom are still here and some that have passed on. Doug was the first course director for the Business Administration School at our first campus.

The Photo Process Using a Digital Camera seminar got under way with twelve retirees attending and filled the afternoon with questions and answers about camera topics including operating the digital camera, editing pictures at home, printing, archiving, storing and sharing the digital images. The seminar started at 1:30 pm in the Thames classroom 107 and 'class was dismissed' at 4 pm.

In attendance were Doug and Grace Austin, John Holsey, Becky Queen, Jim Robinson (Eunice's husband), Brian and Judy Agar, Linda Grineage, Norma Smith, Walt Stetscheyen, Helen Hanak and Elizabeth Barr.

Thanks to Elizabeth Barr for arranging the room at Thames Campus and Jim Robinson (Eunice's husband) for the membership call up and confirmation.



## BRIDGE PLAYERS AND POTENTIAL BRIDGE PLAYERS

The Retirees' Association Bridge Club has enjoyed a very successful first year with over 20 retirees participating. We have raw beginners and accomplished bridge players and everything in between.

The group usually meets in the Multi Purpose Room at the college on the first and third Tuesday of the

month from 1:00 pm to around 4:30 or 5:00 o'clock, although we skip certain Tuesday's due to scheduling conflicts with other activities. We often follow our bridge sessions with dinner at some local restaurant. .

If you enjoy good company and like to play bridge, or if you would like to learn to play, contact Dan Loncke at 519.948-2906 or [danloncke@yahoo.ca](mailto:danloncke@yahoo.ca).



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## CHEF MIKE JIMMERFIELD - AWARD WINNER!

On behalf of the Retirees' Association we would like to congratulate and acknowledge our own Chef Mike Jimmerfield for winning the Showdown of the Chefs event at the Art Gallery of Windsor, the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup>. This event was held to raise awareness and

funds for the Child Abuse Prevention Council and it was quite a success, bringing in an estimated \$10,000.

Way to go Chef Mike!

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*When is a retiree's bedtime?  
Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.*

*Among retirees what is considered formal attire?  
Tied shoes!*

## 2006 ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION

<b>Michael Burns</b>	Child & Youth Worker, 1980 Author & Professor, St. Lawrence College
<b>Diane Gagner</b>	Office Administration - Legal, 1974 Mayor, Municipality of Chatham-Kent
<b>Jason Newhook</b>	Electrical Engineering Technology, 1993 Co-Founder, Datazinc
<b>Christopher Popowich</b>	Lighting & Sound, 1975 Freelance Lighting Designer
<b>Dr. Lawrence Schmidt</b>	Medical Laboratory Technology, 1973 Family Physician and Professor, The University of Western Ontario

It was my pleasure to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni of Distinction Awards at the College on October 19, 2006. In the video testimonials on these alumni and in their comments thanking St. Clair College, it was most gratifying to hear these award winners thank their former faculty by name for contributing to their success.

*Jay Ertel*



*Professor Michael Burns, Christopher Popowich, Mayor Diane Gagner, Jason Newhook, Dr. Lawrence Schmidt*

# IN MEMORIAM

Bernice Reihl

Dorothy Sawatsky

Frank Stracke

## **We also remember:**

Carol Libby's husband Bill

Ron Malkin's wife Eleanor

Frank Lynch's wife Mary

Ted Rigden's wife Eileen Georgina

Brian Case's mother

Jerry Ducharme's sister Patricia

Bonnie Clinnansmith's father





## MASTRONARDI ESTATE WINERY

Although it is currently small by local winery standards, the folks at Mastronardi Estates Winery treated us to a very informative morning on Wednesday, October 11. Our guide displayed a real passion for the wine industry as she described the wine-making process from the planting of the vine to the picking of the grape. Throughout this presentation we tasted a number of fine products of this winery.

We learned that the Mastronardi family purchased the 100 acre vineyard from Colio Estates Winery and

even today supplies Colio with a large percentage of the crop. They will continue to do so until they have the processing capacity to handle the entire crop themselves.

Of the fourteen persons attending the tour, nine of us shared in a fine lunch at Kingsville Golf and Country Club following the winery visit. Many thanks again to John Charlesworth for organizing a very pleasant day.



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## CAROL LIBBY RECEIVES CLARK AWARD



The Clark Award was established in 1994, in honour of the late Charles J. Clark, Sr., Q.C., former Chancellor of the University of Windsor, to recognize outstanding service to the University of Windsor. It is awarded to alumni and friends who have:

- made significant volunteer commitments in time energy and expertise by serving on University committees, boards or campaigns; and/or
- shown exemplary dedication and commitment to the University; and/or
- worked extensively to increase the profile and reputation of the University.

We are happy to announce that Carol Libby is one of the recipients for 2006, because of her work with the distinguished visitor in women studies.

## WINTER TRIP TO MEXICO – January 2007



Once again the Retirees' Association has organized a one week trip to the sunny south in January 2007. Our trip, with Apple Vacations, will leave from Detroit (no southern trips from Windsor this year) on January 17 for the Riu Yucatan hotel on the Mayan Riviera and will return on January 24.

**Cost: \$1402.99US per person** (all inclusive), with a deposit of \$200.00US per person.

**Cancellation penalties:**

- cancel 61 days or more before departure - \$50 US per person
- cancel 60-45 days prior - \$290 US
- cancel 44-31 days prior - \$575 US
- cancel 30 days or less prior - 100% non refundable

**Balance** of payment is due Nov 18.

**NOTE: A Passport will be required for travel out of Detroit as of Jan 01 2007.**

The numbers for this trip have risen from 14 persons three years ago, to at least 20 this year. To get these prices we need a minimum of 20 participants, which we are very confident that we will get (we had 18 for last winter's trip to Cuba).

When flight times and numbers are finalized, we

will attempt to arrange transportation to / from Detroit.

Again this year we are working through Kathleen Warren at Allison Travel 519-258-5404. **If you are interested, contact Kathleen directly to reserve seats, or for further information.**

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## GREEK ISLANDS AND TUSCANY - FALL '06

**Jay and Karla Ertel**

**K**arla and I took the 1 week Sunquest - Eastern Mediterranean Cruise followed by a 1 week stay in Italy which included 5 nights in Tuscany and 2 nights in Venice. Our St. Clair College Retirees group of 6 included Pat and Elsi Hallahan plus Nicky Forcellini and her cousin Rachel. We were part of a larger group of 20. This 2 week package from Sept. 24/06 to Oct. 09/06 was booked through Homer Dick Travel in Chatham. Overall we saw a lot of beautiful scenery and we enjoyed the trip tremendously. The flights and ground transportation worked out well with only one unavoidable glitch on the return flight and we were pleased with our Costa Cruise, Tuscany Villas and Venice Hotel. In planning the itinerary we drew on the experiences of Sandra Manzig for Italy and Tina Papac for Dubrovnik who we wish to thank for providing sound advice for our trip. The Sunquest

Cruise Itinerary departing from Venice included: **Bari (Italy), Katakolon (Greece), Santorini (Greece), Mykonos (Greece), Rhodes (Greece), Dubrovnik (Croatia), Venice (Italy).**

Sailing out of **Venice** to the Greek Isles on Costa Cruise Lines "Costa Victoria" is definitely Cruising Italian Style. Venice is considered the city of art, romance and prestige whose earliest inhabitants were refugees from the path of Attila the Hun in 452 AD. Our evening departure was breathtaking as we sailed along the Canale Della Giudecca past Venice's extraordinary architecture built on small islands separated by a network of canals and crossed by approximately 400 bridges. We sailed right past the Piazza San Marco as we headed towards the Adriatic Sea. Napoleon referred to San Marco as the drawing room of Europe. What a view from the 11<sup>th</sup> deck of

*Continued:*

the Costa Victoria!

**Bari** our 1<sup>st</sup> port was a total rainout. Not to worry since we have a full week in Italy after the cruise. A day to enjoy the amenities on board ship. Aside from Bari, the daily weather was sunny with temperatures in the 25 degree C range. We visited four Greek Islands. All were spectacular and totally different.

**Katakolon** is a small port founded in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and linked to Olympia, site of the original Olympic games started in 776 AD. All conflicts had to be suspended to enable the performance of the games by Greeks only. We enjoyed strolling, shopping and visiting a scenic marina café on this beautiful Greek Island.

**Santorini** is described as physically one of the most spectacular islands in the world. Santorini's cliff-faced crescent isle graces tourist brochures and posters in Greek restaurants the world over. A picturesque collection of white houses with blue dome-shaped roofs perched on a cliff with a breathtaking view of the sea below. Santorini was probably inhabited in prehistoric times, while the first chronicled civilization to live on the island were the Phoenicians. Some researchers believe this island has the site of the mythical lost city of Atlantis. Following our cable car ride up to Fira our shoppers found good buys in jewellery and fine scarves. Pat and Jay were targetting cafes with a view to experience the local refreshments!

**Mykonos** was an evening visit. This island is a small picturesque place with many shops, bars, and restaurants along the harbour. Enjoying the exceptionally handsome Cycladic architecture with a sunset behind our ship in the harbour with a local brew in hand is a nice way to remember Mykonos, the party place!

**Rhodes** history is full of legends and myths. It is one of the most important islands in the Mediterranean and is described as the most complete medieval city in Europe. The Hallahans and the Ertels enjoyed a self-guided walking tour of the Old Town. The Old Town is the oldest inhabited medieval town in Europe. The ruins of the Temple of Aphrodite may date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. We walked the Street of the Knights which is one of the best preserved and most delightful medieval relics in the world. The 600 m long cobbled street was constructed over an ancient pathway that led in a straight line from the Acropolis in Rhodes to the port. In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century it became the address for

most inns of each nation, which housed Knights who belonged to the Order of St. John. Nicky and Rachel opted for a formal excursion which also included a tour of Lindos and a visit to the Acropolis. Everyone enjoyed their Rhodes visit and experience with fine Greek cuisine on this day.

**Dubrovnik** was a favourite stop for the group. We were very fortunate to have a private tour arranged by Tina Papac. Her family members Vlatimir and Maja met us at the port. Tina, thank you for this excellent tour. Dubrovnik is one of the most attractive destinations on the Adriatic Riviera. George Bernard Shaw said "If you want to see heaven on earth come to Dubrovnik". In the Middle Ages it became the only eastern Adriatic city to rival Venice.

The city's style and architecture is strongly rooted in its historical Venetian and to a lesser extent, Turkish influence. We enjoyed our Old City tour with the cobbled streets, fountains, museums and churches. The Old City is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is spotless with the streets being washed every morning. Europe's oldest pharmacy is in Dubrovnik - The Franciscan Pharmacy. Dubrovnik has been completely restored after the war of the 1990's. We ended our cruise in Venice as the early morning light glowed on the buildings of St. Mark's Square as we cruised slowly en route to debarkation at the pier in Venice. This was a week of good food, good wine and good company, Italian Style!

We began the **Tuscany** phase of our trip with our 1<sup>st</sup> class train ride from Venice to Florence (21/2 hours). It paid off to have pre-booked, pre-assigned seats and paying the small difference to ride in comfort. Elsi Hallahan's Italian came into play right away as we searched for our minivan driver at the Florence train station. No problem. Renzo met us on time and drove us directly to our Tuscany Villas. The train and taxi rides were delightful in crossing the Tuscany countryside. Our villas were managed by La Bella Toscana [www.labellatoscana.it](http://www.labellatoscana.it) and they were in the beautiful countryside within walking distance of the medieval town of **San Gimignano**. La Bella Toscana staff were very helpful with our pre-trip planning by responding to our many e-mail queries the same day or by the next day without fail! This gave us total confidence since we already had a good recommendation on these villas. We totally enjoyed our stay in Tuscany. San Gimignano is virtually unaltered since the 14<sup>th</sup> century and is unique. It is a UNESCO site along with Florence, Siena, Venice and



*Continued:*

Rome. A charming hill town of 7,000 people which is described as having preserved its medieval appearance more completely than any other town in Tuscany. Crowned by lofty towers San Gimignano rises above the Tuscan landscape of vineyards, silver olive groves, tall dark cypresses and terracotta farmhouses. This is a tiny town full of life that we enjoyed for 5 days - the shops, museums, churches with frescoes, delicious local cuisine with local wines and simply being able to sit in one of the piazza's to watch the world go by! What a life! More good food, good wine, and good company! The Hallahan-Ertel villa "Le Colonne" is a beautiful farmhouse, on a small wine and olive producing estate, which has 3 apartments, one is the owner's second home. The views were fantastic with the towers of San Gimignano in front and the beautiful Elsa Valley to the side. We had lime, lemon and pomegranate trees and vines with red and white grapes. Our winery person was Luigi who shared his wares. Perfecto! Similarly "La Cappellina" the Nicky-Rachel villa is a lovely house which was originally a Tuscan barn. The owner Joyce and her family lived next door on the same property with their pet rooster Gigia. We did a lot of walking always up and down hills since the towns were built on top of hills. We did a day trip to **Siena** by local bus for a self-guided walking tour through the historical district. We saw the Duomo with its black and white marble, the Piazza del Campo known for the popular festival Pallio del Contrade which includes the dangerous horse race around the square and many of the palaces. We had our last main Tuscan meal in Siena. More good food, good wine and good company! We all enjoyed Wild Boar with specialty pastas and local wines in Tuscany. All meals were excellent.



Our trip concluded in **Venice** for the Thanksgiving weekend. Our hotel the Universo and Nord recommended by Sunquest was clean, quiet and comfortable. The key was the location being near the train station and easy to get from to the airport. Hauling luggage in Venice with all the bridges and cobblestone is a major issue. We purchased 24 hour passes on the Vaporetti (water boats) which worked out well. When we arrived at St. Mark's Square the tide was in and the crowds were heavy. We simply left for a scenic boat ride and came back in the evening which worked out much better. We saw the Basilica San Marco built in 1063-1073, the Campanile - 325 ft. bell tower, Doges Palace with its pretty facades of pink and white marble, the Rialto Bridge and the Bridge of Sighs. The Vaporetti enabled us to cruise the Grand Canal both during the day and at night to view the spectacular sights and the many palaces. Our meals in Venice were second to none. We enjoyed dining in the beautiful Jewish Quarter (Ghetto) area which was near the train station and our hotel. The crowds were not there, the prices were better and it displays a very pleasant ambience to enjoy both day and night.

In the 2 weeks we had a marvelous time and saw a lot. The Sunquest Cruise venue offers the option of staying a second week with one's own week 2 itinerary. This worked out well for us. Our St. Clair College Retirees group of 6 as part of the group of 20 were able to get the group cruise rate and also plan our own 2<sup>nd</sup> week to Tuscany and Venice. What did we enjoy best? Good food, good wine and good company! Arrivederci!

Ps. It's another whole story about the glitch on our return flight. Just ask any one from our group or Jim and Nancy Cameron who joined us in Rome for the flight home.



# Riverview Gardens



Long Term Care Home  
"The Tradition of Caring Continues"

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## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteers are an important part of our Care Giving Team enhancing the quality of resident's lives. Volunteers provide support in assisting with -

Bingo for Residents

Resident special event parties, teas, etc.

Bus Trips - specify ... Shopping, Casino trips (Dresden), Picnics, Dining out , Other  
tips of interest to residents

Letter writing for residents

Reading to resident

Wheelchairs walks ... Outdoors and/or Outdoor

Accompanying residents to doctor's appointments (volunteer does not provide transportation)

Working the bar

Portering resident to and from in house Hair Salon (Monday to Thursday)

Friendly visiting (1 to 1, weekly visits)

On-unit programs ... Mornings, Afternoons and Evenings available

Pastoral care ... Visits (one to one), Bible Study, Helping provide Church Services,

Spiritual Music Ministry and

Portering Residents to Church ...

Tuesdays - 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Sundays 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

United Church last Friday of

each month 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Palliative care

Baking programs

Art Programs (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.)

Portering Resident to and from Musical Programs

Reception Area Greeter

Secretarial Duties

As a member of our Auxiliary

For information about becoming a volunteer please contact Keri at 519-352-4823 Ext. 6123  
or via email [kerim@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:kerim@chatham-kent.ca)

Screening and Orientation are provided.

**VOLUNTEER - GIVING YOUR TIME, LOOK AT YOU SHINE!**



## RIVERVIEW GARDENS

Riverview Gardens Long Term Care Home in Chatham had its official opening on September 9, 2006. Keri McGregor, Coordinator of Volunteer Services will be the speaker at the Thames Retirees luncheon on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at noon at the William Street Café. A tour of Riverview Gardens will follow at 1:00 PM. Keri has an immediate need for volunteers to serve as porters at the facility.

Numbers are needed for lunch and the tour reservations. **Please confirm with:**

John Charlesworth tel. (519)966-3168 e-mail [daturrah@hotmail.com](mailto:daturrah@hotmail.com)

**Or**

Eunice Robinson tel. (519)351-3670 e-mail [robsan@mnsi.net](mailto:robsan@mnsi.net)

*Riverview Gardens* is a state of the art home owned and operated by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent offering accommodations to 320 long term care residents. Riverview Gardens is located at 519 King Street West on the former site of St. Joseph's Hospital, replacing the former Thamesview Lodge and Victoria Residence. This luxurious home offers 42,315 square feet of space divided between 10 residential neighbourhoods each offering 18 private bedrooms with private bathroom, 8 private bedrooms with a shared bathroom and 3 shared bedrooms with shared bathroom. Every room is equipped with a power bed, new wooden furnishings with access to bell, cable and internet. Married couple accommodations are also available. This gorgeous home is set on the bend of the Thames River with resident rooms overlooking the river, a beautifully landscaped courtyard and historic King Street West. The home offers additional living space including a tea room, spirituality centre, hair salon, pub, greatroom, courtyard, physiotherapy room, living rooms, dining and activity rooms, and spas (offering tubs, standup and sit down showers and hair sinks). Anyone interested in becoming a member of our community is invited to contact our Admissions Coordinator for a tour. Applications for admittance can be made through the Community Care Access Centre.

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## LIGHTHOUSE COVE RESTAURANT OUTING





# St. Clair College Retirees'

## Windsor Campus Christmas Party

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
**TIME:** 11:30 am - Meet  
12:30 pm - Lunch  
**PLACE:** Other Place Catering & Reception  
Centre - 1395 Walker Road

Tickets to be purchased from John Charlesworth  
at 519-966-3168 or email [daturrah@hotmail.com](mailto:daturrah@hotmail.com)

### MENU

Soup de jour  
Turkey with stuffing and gravy  
Mixed Vegetables  
Potatoes  
Sweet Potato Tart  
Rolls and Butter  
Pumpkin Tart Dessert  
Coffee or Tea

### CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Liquor - \$4.00

Beer - \$4.00

Wine - \$5.00

Pop - \$1.00

**Door Prizes and Fun Galore!**

**Note:** Tickets must be ordered through John Charlesworth.



## Thames Campus Christmas Party

**PLACE:** Countryview Golf Club

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 6:00 pm - Cocktails  
6:30 pm - Dinner

### “Excellent Buffet”

**COST:** \$16.00 (taxes & gratuity included)

**Gift Exchange - \$10 value**

**CONTACT:** Eunice Robinson (519) 351-3670

[robsan@nmsi.net](mailto:robsan@nmsi.net)





## **ST. CLAIR COLLEGE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**

*Dr. Strasser has extended an invitation  
to all retirees and staff*

*To attend the Annual Christmas Brunch*

*on*

*Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>*

*10:00 am to 1:30 pm*

*In the Hanger.*

**This event has been well attended by Retirees in the past years!**

**We look forward to seeing you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.**

*Merry Christmas*

## COMING EVENTS

- 1) **Bridge Club Dates**
  - November 7, 21: December 5: January 9: February 6, 20 : March 6, 21:
- 2) **Ontario Drug Benefit Plan Information Session**
  - Presented by Yvonne McRobbie
  - Date - Wednesday, November 22, 2006
  - Time - 1:00 pm
  - Place - Multipurpose room at the back of the cafeteria at the South Campus
- 3) **Christmas Party - Windsor** -The Other Place Catering Centre - 1395 Walker Rd.
  - Date - Wednesday, December 6, 2006
  - Time - 11:30 am Greet - Lunch 12:30 pm
  - Cost - \$20 - Cash Bar - Door Prizes
  - Tickets - Purchase from John Charlesworth 966-3168 or [daturrah@botmail.com](mailto:daturrah@botmail.com)
  - Address - 2570 Cousineau Road, West, LaSalle (Windsor) N9H 1C3
- 4) **Christmas Party - Thames**
  - Date - Wednesday, December 13, 2006
  - Time - 6 pm Cocktails - 6:30 pm Dinner
  - Cost - \$16
  - Contact Eunice Robinson for details 351-3670 or at [robsan@mnsi.net](mailto:robsan@mnsi.net)
- 5) **St. Clair Christmas Brunch** - Hanger
  - Date - Thursday, December 21, 2006
  - Time - 10 am to 1:30 pm
- 6) **Winter Trip to Mayan Riviera**
  - Date - January 17 - 24
- 7) **Thames Luncheon** - 911 Services - Brian French
  - Date - January 31, 2007
- 8) **Thames Luncheon** - Riverview Gardens, Ken McGregor
  - Date - February 28



# **PENSION NEWS ALERT!**

## **CHANGES TO THE CAAT PENSION PLAN**

You will likely be soon receiving correspondence from the CAAT Pension Plan regarding changes to the Plan. First, it is important not to be alarmed. None of the announced changes affect pensioners; they affect only members, i.e. current staff paying into the pension plan.

Firstly, contributions to the Plan will increase 1% per year, beginning in 2008, for three years. Again, these increases, intended to ensure the Plan remains viable, affect only current staff and the employer which matches employee contributions. In effect, these increases are comforting to pensioners in that they not only ensure the viability of the Plan, but decrease the likelihood that ancillary benefits will be affected. Ancillary benefits include survivor benefits, the 60 month pension guarantee, inflation protection, etc.

Indexation, or inflation protection (sometimes referred to as COLA), is another area affected by the Plan changes. The Plan will not be guaranteeing indexation increases for service beginning after December 31, 2007. Any inflation protection increases after that date will be determined annually. Again, this change does not affect current pensioners, but it should be noted that the current indexation, which is 75% of the increase in the Consumer Price Index, is guaranteed only until 2014. Fortunately, the Plan changes also include a policy which states that pension surpluses in the future must be put towards maintaining the viability of the Plan's indexation. This is reasonably good assurance that inflation protection will remain a priority for the Plan's governing body.

This is a very brief executive summary of the announcement found on the CAAT Pension Plan website. For more information and for details regarding the rationale for the changes, go to [www.caatpension.on.ca](http://www.caatpension.on.ca)