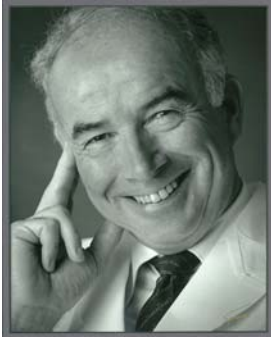


RAQnews



Our thanks go to George Brandie for his thoughtful stewardship of the Retirees' Association of Queen's (RAQ) during the past two years. His contributions to the concerns and activities of retirees will continue in his new role as President of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC).

RAQ is approaching its tenth birthday. Anniversaries provide an incentive to reflect on the past and plan for the future. In that spirit, RAQ Council held a retreat, June 20, at the Donald Gordon Centre organized by Eric Lockhart of the Queen's Business School. It was agreed that goals to be achieved in the next five years include: enlarging RAQ membership, continued pension advocacy, maintaining enthusiastic participation in social and public affairs events and RAQ projects, and having a stronger and more visible relationship with the university. Approximately 40 percent of Queen's retirees are members of RAQ. A goal was set of increasing that number to 50 percent. Any decisions about recommendations involving our constitution (such as modification of the mission statement) will be taken at the next AGM.

Members of Council agreed to lead initiatives in three areas: membership (Bruce Hutchinson), pension and benefits (David Bacon) and interaction with the university (Henry Dinsdale). The working group on membership

has already identified as priorities: the retention of current members, targeting of retirees of more than one year who have not yet joined RAQ and making retirees aware of the importance of the role of RAQ in discussions concerning pension and benefits. The information package given by the university to those retiring will highlight the value of belonging to RAQ. The visibility of RAQ could also be enhanced through partnership with other groups, such as the University Club and by articles in the electronic version of the *Queen's Gazette* and *Alumnae News*. Personal contact by RAQ members can be effective in recruitment.

A minority of retirees choose to leave the university behind. The majority seek a mix of social activities and some continuing interaction with campus activities. Yet most universities do not have a system to match ready-to-contribute retirees to departments and activities that might need them. A RAQ initiative three years ago led to an Academic Partnership Agreement intended to "foster and support the continued scholarly and creative lives of retirees, promote the continued sense of membership in the "Queen's family" and, through its programs, benefit the university and community." It outlined a number of potential roles for RAQ members, some of which remain unfulfilled. I value and solicit your opinion and suggestions about these issues. Please send them to me at hdinsdale@cogeco.ca.

Presidential News and Views

HENRY DINSDALE, President

Come and meet the newly-appointed Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), Alan Harrison.

RAQ has invited VP Harrison to be our guest at the annual RAQ Reception to be held at the University Club in October. A notice and reservation form will be distributed once details are finalized.

Pension and Benefits Report

The RAQ Pension and Benefits Committee (RAQ-PBC) customarily meets twice each year, usually immediately following a meeting with Caroline Davis, Vice-Principal (Finance and Administration) and Bob Weisnagel (Associate Director –

Pensions and Benefits). Naturally there is also email correspondence among committee members throughout the year. The most recent meeting was on April 6, 2011. On April 25 our committee reported at the Annual General Meeting of RAQ and again in the most recent issue of RAQnews published in May. The committee's next meeting with Vice-Principal Davis and Associate Director Weisnagel is scheduled for October 27. Consequently there is little new to report in this newsletter.

Nevertheless, revisions to the Queen's Pension Plan constituted a prominent issue in contract negotiations between Queen's University and the various unions representing its current faculty and staff. It is clearly inappropriate for RAQ-PBC to comment on those negotiations.

Recently, in two useful question and answer sessions concerning Queen's benefit plans, Bob Weisnagel responded to questions submitted by current and retired Queen's faculty and staff members. These appear on-line at <http://www.queensu.ca/news/articles/pension-puzzle-ask-bob> and <http://www.queensu.ca/news/articles/pension-puzzle-ask-bob-part-2>. Questions can be directed to Bob at labour.relations@queensu.ca. Additional articles related to financial challenges facing the University in general, and the unfunded liability of the Queen's Pension Plan in particular, may be found at <http://www.queensu.ca/news/articles>.

For Queen's retirees it bears repeating that **pension payments to current Queen's retirees will not be reduced from their current levels**. This assurance has been provided many times by the University, most recently by Bob Weisnagel in <http://www.queensu.ca/news/articles/pension-puzzle-ask-bob>.

Members of RAQ-PBC are Dave Bonham, George Brandie, Chris Chapler, Sue Miklas, Joyce Zakos and David Bacon (Chair). We welcome questions and comments from all members of RAQ.

Reports of Past Events Spring/Summer 2011

Tour of New Medical School Building

Two groups of about twenty-five RAQ members participated in a tour of the new Medical School Building on Friday June 3. Our tour guide was the Project Manager, Mike Finn.

Some of the areas we saw during the tour were the leading-edge classrooms with state-of-the-art technology, the surgical and technical skills labs, the simulation labs, the dedicated rooms for small group learning, and the science labs. The new building will be used by Life Science stu-

dents as well as by medical students. Mike also pointed out several of the interesting architectural features, including the brightly coloured walls that, because of the large amount of glass in the building, can be seen from the outside at night.

We were grateful to Mike for a most interesting tour. The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts is Mike's next project and we hope he will give us a tour of the Centre in two years' time when it is due to be completed.

CHERRILYN YALIN



Gathering in the Lobby



A Biochemistry Lab



An Anatomy Lab

RAQ Cheese and Wine Tasting in the County

Sixteen RAQ members and friends gathered for lunch on June 28 on the patio of the Duke of Marysburgh Pub for a relaxed lunch and visiting. A short drive brought us to the award-winning Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Company where we sampled five cheeses along with one sample of beer and four wines in the Company's unique outdoor space. We learned about the source of goat, sheep and cow's milk used in making the cheese, about curing cheeses, about quality control and about the kinds of wine to serve with different types of cheese. Our host also explained some of the history of the area. Many of us visited the roadside produce stands before making a leisurely drive back home.

MARIE GRAY AND BRUCE HUTCHINSON



Sampling wine and cheese

Annual RAQ Picnic at Lake Opinicon

The annual RAQ potluck picnic was held at the Queen's Biological Research Station on Lake Opinicon on July 27th. As usual, RAQ members supplied the food, and the student researchers at Opinicon supplied the speakers. Their topic was inventing devices for saving turtles from drown-



Turtles and friend at Lake Opinicon

ing in fishermen's traps. They brought to their lecture four varieties of turtles that ranged from a snapping turtle the size of a garbage can lid to a male map turtle about the size of a tea cup.

BOB CRANDALL



Sharing a joke at Fifth Town

Coming RAQ Events Fall 2011

Monthly Luncheons

RAQ monthly luncheons continue to be a popular choice for members to meet informally and sample the cuisine of various Kingston-area restaurants.

The luncheons are usually held on the last Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome—including members' spouses and friends. Contact Jessica (Jerry) Roddy at (613-353-6959) or jroddy@kingston.net for details and reservations.



Chuck and Laura Campling celebrating their 65th anniversary at the June Monthly Luncheon

Prince Edward County Music Festival

Saturday September 24 2011, dinner and concert

REMINDER. Although the deadline has passed for signing up for this event, space may still be available. Contact Joy Hoselton by email at hoselton@queensu.ca or call (613-533-6986) to find out if you can register (\$60 per person). Bus leaves the ToysRUs parking lot (outer Princess Street) at 4 pm. on 24 Septem-

Coming RAQ Events Fall 2011

ber. (see the May newsletter)

JULIET MILSOME AND JOY HOSELTON

Contemporary Canadian Portrait Prize Exhibition and Lunch in Gananoque

Thursday 13 October 2011

The Kingston Arts Council has once again organized a competition for a Contemporary Canadian portrait prize. The juried selection of the top 30 paintings is being exhibited at the Firehall Theatre in Gananoque in October. After the exhibit leaves Gananoque it will be shown for 3 months at the ROM in Toronto.

Enjoy a light lunch at the historic Gananoque Inn (Muskie Jakes Pub) at 1 p.m. followed at 2:30 pm. by a guided tour (especially for RAQeteers) by Julian and Kaaren Brown, two of the organizers of this competition.

After our tour of the exhibit, you will be free to visit the Arthur Child Heritage Centre of the 1,000 Islands, a museum about the history of the region, located on Water Street (a 5 min. walk away) or feel free to go shopping, or explore the town and its waterfront before returning to Kingston between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Admission to the Gallery is free, but it is suggested that every visitor make a donation at the exit. The Catalogue of the exhibition can be purchased for \$5. Every-

one is responsible for paying for their own lunch.

If you plan to come or want more details, please contact Joy Hoselton (email Joy at hoselton@queensu.ca or phone Joy at (613)-533-6986) as we will need to know numbers to reserve tables for lunch at the Gananoque Inn.

Please arrange your own car-pooling if possible to reduce the number of cars driving to Gananoque.

Deadline to reserve for this trip: October 10

JULIET MILSOME AND JOY HOSELTON

Silver Bells and Carol Service

The Alma Mater Society will again sponsor this popular campus dinner for Kingston seniors and RAQ members, followed by the Engineering Society's carol service in Grant Hall, on a Sunday to be determined. Reservations will be required. Please contact **David Sinkinson** Municipal Affairs Commissioner Alma Mater Society, Queen's University Email:

mac@ams.queensu.ca

Phone: (613) 533-6000 ext. 75178 for information and to register.

Monday Morning Forums: Fall 2011

This series is coordinated by Dr. Agnes Herzberg, under the joint sponsorship of Queen's University and Four Points Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Kingston. The events are at

The University Club
168 Stuart Street

Coffee and muffins are served at 8:15 a.m. All lectures begin at 9 a.m., with a discussion at 9:30 a.m.

October 3, 2011

The Life of a Speaker
Honourable P. Milliken
Former Speaker

October 17, 2011

Political Parties in Canada: What is the Status Quo?

Professor J. Meisel
Queen's University

October 24, 2011

Responding to an Earthquake: The New Zealand Experience

Dr. S.N. Merry
University of Auckland

October 31, 2011

A Special Assignment

Mr. R.P. MacKinnon
President, University of Saskatchewan

RAQnews is published three times a year by the RAQ Communications Committee, John Gordon (Chair)
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