

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.



Our luncheon ladies, Rosemarie McUen and Jerry Roddy

Elder Law Series

Wednesday, October 24, at 7 pm

Changes have been made to the probate process in Ontario. To bring you up-to-date, Mary Alice Thompson, an estates lawyer practising with Cunningham Swan, and Kathryn Wright, a financial planner with Kingston Financial

Centre, have kindly agreed to lead a discussion of these changes, and their implications for estate planning. The seminar will be held in room 201 in Macdonald Hall (Faculty of Law).

SUE MIKLAS

Silver Bells Dinner 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 (tentatively on Sunday, December 2). Reservations for dinner will be required. Please contact Caitlin Costello or Lauren Geneen, Generations Co-chairs, Alma Mater Society, Queen's University, by email (generations@ams.queensu.ca) or phone (613 533-6000 ext. 75178) to confirm the date and to register.

**Monday Morning Forums
Fall 2012**

This series is arranged by Dr. A.M. Herzberg and supported by Queen's University; Four Points

by Sheraton Kingston; Cunningham Swan, Lawyers and anonymous donors.

The talks take place at the University Club, 168 Stuart Street, Kingston.

Coffee and muffins are served from 8:15 a.m. Lectures begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by an exchange of ideas and discussion.

October 1, 2012

Cross-Border Security Cooperation between Canada/USA

Ms D. Robinson
Department of Justice, Canada

October 15, 2012

Asbestos—Global Health Risk and Resource

Dr. U. Bickis
Queen's University

October 22, 2012

Should Canada be more open to refugees?

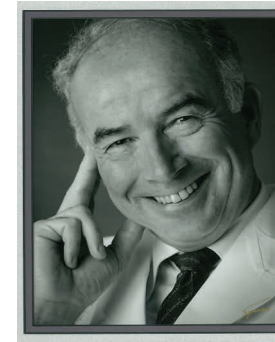
Ms D. Goodwin
Author

November 12, 2012

How can Parliament be improved?

Mr. T. Hsu
Member of Parliament

RAQnews



The 2012 London Olympics provided a remarkable showcase of human achievement and contrast of emotions, none more dramatic than the elation of the Canadian 100-meter relay team followed by their despair after being disqualified from a medal position. The closing ceremony also provided an example of the universal appeal, emotional impact and international camaraderie that music can evoke. In his closing remarks, International Olympic Committee chairman Jacques Rogge described London 2012 as "happy and glorious Games" and added, "We will never forget the smiles, kindness and support of the wonderful volunteers, the much needed heroes of these Games."

Volunteerism was examined in this column in the previous *RAQnews*. We have all benefited from the work of members, past and present, who volunteer for the administrative tasks and events provided by RAQ. The list of RAQ Officers and Committees on our website (www.queensu.ca/retirees/officers.html) identifies those working on your behalf in a variety of activities. Cherrilyn Yalin is our efficient secretary and Marie Gray our ever alert treasurer. Diane Duttie chairs the Communications Committee, George Hutson the Events Committee and David Bacon, Pension and Benefits. Activities arising from those committees are updated in each *RAQnews*. Without their efforts, RAQ, like any volunteer organization, would grind to a halt. George Brandie, our immediate Past President, continues to contribute through his work as President of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC).

Space precludes recognition of our many individual contributors but I am taking this opportunity to recognize two of them, Joy Hoselton and Agnes Herzberg. Joy, our Membership Secretary, is ever-available, conscientious and unassumingly competent. She keeps a sharp eye on correspondence, ensuring nothing is overlooked. Her presence provides one with complete confidence in the management of RAQ's office.

Agnes Herzberg has made a singular contribution through her initiative and imagination in establishing, organizing and finding support for the Monday Morning Forum. She brings to the MMF the skills she demonstrated establishing the annual, multidisciplinary

Conferences on Statistics, Science and Public Policy held at Herstmonceux Castle (now in its 18th year). Agnes has shown remarkable ingenuity (and persistence) in her search for new and stimulating MMF speakers. Those qualities have also been called into play in finding funding to cover speakers' travel and related costs.

A modest contribution from the university was recently reduced; there have been some private individual contributions. Unlike organizers of some speaker series, she has opted not to charge admission to these lectures. As with a number of RAQ's activities, the MMF attracts a regular cadre of attendees. However, the number is modest when compared to the total membership of RAQ. Early Monday morning or not, I encourage you to take a careful look at the program of speakers on Page 4 and make the effort to attend. This sort of activity is one of the benefits of the university environment. You should take advantage of it. And spread the word, we want new members.

HENRY DINSDALE, President

Presidential News and Views

Pension and Benefits Report

On September 5, 2012, the RAQ Pensions and Benefits Committee (RAQ_PBC) met with Caroline Davis, Vice-Principal (Finance and Administration), Bob Weisnagel, Director (Pensions and Insurance) and Gordon Lee, Director (Investment Services). This meeting, like previous meetings with Queen's officials, was informative and helpful.

We can report that, as of August 31, 2012, the net investment performance of the Queen's Pension Plan was 5.53%. This will not lead to an increase in monthly payments to Queen's retirees but, as has been stated many times in previous reports from this committee, **pensions paid to Queen's retirees are guaranteed never to decrease during the retirees' lifetimes.**

We are delighted to report that John Gordon has been reappointed as a faculty retiree member of the Pension Committee of the Board of Trustees for a further four year term, until August 31, 2016.

The Board Pension Committee has a new Chair, David Grace, former Vice-Chair of that committee. Mr. Grace is an actuary who is a member of the Board of Trustees. Bill Cannon, who has chaired the Pension Committee with considerable skill, dedication and distinction for the past eleven years, will continue to serve as a member of that committee. Retirees will have an opportunity to meet Mr. Grace at the Annual Meeting of the

At the final Monday Morning Forum of 2011-12, authors John Meisel and Charlotte Gray discussed their recent books and the research and writing processes they adopted. The appreciative audience filled the basement Conference Room of the University Club.



Agnes Herzberg, John Meisel and Charlotte Gray ..

Queen's Pension Plan in December.

A new development of potential concern to members of the Queen's Pension Plan was the announcement of the Ontario Government in June that it intends "to introduce a legislative framework in Fall 2012 that would facilitate the pooling of pension fund assets in the broader public sector." (See <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-eyes-pension-super-funds-to-hold-public-sector-retirement-savings/article4558171/> [page 1 of the September 21st print edition] and <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/media/2012/epf.html>) The government's intent would appear to be the creation of a pension fund such as OMERS, the fund which administers and invests the pension funds of Ontario municipalities. "Mr. Bill Moreau has been appointed as a special Pension Investment Advisor to develop a framework to help put broader public sector pension plans on a more secure footing." The Council of Ontario Universities has responded to this announcement in a letter to Mr. Moreau identifying the collective concerns of Ontario universities. The Globe and Mail story noted, "A senior government official said finance officials are still investigating different options, and no formal policy decisions have been made."

RAQ_PBC will monitor developments on this initiative and keep RAQ members informed if the Ontario Government proceeds on this path.

RAQ Pension and Benefits Committee:

David Bacon (Chair), George Brandie, Chris Chapler, Sue Miklas, Joyce Zakos



... and their capacity audience.

Reports of Past Events Summer 2012

Opinicon Annual Picnic

The annual RAQ pot luck picnic was held at the Queen's Biological Research Station on Lake Opinicon on July 25th on a bright sunny day.

It was an opportunity to eat a good lunch and catch up on the news of old friends. After lunch a graduate student at Opinicon, Philina English, told us about her enquiry into the falling population of whippoorwills. She attaches micro-electronic devices to them that permit her to calculate where they spend their winters, and hence estimate their migration patterns. So far, there does not appear to be any strong explanatory factor for the population decline.

BOB CRANDALL



Enjoying an interesting talk about whippoorwills at Lake Opinicon

Campus Tour

This year's tour had to be deferred until August because the Goodes Hall Expansion was not ready for tours in May. About 35 people participated in the Goodes Hall Expansion tour and then the Abramsky House tour; some stayed for lunch at the University Club afterwards.

The Goodes Hall expansion includes several new state-of-the-art classrooms, student breakout rooms, additional faculty offices and a new common area with floor to ceiling windows overlooking Union Street. It was clear how Goodes Hall combines the history of Victoria School with the contemporary design, architecture and cutting-edge learning tools of a modern business school.

The retirees had toured the new medical school building in May of 2011 but Abramsky House was still under construction. On this tour we were able to see how the house has been adapted for offices while maintaining its heritage appearance. We also saw how it was possible to access both the new medical school building and the building next door, 82/84 Barrie Street, from the inside.

Thank you to Claude Bellerose, Director of Construction, Bob Polegato, Project Manager, and Kevin McKegney, Building Superintendent for the School of Medicine, who acted as tour guides.

We will not be able to tour the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts until 2014 but hope to arrange a tour of some other buildings of interest in 2013.

CHERRILYN YALIN



RAQeteers in the lobby of Goodes Hall



... and in front of Abramsky House