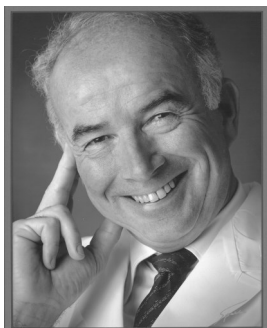


RAQnews



This issue contains a report by John Meisel of the most recent RAQon-
teur evening. The topic was the
challenge of maintaining the
"Queen's spirit." There is no refer-
ence to Queen's spirit in Volume I
of the history of Queen's (1813-
1917), written by Hilda Neatby, but
it appears as early as page five in

the introduction to Fred Gibson's Vol. II (1917-1961).
Michiel Horn's review of Vol. II in the October 1984
CAUT Bulletin begins: "Among Canadian universities, cer-
tainly among those in Ontario, Queen's
stands out for its special spirit."

Herb Hamilton was a student, counsellor
to the Alma Mater Society and alumni
director. He published *Queen's! Queen's!
Queen's!* in 1977, a personal memoir. It
ends with examples of letters to the Prin-
cipal's office. The following are some excerpts from those
letters (*italics mine*):

"Dear Mr. Principal,

*My husband and I would like to tell you how favourably im-
pressed we are with Queen's University.... Our first impres-
sion came when our son received a refusal from the Faculty of
Medicine. Someone had taken time to explain the huge number
of applications received and the large number of qualified people
who had to be refused acceptance. It was not one of those 'We
regret to inform you....' notes (which sound like a death an-
nouncement in wartime) that he received from other universi-
ties. When he was accepted this year at McMaster, Queen's
alone wrote to congratulate him. This letter took time and effort
and was greatly appreciated for its humanity."*

*"....The efforts of Queen's to keep its 'humanity' are
especially appreciated."*

*"....We have felt very fortunate in having a closeness to
Queen's.... I especially like the size of the student body and the
concern between teacher and student. I know this (smaller size)
means disappointment for many, but a greater advantage for
those who are accepted...."*

Do those thoughtful voices from another time describe
qualities inevitably lost in an expanded Queen's? I came
to Queen's sixty-four years ago when the student popula-
tion was about 2,600. Extensive faculty, curricular, admin-
istrative and physical changes have occurred since then.
The student body is much more multicultural and many
of its interests have changed. Football game
attendance can be used as a particular
marker of change. The 1950s' students filled
the stands. Now it is the alumni and inter-
ested Kingstonians with a smattering of
students on their side of the field.

In addition to the ongoing internal chal-
lenge of maintaining the "Queen's spirit" (if
that is still considered important) are persisting yet
changing external challenges concerning the visibility of
the university and its interrelationships with federal, pro-
vincial and civic governments – topics for future RAQon-
teur events?

HENRY DINSDALE, President

2013-2014 COUNCIL



Reminder: Memberships for 2013-14 are now due. Check the date on your membership card. Please encourage other retirees and prospective retirees to join. Forms are available on our web site: <http://www.queensu.ca/retirees/contact.html> or phone 613-533-6986.

Pension and Benefits Report

As noted in previous reports, the RAQ Pensions and Benefits Committee customarily meets twice each year with Caroline Davis, Vice-Principal (Finance and Administration), and Bob Weisnagel, Director (Pensions and Insurance) to review developments and exchange views

on topics related to the mandate of our committee. These meetings continue to provide pleasant, direct and effective communication between RAQ and the senior administrative officers of the University. The most recent meeting was held late last month.

The net investment return from the Queen's Pension Plan over the first seven months of the current Plan year (September 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013) was 10.8793%. Although obviously encouraging, no increases in monthly payments to Queen's retirees are expected because the Fund's recent annual returns have not yet been sufficient to offset the losses that followed the global market meltdown of 2009.

The continuing unfunded liability of the Queen's Pension Plan remains a concern. While the university has been granted temporary relief from having to fund the pension plan on a solvency basis, that relief is scheduled to end in 2014 when the plan's next valuation is due. Barring any additional provincial intervention, it is anticipated that Queen's will have to make the required solvency pay-

ments over the following ten years. **Nevertheless, pensions paid to Queen's retirees are guaranteed never to decrease during the retirees' lifetimes.**

We encourage each Queen's retiree to review a copy of the most recent version (October 2012) of the Retiree Benefits Booklet that summarizes group medical and life insurance benefits. It can be found on the Queen's website at <http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/totalcomp/benefits/retireebenefits.html> or by contacting Queen's Human Resources in the Stewart-Pollock Wing of Fleming Hall at (613) 533-2070. **We also encourage those of you who have dependents to contact Human Resources by telephone or by email (hadmin@queensu.ca) to ensure that each of your dependents is covered under the terms of your benefits plan.**

The Morneau report, mentioned in our last report, is still under consideration by the Government of Ontario. That report recommended pooling of pension assets for Ontario public-sector institutions, including universities. It is important to note that the Morneau report does not address pension plan solvency issues currently faced by most Ontario universities.

As always, the Committee welcomes questions and comments from members of RAQ.

DAVID BACON, Chair

Members of RAQ-PBC are George Brandie, Chris Chapler, Sue Miklas, Joyce Zakos, and David Bacon (Chair).

Reports of Past Events Winter 2013

Monday Morning Forums Winter/Spring 2013

Monday Morning Forums are organized by Dr. A. M. Herzberg and supported by Queen's University; Ambassador Hotel, Kingston; Cunningham Swan, Lawyers.

What is Prorogation?

Honourable P. Milliken
Former Speaker of the House of Commons
January 14, 2013

Recent Discoveries about Leonardo

Professor D.B. McLay
Queen's University
January 21, 2013

The Casino Controversy

Professor J.R. Allan
Queen's University
January 28, 2013

Architecture for the Birds

Professor P. du Prey
Queen's University
March 11, 2013



Reports of Past Events Winter 2013

RAQonteur Forum Maintaining the Queen's Spirit 20 March 2013

The now traditional RAQonteur Forum, which brings together retirees, members of the Queen's community and other Kingstonians to consider an issue of current interest to our community, focused this year on what might be called a domestic issue. Its title was "A Challenge to Queen's: Maintaining the Queen's Spirit."

The attendance of about forty-five was slightly higher than usual and consisted entirely of Queen's people. More students were present than usually, without doubt because two outstanding undergraduates were among the panelists. John Meisel chaired, but was uncharacteristically silent.

Forum panelists

Nicholas Francis, Duncan McDowall, Duncan Sinclair, John Meisel (Chair), Isabelle Duchaine and Jonathan Rose

The heavy lifting was done by Isabelle Duchaine (AMS Academic Affairs Commissioner), Nicholas Francis (Queen's Rector) and professors Duncan McDowall (history and historian of Queen's), Jonathan Rose (Political Studies) and Duncan Sinclair (Physiology and former Vice - Principal).

The discussion focused largely on the challenges presented by the rapid and substantial increase in student numbers and in the ethnic and class composition of the undergraduate body, changing expectations of Ontario universities, increasing importance attached to research, the relative growth in numbers of non-academic employees and administrators, and the enhanced presence of casual (i.e., non-permanent) instructors.

Considerable stress was placed on the importance of the AMS and of students' participation "running" Queen's.

While no single aspect of problems confronting us was emphasized, the conversation made it clear that the sources of tensions, and the challenges, arise from numerous, often unrelated causes which confront the relevant decision-makers with complex and partly intractable problems. It was manifest that large numbers of people are concerned, have ideas about solutions and are willing to pitch in, if given some guidance.

The presence of students indubitably broadened and enlivened proceedings, suggesting that their participation should always be considered in the future.

JOHN MEISEL



at
the
AGM



Coming RAQ Events Spring/Summer 2013

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.

Campus Tour Queen's Architecture The Early Years

Friday 7 June 2013

10:30 AM to Noon (10:30 AM to 1:30 PM if having lunch at University Club)

There are no new buildings on campus to tour this year – so instead the annual campus tour will focus on old buildings. Sabrina DeSousa, who is working on her Master's degree in Art History, has a passionate interest in architecture and will be our guide.

We will meet at 10:30 AM in Room 101 of the Kinesiology Building at 28 Division Street. Sabrina will give us a short talk about the architectural features of some of the older buildings on campus and then she will lead us on a campus tour to include the buildings she has discussed.

Those who wish can have lunch at the University Club after the tour (a reservation

has been made for 12:15 PM). It is not necessary to be a member and you can pay with a credit card.

We have been allowed up to fifteen parking spaces on campus (from 10:15 AM to 2:15 PM) and these will be allocated on a first-requested first-served basis. If you are using a Queen's parking place you will need to place your RAQ Membership Card on the dash.

If you would like to join the tour, please notify Cherrilyn Yalin by e-mail (yalinc@queensu.ca) or phone (613-542-4201) by Friday, 31 May. When you contact her, please let her know if you require a parking place and if you wish to have lunch at the University Club. In order that everyone can hear the guide, we will cap the tour at 40 people.

CHERRILYN YALIN

Opinicon Pot Luck Picnic Wednesday 10 July 2013 11 AM (Rain or shine)

The annual RAQ summer picnic at the Queen's Biological Station on Lake Opinicon will be held a bit earlier this year, on July 10th. We are doing this so that more of the students doing research at the Station will be around to tell us about their findings. This will be the ninth RAQ Picnic at Opinicon. If it's bright and sunny we'll enjoy eating outside in the park-like setting. If it rains, we will eat in the Research Station's comfortable pavilion. Please join us for a visit to this delightful spot on the shores of Lake

Opinicon to see the Biology department's renowned research facility and hear about the graduate students' current projects. The enclosed registration form has details and directions. Cost is \$7.00 plus a picnic lunch to share. **Please register by July 3.**

BOB CRANDALL

Alternative Housing: Two Options

Tuesday 1 October 2013 tbc

7:30PM – 9:30 PM

Location tba

Last spring Bruce Hutchinson suggested a look at alternative housing options might be of interest to members of RAQ. Two such options are Abbeyfield House, now nearing construction with sixteen units plus apartment for a house coordinator on Portsmouth Avenue, and the OASIS project currently operating in Bowling Green II off Bath Road with residents occupying their own apartments and a personal support worker on-site. Upgraded common areas, meals brought in for communal dining a number of times a week and an active residents committee help reduce isolation. In early October we will have the opportunity to hear from Elizabeth McIver and Christine McMillan, champions of the Abbeyfield and OASIS projects respectively. Further details in the next newsletter.

GEORGE HUTSON

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

Photos: George Zakos, Joyce Zakos, Diane Duttie

Editors: Diane Duttie, George Brandie and Joy Hoselton; Web site: George Brandie

RAQ's postal address: RAQ, Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room A412, Queen's University, Kingston, ON K7L 3N6

Telephone: 613-533-6986. E-mail: raq@queensu.ca Web site: <http://www.queensu.ca/retirees>