

RAQnews



President's Report

This newsletter edition outlines, in the individual reports, the activities that have occupied Council in the past few months, projects making RAQ a more efficient organization and bringing new opportunities to its members.

Over the summer, an ad hoc policy review committee has consolidated past Council decisions and begun to produce a policy handbook that will guide future Councils. In addition, Diane Kelly, our new Vice-President, has started a review of our constitution. She and our Administrator have met with the Queen's Privacy Officer to assess our privacy policy and to bring it into line with the Queen's policy. Diane and another small group have negotiated an exciting travel opportunity for RAQ members. Look for the announcement of the tour "Greece — a Journey to Fabled Places" for information about how to sign up.

The Pension and Benefits report will bring good news for Queen's retirees. In a contract with a new benefits provider for Queen's employees, retirees will have opportunities for additional coverage not available in the current arrangements. The report will give you details.

Those of you who have read the new Principal's letter in the September 28 edition of the Gazette, "A Conversation with the Community", will want to attend RAQ's New Members' Reception at the University Club on November 5 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dr. Deane will be our speaker at this event and you can read his letter at: https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/conversation-community?utm_source.... Come and meet the principal, or renew your relationship with him, and hear what he has to say about his vision for Queen's.

The RAQ Council continues to work to represent you in negotiations with the university and to bring you new opportunities for association with your colleagues. I hope you will enjoy your participation in some of the many activities available.

Eleanor Rogers, RAQ President

Pension and Benefits Report

University Pension Plan

In July, the required consent threshold for the existing pension plans at Queen's, Guelph and Toronto was surpassed so conversion to the University Pension Plan (UPP) is going ahead. Approval from each of the university governing boards is required and then application will be made to the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) to transfer assets and liabilities from the existing pension plans to the UPP. We understand that the Queen's Board of Trustees will give the necessary approvals at its meeting in December.

As mentioned in our May report, there will be no impact on pensions for existing retirees.

Queen's Pension Plan News

The pension plan return in August was 0.3% and the return for the full 12 months was 2.3%. As a result, a number of retirees will receive a very modest increase in pension – perhaps in the order of 0.5%. However, those retirees who started their pension in 2007-08 will not yet see an increase.

In November, Pension Services will send a letter to each pensioner with details on the 2019 Annual Pension Adjustment.

Benefit News

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, Human Resources sent out a Request for Proposals to a number of insurance providers in the spring. After reviewing the responses, Queen's has decided to appoint Manulife as the new employee and retiree benefits provider. The change from Great-West Life will occur in the spring of 2020. Until then, there will be no changes to the existing benefit plan coverages or to the submission process.

When the new contract is in effect, there will be some new features for retirees. Details on these changes were provided by Steve Millan, Associate Vice-Principal (Human Resources) and these can be found on the RAQ web site. In addition, there will be an article on the change in the benefits provider in a future issue of the Queen's Gazette. A Frequently Asked Questions is available on the HR website: <http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/employee-benefits-plan-review>

Bill Forbes, Chair, RAQ Pensions & Benefits Committee

**Are you a Queen's Retiree
with a retirement question
or concern?**

RAQ is here to help.

**Contact RAQ at 613-533-6986, or
RAQ@queensu.ca**

RAQ Retirees'
Association
of Queen's

Save the Date

November 5, 2019

RAQ Annual New Members' Reception

4-6 PM

The University Club

Guest Speaker: Principal Patrick Deane

More details to follow shortly

New RAQ members (2019-20) are our guests

RAQ Membership News

Fall is in the Air: It's time to renew your RAQ Membership!



Last year was a banner year for RAQ with the introduction of new Queen's Retiree cards and the re-instatement of Queen's email accounts for retirees. These new cards are essential to access most of the discounts and deals enjoyed by current Queen's faculty and staff, including local hotels, fitness clubs and VIA Rail.

And we are excited about our plans for 2020 with the launch of RAQ Travel and the likely unveiling of a new membership model that will greatly enhance services and outreach to Queen's retirees. In addition, thanks to the good work of our Events Chair

Sandy Olney, we already have a great lineup in place for the Fall Lunchtime Guest Speaker Series. Many of the details of these activities and programs are included in this Newsletter, but we also invite you to visit the RAQ website at <https://www.queensu.ca/retirees/home> to view all upcoming events. To learn more about current privileges and benefits, simply click on Deals and Discounts.

The larger our membership base (now at about 400 Queen's retirees), the more we will be able to accomplish on your behalf. If your membership has lapsed, please contact our office administrator, Cheryl Descent, at raq@queensu.ca to renew. For a modest annual rate, you will have access to an exceptional array of learning opportunities and benefits. If you are new to RAQ, we are pleased to offer a free one-year membership.

And don't miss out on the upcoming Fall reception for new members at 4 pm on November 5th at the University Club. This is always a fun and stimulating event – and of course, it's particularly special this year with new Principal Patrick Deane as our guest. We look forward to hearing about his early plans and ideas for the future of Queen's.

Donna Lounsbury, RAQ Membership Chair

Welcome to New RAQ Members!

Blaine Allan (Film and Media Studies) & Suzanne MacDonald

Robin Ashcroft (Research Services)

Donald (Medicine) & Sandra Brunet

Sheilagh Dunn (Office of the Principal)

Virginia & John Gordon (School of Business)

Jane Hodges

Patrick (School of Computing) and Diane Martin

Christine Overall (Philosophy)

Vernon Quinsey (Psychology)

Judy Reid

Tom (Education) & Laverne Russell (Biochem)

Upcoming Events



Join fellow RAQ members and others at one of our upcoming conversations. These popular events address diverse topics and are led by experts in the field. For more information how to attend the following upcoming events, consult the RAQ website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/retirees>

RAQ Guest Lunch Series

October 15, 2019:

Dr. Peter Taylor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics: “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it.” — why math teaching is ‘broke’

November 12, 2019

Andrew Graham, School of Policy Studies: Phoenix: The Architecture of Failure: Why Big Projects Fail and What Can be Done About It

December 4, 2019

John Foster, International Petroleum Economist: Petroleum and the World’s Hot Spots

The Monday Morning Forum

October 28, 2019

L. A. Delvoie, Centre for International Defence Policy: Religion versus Secularism in Canada

November 4, 2019

Dr. A. S. Thompson, Balsillie School of International Affairs: Is it possible to defend Human Rights in an Illiberal World?

Upcoming Kingston Events

Wednesday, October 23rd – the United Way “Seeing Is Believing” Tour – 9:00 to noon



Queen’s retirees donate over 40% of the funds invested in the community by the Queen’s United Way campaign. Take a closer look at how your contributions are used to build a better Kingston with this behind-the-scenes tour of some United Way KFLA funded agencies. You will have the chance to meet the people who work every day to make a difference in our community and hear stories of those whose lives have been changed through the United Way.

Join other RAQ members and friends on the “The Seeing Is Believing Bus” on Wednesday, October 23. Get your seat today by contacting the United Way (campaign@unitedwayfla.ca, or 613-5420142). Transportation sponsored by Kingston Transit. There is no charge for this unique experience!

RAQ members with questions about the tour may contact Bruce Hutchinson (hutchinb@queensu.ca, or 613-328-3093).

Tuesday November 5th - Retirees United Breakfast Club

Breakfast: 9:00 to 10:30

Optional tour to follow

Tickets: \$10.00

Location: Visitors Centre, inside the historic Kingston Penitentiary

Join your workplace and other retirees for a morning of learning and connecting with the broader KFL&A Retirees United community.

Attend this inaugural Breakfast Club event within the historic Kingston Penitentiary. Learn how it is contributing to the United Way programs, and how you can continue to support the community and find ways to share your time and talent.

Continental breakfast will be offered along with special guided tours of the Penitentiary following the breakfast. This event is sponsored by Royale Place Retirement Centre. RSVP by October 29th: <https://retireebreakfast.eventbrite.ca>

We are very excited to announce the launch of a brand new initiative for RAQ Members and Friends...***RAQ Travel!***

RAQ has asked a local Kingston travel agency, Kingston Central Travel, with experience in custom travel packages to structure a small-group, well-designed tour that would be appealing to RAQ Members.

Please join us on our inaugural trip to Greece.

Please join us on our first odyssey...

Greece—A Journey to Fabled Places: A RAQ Travel Opportunity

May 2—May 14, 2020



This custom-designed RAQ tour includes:

- ◇ 4 nights in Athens
- ◇ 1 night in Delphi
- ◇ 1 night in Kalambaka/Meteora
- ◇ 3 nights in Santorini
- ◇ 3 nights in Crete
- ◇ Guided city/cultural site tours in Athens, Delphi, Meteora, Knossos and Heraklion
- ◇ Sunset cruise in Santorini
- ◇ Wine and olive tasting tour in Crete
- ◇ 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- ◇ 4 star accommodation throughout
- ◇ Transportation within Greece and international airport transfers (some restrictions may apply)

Price: (\$CAD): \$4995.00 + \$396.00 taxes pp, based on double occupancy. Single occupancy supplement rate of \$1825.00 pp.

To book, and for complete tour details, insurance requirements, and all terms and conditions, please contact:
Sonny Dey
Owner/Custom Travel Coordinator
Kingston Central Travel and Cruise Co.

16 Bath Road, Kingston, ON K7L 1C4

(613) 545 1880

SONNYDEY@KINGSTONCENTRAL.COM

Detailed information is available at:



[https://](https://www.kingstoncentral.com/product/raq-trips)

www.kingstoncentral.com/product/raq-trips

SUMMER 2019 RAQ EVENTS

RAQ CAMPUS TOUR AND LUNCH: MITCHELL HALL

On May 23, our long-awaited tour of Mitchell Hall (previously known as the Wellness and Innovation Centre) did not disappoint! Bob Polegato, the Project Manager, took us on an extensive tour. The building is located at the corner of Union and Division Streets.

We were shown the Innovation Hub, home to the Dunin-Deshpande Innovation Centre which provides students and faculty members with the resources, mentors, and networks to help them transform ideas into products and services. We also saw the Beaty Water Research Centre and one of three large classrooms featuring the very latest (and for most of us unimaginable) technology. This part of the building will be used by students in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science with special designated space for Mechanical Engineering students.

In the Wellness Centre part of the building, we saw the much-expanded International Centre. The Centre has meeting rooms and a large kitchen, a Multi-Faith Chapel, the Office of Faith and Spiritual Life, private exam spaces for students who need them, and one of the gyms.

The building cost \$85 million dollars and it was evident that the money had been well spent.



After the tour we gathered at the University Club for lunch and were joined by the Reverend Wendy Luella Perkins who outlined the services provided by the Office of Faith and Spiritual Life at Queen's and in particular, the programs that she coordinates. These programs focus on creating meaning and community through cooking and sharing meals together, Soulful Singing, creative arts, and alcohol-free events. Wendy Luella has started two meal-sharing programs:

Cooking with Grandmothers and Cooking with Kingstonians. She would welcome another group: Cooking with Retirees!

We were surprised to learn how many students at Queen's suffer from loneliness for a number of reasons including lack of money and unfamiliarity with student life. The Chaplain's Office is a place where such students can gain a sense of belonging, regardless of their religious beliefs.

If you would like to assist the Office in its work, you might consider making a cheque out to Queen's University and put the purpose of your donation in the memo line. It would be "Chaplain's Trust" for bursaries or "Faith and Spiritual Life" for programming.

For more information on Mitchell Hall see: <https://www.queensu.ca/connect/innovationandwellness/about-the-project/> and for more information on the Office of Faith and Spiritual Life see: <https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/alumnireview/stories/second-floor-office>

Cherrilyn Yalin

RAQ
ANNUAL POT-LUCK PICNIC
at
ELBOW LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTRE

The annual pot-luck picnic was held at the Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (EEEC) on Friday, 21 June. A group of about 15 members enjoyed good company, interesting pot-luck dishes to share and beautiful weather. This year Steve Lougheed was not able to be with us as he was teaching in Kenya. Instead the research coordinator, Ivana Schoepf, gave us a thorough overview of work at the Centre, with pictures of the site. She also showed us photos of the staff, while outlining their various responsibilities. Ivana then introduced us to three people who are currently working and/or researching at the Centre this summer.

One summer student, Kestrel de Marco, is continuing the analysis of the migratory patterns of tree swallows, a study which has been ongoing since it was started by Queen's professor Raleigh Robertson in 1975. There has been a steady decline in their population since the 1990s, which has led to speculation as to the cause--climate change, food supply in the face of the decline of insects, predation, or other causes.

Next, Adriana Lopez Villalobos, Administrative Data and Herbarium Manager at Queen's Biological Station at Opinicon, spoke to us, showing samples of dried and pressed plants from eastern Ontario going back to the late 19th century and continuing to the present. The purpose of the Fowler Herbarium is to catalogue the biodiversity of plants in the region and make this information available to interested individuals and institutions. A lot of this work is done by community volunteers and Adriana is always looking for more hands on deck to help her with either mounting specimens or with digitization.

Finally, Emily Verhoek, the outreach and teaching coordinator, spoke about the work she does, including water quality assessment, climate data collection (a lot of this is done by volunteer citizens) and investigating fish population, especially bass. She also organizes public events for families and school groups.

Juliet Milsome