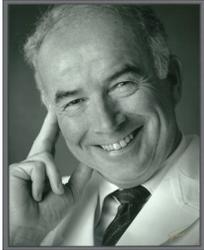


RAQnews



A recent full-page ad in *The Globe and Mail* declared "FOR BEING ROLE MODELS, MOTIVATORS, MENTORS AND VOLUNTEERS, THANK YOU." It featured a photograph of a fourth year Ryerson student described as a "Pathway volunteer" in a program aimed at assisting youth to graduate from high school. Who are these volunteers? What factors influence volunteering and volunteer organizations? These questions come to mind at the time of our AGM, when we express our appreciation to those RAQ members who have volunteered their time, energy and imagination.

At Council's retreat last year, the comment was made "If RAQ didn't exist, I'm not sure it would be created." That opinion presumably reflected, at least in part, a generational difference in social attitudes toward membership and participation in volunteer and nonprofit organizations. It is a subject that has received attention in the sociological literature. Generational labels (see Socrates) may be useful, if arbitrary, investigational tools to examine the subject. Seniors (anyone over 65) were invented in the 1980s. They were followed by Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1963), Generation Xers (mid-1960s to early 1980s) and now Generation Y or the Millennial Generation (born since the early 1980s). The Baby Boom generation was selected as *Time's* 1966 "Man of the Year," a symptom of the way they were idealized at the time. Baby Boomers are transmuting into Golden Boomers as they retire. However, a recent US study found that 42 percent are delaying retirement and 25 percent claim they'll never retire (label anyone?); living longer and healthier as well as financial needs are factors behind some of those numbers. Generation X was used to signify a group of young people with

an uncertain and possibly hostile future; in the UK they were the punk band generation, also known as "the slackers," people who "work to live" in contrast to the Boomers "who live to work." Generation Y is notable for its familiarity with communications, media and digital technologies.

Interesting observations emerge from analysis of generational differences. GenXers apparently work better in an informal environment where they can consult their peers. Baby Boomers are more comfortable in hierarchical settings. The technically savvy GenXers like to do things quickly whereas Baby Boomers, relying less on technology, tend to look at issues more in-depth. As far as the near future of RAQ membership and the social pleasures and volunteerism it represents are concerned, the important attitudes will be those of the Baby/

Golden Boomers. Will they be much different than those who have preceded them? On this 10th anniversary of RAQ, it may be salutary to escape generational musings and look back at our beginning. John Meisel, in the inaugural *RAQnews*, outlined the purposes of RAQ as aiming "to undertake interesting and pleasant activities catering to a variety of tastes, to keep a watchful eye on the developments affecting our physical and social well being, and to facilitate the continuance of social ties we forged while we were working together." Plus ça change!

Presidential News and Views

HENRY DINSDALE
PRESIDENT



RAQeteers
gather for
the AGM.

Reminder: Memberships for 2012-13 are now due. Check the date on your membership card. Please encourage other retirees and prospective retirees to join. Forms are available on our website: <http://www.queensu.ca/retirees/Contact.html> or phone 613-533-6986.

Pension and Benefits Report

The RAQ Pensions and Benefits Committee (RAQ-PBC) continues to monitor policies and practices related to pensions and benefits for Queen's retirees. Earlier this month we met with Bill Cannon, Chair of the Pension Committee of the

Board of Trustees, and Alison Morgan and John Gordon, members of RAQ who are also members of the Pension Committee of the Board of Trustees.

The net investment return from the Queen's Pension Plan as of March 31, 2012, the seventh month of the current Plan year, is slightly in excess of 5.5%.

The changes in terms for contributions and benefits for future retirees, negotiated between Queen's University and the various union groups representing employees last fall, will take full effect September 1, 2012, **but there will be no changes for current retirees or for those retiring before September 1, 2012.**

And, as has been stated many times before, pensions paid to Queen's retirees are guaranteed never to decrease during the retirees' lifetimes.

In discussing the unfunded liability challenges for the Queen's Pension Plan, Bill Cannon distinguished between the "going-concern deficit," which has decreased, and the "solvency deficit," which continues to be a challenge. The "going-concern deficit" is attributable mainly to the past unforecasted lower mortality rate among Queen's retirees. Recent mortality rate data for Queen's retirees, however, have indicated that our experience as a group has now reverted to its traditional level, thereby decreasing the "going-concern deficit."

The "solvency deficit" is created to a great extent by the historically-low long term yields from government bonds. Having satisfied the Ontario Government's requirements for short-run solvency deficit relief, the University has approximately four years before it will be obliged to begin the process of paying down the Queen's Pension Plan's solvency deficit over the subsequent ten-year period.

The final topic of discussion concerned potential successors to members of the Pension Committee of the Board of Trustees whose current terms will expire within the next year or two. Bill Cannon's current appointment to the Pension Committee itself extends to June 2015; however, his concurrent appointment as Chair of the Pension Committee – which is an annual appointment at the

Principal's pleasure – ends in June 2012. John Gordon's current appointment as a retiree representative will expire in September 2012, and Alison Morgan's similar appointment will expire in September 2013. Following past tradition, it is expected that Principal Woolf will consult RAQ in due course concerning nominees for the latter two positions.

A reminder for RAQ members who experience the need for medical treatment while travelling outside of Ontario: If you need to claim reimbursement for medical expenses incurred **while travelling outside of Canada**, the first thing to do is to contact Global Medical Assistance (GMA), using the phone numbers on the back of your GMA card. If you do not have such a card, you can obtain one from Queen's Human Resources. Then you should just use the Out-Of-Country Claim Form, which can be found at <http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/forms/outofcountrymed.pdf>. There is a component of that form that authorizes Great-West Life to deal directly with OHIP on such claims.

For those **travelling outside of Ontario but within Canada**, just use the regular claim form, which can be found at <http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/forms/claimform.pdf>.

In closing, we extend our deep appreciation and best wishes to Dave Bonham, a member of this committee since its inception, who is stepping down from the committee.

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



The 2012-13 RAQ Council. Absent: Patrick Oosthuizen and Stafford Tavares.

Reports of Past Events Winter 2012

Monday Morning Forums

The Economic and Financial Crisis: Solutions?

Professor F. Milne
Department of Economics
Queen's University
16 January 2012

What is Canada Doing to Address the Veteran Health Consequences of Ten Years in Afghanistan?

W. Richard, Brig. Gen. (ret),
Queen's University
Ms S. Marlin
Queen's University
30 January 2012

Sowers of Doubt and Deniers of Science

Dr. J.M.R. Stone, Carleton University
5 March 2012

Roll the Dice: Gambling Law and Policy in Canada

S.S. Sadinsky, Professor Emeritus,
Queen's University
19 March 2012

RAQonteur Forum

Speaking at the RAQonteur Forum on April 2nd, Alan Harrison reviewed his first-year's experience as the inaugural Provost of Queen's University. As prologue, he had provided a brief outline of his expectations at our annual reception last October at the University Club, shortly after arriving from the University of Calgary. On this occasion, he described his activities concerning the university's academic direction and his responsibilities regarding university finances. The latter are in a better position than anticipated and a new budget model, presently under review, has been developed. As Chair of its Board of Trustees, he recently travelled to the Bader International Study Centre in the UK. He emphasized the importance of a good working relationship between the Provost and the Principal. It enables the Principal to focus on the university's external relationships; he was pleased to report that such is the

case at Queen's. The Provost's duties are many and the audience was impressed that they are in good hands.

This was the 5th RAQonteur Forum. Speakers at each Forum, beginning with David Dodge, have provided thoughtful presentations followed by good audience participation. A problem has been the generally disappointing turnout by RAQ membership. Sessions have been at 7:30 in the evening; possibly an earlier time such as 5 p.m., would be more appealing. It is a program that should continue. Suggestions concerning timing, topics, format, etc., are welcome (hdinsdale@cogeco.ca).

HENRY DINSDALE



David Bacon reports on Pensions

Coming RAQ Events Spring/Summer 2012

Monday Morning Forum

Monday 28 May 2012

Biography and Autobiography: What is the Difference?

"A Conversation"

Ms Charlotte Gray
Writer, author of *Gold Diggers, Reluctant Genius, Flint & Feather*; and
Professor J. Meisel
Queen's University; author of *A Life of Learning and Other Pleasures: John Meisel's Tale*

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.

8:15 a.m.: Coffee and muffins

9:00 a.m.: A conversation

9:30 a.m.: Discussion of the books.

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, (613) 353-6959 or jroddy@kingston.net for details.

Coming RAQ Events Spring/Summer 2012

Opinicon Pot Luck Picnic

**Wednesday 25 July 2012,
11 a.m. (Rain or Shine)**

This will be the eighth 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 again or for the first time 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 grad students' current projects. Last year it was the love life of turtles; earlier it was what we have learned from the use of miniature electronics in tracking the movements of snakes and birds.

The enclosed Registration Form has details and directions. Cost is \$7.00 plus a picnic lunch to share. **Please register by July 18.**

BOB CRANDALL

Campus Tour

**Monday 20 August 2012,
10 a.m. to Noon (10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. if having lunch at University Club)**

This year's tour is in two parts but has had to be deferred until August because of the state of construction of the Goodes Hall Expansion.

10 a.m. Goodes Hall Expansion, 143 Union Street (School of Business). Meet in the Atrium. The expansion includes several new state-of-the-art classrooms, student breakout rooms, additional faculty offices and many enhanced features. Project manager Bob Polegato will be our guide.

11:15 a.m. Abramsky House, 80 Barrie Street. When we toured the new medical building last year Abramsky House was not complete. It is now fully renovated and attached to the School of Medicine building. It serves as the new administrative offices for undergraduate medical studies. Project manager Mike Finn will be our guide.

Those who wish can have lunch at the University Club after the tour (a reservation has been made for 12 noon). 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 9:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.). To use a Queen's parking place you will need to place your Retirees' Association card on the dash.

To join the tour, please notify me by e-mail (yalinc@queensu.ca) or phone (613-542-4201) by Friday, 10 August at the latest. When you contact me, please say if you wish to do both tours or if only one which one, if you require a parking place and if you wish to have lunch at the University Club.

An e-mail reminder will be sent out at the beginning of August.

CHERRILYN YALIN

Prince Edward County Music Festival

**Saturday 22 September 2012
Dinner and Gala Concert**

The Prince Edward County Music Festival features the works of a liv-

ing composer along with works from other eras and genres which inspired or stimulated their creation. Composer-in-Residence at the Festival this year is the award-winning Kingston composer, Marjan Mozetich. The concert program will include his *Angels in flight* for string quartet, flute, clarinet and harp, Maurice Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* and César Franck's *Piano Quintet in F minor*.

The guest artists this year include the Penderecki String Quartet, James Campbell (clarinet), Nora Shulman (flute) and Erika Goodman (harp). A Reception open to all will follow the concert. The performance is held in the acoustically superb Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

We will meet in the parking lot of ToysRUs (outer Princess Street) at 4 p.m. to arrange car-pooling to Picton, aiming to leave at 4:15 p.m., arriving back in Kingston around 10:30 p.m. (Unless we get at least 25 people we will not reserve a bus.)

Portabella Restaurant will again offer a delicious pre-concert 3-course dinner at 5:30 p.m. Please choose your entrée on the enclosed form. You will pay for your own dinner at the restaurant.

Please mark your calendar now for this fall's visit to "The County" for great music, great food and great company. Return the registration form with your cheque for \$30 per person (group rate) to cover the concert ticket **BEFORE September 7, 2012.**

JULIET MILSOME