

RAQ *news*



Confession:

I joined RAQ as an act of solidarity more than because I thought I needed it. Although my eightieth looms, I am a pretty

A message from the President

spritely old coot, still being sucked into all sorts of new ventures, schemes, organizations and projects. What a delightful surprise then to find that I was wrong.

Our association has enriched me in two unexpected ways. First, it has enabled me, at our events, to bump into old cronies and pals from long forgotten capers, whom I had not seen for years. In the absence of the RAQ activity, we would not have renewed old ties and memories.

Secondly, the program devised by the Activities Committee induced me to do something I had long planned but never quite got around to undertaking.

To wit: I had for years intended to visit the Woodworking Museum and to inspect the Queen's Arboretum. When our program included a visit to these sites I jumped and had two, quite unexpectedly delightful and instructive experiences. I am the richer for them, and for RAQ.

My blasé self has matured (yes, it's possible even at this age) and my \$15 is amply rewarded.

I wonder how many other equally slightly snobbish types have yet to discover that to become a RAQeteer is to grow? Pass it on.

JOHN MEISEL, *President*

Join an a-MAZE-ing adventure on Saturday, 4 October

Come with friends and colleagues for the thrilling experience and challenge of exploring a CORN MAZE on Wolfe Island. This fun event for all ages will include a hayride from the ferry, exploration of the corn maze, a variety of activities at the site, and refreshments. See enclosed Registration Form for more information.

**The Maze Outing is the first RAQ event of the fall. See you there!
For other events see page 4 and the enclosure providing details.**

Report from the Chairman of the Pensions and Benefits Committee

Queen's Medical Plan

AS MEMBERS will recall, RAQ has been in discussions with the University administration regarding the issue of the remaining 20% not covered under the medical plan's existing provisions for retired staff. This is particularly important when seeking out of country medical protection, and the current necessity of purchasing expensive and duplicate coverage.

Specifically we had asked that consideration be given to investigating the possibility with our current carrier, Great West Life. The matter of dental coverage for retired staff was also raised.

The University's initial response was that such changes to either plan did not appear to be feasible. Particular emphasis was placed on the increased costs that would be involved, and the resulting long term impact on both Queen's and the retirees. From the outset we have been fully cognizant of the financial pressures on the University, and were not seeking to add to those problems in any significant way. We have recently asked for additional information, including the specific costs that would be involved in various possible alternative approaches. We have requested a joint meeting between RAQ's President and our Benefits Committee and the appropriate University officials to discuss these matters. We will keep you informed.

M.W. WRIGHT

Aware of RAQ members' continuing interest in Queen's benefits for retirees we are moved to reproduce this item from the Globe & Mail's "Social Studies" column 22 August

FACULTY PERKS

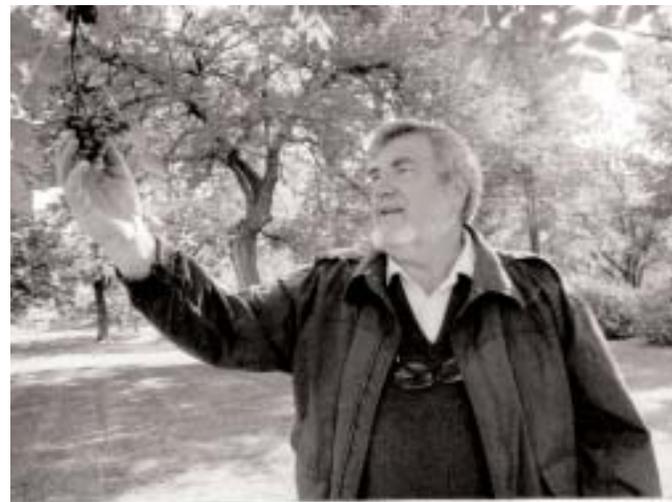
Some of the more offbeat perks for U.S. college professors, according to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*:

Franklin Pierce College
(Rindge, N.H.)
allows professors to cut as much as three cords of college wood each year for their own use.

Union College
(Schenectady, N.Y.)
offers faculty members, their wives and unmarried children a free grave in the college plot.



River Revue Event



Former Director of Grounds, Howard Pearce – Our Arboretum Guide
Photo courtesy of Celia Russell, *Queen's Gazette*
Other photos by Arlene Aish

Reports of Past Events Summer 2003

Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston and the Pump House Steam Museum

MORE THAN 40 RAQ members signed up for this

28 May tour organized by RAQ member Henk Wevers who gave an informative and interesting slide presentation. It covered the waterfront along Ontario Street past and present, provided information on Garden Island, the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, and highlighted the museum exhibits. The guided walking tour involved both the Marine Museum and the Pump House Museum and was led by energetic and enthusiastic tour guides, Karen Ludbrook, Maurice Smith, Jim Pritchard and Henk Wevers. The working exhibit of the Steam Launch Phoebe was on view and the vista across Lake Ontario included the brigantine St. Lawrence II manoeuvring under full sail to form an historic backdrop. The pleasant afternoon ended with refreshments at the Marine Museum. Those who missed the tour may want to visit on their own and experience an excellent gourmet lunch at Captain Henry's Tearoom.

River Revue Event

THE AFTERNOON slated for the River Revue event was perfect for a boat cruise: bright and breezy but calm – and not too hot. Forty-six members of RAQ and their guests departed Kingston at noon on Wednesday, 20 August, enjoying live personal commentary of the islands between Kingston and Gananoque, charming views of historical and contemporary sites, and an excellent 3-course lunch while motoring through sunlit waters.

Arriving at the theatre by the river's edge about a half hour before curtain time, the participants disembarked at the Thousand Island Playhouse for a matinee production of *The Peerless Pirate's Daughter*, a new musical production about Upper Canada's early history with many references to the surrounding area.

At the end of the afternoon's event, the group returned to Kingston. by coach in time for an early dinner. The occasion was an enjoyable one for everyone who attended.



Grass Creek Park Picnic and Woodworking Museum Tour

JUST OVER two dozen RAQ members, mates, and friends assembled on a sunny day in mid-July to enjoy good company and a sumptuous pot-luck meal in the pleasant surroundings of Grass Creek Park. For many, it was their first visit to this less-well-known local facility, and the feedback was very positive. Following lunch, about half the group toured the Maclachlan Woodworking Museum. The Museum staff provided interesting and informative commentary and encouraged participants to try their hand at carding wool, spinning yarn, twirling wooden tops and planing wood. As a result of this hands-on experience, some found that life as a pioneer might prove more challenging than first anticipated!



Arboretum Tour

A STALWART and intrepid group of twenty RAQeteers met on the terrace of the University Club in heavy rain to tour the Queen's Arboretum on 5 June. One of the main goals was to view the Tulip Tree which blooms only every two years, but because of the cold and wet, spring was delayed for about two weeks. Only the beginning of buds were visible. However the rain turned to mist and the group enjoyed visiting the remaining trees in the Arboretum and learning about their uniqueness, health, and how they had come through the winter, from RAQ's own arboretum founder and expert Howard Pearce. There were suggestions that this be an annual event.

RAQ Events Fall and Winter 2003

THE RAQ Events Committee:

MARY BALANCHUK,
ALISON MORGAN,
MARION MEYER,
DEE PADFIELD,
ELEANOR ROGERS, and
ARLENE AISH (*Chair*),

is pleased to announce the
fall and early winter sched-

ule of events. See enclosed overview. If you have questions, suggestions or comments about events, contact Arlene Aish at 546.2979 or aisha@post.queensu.ca.

Is anyone interested in becoming involved with negotiating with Travel agents for group travel for RAQ members? If so, please contact Arlene.



Corn Maze Wolfe Island

Saturday afternoon 4 October (see page 1)

Principal's Reception

Monday 27 October

Join fellow retirees at the Donald Gordon Centre at 3:30 pm. to hear Principal William C. Leggett speak about the state of the University. There will be opportunity for questions, followed by refreshments and a cash bar. See enclosed Registration Form.

Queen's Theatre visit

Saturday afternoon 8 November

The Drama Department presents *The Rivals*, a comedy in which the 18th century playwright R.B. Sheridan makes fun of the period's addiction to sentiment.

Professor J. Fisher, who directs the play, has agreed to discuss it with us after the performance. 24 seats have been reserved for RAQ members. Theological Convocation Hall (upstairs) 2:30 pm.

See enclosed Registration Form.

Silver Bells Dinner and Carols

Sunday 30 November (tentative date)

About 75 RAQ members attended this enjoyable AMS sponsored event for Kingston seniors last year.

PLACES AND TIMES

Ban Righ Hall Dining Room

5 pm: Social Hour

6 pm: Dinner

Grant Hall

7:30 pm: Carol Service

Cost: \$10 per person.

Contact Mary Balanchuk at 389.3794 for tickets.

Our RAQ membership

IN THE MAY RAQ newsletter we asked members to renew membership and in the summer we sent out a reminder letter to members who had not rejoined. As of September 1 we have 431 members. This total includes 44 renewals received after the reminder and 11 new memberships. Thanks to everyone who has renewed or joined. Please be a gentle advocate for RAQ among your Queen's friends and colleagues – especially those who have recently retired and may not be aware of our still fledgling group. A form is available on the RAQ website www.queensu.ca/retirees or by phoning the office 533.6986 or e-mailing raq@post.queensu.ca.

