

# DCRA News

Autumn, 2008, Issue 12

DURHAM COLLEGE RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

## Mission Statement

The Durham College Retirees' Association is an organization whose function is to provide members with companionship, pertinent information, opportunities for service, and response to their concerns.

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### President's Message

What a pleasant task I have to be writing to you as your new President of DCRA. Your new executive and I look forward to providing our membership with the same first-rate service it has learned to expect in the past and I am excited to be working with such a dynamic group of people.

DCRA was extremely fortunate to have Jim as our President for the past few years and we wish to express our gratitude for his tireless and superb leadership. Thank you Jim. We will look forward to his continued mentorship as our Past President.

I feel it is a unique privilege to be a member of the Durham College Retirees Association and your executive will make every effort to encourage and welcome new members into the Association.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as your President and look forward to being an integral part of your retirement life.

Dianne Aru  
[dianne.aru@sympatico.ca](mailto:dianne.aru@sympatico.ca)



### Condolences to Families & Friends of

Marie Bell

### New Members

Look for an update in our next newsletter.

### Upcoming Events

Christmas Luncheon – date and location to be announced.

## DCRA EXECUTIVE FOR 2008/2009

President	Dianne Aru	<a href="mailto:dianne.aru@sympatico.ca">dianne.aru@sympatico.ca</a>
Vice President	Judy Moretton	<a href="mailto:judy.moretton@sympatico.ca">judy.moretton@sympatico.ca</a>
Treasurer	Micki Walters	<a href="mailto:emwalters@rogers.com">emwalters@rogers.com</a>
Secretary	Bernice Burke	<a href="mailto:Berniceburke@can.rogers.com">Berniceburke@can.rogers.com</a>
Director Social	Alice Lytwynchuk	<a href="mailto:alice.bob@rogers.com">alice.bob@rogers.com</a>
Director Com	Brenda Jackson	<a href="mailto:bjjay@sympatico.ca">bjjay@sympatico.ca</a>
Director	Guy Walton	<a href="mailto:judith-guyw@rogers.com">judith-guyw@rogers.com</a>
Director	Clive Lilwall	<a href="mailto:lilwall1289@rogers.com">lilwall1289@rogers.com</a>
Past President	Jim Anderson	<a href="mailto:jimannabel@sympatico.ca">jimannabel@sympatico.ca</a>
Human Resources	Kelly Bailey	<a href="mailto:Kelly.Bailey@durhamcollege.ca">Kelly.Bailey@durhamcollege.ca</a>

### GOODWILL COMMITTEE

Since the College does not send any cards, flowers, etc to Retirees, it is imperative that we continue to do so.

The purpose of the committee is to support its members for special achievements, or in times of illness or bereavement.

We ask all Retirees to call a member of the committee if they hear of sickness or the death of one of our members.

Goodwill Committee members are:  
Gladys Smithson - 905-725-1373 or  
[yorkshiregran@sympatico.ca](mailto:yorkshiregran@sympatico.ca)

Silvia Pelham  
Pat Whaley - 416-769-9497 or  
[pwhaley@sympatico.ca](mailto:pwhaley@sympatico.ca)

### Gladys Smithson at 90!

Am I the oldest retiree? Whether or not, late July I celebrated my 90th birthday and now I really AM old! My son came from Virginia, U.S., and stayed for a week, then the following weekend his three sons came - one with his wife from New Orleans (yes, they were evacuated from there later), and the other two, one with his girl friend, from Virginia. So with Olwen's two sons I had my five grandsons and two granddaughters-in-law together first time for five years. What a wonderful time. I had couldn't have had a better birthday present. Olwen's two sons did all the arranging, (phoning, booking flights, etc.) and the others took the time to come. I'm very blessed and so grateful for my family and friends. Now I'm aiming for my 100th! Good health and God willing, of course.

### JIM ANDERSON - THE ONTARIO COLLEGES RETIREES' ASSOCIATION (OCRA)

OCRA has praised Durham College Retirees' Organization for all the work they have done for their retirees, i.e. Wall of Recognition, Library Book Dedication and the Survey of Extended Health Benefits.

They asked all the Colleges to actively encourage members to join OCRA in hoping that it will increase their membership (\$10.00/year). They hope to have more input in our Pensions and Benefits in the College System. The OCRA web site is <http://www.ocraretirees.ca/>

Jim asked that the Executive encourage our retirees to join OCRA.

# STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS

## DOUG TRIPP

Part of my consulting practice over the past dozen years has involved the development and delivery of energy management training in various parts of the world. Most recently in April, this took me to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates to do a three-day energy management workshop. Representatives from national oil companies from Bahrain, Kuwait and Dubai attended the workshop, as well as commercial property management and industrial companies.

Of course, the most interesting part of this trip was to see Dubai itself—it is everything you have read about and more. The architecture of building after building in this city-state is amazing, as a couple of the photos illustrate. The tallest building in the world, the condominium and commercial tower Burj Dubai, is presently under construction. I was told that there is a worldwide shortage of construction cranes because of the number that dot the sky in this city.

Dubai is being developed as a tourist and commercial destination and shopping is certainly one of the reasons that people visit. Not being a shopper myself, I nevertheless had to see the Mall of the Emirates, complete with its indoor ski hill. Dubai is a Muslim state, but the clear intention of the rulers is to present a moderate face of Islam to the rest of the world. As a Westerner, I found the city to be safe, welcoming and comfortable.

Dubai is also a trading hub in the region, as the traditional wooden dhows lining the banks of Dubai Creek demonstrate. Loaded with goods, these boats travel up and down the Persian Gulf to the other Emirates and Middle Eastern states.

For the travellers reading this, I can recommend Dubai as a destination, made all the easier to access by the direct Toronto to Dubai Emirates Airline flight.



**Indoor ski hill in Mall of the Emirates**



**Dhows on the banks of Dubai Creek**



**Some of Dubai's architecture**

## STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS

### ELAINE BEVERLEY

I am planning a trip to Australia and New Zealand and maybe a cruise to Tahiti and area in the spring. Does anyone have any information that they would like to share about a trip they have taken to that part of the world? I am also travelling alone, so any pointers would be appreciated.

[elaine.beverley@dc-uoit.ca](mailto:elaine.beverley@dc-uoit.ca)

### MERLE AMODEO

I've just learned that my first poetry chapbook, ***Let Me In***, will be published this month by TOPS (The Ontario Poetry Society).

Copies should be available for our September meeting at \$10.00 each.

### CLIVE LILWALL, AUTHOR

Everyone knows that now you're retired you're supposed to lead a happy, worry-free existence. I'm sure that for most of you that's exactly what's happening. Occasionally, however, a few issues may invade your life of bliss. I've written a book that could be just what's needed: ***How To Stop Your 67 Worst Worries***. It covers how to stop all sorts of worries, from money issues and health to sex and death. There are over 50 references, so it's not just my opinion. It's available for purchase at Amazon.ca. You can also visit the website [worryfixer.com](http://worryfixer.com). I've also written the novel ***The Splendor of Starry Nights***, a story about a college professor. It is definitely not biographical. This book is also available on Amazon.ca.

### GORD ENGLAND

This is a "Hello" from Gord & MaryRose England. Finally, after four years of planning, we have moved into our condo overlooking the harbour at Cobourg. Any retirees in the area who know Gord & me are more than welcome to pay us a visit at 148 Third St., Suite 304. We are hoping to still stay in touch with everyone, although any travel during the winter months might be a bit tricky. Our regards to all of you.

MaryRose & Gord  
[englandscalling@sympatico.ca](mailto:englandscalling@sympatico.ca)

I'm still going to the Durham College, about three times a week. This time it's for tennis, something even more exciting than teaching. If you're interested in tennis, phone the Campus Tennis Centre at 905 721 3122 or visit [campustenniscentre.com](http://campustenniscentre.com). The club offers six clay courts that are now permanently covered in an air-conditioned bubble. The courts are full of men and women in their sixties and seventies, so retirees shouldn't feel they are too old for the game. Lessons and leagues are available. Tennis is a great way to keep fit at any age.

# STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS

## DAVID CHESTERTON

My latest story is about a biography I'm writing. The subject is Dr. Earle Kirby, the veterinarian for the tiny island of St. Vincent. I met him in 1972 and we started work on his biography in 1998. He didn't think I'd really do it. When he died in 2005 (at the age of 83), I promised his wife I'd complete it.

One might wonder what's so special about a vet on a dot in the Caribbean Sea. Earle was educated at Guelph Veterinary College, and took additional studies in tropical diseases at Edinburgh University and at Roskilde in Denmark. He was a self-taught archeologist and was awarded the OBE. Since I started work on the book I receive, each month, e-mails, snail-mails, faxes and phone calls from Brazil, Denmark, Holland, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Scotland, Zimbabwe and from places throughout the Caribbean, Canada and USA, which perhaps gives some idea of his stature in the world.

Earle's greatest gift to the Caribbean was his archeological discoveries that refuted the history books written by the British (and I know how distorted they can be and, as you know, that's where I was born). He was able to tell the people of the islands to stand tall, because his discoveries proved that they were not the progeny of escaped slaves. There were Caribs in the islands at least 2000 years before the Europeans colonized them.

I'll be visiting the UK in September and early October to conclude my research there and after that I will thankfully say, 'Enough!' as I can't wait to get back to my mysteries and fantasies. I have one other pressure to get the book finished. When I visited St. Vincent to chat with Monica, Earle's widow, and his

son, Ashley, I discovered that Monica is in the early stages of Alzheimer's and unless I get a copy of the book into her hands before next Spring she'll never know the book is finished.

## JUDY ALLEN

We went on a seniors' bus tour to California and Arizona last winter.

We flew into LA and spent one night there (it rained!). Then we had a tour the next day (still raining!). Then went on down to Dana Point for four nights. Dana Point is a lovely marina right on the ocean, about half way between LA and San Diego. We did several day tours from there, including the city of San Diego (still raining!). It finally stopped raining for our last day there and the weather was pretty good from then on. We then went to Palm Springs for four nights. That was my favourite stop really pretty. The next four nights were in Scottsdale, Arizona. We ended up in Las Vegas for two nights before flying home. We went to a Cirque du Soleil performance in Las Vegas (I got the tickets online before we went). All in all it was a great trip and I would highly recommend it. The people were very congenial and we weren't too rushed.

We had a five-day holiday in New York City the end of May with friends. I had never been to NYC before.

We are flying to Chicago the end of August for a wedding and staying there for five days.

# STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS

## DONNA CRAWFORD

Donna Crawford, one of our well-travelled friends, has found several web sites to help you prepare for travel plans this fall and winter.

Because of copyright laws, we cannot reprint stories in their entirety but we will provide links for you to follow.

1. The Travel Insurance File, <http://www.travelinsurancefile.com/>, The site, by medical journalist Milan Korcok, an ex-Montrealer now based in Florida, offers practical advice for those navigating the maze of travel-insurance options. The website addresses questions such as: Are pre-existing conditions covered? Do you need insurance for cruises? Who actually pays the doctors and hospitals? When should you choose multi-trip travel insurance? (Note: Korcok also posts articles on topics of interests for snowbirds, including US real estate prices and health warnings.) Another online resource, [TravelInsuranceQuotes.ca](http://TravelInsuranceQuotes.ca), also offers multiple quotes from a variety of insurance providers.

### RELATED ARTICLES

- Safe & Sound: Why you need travel insurance - <http://50plus.com/Travel/BrowseAllArticles/index.cfm?documentID=21649>
- Toolkit for healthy travel = <http://50plus.com/Travel/BrowseAllArticles/index.cfm?documentID=14477>
- Avoid lost baggage blues - <http://www.50plus.com/Travel/BrowseAllArticles/index.cfm?documentID=20683>

2. This article written by Elizabeth Rogers for 50Plus.com provides good information for travellers heading to many locales includes free activities and places to visit. Visit this web site: <http://50plus.com/Travel/BrowseAllArticles/index.cfm?documentID=21649>

## BRENDA JACKSON

Brenda will exhibit her artwork at The Oshawa Art Association's Annual Fall Art Festival on September 19, 20, 21, 2008. The location is Northview Community Centre, 150 Beatrice Street East, Oshawa.

Friday: 9 am—9 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m.—6 p.m.  
Sunday: 9 a.m.—5p.m.

Please drop in to say hello and see how I am enjoying my retirement.

## BOOK DEDICATION AND RECOGNITION OF AUTHORS

The Book Dedication and Recognition of Authors service will continue. It began over a year ago and is a lovely tribute to retirees and our contribution to the college and community.

If you have not participated, we encourage you to do so.

Please contact Kelly Bailey to receive a copy of the form. Return the completed form to Kelly, who will forward it to the Library for their action.

New retirees will be given a copy as part of their information package.