



NEWSLETTER FALL 2023

Message from Your President

Hello CCRA Members:

Welcome to the **Fall 2023** edition of the Centennial College Retirees' Association's newsletter.

The CCRA Board of Directors continued to meet during the Pandemic via ZOOM and although we were grateful to have this option to connect with one another, we look forward to in-person meetings when possible in the coming months.

During the Pandemic we kept in touch with our members by hosting ZOOM events such as the "Coffee Chat" on March 16; the June, "Baking with Mr. Baker", hosted by Board member, Chuck Baker; a session in October 2021, we called, "Let's Re-Connect", which gave members an opportunity to mingle with one another virtually; the "Travel or Not to Travel" session in December 2021 and a Webinar in February 2022 about "Tax Considerations and Financial Planning". These virtual events were well attended. Many thanks to the members who attended the ZOOM events.

CCRA hosted the first "additional" event for its members on September 6. The "Picnic in Bluffer's Park" was free for members in good standing and provided CCRA members the opportunity to get together in person. The event was attended by 27 people - 21 members and 6 guests, and overall the feedback of the event was positive.

Regrettably, the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for October 18, 2023 was cancelled because of low registration. The Annual General Meeting is now re-scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Given that the weather may be inclement on the day of the meeting, the AGM will be via ZOOM to ensure as many CCRA members as possible are able to attend. Please watch your inbox for further details.

It is with pleasure that I announce our new Vice-President, Gail Derrington who retired at the end of February, 2021. Gail is a welcomed addition to the Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ellen Bull, CCRA's past President for her leadership while in her role as President. It is our good fortune that she has decided to remain on the Board.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the CCRA Newsletter. We welcome any comments or suggestions for future editions.

With appreciation,

Marilyn Scott
President
Centennial College Retirees' Association

Meet Your Board Members

Marilyn Scott, President

Gail Derrington, Vice- President

Ellen Bull, Past President

Patricia Brown, Membership

Luzia Bidwell, Webmaster

Patricia Lee, Event Coordinator

Ing Sutanto, Treasurer

Chuck Baker, Director

Michael Gauthier, Director

Eva Zehethofer, Director

Vacant, Director

Vacant, Director

Fiona Gosh Bedlington, College Resource

Renae Mohammed, College Resource

New Retirees and Members in 2023-2024

The 2024 CCRA membership drive will commence in January, 2024. CCRA is looking forward to welcoming all retirees, new and seasoned, regardless of when you retired.

Due to privacy policies, we're not able to reach out to new retirees, unless they completed the retirement form in their exit package or contact CCRA directly.

We are always eager to have retirees join the Association, so if you know a retired colleague who is not currently a member, please encourage them to consider joining.

The process to join is easy. Simply visit our website at retirees.centennialcollege.ca, click on "Become a CCRA Member" and follow the instructions on how to register.

In order to keep the membership register current, please email Patricia Brown, Membership Co-ordinator at ccra.membership@gmail.com, if there is any change in your contact information. Alternatively, you can change your contact information on the CCRA website at retirees.centennialcollege.ca click on "Become a CCRA Member" and scroll to the bottom of the page to complete the information.

The membership database is used to send out emails regarding CCRA events, newsletters and membership renewal reminders.

Important Reminder: CCRA no longer contributes its \$10 membership fee to the Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association (OCRA). The \$10.00 membership fee paid by Centennial College retirees secures their membership in the CCRA.

Those who wish to also join OCRA, must do so directly with OCRA.

Events in 2023:

Spring Fling Luncheon - April 19, 2023

CCRA's Spring Fling Luncheon held on April 19, 2023 was well attended. The Event Centre provided a delicious lunch and desserts. The guest speaker, Renee Procenko presented an interactive and engaging talk on "How to Clear Your Clutter". The chatter after Renee's talk seemed to have energized our members to take on the task of clearing their clutter regardless how large or small a task.

For those of you who were unable to attend our Spring Fling, below is a step-by-step plan to follow on "How to Declutter":

1. There are five essential boxes required for this declutter method: trash, recycle, donate, to-do and transit.
2. Declutter one section at a time of the area being decluttered and place the items in the appropriate box.
3. Set a 20-minute time limit as you begin each section to ensure the decluttering task does not become overwhelming.
4. The most important task is deciding what box is the most appropriate for your items.
5. Deciding what to keep can be daunting, so Renee Procenko suggested to ask yourself, 1. "Do I absolutely love it?", 2. Will I use it? and 3. Will I display it?"
6. If it is not a "yes" to question (1) and not a firm yes to either question (2) or (3), then the item is not a "keeper".
7. In cases where there are three or more of the same item, ask yourself, "Do I need to keep all three items or will keeping only one suffice?"

Picnic by the Lake - Wednesday, September 6, 2023

The CCRA's first additional event was the picnic in Bluffer's Park in Scarborough on Wednesday, September 6. It was a warm, sunny day and 27 people were in attendance (21 CCRA members and 6 guests). Each attendee received a cool CCRA baseball cap! The homemade treats by Chuck Baker and Pat Lee were absolutely delicious. Following lunch, there were a few games, including a bean bag toss and people bingo. A survey was sent to all attendees and overall, feedback on the picnic was positive.



The survey summary is attached to the October 18th Board minutes on the CCRA website at <https://retirees.centennialcollege.ca/>

Upcoming Events and Workshops

Save the Date: Holiday Luncheon - Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Join us in December to socialize and wish a Happy Holiday season to former colleagues and have an opportunity to meet new friends. The invitation to the holiday luncheon will be sent out to members in November. Watch for further details on this event!

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Regrettably, the AGM scheduled for October 18th this year was cancelled due to low registration. The AGM is re-scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024 and will be a virtual meeting. More details to follow.

Fall Update from the CAAT Pension Plan

New features have been added to My Pension, CAAT Pension Plan's online portal. If you receive a CAAT pension, it's time to activate your My Pension account. My Pension, CAAT's online portal, gives you secure access to your personalized pension information.

With My Pension you can:

- See your monthly pension amount.
- Check the date of your next payment.
- Manage your contact information.
- View digital copies of your annual statement and other correspondence.
- Send secure messages to CAAT's pension experts using the Message Centre.

New features coming soon!

- Update your bank account information.
- Adjust the income tax deducted from your monthly pension payment. Be sure to consult a tax professional before making any changes.
- 2023 tax slips will be available to download by the end of February and will be stored on My Pension so you can access them any time that's convenient for you. Tax slips will not be mailed to members who prefer digital correspondence. Update your preference today! You'll get an email from us when your tax slips are ready and any time you need to log in to check your messages.

It's easy to get started!

1. Visit "caatpension.ca/signin" on your computer or tablet to activate your account.
2. Verify your identity by entering your member ID (look on your annual statement or any correspondence from CAAT), date of birth and last three digits of your SIN.
3. Follow the prompts to create a password, set up your security questions and set your communication preferences. Choose "online" to get your pension information on My Pension instead of by mail.

Activate your account today!

CCRA will be inviting CAAT Pension Plan for a workshop/seminar in the new year! Stay tuned for more details.

Centennial In the News

Centennial College has opened the doors to the A-Building - Canada's first LEED Gold, zero carbon, mass timber, higher education building. The building formerly known as the A-Block, establishes a new gateway to Centennial's flagship Progress Campus that supports indigenous ways of being and teaching.

An indigenous Working Group made vital contributions to Indigenous elements of the Build. The building spans six storeys and more than 130,000 square feet. The expansion was accompanied by a 15,000 square-foot renovation.

Students, staff and faculty have been welcomed into an inclusively and sustainably designed building guided by the Indigenous concept of "two-eyed seeing", or viewing the world through the lens of both indigenous and Western knowledge.

Indigenous ways of being and teaching are at the heart of A-Building, which is also home to administrative offices, collaborative areas, food services and space for the School of Engineering Technology and Applied Science.

There is an interior courtyard that serves as an outdoor classroom, which allows teaching in a circle formation, among other flexible classrooms. Thirteen rooms equipped with special exhaust fans make it possible for smudging to occur.

A-Building has achieved zero carbon certification thanks in large part to a highly efficient building envelope, along with all-electric domestic hot water heating and HVAC systems.

On August 23, 2023, members of the Indigenous helped bring the A-Building to life through a series of ceremonies and a community drum social.

For more detailed information on the "new build", see below:

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/centennial-college-opens-canada-s-first-leed-gold-zero-carbon-mass-timber-higher-education-building-859196160.html>

Name Our Newsletter Contest

We're looking for your help in naming our CCRA Newsletter. This is an opportunity to share your creative ideas with us and win a prize! The winner will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card.

Deadline to submit is Monday, November 13, 2023 by 12 noon.
Please e-mail your entry to: ccra.board.mail@gmail.com and note in Subject Line "Name Our Newsletter Contest".

Board members will vote on the best name/title. The name of members submitting a suggested name will be anonymous to the Board members and once the title is chosen, the name of the person will be revealed. The Newsletter title will be announced by the President to all CCRA members. Criteria used in choosing the name must be:

- > Short, memorable and original
- > Appropriate for the content of the newsletter

Thank you in advance for your interest in the Name Our Newsletter Contest, but please note, only ONE suggestion per current CCRA member is accepted for consideration. Board members are welcomed to submit a suggested name however if they do, they will be ineligible to participate in the voting process.



Special Board Announcement:

CCRA is looking for retirees who are interested in joining the Board. The CCRA Board currently has 2 vacancies.



Here are a few reasons why you might be interested in joining the CCRA Board:

“It’s been an opportunity to engage in social and mental stimulation with friends old and new.”

- Chuck Baker

“I enjoy meeting retired friends and colleagues and hearing all about their new adventures. I particularly enjoy the holiday activities which provide support to the students and/or the child care centres.”

- Ellen Bull

“Before retiring, I was exploring opportunities of interest to keep engaged in life. I wanted to keep connected to the College, but not through teaching. I was encouraged to join the Board. This has fully engaged me in planning events (which I enjoy) and meeting other retirees.”

- Pat Lee

For more information on being on the CCRA Board, please contact:
ccra.board.mail@gmail.com