



## **MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Hello Colleagues:

Welcome to Centennial College's Retirees' Association (CCRA) newsletter!

Several months ago, there was a contest open to CCRA members to name the newsletter. The winning entry, "CCRA Connections" was submitted by Joe DiMaria. Joe's submission met the contest criteria which required the title be original, short, memorable and appropriate for the newsletter's content.

Congratulations to Joe for his submission and many thanks to all CCRA members who submitted a name for the newsletter.

CCRA's Past President, Ellen Bull has resigned from the CCRA Board. Ellen joined the Board in 2015. During her tenure, Ellen served in the capacity of Treasure, Vice-President, President and Past President. For several years, Ellen assumed the role of President and Treasurer at the same time! Ellen's advice and leadership will be greatly missed.

The Board thanks Ellen for her dedicated service and wishes her all the best in her new role of full-time retiree.

There are two vacancies on the CCRA Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the CCRA Board, please e-mail your name, contact information and a brief description of why you are interested in joining the Board to [ccra.board.mail@gmail.com](mailto:ccra.board.mail@gmail.com).

Centennial's Marketing Department has updated the word marks for all divisions of the College, including the CCRA. All word marks will be in the College's corporate colours of Centennial green and charcoal grey. Centennial's updated wordmark was used in this document.

The CCRA Board wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

Kind Regards,

Marilyn Scott  
President  
Centennial College Retirees' Association



## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Centennial College Retirees' Association (CCRA) membership renewal occurs on an annual basis. The 2024 CCRA membership drive commenced at the beginning of February with a follow-up reminder email sent toward the end of the month.

We currently have 76 members who renewed their membership for 2024. Twelve members who had not renewed in 2023 reactivated their membership in the Association for 2024.

We continue to look forward to welcoming all new retirees as well as anyone who retired in the past and would like to join the Association. If you know retired colleagues who did not join CCRA upon retirement, please encourage them to consider joining now. Due to privacy policies, we are not able to reach out to new retirees unless they completed the CCRA Application form in their exit package or they contact CCRA directly.

It is important to the Board that all members receive CCRA correspondence, such as notification of events, newsletters and membership renewal reminders. If there is any change in your contact information, please email Patricia Brown, Membership Coordinator, at [ccra.membership@gmail.com](mailto:ccra.membership@gmail.com). If you prefer, you can change your contact information on the CCRA website at [retirees.centennialcollege.ca](http://retirees.centennialcollege.ca), click on "Become a CCRA Member" and scroll to the bottom of the page to complete the information.

## **CCRA EVENTS**

### **Holiday Luncheon 2023**

CCRA members celebrated the festive season on Wednesday, December 6 at the Event Centre. It was a great opportunity for members and their guests to catch up with one another. Attendees at the event enjoyed a festive lunch and participated in games such as Christmas Trivia; the Red, White and Green Ball Toss and guessing the number of candies in a bowl. The event ended with everyone singing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas", in karaoke style!





### Annual General Meeting 2023

CCRA's 2023 Annual General Meeting was held Monday, January 17, 2024 via ZOOM. The Board elected to host the meeting via ZOOM, in the event that the weather was inclement, so attendance at the AGM would not be affected. Twenty-six CCRA members attended the AGM.



The meeting agenda included a report from the President, Marilyn Scott on the 2023 events and achievements, a report on CCRA's membership status from Pat Brown, Membership Coordinator, the Treasurer's report delivered by Gail Derrington, Vice President and a website status report from Luzia Bidwell, Webmaster.

An entertaining video entitled "Dancing with Matt" was presented. Matt Harding is an internet phenomenon who toured the world and danced a "jig" in fifty-five countries. The video was well received by those in attendance.

The meeting concluded with draw for prizes using the "Wheel of Names Generator". Congratulations to the winners of the draw prizes: Joe Di Maria; Moreen Jones-Weekes, Julie Marlatt and Leonora Risbert.

### Spring Fling 2024

Our annual Spring Fling was held on Wednesday, April 10 at the Event Centre.

The guest speaker was Kate Seaver, owner and operator of Kate's Garden in Markham. Kate delivered an informative session on flower arranging. She explained the different types of flowers, how to choose and condition flowers, and different ways of arranging the flowers in a vase.



Kate also shared the following tips on how to care for and extend the longevity of flowers:

- Place the flowers in water as soon as you get home (15 minutes on the counter, out of water equates to 1 day lost of the flowers' longevity).



- Use a sharp cutting tool (floral shears) to clip off the ends of the stems (no kitchen scissors!).
- Keep vases and tools clean by cleaning them with a diluted bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts of water).
- Feed your flowers – use floral food.
- Change the water every second day.

Interspersed throughout the presentation, Kate regaled us with the history of flowers such as the tradition of May Day Flowers and the use of flowers as a means of communication especially in the “language of love”. The feedback on Kate’s session was positive.

The centrepieces at each table were designed by Kate’s Garden. Congratulations to the six lucky attendees who won a centrepiece: Francie Aspinall, Randy Simmonds, Jean Stachiw, Moreen Jones-Weekes, Patricia Brown and Michael Gauthier.



### Mark Your Calendar!

Our annual Holiday Luncheon will be held **Wednesday, December 11, 2024**. More details to follow in the Fall.



## **CENTENNIAL IN THE NEWS**

Centennial is getting recognized for all the right reasons.

In April, for the first time, the College joined the annual list of Canada's Greenest Employers. Among the reasons cited for Centennial's inclusion is the honey bee apiary at the Progress campus, from which honey is harvested and sold at the café and restaurant and which is a teaching tool used with culinary arts students. You can read about it [here](#) in *Academica Top Ten in Higher Education*.

Also in April, Centennial's A-Building project earned the distinction of being named one of the Ontario Association of Architects' 2024 Design Excellence Awards winners. The A-Building is Canada's first zero carbon, WELL-certified and mass timber higher education facility. The building emphasizes sustainability, as well as Indigenous ways of knowing and being and pays tribute to the landscape, historical treaties Nations and of the geographic area around the College.



Urban Toronto has [the story](#).

Photo: Credited to Riley Snelling

Centennial is helping to encourage young women to consider careers in the trades by hosting "Jill of All Trades" events. This past fall, the College welcomed over 100 high school students from across the GTA to the Ashtonbee campus, where they participated in activities such as carving designs into sheet metal using plasma cutters and painting cars using cornstarch. The Scarborough Mirror captured moments from the event in a [photo essay](#).



Virtual reality is now a reality for Centennial's Police and Public Safety Foundations students, who are using the technology in the classroom to apply lessons in areas such as crime scene investigation. One student memorably shared in a [CBC report](#) that, "A lot of students will think what they see on TV is what a crime scene is like, but it's completely different."

Centennial also hosted campus cleanups at the Progress and Ashtonbee Campuses and between the two campuses collected over 115 pounds of litter. To learn more about Earth Month, please go to the college's sustainability webpage, which includes timely information about Earth Month: <https://www.centennialcollege.ca/about-centennial/sustainability-at-centennial>

For additional information on College updates, please visit: <https://www.centennialcollege.ca/media-room>

The CCRA thanks Centennial's College Communications team for providing us with this information.

#### **THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES:**

Kick off Pride Month with Centennial on Monday, June 3!

Every June the Centennial College community gets loud and proud as they celebrate Pride Month! This year, CCRA members are invited to join the celebration on Monday, June 3 from noon to 2 p.m. at the CCSAI Main Events Hall at Progress Campus for the college's official Pride Month kick-off.

Participants will enjoy free food and beverages, live drag performances, a panel discussion as part of the "Conversations for Social Change" series, a silent auction, the opportunity to view the Centennial Comes Out art installation and so much more.

All proceeds from the event will directly support the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Pride Bursary to help break down barriers to education for 2SLGBTQQIA+ students at Centennial College. If you can't attend the event but still want to show your support, you can [donate online right now!](#)

June is Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month!

CCRA members can help to remove financial barriers for 2SLGBTQQIA+ and Indigenous students by making a gift in support of their June fundraising efforts. No gift is too small and 100% of your gift goes directly into the hands of students.