



**SPRING 2025**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello Colleagues:

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Centennial College Retirees Association (CCRA) newsletter.

Since our last newsletter there have been some changes to the CCRA'S Board of Directors that I'd like to share with you.

- \* Gail Derrington has stepped down as Vice President and is now the CCRA's Events Co-ordinator. The Board welcomes Gail to her new role and looks forward with anticipation to her creative and experienced approach to the CCRA's future events.
- \* The Events Co-ordinator position was previously held by Pat Lee who has resigned from the Board. The Board thanks Pat for her work ensuring the Association's events were enjoyable and fun for our members and guests. We wish Pat well in her future endeavours.
- \* Michael Gauthier has also resigned from the Board. Michael was an engaged and supportive member of the CCRA Board and he will be missed. His contribution to the discussions at the Board meetings was appreciated as well as his notices to the Board of the College's sustainability events, such as the Morningside Campus Clean-up.
- \* Rick Foren joined the CCRA Board in January of this year and is the new Vice-President of the CCRA. Welcome to your new role Rick.
- \* Moreen Jones Weekes has been the CCRA's Treasurer since June of 2024. Her guidance and advice with respect to the CCRA's financial matters is greatly appreciated by the Board.
- \* The most recent addition to the Board is Sean Squires who joined the CCRA Board in February of this year. The CCRA Board members welcome Sean and look forward to working with him.



\* Fiona Bedlington of the Office of Development is no longer at Centennial College. The Board sends a special thank you to Fiona for her assistance to the Board.

If you are interested in joining the CCRA Board, please email your name, contact information and a brief description of why you are interested in joining the Board to [ccra.board@gmail.com](mailto:ccra.board@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

We appreciate your support as a valued member of the CCRA. The CCRA's mandate is to promote contact and dialogue among our retired members of the Centennial College community. Your ongoing enthusiasm and participation at our social events is key as it allows for stronger connections with one another.

Please mark your calendars for CCRA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. Details on the AGM will be sent to CCRA members in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM!

The members of the CCRA Board wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

Kind regards,  
Marilyn Scott  
President  
Centennial College Retirees' Association



## **MEMBERSHIP**

An email was sent out to all CCRA members requesting that they renew their membership in the Centennial College Retirees' Association for January to December 2025. The annual membership fee remains at \$ 10.00 and can be paid by e-transfer or by cheque sent to Centennial College.

We welcomed 9 new members in 2024 and are pleased to report that we now have 80 members in our association.

Membership recruitment in the Association is a top priority. To that end, we have undertaken two initiatives:

- Board members Marilyn Scott, Gail Derrington and Patricia Brown met with Michelle Newman, Vice President of Local 559 Support Union on Zoom to discuss ideas on how to promote CCRA to support staff who are thinking of retiring in the near future.

Michelle offered some suggestions, such as having flyers available in the Union Office for employees considering retirement. In order to save paper, we will provide Michelle with a digital copy of the flyer to email staff considering retirement. Michelle also suggested that representatives from the CCRA Board consider attending a future General Membership meeting of the Local 559 Support Union to share information regarding the CCRA.

- Gail Derrington has been in touch with the College's Marketing department to assist us in posting a promotional article in the online CCWeekly (formerly known as The Centinel). The CCRA will have an opportunity to post an article every three to four months, as a reminder to upcoming retirees. Due to privacy policies, the CCRA is not able to independently reach out to new retirees, unless they have completed the CCRA Application form in their exit package or they contact the CCRA directly.



If you know a retired colleague(s) who did not join the CCRA upon retirement, please encourage them to consider joining now. The most convenient way for them to become a CCRA member is to send an email expressing an interest in joining the Association to the Membership Co-ordinator at [ccra.membership@gmail.com](mailto:ccra.membership@gmail.com)

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 Co-ordinator, at [ccra.membership@gmail.com](mailto:ccra.membership@gmail.com) to advise her of any changes. 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**

### **Tour of A-Building, Progress Campus**

We had 13 members participate in a campus tour of the A-Block in the A-Building at Progress Campus on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. The tour was led by Samira Bullock, Manager, National Recruitment - Tours and Recruitment Events and Sean Kinsella, Director, the Eighth Fire. It was an inspiring tour! Visiting the "basket room" was a highlight. The tour ended with refreshments from the Dehwigan Cafe, which offers



Indigenous inspired and made to order menu items and also features items that are directly from Indigenous companies, including Birch Bark Coffee. "The domed shape is the od-e (heart) of the building," says Eladia Smoke, Lead Architect of Smoke Architecture. "It's wrapped in a wood finish that reflects the geometric scale-like pattern on the outside of the



building. It recalls local architecture such as the wiigiwaam, and follows the principals of the nimii-idwigamig (Anishinaabe Roundhouse)."

There are further architectural references to the four directions, connections with the earth and sky worlds and a fireplace installed for holding ceremonial fires, which is extremely rare in institutional settings. The art featured is by Cree/Métis artist Rebecca Baird and features the moon with the four sacred medicines, semaa (tobacco), giizhik (cedar), bashkodejiibik (sage) and wiingashk (sweetgrass).

"This nickname is a dream Eladia Smoke had when the building was called 'heart building' but was unfinished," says Eladia Smoke, Lead Architect of Smoke Architecture. "The Anishinaabemowin word for heart is 'od-e' and the suffix for several words for buildings is '-igan.' Since the path through the building shows glimpses of both incompleteness and completion, the first syllable is incomplete."

### **Holiday Luncheon 2024**

CCRA members celebrated the festive season on Wednesday, December 10, 2024 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 a few holiday games. All members made a Christmas card as a take-away gift.





## **Spring Fling 2025**

The Spring Fling was held Wednesday, April 9 at the Event Centre.

It was a great success with 39 in attendance, including guests. Invitees were treated to a warm welcome that included a photo slideshow of past CCRA events from 2022 to 2024.

President Marilyn Scott welcomed everyone and provided an update on the CCRA Board of Directors.



This time around, the Spring Fling's presentation was different from previous years. The guest speaker, Peter Derrington, a retiree and amateur photographer provided a wealth of information and tips on taking photos when travelling. Peter's excellent and informative presentation was very well-received by all members and guests at the luncheon!

For the door prizes draw, Pat Brown drew the first name. Debbie Cameron, Harold Dumford, Yvonne Glenville and Ed George were the lucky winners of the gift cards. Christine White-Garcia won the Welcome Spring prize; a Bath and Bodyworks candle and a Lindt chocolate bunny. Heather Jones won a framed print generously donated by Guest Speaker, Peter Derrington.

Easter lily centre pieces graced each table and the lucky winner of the floral centerpiece was the guest whose birthday was closest to the date of the Spring Fling.

The event ended with an Easter treat for all who were there.

Surveys were available for immediate feedback. We had 78% response rate on the survey. The session was positively received by many.



Thanks to everyone who came to the Spring Fling and who continue to support the CCRA's events. Special thanks to the Board members who helped make this event a success!



- **CCRA AGM**

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

- **Holiday Luncheon**

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Stay tuned for more details!

### Updates

The CCRA's telephone line has been discontinued. To streamline our communications, any CCRA queries should be sent to [ccra.board.mail@gmail.com](mailto:ccra.board.mail@gmail.com)



### **Centennial in the News**

The past few months have been a time of significant change at Centennial. Like other colleges, Centennial is navigating sector-wide challenges connected both to federal policies that have dramatically impacted enrolment and to longstanding provincial underfunding. As a result, the College has had to make some difficult but necessary decisions in the short term so that the College can continue educating students for career success for years to come. Each decision has been made through the lens of preserving the quality and continuity of the student experience, as much as possible.

In January, the College [paused the intake of new students in 49 programs](#) following a comprehensive, evidence-based review. In March, the College was in the early stages of planning to [relocate programs from the Story Arts Centre](#) to the Progress Campus. Neither of these decisions were taken lightly, and staff are proceeding with care and understanding, to ensure that the College preserves the spirit of the Story Arts Centre.

The College's work supporting learner journeys continues, and there are a lot of positive stories and reasons to celebrate, even as the College navigates change. Take, for example, annual events such as the [Student Awards Night Celebration](#) and the [Mock Disaster exercise](#), or the College's rank among Canada's top 50 research colleges, including being [the number one ranked College for providing paid student internships in applied research](#). Thanks to the generous support of some of the College's industry partners, the Progress Campus is getting some exciting upgrades that will be announced soon.

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

If you have comments or suggestions on the Newsletter, we invite you to share that information with us at [ccra.board.mail@gmail.com](mailto:ccra.board.mail@gmail.com)