

**February, 2022**

# GCRC

GEORGIAN COLLEGE RETIREES CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

**Editor: Julie Hughes**

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### Executive:

Andrew Dykstra, President  
Barb Marchall, Past-President  
Barb Watts, Vice-President  
Monique Vaillancourt, Treasurer  
Cheryl Lawson, Social  
Julie Hughes, Communications

### President's Message

With all of our usual events having been cancelled because of the various COVID lockdowns, we have little information to impart at this time.

### Personal Stories:

The Executive decided to reach out to some of our retirees to learn how they have spent their time since leaving the College. We sincerely thank those who have provided stories and photos and we invite all of you to share your own stories with your fellow retirees. Two such stories are featured in the following pages and additional stories will appear in future newsletters. We encourage you to send your stories to our Editor, Julie Hughes, at [georgiancrc@gmail.com](mailto:georgiancrc@gmail.com)

### OCRA and Georgian College:

Georgian College has agreed to host the OCRA General Meeting (GM) in June of this year. In conjunction with the GM, the College has also agreed to host a buffet luncheon in lieu of the President's Luncheon for the GCRC retirees. Of course, this is dependent on the loosening of the COVID restrictions and the College opening up again.

### Membership Dues:

As we are now in a new calendar year; this is a reminder to all retirees that your annual membership dues of \$10 was due in January. We encourage you to consider a lifetime membership to avoid the hassle of paying dues each year.

The membership application form, which can be found on our website, provides more details about lifetime membership.

-Andrew Dykstra

## Obituary: Steve Robinson

After courageously battling pancreatic cancer for more than two years, former Georgian colleague Steve Robinson passed away on Jan. 22.

During his time at the college, Steve held the roles of Director, International Education and Training; Director, Workplace Learning and Development; Program Manager, Continuing Education; Manager, Financial Aid and Manager, Marketing and Communications. He also taught in Georgian's Human Resources programs as well as in (then) Corporate Education and Workforce Development department.



Steve was a core teacher in the Teaching and Training Adults program. He provided curriculum and faculty support in the Automotive Dealership Management blended-learning program for the Canadian School of Automotive Business (now Automotive Business School of Canada). He was instrumental in establishing the on-campus Central Michigan University Master of Education program in Barrie. Steve was also actively involved with the Ontario Association of College Administrators, including as president in 2008-09.

Former colleague Ruthanne Krant says (and thanks) Steve for leaving a great legacy at Georgian. She shares that Steve had superior leadership and teaching skills. He always approached every job with a high standard of excellence and a very optimistic attitude. He was well-respected by colleagues in and outside the college. He found humour in the simple things and loved sharing his jokes. He seemed to always have a smile on his face and inquisitiveness in his thinking.

Bob Kennedy, retired VP, echoes Ruthanne's comments. He remembers Steve as an extremely personable, down-to-earth, soft-spoken colleague with an excellent sense of humour. Bob says he was very understanding and compassionate, which made him a perfect role model for students and employees alike.

Steve had a tireless commitment to professional development and passion for higher education. He left Georgian to work as president of a small university in New Brunswick. Steve's wife Janice also worked at the College as Secretary to the Vice President Administration. They have two grown daughters.

*(excerpted from the Georgian College web pages)*

## Retired – Relocated - Rejuvenated

*By Brenda Webb*

In late October 2021, my husband Gerry and I moved to Cochrane, Alberta from Barrie, Ontario. We had considered the move during the early part of that year, and thought if not now, when? Although such a decision means leaving behind family, friends, business/lifestyle connections, and the routines that have supported our lives over the years, we decided that with both of us being active and mostly healthy 68-year-olds, the time was right.

Vacations had taken us to BC and Alberta on several occasions, and we had always enjoyed the offerings in both provinces. We were also drawn to the West because we have family in both provinces, and as our son Michael says “you are close but not too close”.

Should the mood strike you and you want to consider a major move, you will need to consider that sometimes moving from one province to another can be more like moving from one country to another.

The processes involved to register your land, get a driver’s license and health card, find a doctor, register your vehicles, move your vehicles and belongings, and setup your utilities and banking can present challenges, but from experience I can say that time and money (Alberta seems to have an extra fee for everything), resolve it all in the end. And for the actual move, no matter the destination, be very organized, make checklists, give yourself at least four months, and make sure you seriously cull those cupboards, drawers, and files before the move.

Cochrane is a town similar in size to Orillia, Ontario, with about 35,000 people. It is situated along the Bow River and surrounded by ranchlands, foothills, and the Rocky Mountains. Our new home is in a small, 21-year-old

subdivision up on a ridge overlooking the town. Day to day living and services are very easy to access, and if you need a big box/specialty store or mall experience, Calgary is just 25 minutes away. Airdrie is 30 minutes away and is another good shopping venue and I enjoy the country road drive to that location.

Our neighbours have been very welcoming, and easily shared contacts for the resources needed to settle in and manage the running of the household. There is a small town, casual atmosphere, and with less traffic, less hustle and bustle, it is easy to get around. Even the drive to Calgary is relaxed – nothing like navigating the high-volume traffic and high speeds on the 400 and 401 series highways!

We have wonderful walking paths and trails in our neighborhood. There is a country road that goes along the ridge, past a monastery and two cemeteries. (Did I tell you it is a very quiet neighborhood?) And we often walk along the Bow River on a wonderful pathway system created and maintained by the Town of Cochrane.



*Ridge pathway across from our subdivision which is on right (January 14 2022)*

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## Retired – Relocated – Rejuvenated cont'd

We have had much less snow than the Barrie area (never more than 3 cms at a time thus far and the nearby area currently has green grass and golden ranchlands), although there is lots of snow in the mountains.

There are very few days without sunshine, but winds are ever-present and can be gusty at times. (Today, February 6, it is plus 8 degrees and sunny, but the wind makes it feel like -8.)

Daytrips find us venturing to Canmore (50-minute drive-great walking trails and elk sightings); Bragg Creek (good place for lunch at the café and we usually see moose and/or deer); Water Valley (a great country drive through wooded areas and ranch lands; they have a saloon for a lunch stop – good food, friendly folks, western ranch atmosphere) and we often see moose, deer, and it is good Great Gray Owl territory, and on the roads that lead to Turner Valley, High River, and the Kananaskis Valley.

Also worth noting is that we are in bear country– Yikes! I now have my very own can of bear spray and I hope never to have to use it.

All in all, we have settled in well and are enjoying this adventure for our senior years. Missing family and friends is a given, but with telephone calls, texts, emails, and Zoom chats we remain connected. We experience new places, people and things on most days and are living a simple, mostly joyful life that has us out and about actively enjoying our new surroundings.

Our country has an endless list of places to go. If you are up for a change, and thinking about a major move, give me call.

Cheers, and stay well and safe



*Cold walks by the Bow River*



# Retirement Goes in Many Directions

By Jane Barnes

Hope you are all well in these different times! First and foremost “Retirement” takes many directions.

I am imagining many of you helping grandchildren with online learning, reading many books, volunteering, or caring for elder family members. Perhaps some have travelled to sunny, warmer locations.

For myself I would never have believed my retirement would take this path.

I have been lucky to travel.

Pre *Covid* my first trip took me to Thailand for two weeks and then Vietnam right after for three weeks. I volunteered with an organization called IVHQ, International Volunteer HQ (Which I highly recommend.). It was for all ages and this organization really keeps you safe and prides itself in involving you in the community, living in settings where you experience their culture. I taught in the jungle in Thailand, and helped in a few nursing clinics. Another highlight was a three-hour evening bike ride through the busy streets of Bangkok. Whew, that was scary!

In Ho Chi Minh (Saigon), Vietnam I was able to help in an orphanage, food outreach program, and also spent a week in the orthopedic hospital (all motorcycle accidents!) This experience was limited due to language, but a smile or **touch** of the hand while doing vital signs went a long way (that was pre-*Covid*!) Side trips in Vietnam were amazing. I am sure some of you have visited these

countries. I returned to Canada just two days before their early lockdown and Vietnam has become a success story for sure.

After that ....the world changed! Summer and fall flew by and then January, 2021 came. I was lucky to travel to Whitehorse, Yukon for five weeks. This involved some *Covid* testing and giving many 1<sup>st</sup> dose vaccines. Whitehorse is a beautiful place to visit - even in minus 30 temperatures. Nonetheless a great experience!

Soon after, just two-week nursing experiences, all related to *Covid*, followed. The Thunder Bay jail was an experience, testing and PPE education. The jail is over 125 years old and, oh, if the walls could talk.

To follow would be Penetang Correctional Centre, and then Lindsay, all interesting and I felt protected and part of a team during tough *Covid* times and outbreaks. I will never claim to be an expert on understanding crime and punishment – one of society’s complexities with so many approaches and values placed on diverse situations.

Outbreaks in Mississauga - and more vaccines had to be given at the BAPS Hindu place of worship. This is the white temple near the airport!

## Retirement Goes in Many Directions, cont'd.

On Oct. 18, 2021, a float plane I was in flipped over in the Tofino Harbour. There were four of us on board and a pilot, and escaped the incident without serious injuries – mainly we were in shock – my only regret was I lost my phone in the harbour with all my photos. I do celebrate life and even wear the Tofino sweatshirt that we were given to warm us up from hypothermia setting in.

Soon after, another *Covid* outbreak in Timmins, so for 10 days we gave many vaccines – pop-up clinics, drive through clinics and a one day trip to Moosonee for a clinic for only age 12-17 year olds.

On our flight back from Moosonee to Timmins we found ourselves in very rough, bumpy conditions. The images outside the window we saw were real! A mother **crane** and her babies flew **very** near our small aircraft.

Recently, since Nov 2021, I have been lucky to work in a small fly-in community in North West Ontario, Sachigo Lake, population of 450, and one of 33 Anishinabb, First Nation (Band Government) communities. This is helping as a Community Well-being nurse - right now giving vaccines (all ages). This rewarding and challenging experience is, to say the least, an opportunity for continuous learning and better understanding of First Nations in the North. I am there two weeks out of four!



*This float plane flipped when trying to land at Tofino Harbour. Luckily, Jane and four others were not seriously hurt.*

Yes, it is cold indeed! And be flexible, as many flights are canceled or rerouted due to weather.

To conclude, between these activities I enjoy free time with many family members and friends and you know, as much of this is possible due to restrictions.

Once again I hope that all of you are healthy and finding your joy and path in these times.

Apologies for the length of this and I have a promise (to myself) to retire soon! We will see!

*More photos on following page*



*Scary bike ride - Bangkok*



*Bangkok, Jane on the right*



*At an elephant rescue site. Not sure if this young one was as thrilled as I was.*



*Teaching in Thailand*



*Thunder Bay Jail – over 100 years old*



*Vaccine clinic in Moosonee*

## Congratulations

We would like to extend our congratulations to Barb Watts, our Vice-President, who has now also become a Director on the Executive Board of the Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association (OCRA).

Be sure to visit the Ontario College's Retirees' Association website at:

<http://ocraretirees.ca/>  
as it provides a wealth of useful information for retirees. Membership is only \$10/year or you can opt for a Life Membership based on a sliding scale.

## The Lighter Side

**McHUMOR.com** by T. McCracken



The Old Woman in the shoe questions her decision to spend her empty-nest years in a condo at a ski resort.

©T. McCracken mchumor.com

## Pronunciation Poem

I take it that you already know  
of tough and bough and cough and dough?  
Others may stumble, but not you,  
on Hiccough, thorough, laugh and  
through.

Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,  
to learn of less familiar traps?  
Beware of heard, a dreadful word,  
that looks like beard and sounds like  
bird.

And dead – it's said like bed, no bead -  
and for goodness' sake don't call it deed!  
Watch out for meat and great and threat  
(they rhyme with suite and straight and  
debt)

A moth is not the moth in mother,  
no both in bother, broth in brother.

And here is not a match for there,  
nor dear and fear for bear and pear.

And then there's dose and rose and lose -  
just look them up – and goose and  
choose,

and cork and work and card and ward,  
and font and front and word and sword,  
and do and go and thwart and cart -  
come, come, I've hardly made a start.

A dreadful language? Man alive!  
I'd mastered it when I was five.