

October, 2021

GCRC

GEORGIAN COLLEGE RETIREES CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Julie Hughes

Contents:

- President's Message, p1
 - GCRC Student Donation, p2
 - New Memorial Fund, p2
 - Conversation with Dr. West-Moynes, p3
 - Up Close and Personal with Alpacas, p4
 - Financial Summary
 - Parking Passes, p5
 - Recipe of the Month, p5
 - CAAT Podcast, p6
 - Are We Civilized?, p6
- email: gcrc@bell.net

President's Message

October has snuck up on us without so much as a warning and September is now in our rear-view mirror. I trust everyone had an enjoyable summer in spite of the ongoing restrictions due to COVID19. I imagine we're all looking forward to a day when we are not required to wear a mask in a grocery store. A reminder that Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends on Sunday November 7th this year.

Barrie is now facing major construction as witnessed on Hwy 400 and well as Hwy 27 north, where our patience is being tested with reduced lanes of traffic. Detours in the city also test our knowledge of alternative travel routes. All these improvements aim to improve traffic flow as volumes of traffic continue to increase with a growing population.

I encourage our members to visit the Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association's new website at: <https://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. I also encourage our members to send Julie Hughes any item of interest that you encountered over the summer. Julie provided such an article for our May newsletter and I provided one for this fall newsletter. They help to offer a personal touch to our newsletters, which many of members appreciate. We would love to hear from you.

At last, we have some much-needed relief from the hot humid weather. But soon we will get our rakes out and start the annual fall chores.

Looking ahead: Georgian College has agreed to host the OCRA General Meeting in June of 2022. In conjunction with that, the College will be providing a buffet lunch in lieu of hosting the President's Luncheon for the GCRC retirees.

-Andrew Dykstra

GCRC Donates to Georgian Students



GCRC President Andrew Dykstra presents Yaadwinder Kaur Bhumber (Yaad Kaur) – Vice President, Student Engagement, Georgian College Students’ Association with a \$1,000 cheque on behalf of Georgian College retirees, with Dr. MaryLynn West-Moynes, President and CEO of Georgian College.

New Memorial fund established

As you will have learned recently, retired Georgian College employee Audrey Taylor passed away in late September. One of her main passions and concerns was the well-being of the college’s students. With that in mind, her family and friends have set up “The Audrey Taylor Memorial Award” The link is available below:

[Celebrating the life of Audrey Taylor - Georgian College](#)

Up Close and Personal with Alpacas



Andrew Dykstra getting acquainted with a friendly alpaca

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH ALPACAS

As things gradually reopen, there is a desire to seek out new experiences in an effort to break the monotony many of us have endured as a result of COVID-19. For me, this led to accepting my daughter's invitation to visit an alpaca farm (that she is keen to have a few of her own is another story altogether). It was a welcome opportunity to get out of the house, be outdoors and learn something new. In my case, I learned what is involved in owning alpacas from how much food they eat, their average gestation period (345 days) to how much land is recommended (1/8 of an acre per alpaca). They range in price depending on the quality of their wool and can be purchased for as little as \$200 to as much as \$5,000. While I have no intention of adding alpaca farmer to my resume, it was a good reminder that sometimes a simple thing, like a visit to a farm, is all I need every now and again to help see me through these challenging times.

Financial summary

The financial situation of the GCRC is stable with few expenditures and continued receipts of membership fees. We currently have 33 lifetime members and 63 regular annual members for 2021. Our receipts have outweighed our minor disbursements by \$1,783.70 for the first six months of the year. Our only disbursements have been bank fees of \$0.90/month and a \$1,000 donation to the GC scholarship fund. Our assets are worth \$6,251.83 as of July 31, 2021.

--

Monique Vaillancourt

**Please note, until March 2022:
Members wishing to forward their fees,
send to Andrew Dykstra at 27 Park Trail,
Midhurst, ON, L9X 0L3**

Free parking permits on GCRC webpage

The Parking Office has simplified the process with a Friends of Georgian Parking Permit application form. A link to this form can be found on the GCRC webpage under the “Perks” tab. All current applications and active Friends of Georgian permits will expire on 12/31/2022 making it a more consistent renewal date for all retirees with a Friends of Georgian parking permit. In addition to the renewal reminders provided in the Newsletter, the Parking Office will send emails (when provided).

When completing the form, there is an option to add up to two licence plates. When the (LPR) Licence Plate Recognition system scans the licence plate, we will know the vehicle has an active permit and is authorized to be on campus.

For retirees who may still have their AWID Card for regional campuses, there is an option to add the card number so the Parking Office can reallocate it to a Friends of Georgian card.

Barb Moore’s Zucchini Soup

Ingredients

1 medium onion, large dice
 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
 2 tbsp butter
 1 large potato, peeled, large dice
 4 cups zucchini, peeled, seeded, large dice (the peel can remain if desired)
 (1 very large or two medium zucchinis)
 3 cups chicken broth
 1/2 teaspoon each tarragon, parsley
 S&P to taste
 1/2 to 1 cup cream or milk

Method

- 1 In large saucepan, saute onion and garlic in butter until soft.
2. Add potato, zucchini and herbs.
3. Stir 2 to 3 minutes then add broth. Bring to boil; lower temperature and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes.
4. Puree to desired consistency (a hand blender works well too). (I prefer a chunkier soup)
- 5 Add milk or cream to desired thickness – heat slowly (note: I like the consistency as is and most often leave dairy out).

Excellent with croutons and shredded cheese as toppings.
 (This soup freezes well – don’t include dairy, but add after thawing if desired)

(reprinted with permission)

CAAT Pension Plan Launches Podcast

Many of you may have received notice that the CAAT Pension Plan Has lunched a podcast called Contributors. To quote Derek Dobson, CAAT CEO, "Experts agree Canada is a global leader in pension funds – building prosperity for Canadians. But the stories behind this prosperity are much bigger than us. We hear inspiring stories about collective solutions every day. On *Contributors*, we'll showcase some of those stories." You can get more information at:

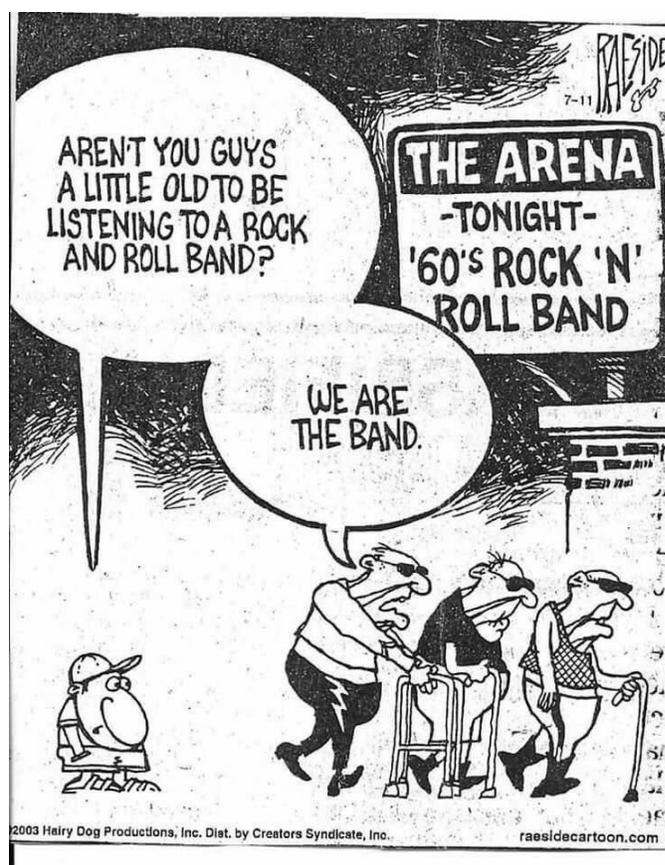
<https://www.caatpension.ca/news/general-news-listing/Celebrating-contributors-across-canada-welcome-to-the-contributors-podcast>

Are We Civilized?

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones. But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal. A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said."

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.

-Ira Brock



We encourage you to
visit our website at
www.georgiancollege.ca/retirees-club/