

RAQ *news* S



Happy New Year! As we enter 2011, I hope everyone had safe and happy celebrations with family and friends over the holidays. RAQ had

Mark your Calendar

RAQ Annual General Meeting and Lunch

Monday April 25, 2011— University Club

Reception and Cash Bar 11:30 am; Lunch 12 noon. Meeting to follow.

tions about pensions and to share with them concerns of the RAQ membership. This was a stimulating and informative meeting. Queen's retirees are extremely fortunate to have members such as Bill, Alison and John on this Board committee.

Matters discussed at our meeting with Bill and Alison and John, in addition to those identified above, were:

There should be no concern about payments to Queen's pensioners; they are guaranteed under the terms of the Queen's Pension Plan.

Queen's retirees are living longer than most other people in Canada and longer than was assumed when most of us retired.

There is a need to identify potential candidates to serve on the Board Pension Committee in the future.

We also met with Caroline Davis, Vice-Principal (Finance and Administration), Bill Forbes, Special Advisor (Investments), and Bob Weisnagel (Associate Director – Pensions and Benefits) in mid-November. Vice-Principal Davis reiterated assurance that current pensions paid to Queen's retirees will not be adversely affected by any future changes in pension policy adopted by the Board of Trustees. She also confirmed that the existing governance structure of the Board Pension Committee and its Investment Subcommittee would be retained. Finally, the Vice-Principal confirmed that the existing consultative process for suggesting candidates for membership on the Board Pension Committee will continue.

Recent Pension Plan Performance All Queen's pensioners will have recently received a letter from Queen's summarizing Pension Plan investment performance during each

of the past four years. The rates of returns were positive for two of those years but negative for the other two years. The result is a geometric four-year average rate of 1.26%. Pensioners receive an increase in their pension payments only when the geometric four-year average exceeds 6.0%. Thus the Pension Plan must make up the current deficit ($1.26\% - 6.0\% = -$

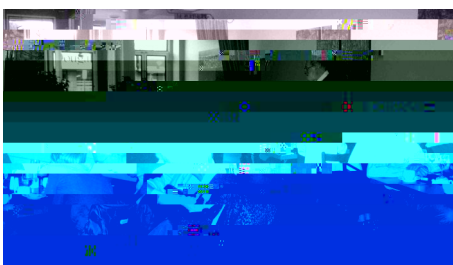
er and to take good care of the caregiver.

Jillian Dahm McConnell, Public Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer Society talked about the services provided by the Society. Many useful resources are available at www.alzking.com, 613-548-3078. The Waterford then provided refreshments and a tour of their beautiful residence.

JACK HENDERSON

Prince Edward County Music Festival, September 17

On a fine sunny afternoon a group of 26 RAQ members set off in a McCoy bus for Picton. After enjoying an excellent dinner at the Portabella Restaurant on the main street, we walked



to St. Mary Magdalen Anglican Church, a fine old building with excellent acoustics. Here we went to the opening concert of the 2010 Prince Edward County Music Festival. The concert opened with four Mozart songs sung superbly and expressively by the celebrated Canadian soprano Donna Brown to the expert accompaniment of Stéphane Lamelin. Then followed two contrasting songs by composer-in-residence, Ottawa's Steven Gellman: *Love Song* and *Dance My Heart*. These were again sung by Brown accompanied by flute, harp, cello and piano. Next up was a Sonata for flute, viola and harp, a beautiful combination, written by Claude Debussy in 1925. The second half of the concert consisted solely of the G minor Piano Quartet by Gabriel Fauré, a

passionate work with a dramatic opening, dreamy second movement and an exuberant finale. Directly following the concert we were transported back to Kingston on our bus, arriving home around 11 p.m.

JULIET MILLSOME

Tour of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre

On Monday, September 27th, Janet Brooke, Director of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, conducted a 90-minute exclusive tour for a small group of appreciative RAQ members. Most of our time was spent exploring the recently opened *New Canadiana: The Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund and Art as Social History*. *New Canadiana* offers over 90 works among 450 acquired by the Richardson Fund over the past forty years, indicative of how Canadians see and define them-



selves. The highlights included Joyce Wieland's *O Canada* quilt (familiar to Chez Piggy patrons), a memento mori photograph of a recently dead AIDS patient (AA Bronson's *Felix*, June 5, 1994); Adrian Blackwell's exploded overhead photos of artists' lofts in Toronto, just before eviction; and a seemingly compliant robot that soon expresses its demanding annoyance with its operator (Norman T. White's *The Helpless Robot*). RAQ members had a rare chance to pause and appreciate these unique contemporary works that were juxtaposed with other historic pieces from a century and more ago. Janet Brooke's expert and

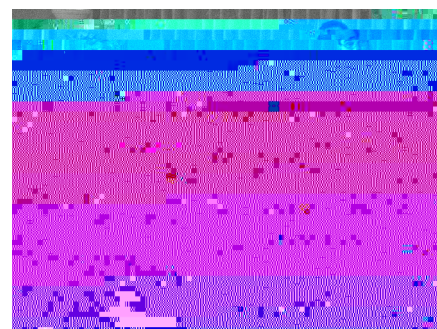
sensitive commentary enhanced the occasion greatly.

BILL JAMES

RAQeteers Meet Vice-Principal Tom Harris

On October 20th, the annual RAQ Reception provided RAQ members an opportunity to meet the VP (Advancement), Tom Harris. Vice-Principal Harris thanked retirees for their donations of time to Queen's. He also noted that Queen's retirees have been the top contributors to United Way campaigns among retirees at Canadian universities of comparable size, providing more than \$470,000 over the last five years.

Harris then reviewed the changes



that have affected Queen's over the decades. Government support of the Operating Budget has dropped from 74% in 1992-93 to only 47% of the current Operating Budget of \$300 million. This has led to tuition increases and has also raised the importance of philanthropy in support of Queen's. He emphasized that fundraising priorities are set by the Principal and Provost, not the Department of Advancement.

Last year Advancement raised some \$53 million for Queen's. Harris noted that last year there were nearly 14,000 small donations that totalled about \$3 million. These donations can often be allocated to the areas of highest priority, so they are enormously valuable.

The next major campaign will aim to raise at least \$500 million. Harris hoped that retirees will continue to

Monthly Luncheons

RAQ monthly luncheons continue to be a popular choice for members to meet informally and sample the cuisine of various Kingston-area restaurants.

The luncheons are usually held on the last Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome—including members' spouses and friends. Contact Jessica (Jerry) Roddy, (613) 353-6959 or jroddy@kingston.net for details and reservations.

Coming Spring Events

Elder Law Issues

(Coming in _____, 2011)

Speakers: Professor _____ 1)