

RRC Heritage Group

Newsletter

January 2019



2018 HG Holiday Luncheon at Assiniboia Downs

by Karen Wall

Forty Heritage Group members and their guests attended the annual Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, November 15. Our new venue this year, the Terrace Dining Room at Assiniboia Downs, proved to be an excellent setting to celebrate the season.

The ambience of the Terrace Dining Room was festive and open, and our view of the surrounding outdoor environment was an extra bonus. The only thing missing was the sound of horse races, but... it was the end of November... well past the racing season!



Bar service was readily available for attendees on arrival, and the sounds of laughter and camaraderie while sipping wine, rum and eggnog and other seasonal cocktails was soon pervading the air. Prior to dining, Heritage Group Chair, Leslie Walsh, brought holiday greetings to all in attendance and thanked everyone for their support and enthusiasm for the Heritage Group all year round.

The luncheon provided by the Terrace Room Chef and his staff was outstanding... seasonal, plentiful and delicious! The meal included signature salads, vegetable trays, cheeses and pickles, perogies, cabbage rolls, meatballs with mushroom gravy, roast turkey with savoury stuffing, carved ham, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans amandine and glazed turnips. Following this extensive selection of entrees, we were treated to a full dessert bar, including traditional pumpkin pie.



In an effort to allow everyone to have more time to visit and chat, the Social Committee decided to reduce the number of door prize draws this year... and so we had three large festive gift baskets, a few gift donations from individual Heritage Group members and a gift certificate for two to Jane's Restaurant, courtesy of Red River College. This change to fewer door prizes was received well, so we will continue to follow this plan for the 2019 holiday luncheon.

The overall feedback from those in attendance at the 2018 event was extremely positive, and most people commented that they would like to return to Assiniboia Downs for next year's holiday event. All in all a successful venture to start the holiday season!

The origins of Red River College athletics

Though long retired from RRC, no moss grows under Kent Morgan's feet. Still writing a bi-weekly sports column for five Winnipeg community newspapers, his December 3rd installment (posted online in the Canstar Community News at goo.gl/hkVWaE) is sure to interest many HG members.



Kent Morgan

Do the names Dave Komosky, Roy Pollock, Jack Kaplan and June Graham ring a bell? How about RRCC secretarial science student Beverley Boys, named Canada's female athlete of the year in both 1971 and 1972?

Kent's article chronicles many early highlights of RRCC's athletic past, such as hosting the 1970 Canadian volleyball championships in our new North Gym and capturing the Winnipeg men's senior B volleyball championship. That team included captain Bob Edwards, Wayne Christensen, Ron Lowe and Gary Vickery. Or how about Howard Coates who skipped his team of Bob McIntosh, Ken Drysdale and Marc McMunn to the Western Canada Small College curling championship?

And let's not forget the noon-hour South Gym game between the Pickles and Erections that outdrew a visit by then-Premier Ed Schreyer.

Other names you might remember: Rick Thain, Don Troughton, Vic Enns, Tom Clasper, Dwight Evans, Rick Hebert, Stan Keats, Wayne Laniuk, Jerry Zak, Ron Pucci, Tom Kouk, Ken Leishman, Barry Smith, Terry Proctor, Brian Durupt, George Pubben, Dennis Harrisko, Craig Kelman, John Schillinger, Jim Malcolm, Wayne Janz, and Gerry Barron.



TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY
Diver Beverley Boys practising in 1969

Find all the details in Kent Morgan's post at goo.gl/hkVWaE.

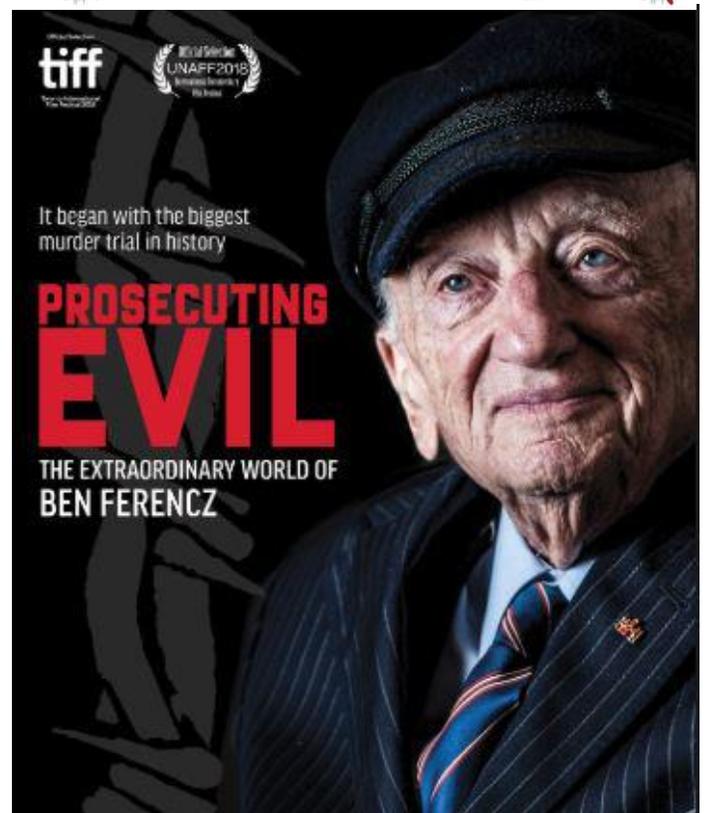
An Early Yuletide Surprise

(Originally posted December 5, 2018)

How rare it is these days for a movie to cause an audience to spontaneously break into applause at its end. **Prosecuting Evil** is such a film. And though clearly out of sync with the rest of the pabulum on the Cineplex marquis (*Ralph Breaks the Internet*, *The Grinch*, *Instant Family*), this truly extraordinary story of a tireless crusader for peace delivers a most relevant message for the season and our time.

Fresh from its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, it is a fascinating portrait of Ben Ferencz, the last surviving Nuremberg Trial prosecutor. A relentless gadfly and key agitator for the creation of the UN's International Court of Justice in The Hague, the now 98-year-old lawyer continues his fight for law and peace. With the current resurgence of racism, anti-Semitism, and the alt-right, and the weakening of long-standing international alliances predicated on common values and notions of justice, his message is indeed timely.

In the words of Steve Gravestock, TIFF Programmer, "...what does it say about our time that we endow fame on horrific, opportunistic white supremacists like Steve Bannon, but remain largely unaware of extraordinary individuals like Ben Ferencz?"



Putting Ivy on the Walls

by Bob Barr

Back in 1996 Dan Demedash and I were thinking ahead to retirement. The College had no associated appendage for retirees. Through acquaintances, we knew of the U of M faculty lounge, whose membership included retired professors and boasted a wonderful common room, a bar and a dining room. Some emeritus profs were even provided an office. U of W retirees enjoyed a second-floor room overlooking Portage Ave, but with what benefits I do not know. Even Manitoba Hydro provided retiree facilities. Although, never having been there, it is only hearsay how well they were treated. But well! I only know our retirees had a dinner, a handshake from the president, a certificate and a Goodbye.

Dan approached then President Jacque Thachuk and outlined what the College might consider so as to “put some ivy on the walls” now that the Notre Dame campus was some 33 years old – that is almost an entire career for me. The request was received with enthusiasm, not to our complete surprise. We were asked to fill out the idea. In response, we asked for an office, use of a classroom or theatre for monthly meetings, a computer connected to the College net, and a budget of \$5,000 a year.



Bob Barr



Left to right: Bob Barr, President Jacque Thachuk, and Dan Demedash (1998)

We got everything we asked for but the money, at least at that time. The office (AB-04G) was located in the basement between building-A and the entrance to the cafeteria. That is where the ribbon-cutting ceremony took place. We never did use the office or computer, so gave it up for badly needed space on the part of the College.

Quickly, we approached several academic staff from across the College to meet at my home to draft a constitution, and a list of officers. These folks, all listed as “founders” [in our blog](#), included Dan Demedash, Ken Campbell, Harry Reese, Eugene Gladys, Horace Hackett, and Don Kennedy. As instructors at that time, we were in the academic thinking mode, failing to consider non-academic staff. But almost immediately we recognized that membership should be open to all former staff of the College. I guess we held about five founder meetings altogether before our first general meeting in one of the classrooms. With a little advertising, it took not a long time before we were seeing some twenty regular attendees. Advertising was essentially done by Canada Post to retirees on record, and by presentations we made at pre-retirement seminars.

In time, we started meeting in Building-A, and the College provided coffee and cookie snacks. But more importantly, the College assigned a resource person from Staff Development.

THAT was a boon to the Heritage Group, without a doubt. As a group we are indebted to their staff for a wonderful support effort.

I think our membership has probably plateaued at somewhere above

120, which is not unexpected as there are always new staff and retirements. Some departments are so large that they have their own retiree groups, and some belong to both groups.

For my part, I am most pleased to see that our HG has now accumulated a sizeable endowment fund for bursaries and scholarships. This is a growing fund now within the larger umbrella of the College for that purpose. Thanks to the many members who have annually donated to the fund, and to the College dollar-matching system.



Dan Demedash and Bob Barr (1998)

Frosty picks his nose



Coffee on the Wall

As mentioned in the minutes, Rose Marie Hess read this piece at the October HG meeting. It was suggested that we could sponsor or get the ball rolling for an event such as this for students in the college who are on a very limited budget. Lots of discussion took place and it was decided it was a complex undertaking. It was suggested that Food Services and the Student Association be involved. Rose was asked to talk to John Reimers about it in November and we will see where it goes from there.



I sat with my friend in a well known coffee shop in a small town on the outskirts of Venice, Italy, the city of lights and water. As we enjoyed our coffee, a man entered and sat at an empty table beside us. He called the waiter and placed his order saying, "Two cups of coffee, one of them there on the wall." We heard this order and were intrigued when we observed that he was served with one cup of coffee but he paid for two. When the man left, the waiter put a piece of paper on the wall on which was written "A Cup of Coffee." While we were still there, two other men entered to coffee shop and ordered three cups of coffee, two on the table and one on the wall. They had two cups of coffee but paid for three and left. This time also, the waiter did the same; he put a piece of paper on the wall saying, "A Cup of Coffee." It was something unique and perplexing for us. We finished our coffee, paid the bill and left.



Pexels / Pixabay

A few days later we had the chance to go to this coffee shop again. While we were enjoying our coffee, a poorly dressed man came into the coffee shop. As he seated himself, he looked at the wall and said, "One cup of coffee from the wall." The waiter served this coffee to this man with the customary respect and dignity. The man had his coffee and left without paying.

We were amazed to watch all this, as the waiter took off a piece of paper from the wall and threw it in the garbage can. Now the whole turn of events was no longer a surprise to us;

the matter was very clear. The great respect for the needy shown by the inhabitants of this town made our eyes well up in tears. Ponder upon the need of what this man wanted. He enters the coffee shop without having to lower his self-esteem... he has no need to ask for a cup of coffee... without asking or knowing about the one who is giving this cup of coffee to him... he only looked on the wall, placed an order for himself, enjoyed the coffee and left. A truly beautiful thought and probably the most beautiful wall you may ever see anywhere!



Free-Photos / Pixabay

Before we say something like, "That's all well and good, but you know what will happen, some people who can afford to pay will abuse the system and rip us off. So best not to donate anything!" We need to ask ourselves why we give to charities and to beggars on the street? Our answers will of course vary; however, the Lord provides abundantly for our needs and asks us to be good stewards of his gifts and to share from our bounty to those in need of assistance. Ours is not the question why or to set limits and boundaries as to how the funds we give are to be used. Once the funds are given, they are no longer ours; they belong to the one receiving them. Think on this too. The Lord provides for our needs and doesn't dictate how we use or misuse his gifts. I think Jesus might say something like...Go and do likewise! Buy a cup of coffee for the wall at the nearest Fast Food Outlet.

Deacon Philip

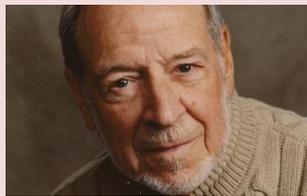
Ron Blicq: Transitioning to a Retirement Residence

This is an abridged article. See goo.gl/ZiZV3r for the entire original post.

by Leslie Walsh

Heritage Group meeting of October 18, 2018.

When choosing speakers for the 2018-19 year, Ron Blicq's was one of the session members voted to hear. HG member Ron volunteered to, "talk about how it has been for me making the transition to a seniors' living space, what to expect and not to expect, and how it has affected me and my family." Ron had also suggested that a residence staff person join him to fill in details.



Below is a summary of Ron and Brandi's tag-team presentation.

In June 2016 Ron had taken a book and folding chair to Assiniboine Park to read. On his way home he got stuck at a train on Shaftesbury Blvd. To the left he saw a sign that said **Shaftesbury Park Retirement Residence**, so he decided to go in rather than wait out the train.

Ron had pictured retirement residences as tall, narrow apartment blocks. Shaftesbury was small and spread out; the lobby attractive. So, he asked for more information and later phoned for an appointment. He was told there was an 8-month wait list. In October he got a call saying there was a one-room apartment that fit what he wanted (on the 3rd floor, overlooking Assiniboine Forest) available for November 1st. Ron took it and moved in gradually. At first he only went there for meals. His house of 47 years on Oxford St. sold in 2 days!



Ron is in a 600 sq. ft. apartment. All meals are provided and are good (Ron pats his stomach). There is a library, chapel, theatre with reclining arm chairs, beautiful wood pillars, a dining area with a 2 level ceiling.

Brandi: *There is a nurse on staff at all times. There are 2 kinds of people at Shaftesbury: those who are pushed into the place, and those who suddenly chose to go. Family often worry about their loved ones who live alone. What happens if their loved one falls downstairs? At Shaftesbury they might still fall, but there will be someone to pick them up.*

Ron: *There is a poetry club that meets 26 times a year. Residents read and discuss poems by established poets. The focus is on Canadian poets. Each participant writes a poem as well, with topics selected every meeting for next time. The group (80- and 90-year-olds) is creating a book of their poems.*

Brandi: *Ron is being modest; he's founder of the poetry group. Shaftesbury, now ten years old, is the flagship for **All Seniors Care** private and assisted living facilities, based in Toronto (a Canadian Company). They operate seven buildings in Manitoba: six in Winnipeg and one in Brandon.*

Brandi does all the "fun" stuff for all seven buildings. Their "aging in place" philosophy is reflected in both independent and enhanced assisted living. Safety features include grab bars, pull cords in every room, and optional personal pendant call system such as Victoria Lifeline.



A Red Seal chef prepares two meals on-site each day, lunch and dinner. Full table service is offered in the dining room, with homemade soups (which Ron says are extremely good), desserts, and additional à-la-carte choices. For residents who cannot make it to the dining room, meals may be delivered to their room. The menu changes weekly, except for the usual Friday salmon and chicken, and display plates at the front let residents see the daily offerings. In addition to a private dining room, a multipurpose room is available for families to use.

Ron has been at Shaftesbury Park for 2 years, "long enough to know if I like it".

Ron: *Did I make the right decision? Absolutely. My table mate was pushed into the facility and it took him over a year to adjust and then enjoy all the amenities. The quietness is amazing. You can't hear through the walls, up or down.*

Passages

Roger Hamelin

We sadly report that former Bomber Roger Hamelin passed away November 25 at the age of 77. Roger was an HG member who had taught structural drafting at RRC for over 25 years.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in to the [Heart and Stroke Foundation](#) in Roger's memory.

[\(link to Free Press Obituary\)](#)



1941 –2018

Bob Dunham

Bob taught Mathematics when he first arrived at the Manitoba Institute of Technology in the early--to-mid- 1960s. He later became the Principal of Trades and Technology of what was then Red River Community College. We could find no obituary, but it is thought that Bob had retired to BC and died in November of 2018.



No photo

Other News

RRC again in Top 10!

We have again been ranked one of Canada's top 10 research colleges, courtesy of the annual *Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges* list, released in November by Re\$earch Infosource Inc.



This is RRC's second research-related distinction in less than a month. also winning silver in *Applied Research* at the **World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics Awards** in Melbourne, Australia.

Read all about it at <https://goo.gl/GG9xjD>.

New STT Campus Opens

With a little help from **Baxter**, its Robot-in-Residence, RRC officially opened its new **Skilled Trades and Technology Centre (STTC)** in November at the Notre Dame Campus.

Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen led the official ceremonies, and assisted Baxter with his task of opening RRC's newest addition.

At 104,000 sq. ft., the STTC will boost RRC's training capacity by 30%, providing training and education for up to 1,000 students a year.

Read all about it at <https://goo.gl/KEwXSF>.



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