

Last year was a banner year for RA Q with the introduction of new Queen's Retiree cards and the re-instatement of Queen's email accounts for retirees. These new cards are essential to access most of the discounts and deals enjoyed by current Queen's faculty and staff, including local hotels, fitness clubs and VIA Rail.

And we are excited about our plans for 2020 with the launch of RA Q Travel and the likely unveiling of a new membership model that will greatly enhance services and outreach to Queen's retirees. In addition, thanks to the good work of our Events Chair

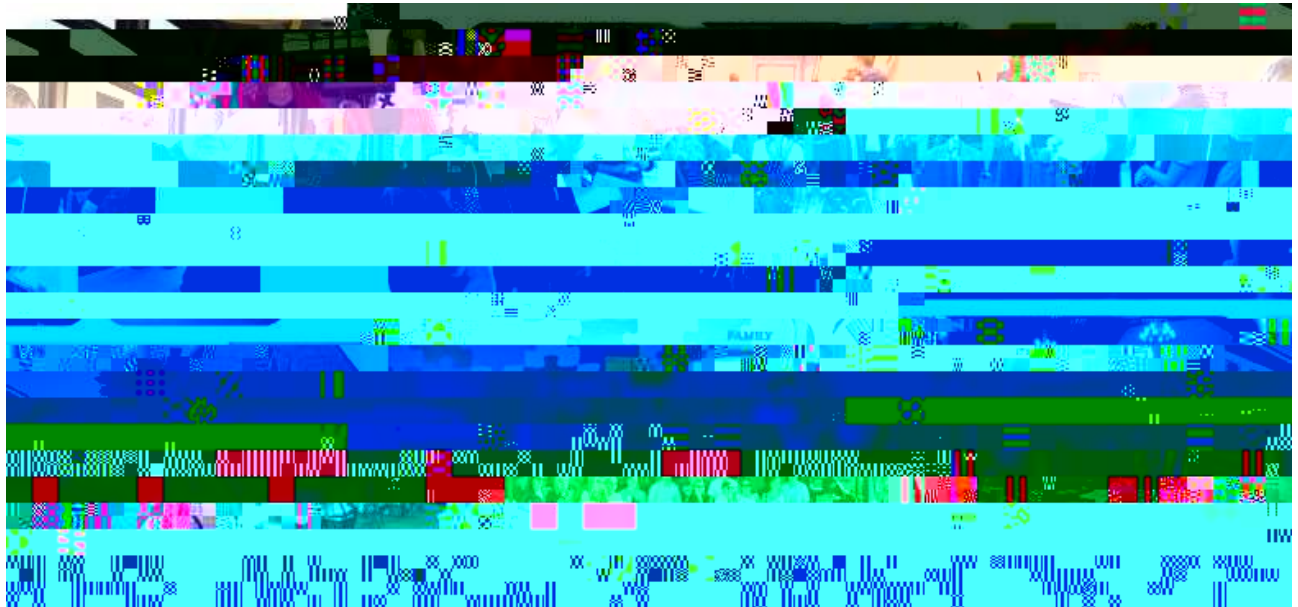
you already have a great lineup in place for the Fall Lunchtime Guest Speaker Series. Many of these activities and programs are included in this Newsletter, but we also invite you to visit the RA Q website at <https://www.queensu.ca/retirees/home> to view all upcoming events. To learn more about current privileges and benefits, simply click on Deals and Discounts.

The larger our membership base (now at about 400 Queen's retirees), the more we will be able to accomplish on your behalf. If your membership has lapsed, please contact our office administrator, Cheryl Vincent, at [rag@queensu.ca](mailto:rag@queensu.ca) to renew. For a modest annual rate, you will have access to an exceptional array of learning opportunities and benefits. If you are new to RA Q, we are pleased to offer a free membership.

Don't miss out on the upcoming Fall reception for new members at 4 pm on November 12th at the University Club. This is always a fun and stimulating event – and of course, it's new with new Principal Patrick Deane as our guest. We look forward to hearing your ideas for the future of Queen's.

**Don**





Queen's retirees donate over 40% of the funds invested in the community by the Queen's United Way campaign. Take a closer look at how your contributions are used to build a better Kingston with this behind-the-scenes tour of some United Way KFLA funded agencies. You will have the chance to meet the people who work every day to make a difference in our community and hear stories of those whose lives have been changed through the United Way.

Join other RAQ members and friends on the "The Seeing Is Believing Bus" on Wednesday, October 23. Get your seat today by contacting the United Way ([campaign@unitedwayfla.ca](mailto:campaign@unitedwayfla.ca) or 613-5420142). Transportation sponsored by Kingston Transit. There is no charge for this unique experience!

RAQ members with questions about the tour may contact Bruce Hutchinson ([hutchinb@queensu.ca](mailto:hutchinb@queensu.ca), or 613-328-3093).

9:00 to 10:30

Optional tour to follow

\$10.00

: Visitors Centre, inside the historic Kingston Penitentiary

Join your workplace and other retirees for a morning of learning and connecting with the broader KFL&A Retirees United community.

Attend this inaugural Breakfast Club event within the historic Kingston Penitentiary. Learn how it is contributing to the United Way programs, and how you can continue to support the community and find ways to share your time and talent.

Continental breakfast will be offered along with special guided tours of the Penitentiary following the breakfast. This event is sponsored by Royale Place Retirement Centre. RSVP by October 29th: <https://retireebreakfast.eventbrite.ca>





The annual pot-luck picnic was held at the Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (EEEC) on Friday, 21 June. A group of about 15 members enjoyed good company, interesting pot-luck dishes to share and beautiful weather. This year Steve Lougheed was not able to be with us as he was teaching in Kenya. Instead the research coordinator, Ivana Schoepf, gave us a thorough overview of work at the Centre, with pictures of the site. She also showed us photos of the staff, while outlining their various responsibilities. Ivana then introduced us to three people who are currently working and/or researching at the Centre this summer.

One summer student, Kestrel de Marco, is continuing the analysis of the migratory patterns of tree swallows, a study which has been ongoing since it was started by Queen's professor Raleigh Robertson in 1975. There has been a steady decline in their population since the 1990s, which has led to speculation as to the cause--climate change, food supply in the face of the decline of insects, predation, or other causes.

Next, Adriana Lopez Villalobos, Administrative Data and Herbarium Manager at Queen's Biological Station at Opinicon, spoke to us, showing samples of dried and pressed plants from eastern Ontario going back to the late 19th century and continuing to the present. The purpose of the Fowler Herbarium is to catalogue the biodiversity of plants in the region and make this information available to interested individuals and institutions. A lot of this work is done by community volunteers and Adriana is always looking for more hands on deck to help her with either mounting specimens or with digitization.

Finally, Emily Verhoek, the outreach and teaching coordinator, spoke about the work she does, including water quality assessment, climate data collection (a lot of this is done by volunteer citizens) and investigations of toxicology and teaching news, a university assessment