



St. Lawrence College  
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

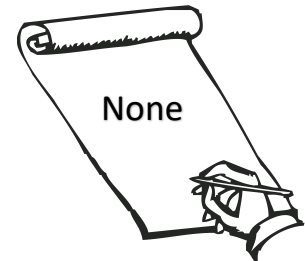
Retiree Reflections, Ruminations, and Ramblings (R<sup>4</sup>)

Issue #6 (April 2020)

As with the previous issue, we offer some potentially useful information along with a large dose of nonsense intended to help get you through these scary times. Don't forget to visit our website ([www.slcretirees.weebly.com](http://www.slcretirees.weebly.com)) regularly. Consider posting something on the "Retiree Chat" page to let us know how you are doing.

### Upcoming Retiree Association Events

As anticipated, we will **not** be holding our AGM on May 12, as originally scheduled. To provide some continuity and stability, the existing executive will stay in office for the next few months. While authoritarian leaders have used the COVID crisis as an excuse to consolidate their power, I assure you that this is not the case in this instance.



If we cannot reschedule the AGM by this fall, we will make arrangements to conduct elections for the executive via the Internet – once we safeguard our website from hacking by Russians trying to influence the results. We hope that conditions will improve to the point that we can have not only our AGM but at least one social gathering before the end of this year.

### Things to Do While Isolating

In the meantime, we hope you are all coping with whatever extent of isolation you are maintaining. We offered a lengthy list of on line resources in the previous issue. If you have mislaid or deleted it (and shame on you, if you have), you can find it at our website – another good reason to visit it.

In addition, you can tour various museums while staying put. This link (<https://p.dw.com/p/3agol>) takes you to six museums in several countries. To tour even more museums and galleries, all in Toronto, just go to <https://torontoguardian.com/2020/04/virtually-explore-toronto-galleries-museums/>.

If you want to practice your dance moves as a way of working out and keeping fit, check out this video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K66UsUQd\\_0w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K66UsUQd_0w). Feel free to do a video showing off your dance moves and we can post it to our website (if it meets standards of decency).

## Keeping Connected On Line

I assume that many of you are keeping in touch with family, friends, and former SLC colleagues using one of the Internet apps that allows a “face-to-face” chat and even a group virtual gathering. I am not an expert on any of these apps, several of which are supposedly very good and widely used. A few options are listed below and you can also check out this summary <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2020/03/12/zoom-facetime-google-duo-messenger-video-apps-keep-us-connected/5031771002/>

1. Messenger, which is available within Facebook, or can be downloaded as a separate app at [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.facebook.orca&hl=en\\_CA](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.facebook.orca&hl=en_CA).
2. Facetime (<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/HT204380>), which is very popular but designed for Apple devices, so you can't make calls to folks who are on Samsung Galaxy or Google Pixel phones.
3. Google Duo, which is a popular and fairly new app available at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.apps.tachyon&hl=en>
4. Zoom, which has become very popular, especially for meetings, but supposedly has limits on number of users and length of the call in the free version. For a comparison of Zoom and Duo, see <https://www.guidingtech.com/google-duo-vs-zoom/>. [A group of ladies from the Y, including my wife, use Zoom for weekly chats.]
5. Skype (<https://www.skype.com/en/>), one of the oldest and most familiar apps for many.

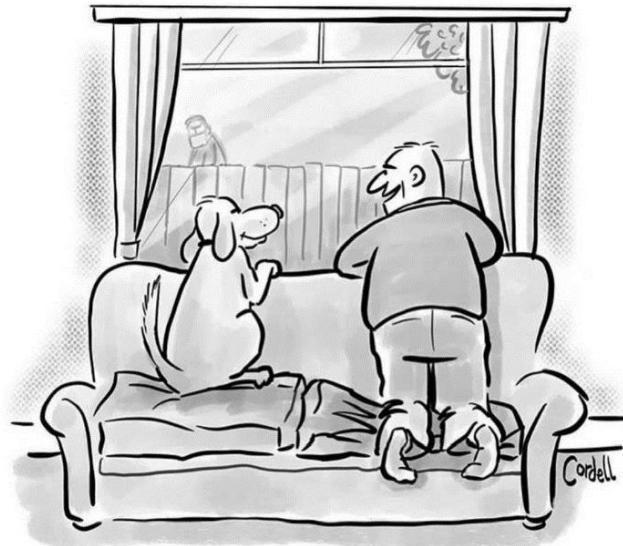
## The Low Tech Alternative

As you doubtless know, some folks are maintaining contact by using balconies to interact, sometimes by playing music and singing. A case in point is the daily ceremony on an east-facing balcony in Commodore Cove, the complex of condos on King Street West in front of the pier that used to hold the grain elevator. The usual routine is the playing of “O Canada,” followed by appropriately titled popular songs. Others on the east side of Commodore Cove come to their decks and wave a Canadian flag or raise a glass (or both).



More recently, tenants at the west end of 1066 King Street West (the site of some of our coffee gatherings) have also been going out on their balconies to fly flags, wave, or raise a glass. I went outside this past Saturday to exchange a wave with the lady in the above photo, after I learned that she was a nurse named Nicole Florent. In one of those delightful “small world” situations that happen so often, I worked with Nicole some 30 years ago or more when I was arranging training programs that St. Lawrence College was delivering for staff at KGH.

### **Coping with Prolonged Isolation**



*“Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house.”*



### **Observations from the Front Lines**

I used to spin toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

Still haven't decided where to go for Easter – the Living Room or the Bedroom

Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog, and we laughed a lot.

Hope the weather is good for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.

Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.

**DUE TO MY ISOLATION. I FINISHED 3 BOOKS YESTERDAY. AND BELIEVE ME. THAT'S A LOT OF COLOURING.**

Quarantine has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told 'no' if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.



### **Supply Chain Challenges**

As you have doubtless read/heard, maintaining the supply chain is not easy in today's world. I experienced this on a personal level recently, when discussing with my friend Jerry getting some jars of honey from "Bill and the bees." I told Jerry to get my jar too, drive past 1066 King West and roll my jar slowly toward the front entrance. I would, in turn, roll loonies and toonies toward his vehicle. When he called that a dumb idea, I was stung by the remark, but didn't want to stir up a hornet's nest, so didn't tell him to buzz off. [N.B. I will understanding entirely if some of you now wish to be hived off from the R4 mailing list!]