



St. Catharines Torch Club

September 2013 Newsletter

Dr. Thilagavathi (Tilly) Chandulal

Next Meeting

- Wednesday Sept. 11, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** buffet featuring roast beef and chicken with all the trimmings.
- Cost: \$25. (Note change.)
- **Speaker :** Dr. Thilagavathi (Tilly) Chandulal.
- **Topic:** From Unequal Castes and Untouchability to a Casteless India.
- Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.
- If you require a special meal, please contact Alexandra Fic or Merle Richards by September 7.
- If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765.

Thilagavathi is the daughter of a Lutheran pastor and graduate of the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India. She learned the art of ministering to both the needy rich and needy poor with equal care. She has her Membership and Fellowship from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, UK. She taught Obstetrics and Gynecology at Vellore and served the poor through Christian Mission hospitals in India.

In the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman, she served women who prefer women gynaecologists and obstetricians, and also pregnant mothers with HIV-AIDS, the "untouchables" of modern society, thus fulfilling her teen-age vision to model Father Damien who served those with leprosy in Molokai, South Pacific. She taught OBGY at the University of Oman for five years.

When she moved to Canada, where her daughter and her family live, she was disappointed at Canada's non-acceptance of her medical degrees and experience. Undeterred, she took her Master of Divinity at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and served new refugees from Sri Lanka, the poorest in Toronto, teaching them health, nutrition and English to help settle down in Canada.

In St. Catharines, she served on the Mayor's Committee for "Community and Race Relations." Then she studied for her masters at Brock University, where she received the "2012 Distinguished Graduate Student Award for MA in philosophy."

From Unequal Castes and Untouchability to a Casteless India

The four-caste system, embedded in the Hindu religion, culture, social law and philosophy, has perpetuated an unequal and unchangeable vertical hierarchy of people for thousands of years. Favoring one small uppermost caste against all the rest in a graded manner and segregating the lowermost to inhumane social and economic conditions, this system has stunted the economic progress of the whole of India, par-

ticularly that of the lower castes. Centuries of philosophical, religious, political and social reforms have failed to uproot caste system based on the belief of divine ordination and punishment. This paper is a balanced plea for a new secular casteless Indian society where all are transparently equal before the democratic government and law.

June 13, 2013 Meeting

Venue: Beacon Harbourside, Jordan

Business Meeting:

Welcome: Dave Sydor, President, who gave appreciation to outgoing President John Northover.

Report on 2014 AGM plan: organizer Ivan Hrabowsky will contact IATC about lowering registration fees for our members, many of whom will be working to make for a successful event at that time.

Speaker

The speaker was introduced by Merle Richards, who had enjoyed several previous talks he had given.

Speaker Bert Murphy summed up the geology of the Niagara Escarpment, the obvious main remnant of ancient Lake Iroquois, as erosional features. The weight of episodic glaciation over the past 15,000 years depressed the land, which has since been rebounding. The Niagara River has changed course over the past 8000 years, once having cut a channel at what is now the village of St. Davids, from Whirlpool Gorge, where thick dolostone (and accumulated ice) retarded, for a time, the cutting of a more direct channel into what is now Lake Ontario.

Alternating layers of dolostone, shale, sandstone, slate, gravel etc. were laid down over time, but after the glaciers retreated, these layers wore down at different rates. In the most resistant dolostone-surfaced areas, the surface cracks might offer only slow percolation of water, to allow the breaking off of large blocks.

As the Niagara Falls moves upstream over time, the hard layers will break into a series of rapids, with the disappearance of the U. S. part of the current falls, in ~15,000 years. The talus (broken stone) at the base of the Falls is now known to retard its upstream movement, after several unsuccessful engineering attempts were made to retard such unwanted changes.

As for the part of the plain west of the escarpment, in Wainfleet, many areas of sand and gravel indicate ancient beaches. Several flint sites were used by Neutral Indians groups, before their absorption by the Five Nations (Iroquois). Much of Wainfleet is marshy, due to the slow drainage.

The speaker was thanked by Abraham Rempel.

Adjournment: 2:30 p.m.

Attendance: 31

Report by: Peter Skelton, June 13

2013	2013 - 14 Program	2014
11 Sep Wed. <i>The Caste System in India.</i> Tilly Chandulal.	8 Jan Wed. <i>Inuit Art Collection.</i> Doreen Peever.	
10 Oct Thurs. <i>Israel: Then and Now.</i> Brenda Gibson.	13 Feb Thurs. <i>A Brief History of Modern Poland.</i> Irena Michalska	
15 Oct Tues. <i>Creation & Consequences of Religion.</i> John Northover. (at the Buffalo Club)	12 Mar Wed <i>Health Care in the USA and Cuba.</i> David Dean, MD. (Buffalo Torch Club).	
13 Nov Wed. <i>The Other Literacies: Do they Matter?</i> Joseph Engemann.	10 Apr Thurs. <i>1947 - Partition of India.</i> Alexandra Fic.	
12 Dec Thurs. <i>Social.</i>	14 May Wed. <i>Current Challenges for Education.</i> Susan Drake.	
	19-22 June Thurs.- Sun. IATC Convention, Brock University	

2013 - 14 Executive

David Sydor, M.A.....President
 John Northover, Ph.D.....Immediate Past President
 Anne Elliott, Ed.D.....Vice President
 Tilly Chandulal, M.D, M.Div., M.A...Secretary
 Alan Veale, MCP.....Treasurer
 David Warren, B.A.....Membership
 Roy Blake, B.A, B.A.Sc., M.Ed.....Newsletter, Webmaster
 Merle Richards, Ph.D.....Hospitality
 Alexandra Fic, M.A.....Phone Co-ordinator,
 Media, Hospitality.

News

2014 IATC Convention

The St. Catharines Torch Club will host the 2014 IATC Convention at Brock University. Our convention committee is hard at work finalizing the details. More infor-

mation will be available soon at the Convention website. You can get to it from the St. Catharines Torch website at <http://vaxxine.com/torch>, or go directly to <http://iatc2014convention.webs.com/>

Newsletter and Website

- Items for the newsletter can be sent to Roy Blake at roy.blake@gmail.com
- The St. Catharines Torch Club website is at <http://vaxxine.com/torch>. Updates for the website can also be sent to Roy Blake.

Meal Price Increase

- Rising costs have forced an increase in the charge for meals.
- The cost will now be \$25 for both members and guests.

Membership Dues

- Dues remain at \$80 per year and are due at the September Meeting.