



# St. Catharines Torch Club

## February 2014 Newsletter

### Brenda Gibson: Israel: Then and Now

Brenda was born in London, England, where she grew up during the second world war, spending much of the time in air raid shelters. On leaving school, she worked for her father, a chartered accountant. Deciding accountancy was not for her, she went to work at Imperial College and later with the Air Registration Board, which governs civil aviation in Britain.

In 1955 Brenda went to Israel, where she lived on a kibbutz, learning Hebrew and working part-time, following which she went to work at the Weizmann Institute of Science. While there, she met and married Martin and they returned to England, settling in Manchester, where Brenda worked for the City Welfare Services Department.

After emigrating to Canada, Brenda worked with Family and Childrens' Services and studied part-time at Brock University, graduating with a B. A. (Psychology and Sociology), and a B. Ed. (Teaching English as Second Language). She then worked as a teaching assistant, and with the Literacy Council as a tutor. She also became a strong advocate for anti-tobacco legislation, helping to achieve the first non-smoking bylaw in Ontario, and later at the regional level, culminating in Province-wide legislation. She has also published widely as a freelance writer in a variety of journals including the Canadian Medical Association Journal and Family Practice.

Her talk relates her experiences living in Israel for several years and her views on the current situation there.

### Next Meeting

- Thursday Feb. 13, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** tossed salad with house dressing, chicken with tomato, feta and basil jus, pasta, fresh vegetables, strawberry and chocolate mousse.
- Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** Brenda Gibson.
- **Topic: Israel: Then and Now**
- Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.
- If you require a special meal, please contact Alexandra Fic or Merle Richards.
- If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765.

## January 8, 2014 Meeting

**Attendance:** 31

**Meeting called to order** by Dave Sydor

**Toast and Grace:** Anne Elliott

### **Business Notes:**

1) John Northover made an appeal for volunteers willing to serve on next year's executive. He reminded us that the club's success depends upon willing volunteers. Such positions are not major commitments when we all share.

2) Ivan Hrabowsky also asked for volunteers willing to help with the upcoming convention (June 19-22) that we are hosting. He shared that the speakers will be:

Keith Jamieson: The Impact of the War of 1812 on Six Nations Native Peoples

Wes Turner: Local Impact of the War of 1812

Roger Brook: The Canadian Health Care System (information for our American guests)

Charles Burton: The Future of China

There will be a number of local tours and good guides are needed.

Payment of fee can be made April 1, 2014 (\$350 US)

**Speaker:** Doreen Peever: Inuit Art Collection

**Introducer of Speaker:** Tilly Chandulal

### **Summary of Presentation:**

The talk was appropriately titled "*From Our Hands to Yours*".

Doreen's love of Inuit art work was triggered 57 years ago when Janis Houston, a great friend, brought her the first piece of her collection as a gift. At that time, carvings cost about \$15.00 and now she has had valuations of \$25,000 for the same piece. Her first piece was also carved by a man who became one of Canada's best and most renowned northern artists.

Doreen believes that sculptures are meant to be handled so appreciation of their beauty is both visual and tactile for her. Her collection of 16 sculptures reflects her particular preference for the carvings from Cape Dorset. She also has eight different carvings and drawing of Sedna figures which reflect an Inuit myth. Sedna was a young Inuit girl who was with her father in a kayak during a storm. During the violence of the storm, he threw her overboard and as she clung to the side of the kayak he cut off her fingers. She has evolved in Inuit mythology as the Goddess for Good Hunting.

Doreen lovingly shared each of the pieces she chose to bring, pointing out their beauty and how she came to possess each one. Her interest in the development of this art form and her passion for her collection was evident throughout. We marvelled at the way this art form has developed and become appreciated by the art world as a symbol of Canada's vibrant northern peoples.

Robert Cooper used his extensive and impressive photographic skills to display the collection for us on the screen so we could appreciate the unique beauty created by a variety of artists. At the conclusion of the talk and discussion, we were able to view the pieces more closely and touch them ourselves.

## News

We received a letter from Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold:

### Community Care

12 North Street, P.O. Box 575  
St. Catharines, Ontario  
L2R 6W8

phone: (905) 685.1349

fax: (905) 685.3938

web: [communitycaresca.ca](http://communitycaresca.ca)

helping those in need since 1919  
**community  
care**  
of St. Catharines & Thorold

January 7, 2014

Ms. Doreen Peever & Friends  
Torch Club

St. Catharines ON

Dear Ms. Peever & Friends,

The New Year breathes hope for new life, new beginnings and new adventures. All of us at Community Care were overjoyed with the love & support we received over the holiday season. Your donation of 71 pounds of food was critical to the delivery of our "Christmas Program". With your help we were able to assist the 3,200 families that registered with us for Christmas. During the same time frame, we were also able to assist 1,850 individuals & families that sought food security and an additional 1,250 who accessed our shelter security program. It was a busy place! Thank you for giving us the ability to meet their needs.

Perhaps, one of our grateful recipients said it best:

*"If words were enough to show the gratitude and joy that your kindness has given us this season, I know that it's warmth would be felt even on the coldest day in winter. The tears I shed writing to you are not those of pain and suffering but of joy, a joy you have made possible."*

Thank you for bringing joy, and thank you for bringing hope... hope for a better tomorrow where the road to independence is within everyone's grasp.

We wish you the best for "2014" – may it be filled with good health & many blessings!

Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

Goran Persson

Sincerely,

Betty Lou Souter  
Chief Executive Officer

## 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 is available 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](mailto: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.
-