



St. Catharines Torch Club

June 2014 Newsletter

IATC 2014 Convention

.Our St. Catharines Torch Club is privileged to be hosting the 2014 Convention of the International Association of Torch Clubs, of which there are about 66 in the United States. In 2001, our club hosted a very successful convention at White Oaks. This time it will be at Brock University. We are expecting to receive about 100 delegates, members and guests from many of the states in the Union. For some of them, coming to Canada will be a new experience, so we want to welcome them and make it a special and memorable occasion for them. Hopefully they will want to return. Meeting our American guests will also be an enjoyable experience for us. We might have to help them understand how big a litre is and that after the snow melts, we actually grow peaches and grapes. And we make world-class wines. We can be rightfully proud of our many achievements, both old and new.

We hope that you will join us for this convention that starts on Thursday afternoon June 19th at 2:30 and finishes on Sunday morning the 22nd at 10:30. The program has been designed to be interesting for you as well as our American friends. It's a mix of IATC business sessions, interesting papers and tours on British double-decker buses, and three dinners. On Thursday evening we are going to see *Oh Canada Eh!* in Niagara Falls for a home-style dinner and a Canadian stage show. On Friday and Saturday mornings there will be a paper and business meetings followed by lunch and tours. On Friday and Saturday evenings we will attend dinners in the Guernsey Market at Brock University. On Sunday morning, Wes Turner, one of our members, will tell us some lesser known aspects of the War of 1812. Saturday evening is special with the presentation of the Paxton lecture. The topic and speaker's identity are rigorously selected and kept secret until the presentation. The convention closes on Sunday morning with a Unitarian service provided by Doreen Peever. More details of the program are on page 4 of this newsletter..

IATC 2014 Convention

- Thursday June 19 till Sunday June 22.
- Brock University, St. Catharines.
- 3 Dinners
- 5 Papers including the Paxton lecture
- Oh Canada Eh
- Tours
- Torch business meetings.
- Special rates for St. Catharines Torch Members and Guests.
- See article this page.
- Complete schedule on page 4.
- Registration form with this email as a separate attachment..

The cost of attending the full convention for St Catharines Torch Club members is only Cdn\$250, because our club will subsidize it with funds remaining from the 2001 convention. If you would like to attend only the special Saturday program, this is possible for only Cdn\$100 because it is also subsidized by our club. Please fill out one copy of the attached registration form for each person and send it with your check made out

to IATC 2014 Convention, to John Northover as soon as possible, because we will then contact you regarding your choice of tours and meal preferences. John will be pleased to answer any of your queries and can be reached at 905-934-7487 or ignorth@vaxxine.com Thank you for your interest, and please join us to help us promote St. Catharines to our American friends.

May 14th Meeting

Attendance: 31 members, 4 guests.

Meeting called to order: President Dave Sydor.

Doreen Peever reported her visits and conversations with some absent members: Norman Harding, Yolanda Varga-Davis, Stuart Glass, Ellen Hoover and Jim Housley. She has prepared cards to be delivered to them after being signed by those in attendance.

Grace and Toast: Penny Blake led the singing of Grace to the tune of Edelweiss, and Robert Cooper gave the toast.

Business Notes: Alan Veale reported that the financial situation is good with a bank balance of \$8000. John Northover thanked the past executive committee for their work and especially Alexandra with her phone captains, Hilde, Doreen, Alan Veale, Jane and Leslie.

John Northover presented the following nominees for the Executive for 2014-15: Past President Dave Sydor, President Anne Elliott, Vice President Michael Manley-Casimir, Secretary Abraham Rempel,

Treasurer Alan Veale, Membership David Warren, Newsletter and Website Roy Blake, Phone Captain Co-ordinator Julia Frankel, Hospitality Julia Frankel, Doreen Peever and Dale Shipley. On a motion by John Tordiff and Alan Wheeler, the nominees were unanimously elected.

John Northover, Treasurer for the Convention, made the following motion: 'Canadians to register for C\$250 for full convention registration with an extra C\$100 coming from the club funds, and C\$100 for Saturday with an extra C\$50 coming from the club. Principal helpers with the convention will pay a further reduced registration. Total club subsidy requested in range of \$2,000 - \$4,000.' Seconded by Alan Wheeler, the motion was accepted.

Introduction of Speaker: Dale Shipley

Speaker: Dr. Susan Drake: Current Challenges for Education

Susan has taught in high school and at Brock University for many years. She has also been involved in research on curriculum development, Susan clearly brought out her passion for connecting theory and practice of teaching and engaging students in learning. She discussed the challenges for education in the 21st century as new technologies emerge. Education is changing around the world as the old order changes into a new order. She aptly illustrated this with the picture of a dying cabbage putting out new leaves. In the present age of accountability, we have moved away from passive learning from a teacher who is the expert, to learning from evidence-based education done by the student's computer research. The teacher helps by assessing the student's achievement according to the Ministry's curriculum.

New learning is enquiry-driven, technology-embedded and connected to deep proficiency related to real life. Education in this manner is globally connected with students in distant countries. The student is thoroughly engaged in learning what is expected by the curriculum. Instead of memorizing basic ideas, the student learns big

ideas and connects them with interdisciplinary concepts, generalizations and specific principles. Governments around the world are evaluating these modern teaching skills.

In the 21st century exemplary teachers strive to harness modern technology to teach the basics as well as deep ideas to solve complex "wicked problems" such as poverty. In this experimental approach to learning, education is challenged to keep abreast of and utilize technology.

Dave Sydor moderated questions from the floor, which expressed amazement at the progress of technology and doubts about the assessment of knowledge gained by the student. There was also the fear that simple math and correct spelling might disappear. We are amidst change that is a process, where virtual schooling is a reality

Thanks to Speaker: Alan Wheeler

Minutes: Thilagavathi Chandulal, Secretary, edited by John Northover.

2014/15 Directory

John Northover is preparing the 2014/15 Member Directory. Please send any changes of address, phone number or email address to him at jgnorth@vaxxine.com.

IATC Convention 19-22 June 2014

Thursday	2:30 Torch Officers Exchange. Academic South Room 203 (AS203)	
	4:00 Welcome by local officials.	AS 203
	4:30 IATC welcome, State of Torch.	AS 203
	5:30 Buses depart for Oh Canada Eh! Via Falls	Lowenberger
	11:00 Buses return from Niagara Falls to	Lowenberger
Friday	8:00 Membership workshop	AS 203
	10:00 Coffee break,	AS 203 hallway.
	10:15 Torch paper 1 by Keith Jamieson, 'The 1812 War Legacy. A First Nations' Perspective.'	AS 203
	11:15 Business meeting,	AS 203
	12:30 Convention lunch,	Guernsey Market
	1:30 Buses depart for tours from	Lowenberger
	5:30-6:00 Free time at	Lowenberger.
	6:00 Reception with cash bar	Guernsey Market,
	7:00 Dinner	Guernsey Market
	8:00 Torch paper 2 by Dr. Roger Brook, presented by Dr. Ivan Hrabowsky 'Canada's Health System'	Guernsey Market
	9:00 IATC awards.	Guernsey Market
	9:30 Social time with cash bar.	Guernsey Market
Saturday	8:15 Torch Foundation open meeting	AS 203
	9:00 Torch Magazine and Editor	AS 203
	10:00 Coffee Break	AS 203 hallway.
	10:15 Torch Paper 3, given by Dr. Charles Burton 'China's Political System and the Future of Democracy'	AS 203
	11:15 IATC Business meeting with voting.	AS 203
	12:15 Convention lunch	Guernsey Market.
	1:30 Buses depart for tours from	Lowenberger
	5:30 Free time at	Lowenberger
	6:00 Reception with cash bar	Guernsey Market.
	7:00 Banquet and awards,	Guernsey Market.
	8:00 Paxton paper.	Guernsey Market
	9:00 Social time with cash bar.	
Sunday	8:00 Unitarian Service Doreen Peever	AS 203.
	8:30 Torch Paper 4 Dr.Wesley Turner '1812-1814 War of Aggression or Defence?	AS203
	9:45-10:30 Convention Closing Ceremony.	AS203

Please note that the sequence of papers may change before the Convention starts.