



St. Catharines Torch Club

September 2014 Newsletter

Dr. Edgar Peer

Next Meeting

- Wednesday Sept. 10, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** Garden salad, filet of sole with lemon, rice pilaf, fresh vegetable medley, ice cream tartufo, coffee or tea.
- Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Edgar Peer.
- **Topic:** Lessons Learned From the History of Torch.
- Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.
- If you require a special meal, please contact Doreen Peever or Julia Frankel.
- If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765.

Edgar Peer was born Jan 16, 1922 and attended public school in Woodstock, Ontario, followed by high school in Galt (now Cambridge). He attended University of Toronto during the war years, graduating in Medicine in 1946.

Edgar married Aileen Lannin in 1949 and moved to the Niagara Peninsula Sanatorium. He became a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians. He ran a private practice from 1959 to 1976, closing it to look after his wife, who had multiple sclerosis. Aileen died in 1978, leaving Edgar with five children.

Edgar married Marguerite Wallace Franks in 1979. Her health declined after she had a stroke in about 1982.

Edgar was introduced to Torch through the Hamilton club in about 1948. He helped found the St. Catharines club in 1960, with the motto "Homo sum---humani nihil a me alienum puto" freely translated. "I am a human being and nothing in all human experience is beyond my interest", which remains our motto today. He helped start Torch Clubs in Kitchener and Toronto, but both died after a few years. He became a Torch director in 1964, and was president from 1967-78. He delivered a paper at the IATC convention in Windsor entitled "The Professional Man in today's society."

Edgar served on the St.Catharines Board of Education, 1965-66, and has been active with St.Catharines Community Concerts, Knox Presbyterian Church and Choir, and the Toronto Symphony.

Lessons Learned From the History of Torch

Edgar Peer has been a member of Torch for 66 years, with experience in more than one local club, and with some experience at the central level. In that time he has surely learned a few things about the survival and

failure of Torch Clubs. So how does any club avoid failure? He will help us understand the reasons for failure, and ways to achieve success.

IATC Convention June 19-22

This year, the St. Catharines Torch Club had the honour of presenting the annual IATC convention, held June 19 to 22 at Brock University. The convention was well attended, with 22 of our own local members and guests joining 92 from the U.S. Most Torch clubs were represented, with attendees from as far away as Nebraska. By all accounts the convention was a great success.

Convention participants had the opportunity to hear five papers, including two on the War of 1812, one on Chinese politics, and one on the Canadian medical system. The final paper was of course the Paxton paper, kept secret until the last minute. Henry Ticknor spoke on assisted suicide, a topic

that certainly led to a lively discussion.

In addition to listening to the presentation of papers, attendees had the opportunity to take several excursions, including tours to Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Welland Canal, the Niagara Wine Region, and Oh Canada Eh. There were several banquets and a Unitarian service on Sunday, conducted by our member Doreen Peever.

Special thanks are due to the convention committee: Ivan Hrabowsky, Abraham Rempel, John Northover, Robert Cooper, John Tordiff, Doreen Peever and Alan Wheeler, for an incredible amount of hard work.

Membership Dues Reduced!

Membership dues have been reduced to \$50 per year. Payment is due at the September meeting.

2014	2014 - 15 Program	2015
10 Sep Wed. <i>Lessons Learned from the History of Torch.</i> Edgar Peer.	8 Jan Thurs. <i>WW II: From My Point of View.</i> Leslie Thorburn.	
9 Oct Thurs. <i>Evolution and "I".</i> Abraham Rempel.	11 Feb Wed. <i>A Selection of Songs and the Stories Behind Them.</i> Dave Sydor.	
14 Oct Tues. <i>Significant Songs of the 20th Century.</i> Dave Sydor. (at the Buffalo Club)	12 Mar Thurs. <i>'Honor Diaries': A Documentary.</i> Doreen Peever.	
12 Nov Wed. <i>Holocaust: A Personal Perspective.</i> Julia Frankel	8 Apr. Wed. <i>Volunteering Abroad as Soft Power.</i> Reed Taylor (Buffalo Club).	
12 Dec Thurs. <i>Social.</i>	14 May Thurs. <i>How Natural Dyes Colour History.</i> Peter McMain.	
	10 June Thurs. <i>Social.</i>	

2014 - 15 Executive

Anne Elliott, Ed D.....	President
Dave Sydor, MA	Past President
Michael Manley-Casimir, Ph D.....	Vice President
Abraham Rempel, B.A.....	Secretary
Alan Veale, MCP.....	Treasurer
David Warren, BA.....	Membership
Roy Blake, BA, B.A.Sc, MEd.....	Newsletter, Webmaster
Julia Frankel, Ph.D.....	Phone Co-ord, Hospitality
Doreen Peever.....	Hospitality