



# St. Catharines Torch Club

## February 2015 Newsletter

### Dave Sydor

Dave Sydor worked for several years as an embalmer and changed careers to become a teacher. He taught for 35 years in Niagara, and after teaching he moved on to become a vice principal and then a principal. He worked for several years as Supervisor of Curriculum with responsibilities from Junior Kindergarten to graduation. Since retirement from the school board he has worked part-time at Brock, teaching primary/junior language with the Faculty of Education. He now works part time with international students. An interest in music has taken him to Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans for many years.

### A Selection of Songs and the Stories Behind Them

Many popular songs have a greater interest if one interprets some of the meaning of lyrics and symbols in them or understands what motivated the writer of the song. Other songs are of significance because of the historical context or the political impact. The February Torch presentation will focus on several songs, each of which has a story connected to it. One song was scribbled at a man's wedding while another came from Africa and led to lengthy legal wrangling over ownership and copyright. Others deal with racism. Some samples of music connected to each story should help to bring the tale to life. These songs may have some potency even if they go back to the 1930s, but the stories behind the songs give them even greater meaning and allow deeper appreciation. The presentation should be light but will still offer a depth of understanding for these pieces of music.

### Next Meeting

- **When:** Wednesday Feb. 11, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- **Where:** Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Menu:** Garden salad, beer batter fish and chips, fresh vegetable medley, English trifle, tea and coffee.
- **Cost:** \$25.
- **Speaker:** Dave Sydor
- **Topic:** A Selection of Songs and the Stories Behind Them
- 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.

## Meeting Jan. 8, 2015

**Date:** January 8, 2015

**Location:** Best Western

**Time:** 12 noon

### **Business Meeting:**

This was our first luncheon meeting and it was quite well attended. We agreed that it was preferable on that particular day as it would have been colder at night and there was a threat of snow (although it did not materialize). The change was discussed and, while some were in favour, the overwhelming number seemed to agree that we wanted to avoid becoming a retirees club and others just liked the evening time slot better (Ivan went so far as to guarantee better weather in February). It was decided that we would return to evening meetings for the rest of the year and give the new executive our ad-

vice/suggestion to hold the January meeting next year at lunch.

There were a number of no-shows at this meeting and it was decided to remind members of the policy concerning attendance (see the note below.)

Leslie Thorburn prepared us for her talk on "World War II from my Perspective" by playing the Swedish national anthem quietly during dinner and supplying a grace in Swedish complete with English translation. John Tordiff introduced her and Alan Veale thanked her — both very articulately.

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**Please Note: Our February Meeting Will Be Back to the Usual Dinner!!!**

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The meeting scheduled for February 11 will be a dinner. As usual, doors open at 6 pm and the meal will be served at 7 pm. It was decided at the January meeting to return to

dinner meetings for the rest of the 2014/15 season. We may try a lunch meeting again next January.

## Attending Torch Meetings

While most members are diligent about reporting to their captains about attendance, a few have been a bit forgetful. Others have indicated attendance and then not arrived. This can cause problems for reporting attendance numbers for meals to the Best Western. We do have a policy that if a person indicates attendance but does not show up, there is a charge for the meal. This practice has not

been implemented recently and the executive is reluctant to do so now. Nevertheless, we would like to remind people that if you have indicated attendance and cannot attend please let either Julia Frankel (905-685-9001) or Doreen Peever (905-641-2050) know anytime up to noon of the day of the meeting. Of course, everyone is sympathetic to unforeseen events.