



St. Catharines Torch Club

May 2015 Newsletter

Peter McMain

Next Meeting

- Thursday May 14, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** Warm rolls and butter, Greek salad, chicken souvlaki kebabs, Greek lemon potatoes, green beans and tomatoes, baklava, tea and coffee.
- Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** Peter McMain
- **Topic:** How Natural Dyes Colour History
- 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.

Peter B. McMain is a native of Scotland, graduating in Medicine from Glasgow University with distinction in Pediatrics. In 1956 he immigrated to Canada. He then moved to the USA to complete his specialty training in Pediatrics at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, where he was awarded the William E. Lower Fellowship Thesis Prize.

After qualifying for an FRCP(C) and FAAP, he settled in St. Catharines, Ontario, and practiced pediatrics for close to forty-five years. During this time he served as Chief of Pediatrics at the St. Catharines General Hospital, Medical Director of the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre, President of the Medical Staff of the Niagara Health System, and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at McMaster University. He has published scientific and clinical papers in medical journals.

He and Mary, his wife of fifty-eight years, have four children and eight grandchildren. Since retirement, he has pursued his hobbies—playing "GO" and performing in a small klezmer and jazz group.

How Natural Dyes Colour History

For millennia Man has been fascinated by light and colour. However it was not until recently that their fundamental nature was elucidated and codified.

The discovery of the aniline dyes in the 19th century led to a plethora of colours for us to choose from. Until then our source was limited to a relatively small number of natural colorants. They have appeared in every culture. Some have had significant historical impact and I will review them in more detail.

April 8, 2015 Meeting

Secretarial notes by Abraham Rempel

Regular Meeting

Date: April 8, 2015

Location: Best Western

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Attendance: 31 including 7 guests

Welcome: Anne Elliott (President)

Congratulations for Abraham Rempel's publication in the Torch Magazine.

Much appreciation for Julia and Doreen's outstanding diplomacy with Best Western.

- our June event will be left to their capable decision as our Hospitality Coordinators.

Profound gratitude for Robert Cooper's striking improvement in our sound system.

Reed Taylor came with Rod Doran and Tom Weber, Andi Reyes also attending.

- "an august group"

Invocation: Alan Veale (Treasurer) - grateful for our country

Toast to the Queen: Alan Veale

Speaker Introduction: Joe Engemann

Dr Reed Taylor is a retired high school English teacher with a doctorate in American Studies. He joined the Buffalo Torch Club in 1981, and served as president for both the local club and Torch International. According to Reed, his most rewarding contribution to Torch was his five years as the Magazine's editor. He has had four papers published in the Magazine. Reed once played the lead role in "The King and I," and has sung in his church choir for fifty-one years.

Volunteering Abroad As Soft Power by Dr. Reed Taylor

In 1969, under the auspices of Operation Crossroads, fourteen college-aged kids made their way to Sierra Leone in western

Africa to lay the physical foundation for a community hospital near the country's remote eastern border. Reed took with him a hand-cranked 8mm camera and a primitive audio recorder. From the results, Reed produced a half-hour film, adding a sound track from his private record collection and his own voiceover. Although now professionally retooled as a CD, the inadequate technology of 1969 only added to the film's endearing allure and heartfelt message. It was played to a hushed audience.

Thanks for the paper: Abraham Rempel (Secretary)

Abraham could thank Reed from his own experience, having been to Zimbabwe three times. Although not having the exposure to squalid accommodation, deficient food and hygiene, intolerable heat and sleepless nights, it was an experience that "lives with you forever." Having met and interacted with the African people on their own turf and daily life, Reed could leave not a "dark Africa," but a people with whom he had shared all the vicissitudes of life, good and bad, and left behind a true bridge of friendship.

Unfortunately our club couldn't fully commiserate with the violent barbarity of the 1991-2011 conflict in Sierra Leone. The hospital was destroyed and many people killed. Nor with the more recent outbreak of Ebola – again in the very region that Reed and his friends had found so profoundly fulfilling. That pain manifestly lives with them forty-six years later.

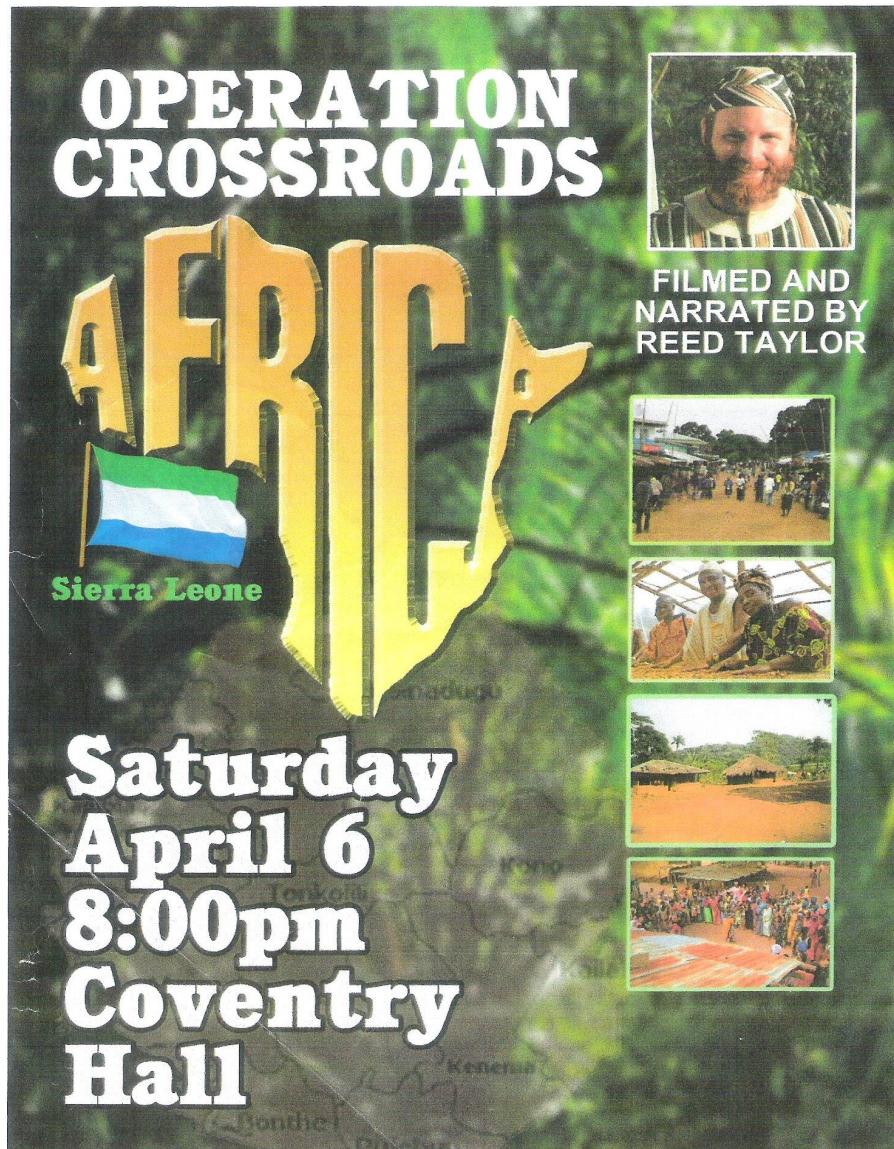
We wish Reed and his Torch colleagues well, and are grateful for our longstanding friendship with the Buffalo Torch Club.

Closing remarks: Anne Elliott

There will be a Spring Trivia Challenge at the Mountainview United Church on May 23. (As a long-time and avid trivia contestant, I propose we form a six-member

Torch St. Catharines team for the occasion. If interested, please call me at 905-682-1970.)

Here's a Flyer for Reed's Film



Newsletter and Website

The St. Catharines Torch Club website is at <http://vaxxine.com/torch>. Updates for the website and items for the news-

letter can be sent to stcatharinestorch@gmail.com