



St. Catharines Torch Club

September 2015 Newsletter

Dr. John Mayer

Next Meeting

- Wednesday Sept. 9, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** Garden salad, filet of sole with lemon, baked potato with sour cream, fresh vegetable medley, ice cream tartufo, coffee or tea.
- Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** Dr. John Mayer.
- **Topic:** Joys of Collecting
- 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.

John was born in Hungary in 1932, weathered the Second World War there; came to Canada in 1946, at the age of thirteen; finished elementary school (and learned English) in Toronto. After high school he studied physiology and biochemistry at the University of Toronto, but after his third year, he switched from that programme to Philosophy, and the University, to McMaster. After his B.A. John did his Master's degree at the University of Rochester, and his Ph.D. at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. On completing his studies, John accepted a teaching position in the Philosophy Department of McMaster, in 1959. In 1965 he was invited to become the founding Chairman of Philosophy at the then new Brock University, where he taught for 32 years.

John developed special interests in Eastern, especially Buddhist philosophy, and spent a sabbatical year in each of India and Japan, to deepen his knowledge. He retired at age 65, and was given the designation of Professor Emeritus.

John married in 1960 and has four adult children and six grandchildren.

Joys of Collecting

John's talk will be about his hobby, collecting ancient coins, especially Roman Imperial ones. He will briefly look into the question of whether amassing and hoarding useless objects is morally degenerate; but he will really explore the joy of collecting and researching ancient items that have a lot of history associated with them.

Things to Think About for the September Meeting

We'll be asking some questions and perhaps leaving you with a survey at the September meeting. Things the executive has been discussing:

- Should we raise the price of dinners in order to maintain and perhaps raise the quality of the food?
- Should we look into alternate venues for regular meetings, other than the Best Western?
- Should we offer family memberships?
- Should we consider raising the dues for next year? The dues were lowered from \$80 to \$50 last year. This causes us to operate at a small deficit.
- How can we attract more members?

Membership Dues are Due!

Membership dues remain at a bargain \$50 for this year. Payment is due at the September meeting.

2015	2015 - 16 Program	2016
9 Sept. Wed. <i>Joys of Collecting</i> John Mayer.	13 Jan. Wed. <i>Spotting Differences</i> Robert Cooper.	
8 Oct. Thurs. <i>Finding an Unknown Cousin</i> Michael Manley-Casimir.	11 Feb. Thurs. <i>The Impact of the IB Program</i> Susan Drake.	
20 Oct. Tues. <i>How Natural Dyes Colour History</i> Peter McMain. (at the Buffalo Club)	9 March Wed. <i>Bullying and Cyberbullying</i> Anne Elliott.	
11 Nov. Wed. <i>My Merchant Navy Life During WWII.</i> Roger Brook.	14 April Thurs. <i>Poetry in Popular Songs</i> Dave Sydor.	
10 Dec. Thurs. <i>Seasonal Social.</i>	11 May Wed. <i>Diseases of Niagara's Fruits</i> John Northover.	
	9 June Thurs. <i>Seasonal/Social.</i>	

2015 - 16 Executive

Anne Elliott.....	Past President
Michael Manley-Casimir	President
Robert Cooper.....	Vice President
Abraham Rempel,.....	Secretary
Alan Veale.....	Treasurer
David Warren.....	Membership
Roy Blake.....	Newsletter, Webmaster
Julia Frankel, Doreen Peever.....	Phone Co-ord., Hospitality
John Northover.....	Directory