



# St. Catharines Torch Club

## October 2015 Newsletter

### Dr. Michael Manley-Casimir

Born and raised in Jersey in the Channel Islands, Mike attended Aldenham School for his secondary education and then the University of Exeter for his B.A. in History and his teacher training. He emigrated to Canada in 1963 and has lived here since then. Teaching initially in Kelowna, B.C., then becoming Vice-Principal and later Principal in Ashcroft led him into an M.Ed. at UBC (1968) and a Ph.D from the University of Chicago (1975). He worked for three years in research organizations in Edmonton and Regina before his appointment to the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. He spent 24 years at SFU as a professor and academic administrator until his appointment as Dean of Education at Brock University in 1998. At SFU he developed a particular interest in the intersection of law and educational policy and enrolled in an LLM program at UBC, completing his thesis during his term as Dean. He held the position of Acting Academic Vice-President at Brock for 18 months during a change in the senior administration and followed that by serving as the Director of the Tecumseh Centre for Aboriginal Research and Education until he retired in 2011.

He is the proud father of four adult children—Naomi, Sean, Rachel and Kirsten—each of whom is married with two children of their own and employed in a variety of professional occupations.

### Finding an Unknown Cousin

Last year Susan Drake was invited to make a keynote presentation to Queensland teachers in Brisbane. After her successful presentation, they travelled to New Zealand on a tour and as well explored a family connection there.

Mike's talk will relate this recent visit to New Zealand with the family connection in the Maori War of 1864 and his discovery of a hitherto unknown cousin there in Auckland.

### Next Meeting

- Thursday Oct. 8, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** Italian Buffet: salad, pasta with tomato basil or alfredo sauce, meat balls and Italian sausage in tomato sauce, tiramisu cake, coffee or tea. Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Michael Manley-Casimir.
- **Topic:** Finding an Unknown Cousin
- 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.

## Minutes of Meeting: Sept. 9, 2015 by Abraham Rempel

Location: Best Western  
Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM  
Attendance: 24

**Welcome:** Michael Manley-Casimir  
(President)

Our new president welcomed us warmly, and got right down to business.

Treasurer Alan Veale reported that we have \$7,620 in the bank, \$2,343 of which came from hosting the Conference. Our total expenses for the 2014-2015 year amounted to \$18,139.

David Warren encouraged us to submit applications for potential new members.

Julia Frankel was still having communication difficulties with Best Western. (Editor's note: these have been resolved and we now have menus and contracts for the 2015-16 year.)

PLEASE NOTE: We are looking for a group trip to Buffalo's Torch and Peter McMain's talk on Oct 20. Once again, Reed Taylor has invited us to his home for a cocktail reception at 4:45 PM – AN EXPERIENCE YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS. Contact me at 905-682-1970 if you're interested.

**Invocation & Toast to the Queen:** Doreen Peever

**Speaker Introduction:** Doreen Peever

Our much appreciated and frequent Torch speaker, John Mayer, was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1935. He married Elizabeth in 1960 and together they had four children. He taught Philosophy at Brock University for 23 years, and was a long-standing Unitarian lay chaplain. The depth of Doreen's introduction was only exceeded by the excel-

lence of John's talk. Few can match John's ability to deliver such a well constructed and coherent talk without notes and under the allotted time frame.

**Joys of Collecting by Dr. John Mayer**

John began his talk by suggesting collectors of anything neither useful nor necessary are either greedy or have a character disorder – and then proceeded to show the opposite. From his personal collection of Roman coins, John took us on a fascinating historical tour featuring the notorious family scandal of 326 AD. In one version, Fausta (Constantine's second wife) accused Crispus (Constantine's son by his first wife) of trying to seduce her. Constantine then had Crispus killed in a fit of rage and Fausta suffocated in her bath. And yet all three of Constantine's sons by Fausta became Roman emperors (Constantine II, Constantius II & Constans). It's a family saga well preserved by the coins John had on display, and Torch members could freely touch a part of Roman history as scandalous as it was.

**Closing Remarks:** Anne Elliott (Past President)

This was Anne's third time to hear one of John's "always interesting" presentations. She agreed, collecting has nothing to do with "greed," but rather with "passion."

Again, may I encourage our members to complete application forms for potential members, and join us in Buffalo on Oct 20. Car pooling will be available. Contact me at 905-682-1970.