



St. Catharines Torch Club

November 2015 Newsletter

Dr. Roger Brook

Roger Brook was born in London, England, in 1924 and was schooled in Maidstone, Kent. He served in the British Merchant Navy during WWII. He graduated in medicine in 1953.

Roger emigrated to an outport village, Heart's Content, Newfoundland, in 1956, and stayed two years. He has lived in St. Catharines since 1958 and has worked here as a medical general practitioner since then. He was president and chief of medical staff at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines from 1976 to 1982. He also served in the Royal Canadian Medical Corps with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment from 1960 to 1982.

Roger was married to Joan Clucus from 1949 to 1986. He married Maureen Nall in 1990 ; she died in 2003. He has three children, two stepchildren, and eight grandchildren.

His hobbies are work (medicine), travelling, theatre, opera and cooking.

My Merchant Navy Life During WWII

The talk will consist of reminiscences of Roger's experiences in the wartime British Merchant Navy, Feb. 1941 to July 1947. He started as a cadet, and finished as a second officer, on ships of the Blue Funnel line.

Next Meeting

- **When:** Wednesday Nov. 11, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- **Where:** Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Menu:** Macedonian salad, consommé, roast beef au jus, herb roasted potatoes, vegetable medley, apple crumble pie, coffee and tea.
- **Cost:** \$25.
- **Speaker :** Dr. Roger Brook
- **Topic:** My Merchant Navy Life During WWII
- Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.
- If you require a special meal, please contact Julia Frankel or Doreen Peever.
- If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765.

October 8, 2015 Meeting

Attendance: 25

Welcome: Michael Manley-Casimir

Invocation: Doreen Peever

Toast to the Queen: Robert Cooper

Business: Michael Manley-Casimir
There will be a non-perishable food drive on Nov 11. Also a "thank you" collection for the serving staff. (Editor's note: because the seasonal social will be at the Best Western we will take up the collections in December.) Tickets for the Seasonal Social will be available for purchase.

Speaker Introduction: Anne Elliott (Past President)
Michael Manley-Casimir was born in 1939 in the Jersey Islands and came to Canada in 1963. He taught at Simon Fraser University for 24 years before becoming Dean of Education at Brock University in 1998, retiring in 2011. He and Susan Drake have four children and eight grandchildren.

Finding an Unknown Cousin by Michael Manley-Casimir

Michael (Mike) has an interesting heritage attested to by his name. His mother's maiden name was Stella Manley and his father's Edward Casimir. A few years ago, Mike and Susan went to New Zealand as tourists knowing there was a family connection. Mike's great-grandfather, M.G.N. Manley, had been assistant surgeon at the battle of Gate Pa in 1864, for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Later he became New Zealand's Surgeon General.

Little did Mike know that he had an unknown cousin who could also claim M.G.N. Manley

as her great-grandfather. M.G.N. had a grandson who, defying convention, married the daughter of a Maori princess. Their daughter is Mike's long-lost cousin. While visiting Torango, a librarian there made the connection, and Mike was able to contact Moana Manley. Then 80 years old, Moana had been a champion swimmer and also Miss New Zealand. By good fortune, Mike and Susan were able to visit her that very evening!

Closing Remarks: Robert Cooper
Our "Coop" ably expressed his appreciation for this delving into a family's past and the inevitable stories involved. No doubt Coop's appreciation has been duly reinforced by the boy he used to baby sit now becoming Canada's latest Prime Minister.

Footnote: Peter McMain, Michael Manley-Casimir, Joe Engemann and Abraham Rempel attended the Buffalo Torch evening for Peter's talk, "How Natural Dyes Colour History." The reception in Reed Taylor's home, our rapport with the club's members, and Peter's talk were non-stop pleasures. The Buffalo/St Catharines relationship has been reinforced once again with gratitude.

Minutes: Abraham Rempel

Preview: Seasonal Social Dec. 10

Our December Social will consist of dinner at our usual location, the Best Western in St. Catharines, followed by entertainment.

Dinner: Rock Cornish Game Hen with all the trimmings.

Entertainment: Frank Krahm at the keyboard.

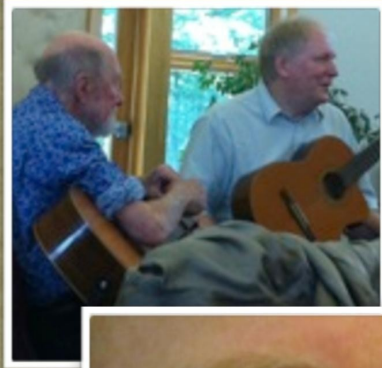
Price: \$25, payable in advance. Tickets will be available at the November meeting.

Also: Please bring money for a seasonal gift to the Best Western staff, and please bring a non-perishable food item for donation.

Financial Report of the 2014 IATC Convention by John Northover

The 2014 IATC convention held at Brock University attracted about 123 attendees. Twenty-three of them were our club members who received subsidized registration fees which cost our club \$3,150. A net profit of Cdn\$4,500.93 was realized and shared, with US\$1,500 being sent to IATC and an equivalent amount of Cdn\$2,343 being returned to our club. The subsidy was made possible from a very successful IATC convention in 2001. However, the 2014 convention resulted in a loss of Cdn\$807.

<u>Convention</u>	Income:	Cost	Profit
US attendees	31,465.61		
Club members	4,200.00		
Club subsidy	3,150.00		
Total	38,815.61	32,639.15	6,176.46
<u>Accomm./breakfast:</u>	14,771.19	16,446.72	-1,675.53
Convention net profit	Cdn\$4,500.93		



A PETE
SEEGER
SONGFEST
singer-songwriter
Jim Scott
remembers Pete

7:30 PM Saturday Nov 28

Unitarian Congregation of Niagara
223 Church St. St. Catharines ON

Suggested donation: \$15

Info: 905-687-8433 or www.unitarian-stcatharines.org

Jim Scott collaborated on many projects with the folk legend and leads a celebration of Pete's and his own songs of earth, justice and peace. A prolific composer in his own right and former guitarist with the Paul Winter Consort, Jim created the "Earth and Spirit Songbook" and his songs are in the UU Hymnbooks. Jim's guitar skill and infectious manner brought Pete to call him "some kind of a magician."

www.JimScottMusic.com

