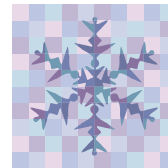




St. Catharines Torch Club

December 2015 Newsletter



Next Meeting: Seasonal Social

- **When:** Thursday Dec. 10, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- **Where:** Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Menu:** Rock Cornish Game Hen with all the trimmings.
- **Cost:** \$25.
- **Entertainment:** Frank Krahn at the keyboard.
- Please purchase tickets from Alan Veale by Dec. 1.
- 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.

Frank Krahn

For more than 15 years, Frank has provided professional piano entertainment for weddings, cocktail receptions, dining and corporate events. His wide repertoire includes contemporary favourites, jazz, blues, boogie, ragtime, Cajun, Latin, funk, rock, movie themes, and Broadway musicals.

A Special Request

For the December social, please bring non-perishable food items for donation to Community Care, on behalf of the Torch Club. Also, if you missed the November meeting, you can still contribute to the holiday gratuity for the servers at the December social.

Thank you.

Please Note

Tickets for this event must be purchased in advance. If you don't already have them, please contact Alan Veale by Dec. 1 at 905-688-5232 or javeale@cogeco.ca.

Anyone who has prepaid but is unable to attend can get a refund, provided they let Alan Veale know, no later than Monday morning, Dec. 7. After that, no refunds will be possible as the hotel will already have received our final number of attendees.

November 11, 2015 Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2015.

Attendance numbers: 32 and 3 guests

Welcome: Michael Manley-Casimir (President)

Michael recounted Francis Moul's (Lincoln, Nebraska) proposal for us to form a sister-club in Hamilton. While there was definite interest in the idea, Anne Elliott quickly responded with, "If we have energy to expend, we're better off concentrating on revitalizing our club." Thanks Anne. How very insightful!

Leslie Thorburn expressed how deeply touched she was by our club's support during her recent surgery.

Invocation and Toast to the Queen: Robert Cooper (Vice-President).

Speaker Introduction: Robert Cooper (Vice-President).

My Merchant Navy Life by Roger Brook: Roger began on a somber note: At least one hundred million perished during World War II. The world's population at the time was only two billion. He then led our club in a minute of silence in keeping with the date (November 11) and his topic.

Roger enlisted in the merchant marine at age 16 and served from Feb. 1941 to July 1947, rising to the position of second mate. Happily, Roger experienced little combat although many in the merchant marine did. He visited ports around the world: Liverpool, Cape Town, Melbourne, New York and Singapore, from Greenland to New Zealand. Along the way he learned Pidjin, saw Mae West's last performance, encountered the very heavy waves of the Mediterranean, and attended a weekend party on Long Island. Roger was most grateful for the legacy of Alfred Holt and his company of merchant ships, the Blue Funnel Line. A good report from Holt made it possible for him to enrol in medical school—fully paid for.

Thanks to the Speaker: Michael Manley-Casimir.

Roger's wartime experience was greatly appreciated. On a personal note, his health has much improved. Thanks Roger.

Next Meeting: Christmas Social, Thursday, December 10, 2015.

Minutes: Abraham Rempel.

