



# St. Catharines Torch Club

## January 2016 Newsletter

### Robert Cooper

Robert began his photography career at the Niagara Falls Review in 1967, working after school in the darkroom to pay for small aircraft flying hours after obtaining his private pilot's licence through an Air Cadet Flying Scholarship the year before.

Photography and flying became his focus. To further his photojournalism interests he took a position with the Sault Star in Sault Saint Marie in 1970 a photographer.

After a year with the Sault Star he moved to Ottawa to work for Canadian Press (CP), again as a photographer, and after 8 years with CP he was hired by the Prime Minister's Press Office as the first-ever personal photographer to a Canadian Prime Minister.

He shadowed Prime Minister Trudeau for 5 years from late 1979 to Trudeau's retirement in June of 1984. He traveled with Trudeau to over 70 countries and across Canada many times. Took photos of family events, photos for Christmas cards and much more.

Post Trudeau he was Prime Minister elect John Turner's photographer, and Prime Minister Mulroney's photographer for five minutes.

After the fall election in 1984 he headed to the British Virgin Islands where he spent five years sailing before returning to Canada to pursue other activities.

In 2002 he founded the AD/HD Foundation of Canada and returned to the Niagara Region in 2005 to be close to his aging parents.

### Spotting Differences

Do you believe humans are more observant than other species?  
Do human individuals in a room observe the same room?  
Is observation a product of conditioning or of physical presentation?  
At what point do we stop observing?  
Is observation an inherited ability?  
The discussion begins.

### Next Meeting

- Wednesday Jan. 13, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** Salad, chicken pieces, roast potatoes, fresh vegetable medley, assorted pastries, tea and coffee.
- Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** Robert Cooper.
- **Topic:** Spotting Differences.
- 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.

## Meeting: Dec. 10, 2015. Notes by Abraham Rempel

Location: Best Western

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

As the club's secretary, I was too busy enjoying our seasonal event to bother with note-taking. Nor did I even think about it.

There must have been over thirty attendees at the Best Western on December 10. The meal featuring Cornish hen seemed to be enjoyed by all, and we vegetarians were equally pleased with the food. The piano player, Frank Krahn, exceeded his already well-established reputation from Leslie Thorburn's 90th birthday party. And he'll be back again for free! I believe it was Anne Elliott who did the prayer/mediation which felt particularly moving.

We had four couples at our table: Roy & Penny Blake, John & Debbie Tordiff, David & Lynne Warren and Abraham & Barbara Rempel. What struck me about our conversation was how well everyone equally had something to say. It's the club trademark that we all like to talk, but we can listen equally well.

Quite a load of food items were gathered for Community Care, and our Torch gave what I can safely assume was a generous tip for the servers. They have done very well for us during the last year.

I had a nice long talk with Ivan Hrabowsky, who was sporting a new look for the occasion. He's been undergoing chemo treatments if you're wondering. He's a marvelous man and his morale is as good as always. We wish him well.

I guess Best Western was a last resort for our seasonal event since the other options were unworkable for one reason or another. But no one seemed disappointed. We can once again thank our Hospitality team for another successful event. That means Julia Frankel, Doreen Peever, Jane Tymofie and others. Thanks ladies. You did well.

We've got a good club! Thanks all.