



St. Catharines Torch Club

March 2016 Newsletter

Anne Elliott

Anne Elliott started her teaching career at age 19 in Regent Park in Toronto in the early sixties. She spent five years there, followed by five more years teaching in Peterborough. Upon moving to St. Catharines, she began teaching part-time at Brock University, where she studied simultaneously for a Master of Education degree. After completing her Masters and while continuing to teach at Brock, she studied for a doctorate at OISE at the University of Toronto. She became adept at balancing a teaching agenda, family life and her growing career at Brock.

Upon completion of her Ph.D, she secured a tenure-stream position at Brock, which lasted until her retirement in 2009. She retired from the university after a term as Chair of the Teacher Education Department.

During her time at Brock, she pursued a large number of research topics related to her fields of interest, which included: literacy, with a focus on early literacy; critical thinking; collaboration; media literacy; children's literature; and best classroom practices.

Bullying and Cyber-bullying

Anne's talk will focus on bullying in childhood, in the workplace, and among seniors. She will also focus on cyber-bullying and its unique power to be pervasive and destructive. Attention will be paid to the bully, the bullied and bystanders, and the roles each plays in this destructive behaviour.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday March 9, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** Garden salad, stuffed peppers with turkey and rice, vegetable medley, parsley baked potatoes, panna cotta, tea and coffee.
- Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** Anne Elliott.
- **Topic:** Bullying and Cyber-bullying.
- 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: Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016. Minutes by Alan Veale

Location: Best Western
Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM
Attendance: 27

Grace and Toast

Robert Cooper proposed thirty seconds of silence for our personal graces, followed by a toast to the Queen and Canada.

Introduction of New Member

A new member, Dan Madar, was introduced by Alan Veale and welcomed by the group. Alan has known Dan for many years.

Dan is a Brock professor emeritus in International Affairs. He has a B.A. from San Francisco State University, and M.A. and Ph.D degrees from the University of Toronto (1974.) His book on Canadian public affairs was short-listed for the 2000/2001 Donner Prize.

Presentations by Robert Cooper

Our speaker, Robert "Coop" Cooper, gave two presentations. The first was a "special performance" to show support for his friend Ivan, who is having cancer treatments. Coop invited in a woman who proceeded to lay a sheet over the carpet and instruct Coop to

move his chair and himself over the sheet. She produced hair clippers and attacked his long grey locks. Coop was left clean-shaven from the neck up.

The main presentation concerned left-handedness and our social indifference or opposition. He noted that about 10 per cent of the population is left-handed and, on request, three of our audience revealed that they were left-handed.

Our tools and utensils are designed for the convenience of the right-handed. Examples of an electric drill, electric saw, screwdriver, bread knife (and loaf), and scissors were produced for testing. The awkwardness for lefties was obvious.

Coop described his personal experiences growing up with both ADHD and left-handedness. Too many people attempted to correct these traits with too much advice or punishment. Both approaches are now recognized as harmful.

Thanks to Speaker

President Michael Manley-Casimir thanked the speaker.