



St. Catharines Torch Club

May 2016 Newsletter

John Northover

Next Meeting

- Wednesday May 11, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** Warm rolls and butter, Greek salad, chicken souvlaki kebabs, Greek lemon potatoes, green beans and tomatoes, baklava, tea and coffee.
- Cost: \$25.
- **Speaker:** John Northover
- **Topic:** Diseases of Niagara's Fruits
- 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.

John Northover is an economic migrant from England. John was born and raised in and around Bristol in the cider apple country of southwest England. In his teens, he lived in a rural suburb and took a keen interest in plants and eco-communities. He established a large herbarium of pressed and dried plants, and developed a special interest in indentifying grasses by their first and last Latin names.

He attended Bristol Grammar School and in 1957, crossed the road to study botany at Bristol University, where he obtained an Hons. B.Sc in botany. In 1960 he accepted a research position with Imperial College at its field station in Sunninghill, next to the Ascot horse race course and close to Windsor Castle. John's laboratory and field research was to control a serious disease of barley by seed-fumigation. He was rewarded with a Ph.D in plant pathology from the University of London in 1965.

By that time, he had flown to Canada to start a one-year Canadian National Research Council post-doctoral fellowship at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. In March 1966, John was hired by the federal department of agriculture, now called Agriculture Canada, and moved to St. Catharines. He conducted research on the epidemiology of fungal infection, and the protection of fruit crops against fungal pathogens in Ontario. After 35 years, John retired in 2001 but continued to work for one year with his successor, Dr. Deena Errampalli.

In his retirement, John loves to grow raspberries, black currants and a variety of vegetables in the back garden. He also helps Gerda with her flower gardens. He has worked on the family genealogy and in 2013 published a research paper in the Torch magazine on the probable origins of religions.

Gerda and John have been married for 46 short years and enjoy walking, travelling together and spending time with their two married daughters, both of whom have four children in the age range of 7-13 years.

Diseases of Niagara's Fruits

The 2016 growing season has already started, so I thought that you might like to know a little more about the difficulties that Niagara's fruit growers experience when growing various fruit crops. Particularly, I would like to introduce you to a few fungal and bacterial diseases of apples, peaches, grapes, plums and black currants.

It will be a colourful PowerPoint presentation with only a Q & A opportunity - no written test. May I ask you, please do not take your dead tree to this meeting. It is not intended to be a diagnostic clinic. Thank you.

Meeting of Thursday, April 14, 2016

Secretarial notes by Abraham Rempel

Regular Meeting

Date: April 14, 2015

Location: Best Western

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Attendance: 37, including 4 guests

Welcome: Michael Manley-Casimir

The question of whether our IATC dues will be paid in US or Canadian dollars, is still under discussion.

Anne Elliott (Past President) needs volunteers for Vice President, the Newsletter/Webmaster and Hospitality (Doreen Peever will stay on).

Julia Frankel (Hospitality) presented the options for our Seasonal Social in June. A \$5 voluntary contribution for school textbooks will be much appreciated.

Stuart Glass will be celebrating his 94th birthday on May 21 at 115 Scott St. We are all invited!

Toast to the Queen: Michael Manley-Casimir

Thanks and Gratitude: Doreen Peever

Speaker Introduction: Anne Elliott

Music is undoubtedly David Sydor's passion. He makes an annual pilgrimage to New Orleans with many musical stops on the way. As an influential teacher, he is also passionate about poetry and children's literacy. Dave is very fond of author James Lee Burke. This was Dave's third presentation to Torch on contemporary music.

I'm still waiting for Dave to tell us something about the song "Ain't Misbehaving," sung in a 1955 movie by the same name.

Poetry in Popular Song: by David Sydor
Dave's presentation began with Daniel Levity's thesis in *The World in Six Songs*, that identifies the fundamental song types – Friendship, Joy, Comfort, Religion,

But Dave's theme was how music and poetry have been combined, and he gave many examples. Jack Prelutsky's 1940 poem "Bleezer's Ice Cream" became a song by Natalie Merchant. So did Edgar Allen Poe's poem "Alone" in Simon & Garfunkel's "Sound of Silence." In another example, "Vincent" is Don McLean's musical rendering of Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess." Among even more examples, Matthew Arnold's poetic warning in "Dover Beach" became the substance for Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are a-Changing." In an interesting twist, the melody of the 1898

song, "O sole mio" became the melody for "It's Now or Never" sung by Chris Isaac and Elvis Presley.

The only shortcoming of Dave's superlative presentation was the lack of listening time for the recordings for the examples. Understandable, but necessary.

Dave was ably assisted by Robert Cooper's laptop abilities.

Thanks & **Closing Remarks:** Michael Manley-Casimir

Preview: June Social June 16, 12 Noon

Our June Social will be at the Beacon Motor Inn once again, in the same room as last year. Please note that the date is June 16, which is the THIRD Thursday in June. The cost remains \$25. Tickets must be purchased in advance. They will be available at the May meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, you can mail a cheque to our treasurer,

Alan Veale
10 Erinbrook Cres.
St. Catharines, ON
L2T 1Y5

The last day to pay, or to cancel with a refund, is Monday, June 13. This year's lunch will be family style. The menu consists of:

Rolls & Butter
Baby Green Salad with Roasted Tomato Dressing
Roasted Chicken with Fine Herbs
Black Angus Roast Beef au jus
Roasted Potatoes & Vegetable Medley
Dessert
Coffee/Tea /Decaf

We are suggesting that you bring a \$5 donation for children's school supplies to the lunch.



Help us Celebrate Stuart Glass' 94th Birthday!

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 21, 1-3 pm.
In the Bistro @The Heatherwood
115 Scott Street, St. Catharines

RSVP to Helen Heath ~ hheath@cogeco.ca ~ 519-355-9794

Best wishes ONLY please.