

St. Catharines Torch Club Bulletin

September 2016 issue

Next meeting: Wednesday September 14th
Social Hour 6pm, Dinner 7pm

Location: Best Western, St.Catharines

Dinner: The September 14th menu is: Warm dinner rolls & butter, tossed garden salad with house dressing, baked fillet of sole with lemon wedges, baked potato with sour cream, fresh vegetable medley, tartufo, coffee, tea, decaf.

Cost; \$25

Speaker: Roy Blake

Topic: From Multiverse to Hologram: New Creation Myths

Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.

If you require a special meal, please contact Doreen Peever or Linda Gaspick

If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765

Roy Blake Bio

Roy was born in Toronto in 1947. In his rather checkered academic career he managed to drop out of three universities and also accumulate three degrees, in arts, engineering and education, along the way. He worked at a variety of jobs before settling down in Welland to teach electronics technology at Niagara College, from which he has been retired for about five years.

Roy has been married to Penny, a composer and singer, for 43 years and they have two adult children: Adam, who is a computer programmer and bass guitarist in Toronto, and Shira, who lives in Ottawa and has just graduated with a degree in psychology.

Roy's interest in theories of the origin and meaning (if any) of the universe is fairly recent. It probably results from his association with Unitarians, who have a wide variety of beliefs and opinions about this (as well as everything else), and perhaps also from entering a period of life where there is more time to reflect on things that are of no practical use but of great interest, such as our place in the overall scheme of things.

From Multiverse to Hologram: New Creation Myths

Most of us have a basic knowledge of the probable history of the universe since the Big

Bang. In this talk, Roy will briefly review that history, and then look at some of the latest scientific theories of the origin of the universe. Why was there a big bang? Where did all the stuff in the universe come from? What happened before the big bang (or is it even possible to ask this question?) Is this the only universe or are there many others?

In science we never know anything with absolute certainty, and our uncertainty is especially great when we look at the distant past and future. At some point in this exploration it may appear that we leave the realm of hard, testable science and enter that of myth. Is it possible that, like earlier myths, some of these theories may say more about us than about the universe itself?

Things to Think About for the September Meeting

We'll be asking some questions and perhaps leaving you with a survey at the September meeting. Things the executive has been discussing:

- ⊕ Should we raise the price of dinners in order to maintain and perhaps raise the quality of the food?
- ⊕ Should we offer family memberships?
- ⊕ Should we consider raising the dues for next year? The dues were lowered from \$80 to \$50 last year. This causes us to operate at a small deficit.
- ⊕ How can we attract more members?
- * Should we look into alternate venues for regular meetings, other than the Best Western?

Executive for 2016-17

President: Michael Manley-Casimir

Past-President: Anne Elliott

Vice-President: David Warren

Secretary: Abraham Rempel

Treasurer: Alan Veale

Membership and Directory: John Northover

Newsletter: John Tordiff

Hospitality: Doreen Peever, Linda Gaspick

Phone Captains: Julia Frankel, Hilde Wheeler, Doreen Peever, Jane Tymofie, Alan Veale

Speakers for 2016-17

Wed. Sept 14	Roy Blake: From Multiverse to Hologram: New Creation Myths
Thurs. Oct. 13	Susan Eck from Buffalo Torch Club: Stadler's Buffalo
Wed. Nov. 9	Maria Tiro & David Warren: The 150th Anniversary of Confederation
Thurs. Dec. 8	Seasonal Social
Wed. Jan. 11	Dan Madar: Will We Miss the Cold War?
Thurs. Feb. 9	Wes Turner: The Treaty that Shaped the Future
Wed. March 8	Alan Veale: The Future of Beaverdams Creek
Thurs. April 13	Dale Shipley: Smart Growth for Sustainable Lifestyles
Wed. May 10	Steven Bronn: Making Your Money Last: Ten Principles for Living in Retirement
Thurs. June 8	Summer Social

Membership Dues are Due!

Membership dues remain at a bargain \$50 for this year. Payment is due at the September meeting.