

St. Catharines Torch Club Bulletin

November 2016 Issue

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 9th
Social Hour 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm

Location: Best Western, St.Catharines

Dinner: The November 9th menu will be -
A consomme soup
Mediterranean Salad
Plated roast of beef
Vegetable Medley
Apple Crumble
Tea, regular or decaffeinated coffee
Vegetarian options available upon request.

Cost; \$25

Speaker: Wesley Turner

Topic: The Treaty of Ghent: Opening the Way to Lasting Peace.

Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.

If you require a special meal, please contact Doreen Peever at 905- 641-2050.

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

Wesley B. Turner Bio

I was born in Toronto and live in Niagara-on-the-Lake with my wife Diane. We have three adult children who have chosen to live at a distance: a son in West Chester, Pennsylvania; another in Lively, Ontario, and a daughter in Victoria, B.C.. All have advanced degrees and engage in professions that are somewhat beyond our understanding. Among them we have five wonderful granddaughters.

I was educated in Toronto schools. BA and MA from University of Toronto. Ph.D. from Duke University (Durham, NC). After teaching in high schools for 7 years, I taught history at Brock University for 31 years, retiring in 1998. Author of six books, one being the award-winning *The Astonishing General. The Life and Legacy of Sir Isaac Brock*, Dundurn, 2011.

For the past 10 years, I've been busy as co-chairman of Niagara-on-the-Lake Citizens' War of 1812 Bicentennial Steering Committee. Member of many historical societies and have served on the boards of most including the Friends of Fort George, the Historical Society of St. Catharines, and the Niagara on the Lake Historical Society . Pastimes are Scottish Country Dancing, Lawn Bowling, reading history and digging carefully in the garden.

The Talk: The Treaty of Ghent: Opening the Way to Lasting Peace.

While peace treaties end wars from what I can find most do not provide peaceful means to settle future disputes between or among the signatories. The result is wars have raged over border disputes, disarmament, territorial changes, etc. etc. including national honour. The Treaty of Ghent provides an exception. To discover why and how, I looked at a number of peace treaties and settlements over the past 200 years and will offer the comparisons and go on—not endlessly, don't worry—to explain why the Treaty of Ghent worked differently.

The two signatories, Great Britain and the United States of America, found plenty to disagree about, especially who was going to exercise territorial domination of North America, but they never after 1815 employed armies and navies against each other. One consequence was the emergence of a Canadian nation which the Americans—with occasional bluster—finally recognized as having the right to exist and to enjoy its own political and social systems.

There will be a very short power point presentation.

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

Webmaster: Roy Blake

Hospitality: Doreen Peever*

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

* Doreen would very much like a co-chair to assist her in these duties.

St Catharines Torch Club Events

Secretarial notes by Abraham Rempel

Regular Meeting

Date: October 13, 2016

Location: Best Western

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Attendance: 23 plus 3 guests

Meet and Greet:

Some of our Executives and other Torch members met with the Buffalo Torch delegation in one of the Best Western rooms at 6:00 PM. The hotel served wine and a cheese platter, and the ten or more of us enjoyed interacting with each other very much.

Welcome: Michael Manley-Casimir (President)

This visit of Buffalo Torch members marks a very special occasion: It is their Torch Club's 90th anniversary. Representing the Club was Reed Taylor, Rod Doran and Susan Eck, our guest speaker.

Impromptu prayer: Abraham Rempel

Toast to the Queen: Michael Manley-Casimir

Business:

Please contact Doreen Peever if you'd like to be on the Seasonal Event committee. She needs your help. Feel obligated because Doreen and Julia have worked hard for many years as Hospitality Executives. You can call Doreen at 905-6412050 or email her at dmpeever1@gmail.com. Do it right away please.

Speaker Introduction: John Northover introduced Susan Eck in his own inimitable and less formal manner, duly noted and appreciated by Susan herself. Susan Eck has had three careers; teacher, administrator and self-taught historian.

Statler's Buffalo

Ellsworth Milton (E.M.) Statler (1863 –1928) was an American hotel businessman.... He built his first permanent Statler Hotel in 1907, in Buffalo... the first major hotel to have a private bath or shower and running water in every room... Future hotels constructed by Statler were located in Cleveland, Detroit, St. Louis and New York City.

That's the Wikipedia version. But Susan brought E. M. Statler to life, from his youthful employment in the McClure Hotel in Wheeling West Virginia to the (post death) sale of his hotel empire to the Hilton chain for 111 million dollars. Evidently a driven man with clear sighted vision, he accomplished much despite many setbacks. For his funeral in Buffalo – Statler's Buffalo – all the lights were dimmed in his honour.

Anne Elliott thanked Susan Eck for filling in a huge gap in our knowledge of historic Buffalo through the life of one man. Anne also expressed appreciation for the strong cross-border relationship we have with the Buffalo Torch Club.

Susan Eck's talk was outstanding and surely one of our best as an unwritten presentation. Everyone in the room was engrossed by the fascinating history and the way it was given. Nothing diminishes her superlative presentation.

Secretary's Editorial Comment: To be published in our IATC magazine, a Torch paper must be distinguished by five qualities; its Significance, Provocative Thesis, Scholarship, Creativity and Quality/Clarity of Writing. These qualities in the official Torch literature are written in bold and capitalized letters, as in PROVOCATIVE THESIS for example.

It's unfortunate that last month the founder of our club, Dr. Edgar Peer, submitted his resignation due to his age and lack of mobility. However, he was deeply concerned that our Torch presentations are not challenging enough, if at all. It's not only our club, but it often seems we're living in a world of political correctness and settled indifference on many issues. I agree with my friend Dr. Peer that the future of our Torch club may depended on its ability to challenge the status quo and provoke creative responses. Let's make sure that we do that at least some of the time.

Speakers for 2016-17

Thurs. Oct. 13	Susan Eck from Buffalo Torch Club: Stadler's Buffalo
Wed. Nov. 9	Wesley Turner: The Treaty that Shaped the Future
Thurs. Dec. 8	Seasonal Social
Wed. Jan. 11	Dan Madar: Will We Miss the Cold War?
Thurs. Feb. 9	Abraham Rempel: <i>Title to Be Announced</i>
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 in Retirement
Thurs. June 8	Summer Social

Membership Dues are Due!

Membership dues remain at a bargain \$50 for this year. Payment will be gratefully and graciously accepted at the November meeting.