

# St. Catharines Torch Club Bulletin – March 2017

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, March 8th  
Social Hour 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm

**Location:** Best Western, St.Catharines

**Dinner:** The March 8th menu will be -

*Beef stuffed Peppers*  
*Parsley Boiled Potatoes*  
*Garden Fresh Tossed Salad*  
*Vegetable Medley*  
*Dinner Rolls*  
*Panna cotta*  
*Tea, regular or decaffeinated coffee*  
*Vegetarian options available upon request.*

**Cost;** \$25 per person

**Speaker:** Alan Veale

Alan Veale grew up on a dairy farm in British Columbia, received his Engineering Degree from UBC, worked for the National Research Council, then earned a Masters in City Planning from MIT, worked on several planning projects in Ontario and, finally, was the Director of Planning for Niagara Region for 25 years.

**Topic:** The Future of Beaverdams Creek

My title should have read "The FATE of Beaverdams Creek" since this little but spectacular creek has been so mistreated and abused over the last 200 years. However, it remains in much changed form but with some of its beauty unspoiled. Learn more about it and the other water bodies around Brock University".

## **Minutes of Meeting, February 9, 2017**

Secretarial notes by Abraham Rempel

Date: February 9, 2017

Location: Best Western

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Attendance: 22 members, 2 guests

**Welcome:** David Warren (Vice President)

**Prayer:** Anne Elliott (Past Presiden)

**Toast:** David Warren

**Speaker Introduction:** David Warren

Abraham Rempel was born in Winnipeg and came to Ontario just a year ahead of Lynne Warren who was also born in Winnipeg. David informed the Club that Abraham is a graduate of Brock University. Unknown to David, however, it took Abraham 39 years to get his degree in Classical Studies.

**Millions and Billions: Really?** by Abraham Rempel

My presentation to the Torch Club was intended to be visual with many projected illustrations. However, after an hour on the phone with an Apple technician, transferring the presentation to my laptop proved impossible. No regrets. I had a good audience who listened attentively. We began with a ten question quiz to see if our club members have common sense. I am happy to report that our club is in the 90th percentile and way above average. They are “able to see past trickery or distractions to come to solutions more easily than normal people.”

My presentation’s conclusion was that if the current erosion rates are applied to the geological history of the Earth, then the continents and oceans cannot be more than 15-30 million years old. Otherwise the continents would have eroded away completely and the oceans entirely filled with sediment. Without any erosion for the past 2.5 billion years, the continents would now be 95 miles high or one-third the distance to the International Space Station. Two other points were related: the unreliable nature of isotopic dating, and the limited application of the Geological Column in the field. Both are suspect when flowering plant spores are found in the oldest geological periods, and both modern looking mammals and birds are found in the Jurassic/dinosaur period... hundreds of them, beavers and parrots included.

One of the more thoughtful questions, asked twice, had to do with the Earth’s tectonic plates. While it’s true they cause uplifting in some areas and subduction in others, there is little evidence for ocean sediments being forced under the continents. The sediments just keep accumulating as a kind of long-age clock.

At the end I made a kind of confession about where I got some of my material from. It was that kind of evening with good feelings all around and mutual rapport. Those of our cherished members who weren’t able to attend last night missed more than just a confession.

**Thanks for the speaker:** Julia Frankel

As for the long ages, some say older and some say younger, but we are still left with the beauty of the Earth. Well said Julia. The evening ended with the delightful poem read by Gerda Northover, “That Was Us.”

**Other notes:**

The fish and chips dinner plate was a great hit again. Thanks to our Hospitality team: Julia Frankel, Doreen Peever and Linda Gaspich.

It was good to see Martin and Brenda Gibson again, newly moved into their retirement home at the Royal Henley.

We look forward to Alan Veal’s talk next month: *The Future of Beaverdams Creek*.

### **Speakers for 2016-17**

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