

# St. Catharines Torch Club Bulletin

November 2017 Issue

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, November 8th

Social Hour 6 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm **New Starting Time for Dinner**

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

**Dinner:** The November 8th menu will be a

***Plated Roast Beef Dinner***

\* *WARM assorted Small Dinner Rolls & Butter*

\* *Macedonian Salad, Feta cheese, Olives, Cucumber, Tomatoes, Red Onions*

\* *Sliced Roast Beef au Jus*

\* *Mashed Potatoes*

\* *Fresh Vegetable Medley*

\* *Apple Crumble Pie*

\* *Coffee, Tea & Decaf*

*Vegetarian options available upon request.*

*If you require a special meal, please contact Anne Elliott at [anne,elliott@cogeco.ca](mailto:anne,elliott@cogeco.ca).*

**Cost;** \$25

Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.

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

**Our November Speaker:** Alexandra Fic

**Topic:** Women in Development

**Bio:**

After completing post graduate work in International Law and International Relations, Alexandra taught for almost 40 years in India, Singapore, Thailand (briefly), and Canada. (at Niagara College and Brock University)

She was seconded by CIDA to the Sultanate of Brunei to assist in developing programs on skills training for Women. This was followed by a concurrent appointment by the United Nations in consultation with Canada, as Chief Technical Advisor to the National Governments of six of the ten ASEAN countries. Her mandate was to develop and set up skills training programs for poverty alleviation in the rural areas according to the needs and culture of each country. While serving this appointment she worked out of a UN headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Later, the Governor General of Canada, by an Order-in- Council, appointed Alexandra to serve a three year term as chair of the Employment Insurance Board of the Niagara Region. It was her responsibility to adjudicate cases dealing with employment insurance claims in accordance with the clauses of the

Canada Employment Insurance Act.

Publications include three books, as well as numerous conference papers, newspaper columns and articles in Singapore, Thailand, Australia, Malaysia and Canada.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

This presentation is based on field experience and on reports from the UN agencies (ILO, WHO, UNDP, UNIFEM), The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Economic Forum, and Interpol. It will outline the challenges which women face in developing countries such as encountering internal and external armed conflicts, natural disasters and the conditions which are often created by Failed States. It will point out that to advance social, political and economic progress, it is absolutely essential that women's needs and concerns, which affect their daily lives in many parts of the Globe must be addressed. Focus will be on China, select countries of the Middle East and of Africa. It will conclude with a brief survey of the position of Women in Canada, of the Third Wave Women's movement and of future needs and prospects.

### **St Catharines Torch Club Events**

Secretarial notes by John Tordiff  
(channelling the words of our Club Secretary, Abraham Rempel)

#### **Regular Meeting**

Date: October 12, 2017

Location: Best Western

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Attendance: ~24

**Welcome:** David Warren (President)

**Grace:** Doreen Peever

**Toast to the Queen:** David Warren

**Welcome Guests:** A contingent from the Buffalo Torch Club: Reed Taylor, Rod Doran and guest speaker, Sharon Cramer.

**Speaker Introduction:** David Warren

#### ***Photography: An Invitation to see and journey anew.* by Sharon Cramer**

Sharon gave us an interesting, personal and well illustrated presentation on the art of photography. Although not a professional photographer, she showed us how the camera can document our personal journey and help us see the world in many different new lights. She explained to us how her skills developed and showed us some of her prize winning pictures. A hand out listing some tips for taking better pictures and a generous gift of some postcards using her photos and design completed her talk. The audience responded with many questions and with warm applause. Our thanks to Sharon for an enjoyable lecture.

### **Membership Dues are Due!**

As a result of a financial surplus accumulated over many years, the last several years our annual club fee was reduced to \$50 from the previous \$80. The surplus has now been reduced to \$2690. Since we pay a per capita fee in U.S. Dollars (USD \$50) to Torch International and since the exchange rate from Canadian dollars to U.S. Dollars is unfavourable, it was decided by the executive to increase our annual club fee.

MOTION: *Moved that the St. Catharines Torch Club annual membership fee be increased to \$75 beginning September 13th, 2017.* Passed.

**Membership dues are \$75 for this year. Please bring payment to our next meeting.**

### ***Speakers for 2017 – 18***

**Wed. Sept.13** Charles Burton, Professor of Political Science *“Is China Canada's New third Option?”*

**Thurs. Oct. 12** Sharon Cramer, Buffalo Torch Club *“Presentation on Photography”*

**Wed. Nov. 8** Alexandra Fic, PhD *“Women in Development”*

**Thurs. Dec. 14** Seasonal Social

**Wed. Jan. 10** Chris MacNaughton BA., J.D. *“How poverty impacts family law disputes”*

**Thurs. Feb. 8** Milan Plentai, MBA, National Bank Vp. Topic to be announced

**Wed. Mar. 14** Professor Daniel Samson, Brock University *“This is Us.”*

**Thurs. Apr. 12** Christopher Johnston, MA, Canadian Diplomat, *“Does the World need more Canada.”*

**Wed. May 9** Murray Wilcox, *“The Story of the House.”*

**Thurs. Jun 14** Summer Social

### **Executive for 2017 - 18**

**President: David Warren**

**Past-President: Michael Manley-Casimir**

**Vice-President; David Sydor**

**Secretary; Abraham Rempel**

**Treasurer: Alan Veale**

**Membership and Directory; John Northover (new email: [gjnorthover@gmail.com](mailto:gjnorthover@gmail.com))**

**Webmaster: Roy Blake**

**Newsletter: John Tordiff**

**Hospitality; Anne Elliott**

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