

# St. Catharines Torch Club Bulletin

January 2018 Issue

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 10th

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

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

**Dinner:** The January 10th menu will be a

***Customized Family Style Dinner***

\* *Warm assorted Small Dinner Rolls & Butter*

\* *Garden Salad with choice of dressings*

\* *Nine Cut Chicken Pieces*

\* *Oven Roasted Potatoes*

\* *Fresh Vegetable Medley*

\* *Assorted Tarts, Squares and Pastries*

\* *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 January Speaker will be **Chris MacNaughton**

**Topic: How Poverty Impacts Family Law Disputes**

**Speaker's Bio:**

I grew up beside, on, and in the St. Lawrence River at Brockville. In our family you knew you had reached the age of discretion when you got your own key to the boathouse. I hold degrees from Trent and Queen's. As a law student I spent a year articling with Rod Barr, one of the founders of this Torch Club, liked the city, and returned here after my 1977 call to the bar.

I practiced Family Law in St. Catharines 1977-2002 ending that part of my career as a partner of Lancaster, Brooks, Welch. As part of my law practice, in addition to acting for separating spouses, for 17 years I represented children in Protection matters and in their parents' custody and access disputes as Agent for the Ontario Official Guardian (later called the Office of the Children's Lawyer).

During my practice years I regularly taught other lawyers various topics in the Family Law throughout North America. I have delivered seminars, workshops, and lectures as well as published articles, book chapters, and a book for lawyers and mental health practitioners on various Family Law

topics. I taught various courses, and did guest lectures for Niagara College and Brock University.

I resigned from my practice and from all professionally related commitments in 2002. I acquired a dog, and spent most of a year examining how my professional life might better align with my personal values. The following year (2003) I accepted the position of Legal Aid Area Director and then Niagara Manager, retiring in 2012.

Beginning in 2003, and continuing to and beyond the present I serve Legal Aid Ontario as Facilitator of Family Law Settlement Conferences in Niagara, Haldimand-Norfolk, and Hamilton-Wentworth as needed.

I have served on the Boards of the Niagara Symphony, Brock University, the Niagara Rehab Centre, the St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation, the Lincoln County Law Association, and Trinity United Church Grimsby.

I have served on various legal, discipline, and practice advisory committees of bodies both community and provincial bodies involved with family mediation, domestic violence, and children's mental health.

I live with my spouse Marilyn, and our Yorkshire terrier Willie, at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment, both here in Grimsby and at Hope Bay in the Bruce Peninsula. My enthusiasms have always included photography, writing and reading, and spending time on water and in woods. My very short bio on my Instagram and Flickr pages reads: 'retired lawyer, perpetual student, chronically curious'

**Membership dues for 2017-18 are \$75 for the period September 1st 2017 to August 31st 2018.**

#### ***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** Daniel Samson PhD, 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

**Webmaster:** Roy Blake

**Newsletter:** John Tordiff

**Hospitality:** Anne Elliott

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