

# St. Catharines Torch Club



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## NEXT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY**

JANUARY 9th

BEST WESTERN

SPEAKER:

**DEREK RICHARDS**

ST. CATHARINES TORCH

Editor:  
Peter Skelton

## HIGH ALTITUDE TREKKING

Our speaker, Derek Richards, has been taking pictures since the age of seven, when he received his first Brownie camera. After retirement from the computer field, he began using digital techniques to make exhibition prints, often scenics from hikes and mountain treks. Above the treeline, views are often long and spectacular, a reward for the efforts to attain them.

The digital environment, he believes, brings the photographer closer to the interpretive freedom of other creative artists. Derek is part of a tradition that is sensitive, not only to the inner promptings of an expressive imagination, but to the identity and independence of the subject, in its wider context. Despite an affection for close-range subjects, he remains a horizon-loving, zoom-out kind of guy.

The child of an Air Force family in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, Derek was exposed to new environments, as the family moved to a new location. He began his computer career at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, during which he developed his own software for processing

photos. He now devotes time to walking and making images.

Derek's spouse Merle Richards is co-Hospitality member on your board, along with Alexandra Fic.

### Previous Meeting

Welcome: John Northover

Grace & Toast: Anne Elliot/  
Richard Holder.

Announcements: chocolates for sale, \$ 1 and \$ 2.

Good Wishes: to Leslie Thorburn, 5 weeks hospitalized for hip fracture. Also to Allison (Steve) Stevenson, hospitalized for pneumonia.

Three guests were introduced.

Christmas Contributions: for charity were brought by members; cash also accepted (Doreen Peever)

A Gift of the Magi reading, transposed from Biblical times to a setting in (presumably) Victorian England, was read by Norman Harding. The allegory of wife and husband, selling their most prized possessions, while in straitened financial circumstances, would seem heartbreaking, in terms of the resulting irony. The set of tortoise-shell combs purchased for the waist-length hair

of the of wife, had been gained by the husband selling his prized grandfather's watch. The wife's hair had been sold to buy a platinum fob, to complement the prized watch. Initial dismay turned to gratitude, as the pair realized that the mutual sacrifices strengthened the bond of love and mutual support, symbolized by gift-giving (of Christmas season).

"For all who give gifts, they are the wisest".

Norman led the 29 members and guests at carols and seasonal song tributes.

Thanks: Alan Veale

The Celtic Fiddle and Country Quartet provided stimulating music in various styles, much appreciated by attendees.

Anecdote: Abraham Rempel

Next Meeting: President John Northover announced "Beyond the Treeline" talk for January.

Meeting closed 9:30 p.m.

Note: President John Northover has given your editor a letter for the members, which they will be receiving in about a week's time.

If you decide to attend the January meeting, please remember to advise if you wish an alternative meal to the one on offer. Your hospitality committee is striving to produce interesting and varied menus, but it is realized that each member has food preferences (and taboos).

## January Meeting:

### Wednesday, January 9

**Place:** Best Western Hotel, Queen Elizabeth Way & Lake Street

**Time:** Social Hour 6:00--7:00 pm -- Dinner 7:00 pm, *Mexican Style Fare*  
Presentation: 8:00 pm

**Derek Richards**, St. Catharines Torch Club

### ***High Altitude Trekking***

*Please phone your captain whether or not you wish to register for the meeting.*