

# St. Catharines Torch Club



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## NEXT MEETING

**THURSDAY**

**FEBRUARY 14th**

**BEST WESTERN**

Dalhousie Room

Lake & Queen Elizabeth Way

PETER SKELTON

ST.. CATHARINES TORCH  
CLUB

Editor:

Peter Skelton

## FUEL QUALITY and THE ENVIRONMENT

The Clean Air Act was passed by U. S. Congress in 1963, followed by the Environmental Protection Agency formed in 1970, tasked to set standards, and have the legislative clout to enforce them. Studies of air quality had earlier been made in the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles, identifying the components of chemical emissions, and subsequent atmospheric changes leading to pollution of a sort threatening human health and environmental damage.

Legislation in Canada at both provincial and federal levels, has restricted levels in motor fuels of various ingredients which have been proven to contribute to air pollution. Much of this has been modeled on U. S. practice, and so the fuel specifications, and requirements placed on automobile emission control systems, have been very similar in the two countries.

Peter's presentation will give an identification of troublesome fuel components, and how these can impair the func-

tioning of emission control systems, as well as mechanical and thermal destructive forces.

Samples will be shown of pristine and fouled catalytic converter elements, and several deleterious chemical compounds capable of causing malfunction. Thus, if your car fails an Ontario Government mandated emissions test, you might develop some appreciation of how it came to be, and how these devices have much reduced pollution due to the transport sector, in particular.

Peter Skelton (honours Chem. B. A./U. B. C. 1954) has been interested in failure of emission control systems of automobiles for 12 years, since MMT was allowed into gasoline in Canada, as part of a political push to disallow it. He is currently a member of Society of Automotive Engineers and the Chemical Institute of Canada, and past member of 8 other technical organizations. He has retired from R&D in industrial products e.g. composites, polymers,

coatings, adhesives, electrical barriers.

### Previous Meeting:

1. Greetings from J. Northover, President. Members on the mend: hip fracture of Don Herne; Leslie Thorburn now getting physiotherapy for her hip. Steve Stevenson was present, having emerged from hospital recently.
2. John extended welcome to **new members** Roy/Penny Blake and Fred/Helen Bolton (Helen not present).
3. Grace: Doreen Peever
4. Toast: Alexandra Fic
5. VP Dave Sydor called for submitted talks in the coming year.
6. Ivan Hrabowsky has made much preparation for the 2014 Convention, and his committee of 8 met after conclusion of the talk. He asks for all members to submit ideas on event trips for the AGM.

**Speaker** Derek Richards was introduced by Alan Wheeler.

Derek with spouse Merle trekked in many mountainous areas, including British Columbia/Alberta, Macchu Picchu in Peru, Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa, and England's Lake District. Shown were composite photographs taken during the trek. Their activity continued sporadically over 40 years, sometimes as solitaires, and sometimes with large groups, as with Macchu Picchu. One needs extra clothing, as 18,000 feet of altitude can suddenly become very cold, with lack of oxygen. Further knowledge of the places visited was given in question period.

Thanks to speaker: Dave Sydor.

Anecdote: Stuart Glass

Next Meeting: February 14

### Notes

The Feb. 14 food arrangements for the dinner meeting are special soup and fish. A special Valentine dessert is being (hopefully) arranged, courtesy of the hotel and your hospitality committee.

The 2014 AGM planning group will meet Feb. 13.

### Special Event

A showing of *O Canada Eh?*

dinner/cabaret is being arranged by Ivan Hrabowsky for interested club members, and at the special group price of \$45 (including gratuities). The Saturday dates of (one of) April 13, 20 or 27 will be voted by plurality of those opting to attend.

Ivan will further describe the event at the February and March regular dinner meetings.

## February Meeting:

**Thursday, February 14**

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

**Time:** Social Hour 6:00--7:00 pm -- Dinner 7:00 pm

Presentation: 8:00 pm

**Peter Skelton, St. Catharines Torch Club**

***Fuel Quality & the Environment***