

St. Catharines Torch Club



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NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

MAY 8th

BEST WESTERN Dalhousie Room
Lake & Queen Elizabeth Way

SPEAKER:

DALE SHIPLEY

ST.. CATHARINES TORCH CL

UB

Editor:
Peter Skelton

‘THE PLAY’S THE THING’

Recent television *Participation* adds state: “Let’s Bring Back PLAY”. You might be wondering where play has gone and why we now have to bring it back.

This presentation addresses the important role of play in childhood. How do children learn through play and what does play contribute to their development? How does play affect ‘executive functions’ that are receiving attention these days? In what ways is play relevant to learning success, and later on, to employability and successful relationships? Does play extend the young child’s special kind of creativity?

How does the quality of play in childhood relate to the ability to solve increasingly abstract problems, to think “outside the box”, and to be original, all attributes that we are told are related to innovation, national competitiveness and economic stability?

Play is fundamental and natural in childhood yet children are losing the ability to play. Studies show that children play much less now than they used to. What aspects of human potential are

sacrificed when children play less? We all have childhood memories of playing freely, usually outdoors, and without adult supervision. How did our freedom to play influence the adults we became? When children play less, can we predict how this will influence the adults that today’s children will become? Dr. McMain (2013) posed the question, “Whither our youth?” This presentation might ask the question, “Whither our children?”

Biography: Dale Shipley

Dale was born and raised in St. Catharines and spent a long career in education and government, including teaching, academic planning, management, research and publication. She originally taught high school English and History but, after the birth of two children, became interested in young children’s development and the role of play. This interest led her to pursue a master’s degree and a doctorate in early childhood education and to teaching positions at Algonquin College and Ryerson University. Dale retired in 2007 having spent several years as Director of the

School of Early Childhood Education at Ryerson. She is the author of "*Empowering Children: Play-Based Curriculum for Lifelong Learning*". 2012. 5th edition.

(Ed. note: this newsletter is corrected version of one sent 28/04).

JUNE EVENT

Location: Beacon Best Western on QEW

Date/Time: Thursday, June 13 at 12-12:30 p.m.

Menu:

Rolls/butter;

Baby Green Salad/Roasted Tomato Dressing

Chicken Supreme/lemon butter sauce

Cheese Cake/fruit topping

Tea/coffee

Presentation: Niagara Geology by Bert Murphy

Wheelchair accessible/free parking.

Price: \$ 25, in advance. Cheques preferred. See Doreen Peever for tickets on May 8.

P. Skelton, secretary

May Meeting:

Wednesday, May 8

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

Dale Shipley : *The Play's the Thing*

Phone your captain whether you wish to attend.

Meal: feature is Greek cuisine