



### Next Meeting: "From Our Hands to Yours"

- **When:** Wed. Jan. 8, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- **Where:** Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Menu:** Mexican Buffet.
- **Cost:** \$25.
- **Presentation:** Doreen Peever: "From Our Hands to Yours", a presentation of her collection of Inuit art.
- Please let your phone captain know whether you are attending.
- If you require a special meal, please contact Alexandra Fic or Merle Richards.
- If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765.

# St. Catharines Torch Club

## January 2014 Newsletter

### Doreen M. Peever

I was born in Orillia in 1939 and lived there until I went to McGill in Montreal in 1959. In my teens I worked in the Public Library and was fortunate to be mentored by the Chief Librarian, Grace Crooks. She taught me her library skills which have served me well for 25 years in various public, university and business libraries. She also taught me calligraphy, introduced me to the Unitarian Church and was the source of the first of my collection of Inuit carvings and drawings.

I have lived in several parts of Canada and in Germany for 3 years, traveling in Europe, Canada, Mexico and the USA over the years.

My son and daughter are in their forties, and there are 5 grandchildren between 24 and 15, with my only granddaughter being the youngest.

I was appointed a Lay Chaplain of the Unitarian Church of St. Catharines in 1992 and have officiated at over 500 weddings and many Memorial Services and Child Dedications. Over 230 of the weddings have been for same-sex couples from the USA, Mexico, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, Britain and Canada.

Since coming to St. Catharines in 1976, I have volunteered with several organizations: Meals-on-Wheels, the Community Concert Board, the Board of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara, PFLAG, the St. Catharines Craft Guild and the Commonplace Eco-Village Project Niagara.

My hobbies include origami, calligraphy, photography, reading, bridge, attending symphony concerts and other programmes at Brock University and cuddling my cats, Shanti and Daisy. The most physically daring thing I have done is to go para-sailing over the Pacific Ocean from the beach at NuevoVallarta a couple of years ago.

## From Our Hands to Yours



I've been collecting Inuit sculpture since 1957. Now I have over 70 sculptures in soapstone, caribou antler, whalebone and ivory, as well as some original drawings from Cape Dorset and some prints. Recently, the collection was on loan to the Riverbrink Art Museum in Queenston for six months, drawing many visitors. Robert Cooper photographed each of these pieces and will help in the power point presentation. I will also bring a few sculptures for you to see more closely and handle.

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## Report on December Meeting

**Date:** Thursday December 12, 2013

**Attendance numbers:** 28

In the absence of the President, Dave Sydor, the meeting was called to order by the Vice President, Anne Elliott.

**Toast and Grace:** Doreen Peever

An excellent celebratory meal was organized by Alexandra Fic and was enjoyed by all!

### Business Notes:

Ivan Hrabowsky assured us all that several good jobs were still available for the June conference.

Leslie Thorburn read a piece that reminded us all of the passing of Nelson Mandela and made us laugh as well.

### Presentation by the Barber Shop Group "Vintage Blend"

**Introducer:** Steven Hartman

### Summary of Presentation:

The Vintage Blend Barber shop group consists of Don Ursino as Lead singer, Jym Cummings as Tenor, Bob Laing as Bass and Bill Laing as



Baritone. Don Ursino is a retired Professor from Brock, Jym Cummings is a retired Educator and both Bill Laing and Bob Laing are retired Pharmacists.

The quartet provided entertainment through a series of renditions that were humorous, nostalgic and seasonal (sometimes all in one!).

We also learned that Barbershop singing is a musical composition by chord structure revolving around four note chords. The Lead singer carries the melody while the Tenor sings in a vocal range above the lead. At the same time, the Bass sings at the lowest vocal range while the Baritone sings between the Bass and the Lead most frequently.

The enthusiasm and evident enjoyment of the singers was mirrored by the audience and we all felt full and festive.

The group shared with us that they are very happy to have been asked to appear in an upcoming production of *The Music Man* where they are acting as the four members of the school board. Those familiar with the production will recall that these members argue all the time until they are eventually persuaded to come together to sing Barbershop. The feature song for Vintage Blend will be *Lida Rose*. The production will be held at Port Colborne Lakeshore Catholic High School and will run Saturday evenings (7:30) and Sunday Afternoons(2:00) from Feb. 15 to March 2 with the addition of one Friday evening performance on February 28. Reserved seat tickets are available at \$20.00 from Roselawn Box Office.

- Minutes by Anne Elliott

