

## Holiday Celebration

# ARM

Chapter 12



At the Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre, 4 Credit Union Drive  
Wednesday December 7, 2016 at 10:00 am

Come and make this a festive occasion with a seasonal luncheon, carol singing, musical performances, meeting old friends and making new acquaintances! Cost is \$35 per person. Cash bar.



A gift of canned food for ARM Chapter 12's contribution to the Daily Bread Food Bank Drive would be most appreciated.

Questions: Karma Naike 416-783-6591    Registration: Jim Loftus 416-447-0811

## Former Mayor and Now President of WWF Canada, David Miller Works For a Clean Planet



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# Letter To the Editor

## Re: Chapter 12's Annual General Meeting

I read with interest Charles Hawkes' excellent summary of the 2016 ARM Chapter 12 AGM, After School, August, 2016, in particular the report on keynote speaker, John Cartwright's address on the role of labour in greening our economy. Mr. Cartwright's stories and ideas on how innovative and forward-thinking approaches have formed strategies to save energy, reduce pollution and create new jobs was both encouraging and inspiring. How disappointing it was for me, then, when I marched in this year's Labour Day Parade and saw dozens of fossil fuel burning trucks, vans, carts and cars transporting displays, guests and bands. There were no electric vehicles, no bicycles, except those brought by individual marchers, no efforts at all to indicate Labour's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and working towards a greener world. When I consider that virtually all features of the Labour Day

Parade are within the control of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, I cannot think of any reasonable excuse for such a situation. It was shocking. This is our big, public showcase. The parade represents who we are. Where is our commitment to a greener world if not in our most foundational activities? May I respectfully suggest to Mr. Cartwright and the Labour Council, that, on the list of their initiatives to achieve a sustainable and green economy, the reduction of the carbon footprint of the annual Labour Day Parade be foremost.

Sincerely,  
Christos Aslanidis  
[caslanidis2.0@gmail.com](mailto:caslanidis2.0@gmail.com)

# You Are Invited

**After School needs articles, photos, drawings, poems, other works of art, opinions**

**Please feel free to share your ideas, art, and experiences with other ARM Chapter 12 members.**

**Submit your work to editor Neil Walker, [nwal.42@gmail.com](mailto:nwal.42@gmail.com)**

## Active Retired Members Chapter 12 (Toronto) Executive

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## After School Volume 18, Issue 3, August 2016

*After School* is the official publication of Active Retired Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Chapter 12 Toronto (ARM C12)

Opinions expressed in *After School* are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policies of ARM Chapter 12 or of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Submissions are always welcome but will not be returned. All submissions are subject to editing for length and style while respecting the author's intentions.

**Editorial Team:** Larry French, Allan Hux, Cyndie Jacobs, Manfred Netzel, Ed Preston, Paul Rook, Neil Walker

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## The Leap Manifesto: Aspirational or practical answer to climate change?

*The real question is whether the recommendations in this manifesto are the best approach to the crisis of climate change – and more specifically, the most practical approach to reducing greenhouse gases.*

BY CHARLES HAWKES

Few platforms for change have met with the level of outrage as the Leap Manifesto that was presented for adoption last April at the NDP convention in Edmonton. The manifesto that makes a case for ending fossil fuel use in Canada was called by the Globe and Mail “an end to the capitalist system,” and its authors, Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein along with 25,000 signatories were labeled by another newspaper as “some of this country’s most left-wing and radical forces.” Premier Rachel Notley in an impassioned speech to the convention attacked the Manifesto and its supporters “They are naive, they are ill-informed, and they are tone-deaf. These ideas will never form any part of our policy.”

It was not a good convention for the party. Thomas Mulcair lost his leadership but pledged to stay on as a temporary leader until another one is chosen in a couple of years. The premier of the only NDP government in the country was pushed right into a corner defending the oil industry by Leap supporters. In the end, the Manifesto was agreed to in principle, but farmed out to local party organizations for debate across the country. As one commentator remarked “How do you say no without saying no? You say we’ll discuss it.”

Politics aside, the real question is whether the recommendations in this manifesto are the best approach to the crisis of climate change- and more specifically, the most practical approach to reducing greenhouse gases.

Leap’s main goals are to shift away from fossil fuels so that within 20 years, Canada gets all its electricity from renewable resources, and by 2050, no longer uses fossil fuel. The cost of making this transition is estimated at 50-60 billion dollars to be raised through taxes, ending subsidies to energy companies, and lowering military spending. The whole program is visualized through a “social democratic lens” as Stephen Lewis described it. In other words, in moving to a carbon-free economy, the methods would achieve goals such as more equality, inclusiveness, and stronger local communities.

Here are some of the specifics of the Manifesto:

1. New infrastructure projects must not be directed towards carbon resource extraction such as new pipelines, harbor improvements for tankers, or fracking projects. Instead, priority would be given to high-speed rail, public transit, and strengthening public buildings, streets, and water lines for extreme weather events.
2. Retraining programs for workers in carbon-based jobs to fit them into clean energy jobs such as building clean energy buildings and homes and retrofitting existing ones to make them more energy efficient.
3. A reallocation of spending into occupations that are already low carbon, such as long term care, child care, social work, education, cultural occupations but face constant cost-cutting by governments.
4. An end to trade deals that undermine attempts by local governments to develop their own plans to reduce carbon emissions.
5. A national childcare program, and a universal basic annual income for Canadians.
6. Financing of the 50-60 billion dollar bill for all this would come from financial transaction taxes, increased resource royalties, higher taxation of corporations and the wealthy, and new progressive carbon tax.

Is all this pie in the sky? The Manifesto certainly has a visionary, optimistic, tone to it, and lacks detail. However, if one believes that carbon buildup is approaching dangerous levels, moving with all possible speed to a carbon free world does not appear to be unrealistic, which is the adjective applied by many to the program.

The cost of the program, seemingly prohibitive, must be kept in perspective. Canada is a 2 trillion dollar economy. A 50-60 billion dollar expenditure represents about 2.5% of that total, not counting the increase that would occur in national income from a major government expenditure financed by taxation. (Economists call this a balanced budget multiplier.)

The electric car will be becoming mainstream much faster than previously believed, and cheaper than driving conventional gas powered types that are major polluters. Bloomberg reported that there are now over 30,000 electric stations in the US for plugging in electric cars (more than the number of ubiquitous McDonald’s) thus allaying fears of drivers of being stranded. By the 2020s, it predicts that owning and driving one will be cheaper than non-electrics, even if the cost of oil falls. Renewable energy sources are now competitive with, or almost so with gas, oil, and coal plants. Viewed in this way, the Manifesto’s aims appear to be on the right side of what technology and business promises for the future.

## Calendar

**Monday, November 21, 2016. ARM’s Annual Fall Curling Bonspiel**, at the Donalda Club, DonMills. Registration, 9:30 a.m. Face-Off, 10:00 am or earlier, as possible. \$28 per player, after \$13.50 subsidy by Educators Financial Group. Fee includes four ends of curling and excellent luncheon. A maximum of 32 curlers, so register ASAP with Jim Loftus [416-447-0811](tel:416-447-0811), as spaces are quickly filled.

**Wednesday, December 7, 2016. ARM’s Annual Holiday Celebration at the Latvian Centre**, 4 Credit Union Drive (adjacent to OSSTF Provincial Office, 60 Mobile Drive, North York). Confirm attendance with Jim Loftus [416-447-0811](tel:416-447-0811). Lunch includes turkey with all the trimmings, beverage choices, good company and live music to usher in the spirit of the season. \$35 per person. Includes \$10 subsidy.

**Tuesdays, January 3 to March 14, 2017. Weekly Indoor Golf Training Sessions** at Metro Dome. Two golf pros will coach 30 or so aspiring professionals in all aspects of the game. Fees are \$300 for all 10 weekly sessions and \$35.00 for each single session. Confirm your choice of 10 or single session participation with Jim Loftus at [416-447-0811](tel:416-447-0811) by Tuesday, December 20, 2016.

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017. Annual Sponsors’ Workshop**. 60 Mobile Drive, Lower Level, Erie Room.

Registration begins at 9:30, presentation starts at 10 am. \$18 cover. Representatives from OTIP, Educators’ Financial and Teacher’s Life will present general information and any changes to existing benefits plans for 2017.

**Wednesday, February February 15, 2017. Chapter 12 Presentation and Luncheon**. 60 Mobile Drive. Lower Level Erie Room. Speaker TBA.

**Wednesday, May 24, 2017, ARM’s Annual Spring Golf Tournament**, on the Challenge Course, Rolling Hills, Warden Ave, north of Stouffville Road, Gormley. Registration at 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Tee-Off at 10:00 am. \$70 fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart for two, BBQ luncheon of chicken, salads, vegetable plate, assorted cookies, coffee or tea, taxes, gratuities and prizes. Proceeds of a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction are donated to the Swing For Kids children’s charity. Send \$70 per golfer, by cheque, to Jim Loftus, 301–7 Roanoke Rd. Toronto, ON, M3A 1E3. Cheques should be mailed by May 19, 2017 and made payable to ARM Chapter 12. Call Jim Loftus for additional information at [416-447-0811](tel:416-447-0811).

**Wednesday, May 31, 2017, ARM Chapter 12 Annual General Meeting**, 60 Mobile Drive, Lower Level, Erie Room.

## Out of Town ARM Events

### CHAPTER 3 (Rainbow)

**Last Friday Monthly Breakfasts @ 9 October 28th, November 25th Gloria’s Restaurant** Regent St, Sudbury. Contact: Lee Ferguson, President ([lferguson@isys.ca](mailto:lferguson@isys.ca))

### CHAPTER 9 (Windsor-Essex)

**First Friday Monthly Breakfasts November 4th, January 6th, February 3rd Lumberjack Restaurant** 475 Tecumseh Rd. E. Windsor. Contact: Judy Tenzer ([519-979-8135](tel:519-979-8135))

**Thursday, December 8th: ARM Annual Winter Luncheon Ciociaro Club** 3745 North Talbot Rd, Windsor (Tickets are \$21 pp). Contacts: Toni Pecaski, Judy Tenzer or Adele Newman via District Office ([519-948-7570](tel:519-948-7570))

**CHAPTER 11 (Thames Valley)** In lieu of a traditional Christmas lunch, plans are underway (as in recent years) for an expenditure on grocery voucher gift cards and hampers for very needy students in selected TVDSB secondary schools. For further information, contact Chapter 11 President Mary Lou

Cunningham ([armpresident@osstf11.com](mailto:armpresident@osstf11.com))

### CHAPTER 22 (Niagara)

**Monthly Tuesday Breakfasts November 15th @ 9:30 Patti’s Place** 87 East Main St., Welland  
**January 17th @ 9:30 Blue Line Diner** 4424 Montrose Rd., Niagara Falls

**Annual Christmas Luncheon. December 6th @ 12 noon Doc Milligan’s Restaurant & Irish Pub** 6400 Lundy’s Lane, Niagara Falls. **RSVP by November 28.**

**Contact for all events:** Ray Marshall, President ([rmarshall23@gmail.com](mailto:rmarshall23@gmail.com))

### CHAPTER 29 (Prince Edward-Hastings)

**Annual Christmas Luncheon Monday, December 5th Federation House** 114 Victoria Ave., Belleville Details TBA. Contacts: Jim Stewart, President ([armdistrict29@gmail.com](mailto:armdistrict29@gmail.com)) or John Zikopoulos ([johnz@cogeco.ca](mailto:johnz@cogeco.ca))



# Toronto: Top City Problems

2016 Report on the State of the City: Are you Optimistic about the Future of Toronto?

BY MANFRED NETZEL, PRESIDENT, ARM CHAPTER 12

In the last issue of *After School*, I hoped that the pending US Presidential election would be worth commenting on. However, with just over two weeks to election day, the acrimonious tone between the major candidates and their campaign teams has led to a foregone conclusion about the race for the White House. At the time of this writing, the only mystery is still around the composition of the Congress and how easy or difficult Hillary Clinton's first term in office as President will be ... 'nuff said.

Instead, I want to dedicate this writing to the social condition we, as Canadians, currently face in Toronto, this province and our country on the eve of our national sesquicentennial in 2017. My thoughts were provoked by the publication in early October of the Toronto Foundation's *2016 Report on the State of the City: Are you Optimistic about the Future of Toronto?* At first glance, this annual snapshot of life in the GTA concludes that we are living in an urban region that is ranked as the best place to live compared to 50 global cities. Clearly, according to numerous local boosters, we can stop fretting about being world class as Toronto has now been shown to be among the top large cities to live in currently and will continue to be attractive in years to come. At the same time, the report also provides some evidence of both troubling signs and trends, even some shameful and sobering realities for many of our fellow citizens. Some of the most disturbing highlights of the "Vital Signs" report include the following:

Toronto can claim to be the child poverty capital of Canada, since 25 per cent of its children are being raised in poverty (a trend for two decades) which is the highest rate of all large cities. In fact, five of the 15 federal ridings with the highest rates of child poverty are here.

For the past 15 years, economic inequality has increased amongst Torontonians as the rich get richer while the demand for food bank usage has moved from the core to the inner suburbs and has increased almost 50 per cent over the past eight years.

Housing, both rental and owned, is in a crisis situation for different reasons. Fewer rental units are being built by developers and affordability due to this shortage has led to skyrocketing rents, shady rental practices and almost 85,000 households being added to waiting lists for social housing. At the same time, young people and new families are giving up on the dream of local home ownership due to upward spiraling prices for homes and condos in Toronto, combined with more prescriptive mortgage financing regulations.

Torontonians already have the longest commutes in the country (challenged only by Vancouver), while more citizens living in the core are resorting to walking or cycling to work or carrying out daily chores. However, 90 per cent of those living

outside of the city still rely on their cars due to inadequate public transit in the 905 Region and overcrowded TTC and GO trains due to continuing urban density.

Crime rates, generally having shown downward trends over the past decade, are now seeing some types of criminality rising along with more mistrust of police behaviour. Specifically, stabbings, sexual assault, drug overdoses, hate crimes and acts of systemic racism have been identified as problematic by certain segments of the community. More than 50 per cent of those surveyed also support *Black Lives Matter*.

According to the new president and CEO of the Toronto Foundation, Sharon Avery, all three levels of government now seem more inclined than they have ever been in years to actually work together on solutions to the challenges that the Vital Signs Report so clearly identifies. How likely will this be the case? Let's look at some examples of clear political lack of courage or actual inaction by current governments which must change if there will be real solutions to these problems facing Toronto and the GTA.

Of the 219 Liberal promises made in last year's federal election, several have been kept or moved upon such as truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' people, beginning Parliamentary committee work on electoral reform, and starting the discussions with the provincial/territorial governments on infrastructure funding and a future carbon tax system. Unfortunately, the goals or standards established by the previous Harper regime have not always been undone or revised to a better level which has led to dismay from the progressive opposition and its supporters. This is currently the situation around Canada's environmental plans for meeting climate change targets and policies in line with the promises made at the 2015 Paris UN Climate Conference.

Also, of primary importance for the future health of Toronto and other Canadian cities is a federal commitment to medicare and **improved** federal funding through transfers to the provinces compared to the Harper years. Currently, Ottawa funds only **23 per cent** of the total health bill for Ontario and the other provinces, the same as the Conservatives paid after the once upon a time 50:50 arrangement with earlier governments. Even with the planned 6 per cent escalator clause on that amount for 2017, that increase does not cover the actual increase in total health spending across Canada. The Trudeau plan is to increase funding for home care after 2016, but also increase the overall level of federal funding to just 3 per cent after this coming year ... all of the issues related to better health for this all of this country's citizens requires political vision, not creative book-keeping.

When one looks at the efforts of the Wynne Government in Ontario, the track record on policies related to better quality



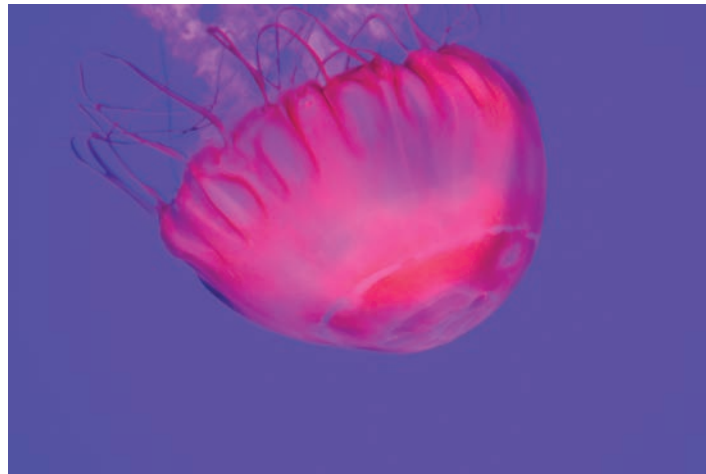


## Walk and Talk

# ARM Chapter 12 Takes On Ripley's Aquarium

*Accompanied by one young member of the future, 16 ARM members enjoyed the spectacular views of aquatic life on display in the Aquarium.*

It was a pleasant September summery day. Everyone enjoyed the sights of exotic sea-life that Ripley's offers. We posed for one group shot, even though After School does not usually publish group photos and then enjoyed each other's company and the stunning displays of the Aquarium. Enjoy this selection of mostly finny photos.



of life for we urban dwellers is passable, but can still have stronger commitments to environmental protection, transit funding and retaining public assets such as hydro-electricity and transportation networks. Thankfully, the early plans to initiate a provincial-funded pension plan (ORPP) were scuttled by the start of summer, due to federal plans to enhance the CPP. Also, the initial plans by Finance Minister Sousa to eliminate drug plan deductibles for higher income seniors were overturned after much public outcry from poverty groups, so that subsidies to low-income seniors would not be reduced and cost these people about \$100 million after August 1st. There are still plans by Health Minister Hoskin to review all public drug programs for greater financial sustainability in the long run to deal with the annual rate increases of 3-5 per cent. Hopefully, the federal plans to reduce health transfers will not pre-determine the future of medicare in Ontario.

One area of growing importance for the future of sustainable growth, public transit and environmental protection in Toronto and the surrounding GTHA is the continuation of the decade-old Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH). First introduced in 2006, this policy direction has provided the framework for intensified development in a defined region covering over 30,000 square kilometres in a radius of 100 kms around Toronto. The basic principle has been to encourage higher density in designated growth areas throughout the GGH to create complete residential, retail and commercial use communities that already have transit and cycling infrastructures. Tied in to this plan has also been the preservation of the Oak Ridges Moraine just west and north of Toronto through a regulated area called The Greenbelt. Of course, since this large geographic area is also some of the most desirable (and expensive) agricultural and suburban land for private development in Ontario, the biggest challenge for Queen's Park is to limit access of these resources for so-called new greenfield development as the Growth Plan enters its second decade. Can the decision-makers be trusted to maintain a direction of well-planned and managed smart growth for both

current and future generations?

Lastly, the most direct responsibility for the well-being of Torontonians lies with the city political structure represented by City Council and the thousands of civic workers entrusted with providing services, by-law enforcement and policy formulation. At the same time, both publicly-funded school board (TDSB and TDCSB) are critical to provide students, their parents and board employees with good service, healthy and safe workplaces providing decent employment. Of course, every decision or action carried out by city hall or school board is determined by the budget, so the formulation and allocation of over \$11 billion in public funds for the former and a combined \$4 billion for the latter is key to the quality of life. Since budget season is always a politically charged period for elected representatives and bureaucrats, supplemented by an aversion to any talk of tax increases, the need to find additional revenues becomes an imperative for the mayor, board chair and their financial advisors. However, Mayor Tory's edict to cut 2.6 per cent from all city departments has already been derided by most city managers. Thus, all are waiting with great anticipation for the pending report offering suggestions for new revenue tools such as taxes on tobacco and alcohol, a tax both on hotel rooms and entertainment activities, a parking levy and higher development fees. For the school boards, the options are more limited due to formula-based grants from the province and a prohibition on budgetary deficits. Should we hold our collective breaths? Stay tuned....

At this time, I would also like to wish you and yours a happy Holiday Season, along with my hope for all to enjoy a healthy and prosperous 2017. Please consider joining me, the Executive and many of your colleagues for our annual Holiday Party on December 7th, details for which are found on the back panel of this newsletter.

*Manfred*

**Keep up-to-date with ARM Chapter 12 events**

**Check out newsletters and the calendar at**

**[www.armchapter12.org](http://www.armchapter12.org)**

**Notify ARM and OSSTF of address and email changes**

**[armchapter12@gmail.com](mailto:armchapter12@gmail.com)**

**&**

**[Giovanna Papatheodorou, 416 751-8300](tel:4167518300)**



## Mohammed Hashim Tells ARM Members About Islam and Islamophobia

*In a wide-ranging presentation, Hashim demythologized Islam*

BY ALLAN HUX

Many people outside of the Islamic community have a limited understanding of Islam. Muslims, the followers of the Abrahamic religion of Islam, founded by the prophet Muhammad, make up about 25 per cent of the world's population. The largest concentration of Muslims is in the countries of Indonesia, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. Only about 20 per cent of Muslims live in all of the Arab countries combined.

Mohammed Hashim shared, on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, with over 30 ARM Chapter 12 members, what it is like for Muslim Canadians living in the

post 9/11 environment in Canada. Mr. Hashim is a senior organizer and political strategist at the Toronto and York Region Labour Council with a focus on municipal issues. He is also the national chair of the *Stronger Together Campaign* for the National Council of Canadian Muslims which was founded to tackle Islamophobia across the country.

Hashim pointed out that Islam is a very diverse religious community. Eighty-five per cent of Muslims broadly follow Sunni traditions and 15 per cent follow Shia teachings. There are over 70 distinct subsets of Muslims based on different interpretations of the Quran, the teachings since the seventh century, and their strong cultural differences. Islam, like Judaism and Christianity, is not a monolithic religion and its adherents follow manifold paths.

This diversity is true about Muslims in Canada. Canadian Muslims make up over 3 per cent of our population and they have emigrated from many different countries. 72 per cent are immigrants and 28 per cent are Canadian born. Most Muslims live mainly in large urban centres where they have established mosques that build on their cultural, linguistic and religious traditions from their countries of origin. Hashim noted that the Council of Canadian Muslims works very hard to build a large tent to include all Muslims. One of his most insightful observations was to state that he avoids judging other



Mohammed Hashim was both animated and insightful in his presentation

Muslims. Hashim does not divide his co-religionists into good and bad Muslims, but respects their different traditions.

Does Islam promote violence? No, it is a religion that promotes respect, peace and living together in harmony and this has been the traditional practice since the seventh century. Can Islam be manipulated to promote violence? Yes, it can be exploited by unscrupulous individuals. Christian and Judaic extremists also manipulate their religious teachings to justify illegal acts of violence. The key points to remember are that Islam teaches that Muslims must obey the law of the land and that Sharia law does not take precedence over any domestic law including Canadian law.

When did Islamophobia become pronounced in Canada? The day after 9/11. Thirty per cent of Muslims in Canada have experienced Islamophobia. What is Islamophobia? It is a “fear or prejudice fomented by the existing Eurocentric and Orientalist global power structure...” At a local, lived level it is manifested in many ways from shunning to bullying to discrimination and occurs in school yards, work places and public spaces like the subways and sidewalks. Women who choose to wear the niqab often experience shunning or are questioned by other people about why they are oppressed by their male relatives. Muslim community groups have created the Young Muslim Help Line to provide support for young

## STAGE CENTRE PRODUCTIONS – ARM CHAPTER 12 GROUP RATE

We have obtained a group rate for ARM Chapter 12 OSSTF members at Stage Centre Productions, at the Fairview Library Theatre.

Fairview Library Theatre is located in the Fairview Library at 35 Fairview Mall Drive.. Fairview Mall Drive runs east from Don Mills just north of the Fairview Mall and Sheppard Ave East. The Don Mills subway station is nearby at the corner of Sheppard Ave. East and Don Mills.

Stage Centre Productions, an amateur theatre group, is offering these productions in the 2016/2017 year:

**The Best Man (November 24-Dec.4)**

**Strictly Murder (January 26-February. 4)**

**Stepping Out (March 18-25)**

**Anything to Declare (May 18-25)**

**How this works:**

The group rate is \$ 20 per ticket for seniors instead of \$25 ARM Chapter 12 has been given a code which is **OSSTF**

To continue this code we have to have a minimum of 10 tickets purchased per play. The tickets do not have to be for the same performance for the specific play. However, if the group grows large it helps if the bulk are for the same night.

The ticket purchaser can buy for spouse, relatives and friends using this code.

The code, **OSSTF**, can only be used verbally by phoning Kathy at 416-299-5557. Kathy will take your information including credit card information. She will process the credit cards just after the specific play ends its run.

If we have purchased 10 or more tickets they will be processed at a price of \$20. If we have less than 10 they will be processed at \$25. Kathy may allow us to get tickets at \$20 for the first play if we are near to 10. This is to allow our group to grow.

**Tickets using this code cannot be purchased online or through this website.**

Find out more about Stage Centre Productions and the plays by googling Stage Centre Productions or going directly to their website: [info@stagecentreproductions.com](mailto:info@stagecentreproductions.com).

If you have questions about this process please contact Paul Rook at [prook@sympatico.ca](mailto:prook@sympatico.ca) or 416-292-9919.

Christos Aslanidis and Allan Hux will be assisting with this project.

## Essentials of Estate Planning



Did you know that the majority of Canadians do not have a signed will? And yet, without one, your loved ones could be without the funds they need for day to day expenses; your children could be provided with guardians you may not approve; and your estate could potentially be tied up for years?

For many people, estate planning is a subject they avoid or put off.

For other people, this subject is rife with questions. Do you need an estate plan? What are the components of estate planning? Why is

it important? How difficult is it? What professional assistance do you need? Can you write a will yourself? Who should be your Executor? What's a Power of Attorney?

Estate Planning is a way of ensuring that your assets are distributed according to your wishes, in the fastest, most convenient, and most tax-efficient way. During a difficult time, it will reduce stress for your loved ones.

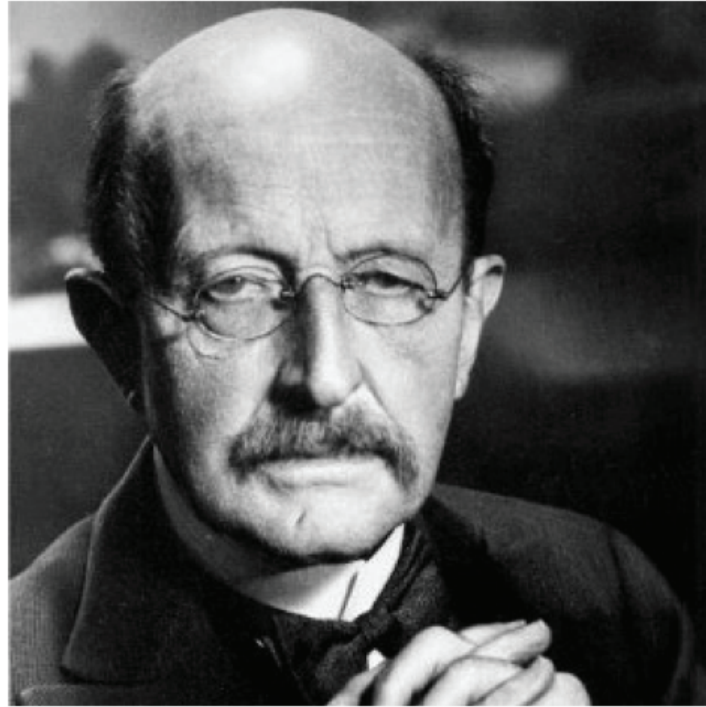
At Educators Financial Group, we can help answer many of your questions in our Estate Planning series in The Learning Centre by visiting [educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/estateplanning](http://educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/estateplanning). You'll learn why you need a will, the professional assistance you'll need, and other valuable information.



hoot about “missing link” species, failing to understand that organisms evolve continuously, not jumping from type to type, and that in fact what we call species are simply samples picked out of a continuous stream. Essentialism, the “dead hand of Plato,” as Dawkins calls it, corrupts our thinking on many other fronts, too, falsely splitting continuities into segments, as, for example, when we ask at what point life begins in the development of an embryo, or when a person on life support is truly dead.

Some essays suggests science may be of two minds about humanity. On the one hand there are defences of our species against common aspersions. The popular notion in psychology, for example, that we are sheep, easily led to surrender our consciences to authorities, is repudiated as simplistic and a misinterpretation of the data. Sci-fi dreams about robot companions get their comeuppance by an MIT professor who reminds us why machines designed as companions, not mere performers of simple functions but elder-care-bots, nanny-bots, teacher-bots, sex-bots, are poor, empty fictions. As non-living entities, robots are by definition incapable of sharing with us what it means to be alive and human. An artificial intelligence theorist suggests throwing out AI as a title for his field and replacing it more accurately with “the attempt to get computers to do really cool stuff.” Machine intelligence is so fundamentally different from human intelligence, and so much thinner, he says, that no one has even attempted to reproduce real human intelligence yet.

On the other hand, there are thinkers who are much less impressed by humanity. The old philosophical chestnut about determinism is dusted off by a professor who argues that, since everything we think and do is produced by our physical brains, it follows that all our thoughts and actions are locked into the laws of physics, making us, in theory, as predictable as the motions of the planets. There is no free will for us any more than there is free will for a planet, there are no real choices, everything we do is done under inescapable compulsion. Because criminals could not help being what they are, he believes, they should be given the kind of consideration that we now give to the mentally ill. A psychologist agrees there is no free will but goes a step further, arguing there is no such thing as the self, on the grounds that no evidence of it has been found in the lab. And, kicking the corpse, a philosopher discloses that we barely have cognitive agency at all. Only for a small fraction of time are we in charge of our thoughts; most occur independent of us as, for example, spontaneous responses to stimuli, sleeping, daydreaming, zoning out, and Mind Wandering (his capitals), not to speak of mental dysfunctions



**Max Planck**

that involve loss of cognitive control, such as illness, intoxication, and various kinds of obsessive thinking. Even more, he suggests that our sense of identity, the feeling that we are the same person over time, is an illusion, an adaptive form of self-deception designed by the organism to achieve its goals. In reality, we are only cognitive systems, complex processes without an identity.

Some writers cleverly take exception to the premise of the book, refuting Max Planck with historical examples, insisting that new ideas do not triumph by replacing old ones, urging “Beware of arrogance! Retire nothing!” and “Don’t Discard Wrong Theories, Just Don’t Treat Them as True,” or calling scientific progress an illusion. What other ideas must die? Spacetime, brain plasticity, carbon footprint, left-brain-right-brain, information overload, standard deviation, universal grammar, Moore’s Law, altruism, innateness—the list goes on. Who would have imagined it even possible to doubt, never mind call for the end of, ideas such as cause and effect, geometry, the scientific method, culture, or the universe? We are assured that beauty is not in the eye of the beholder, that humans are not social animals, that bias is not always bad, that sadness is not always bad and happiness is not always good. Glancing over the table of contents, the eyebrow rises again and again—but in a good way, as a sign that the mind is being pried open and that a moment of enlightenment might ensue.

women and men who experience Islamophobia.

This narrative of othering people is dangerous and contrary to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and our policy of multiculturalism. It is part of the experience of all immigrant groups who are expected to integrate, assimilate, or acculturate into mainstream English Canadian culture. Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia are currently the two highest expressions of hate crimes in Canada.

So what about terrorism? Yes, 9/11 did happen and it was condemned by the vast majority of Muslims in Canada and around the world. “Almost 9 out of 10 Muslim Canadians believe that ordinary Muslims have a responsibility to report on potentially violent extremists they may encounter in their communities” according to an Environics survey. The great majority of terrorist attacks in the USA were by white supremacists and other right-wing extremists and Latino groups, while in Europe the vast majority of terrorist attacks have been committed by ethno-nationalists, separatists and anarchists. In Canada, where Martin Couture-Rouleau did kill Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent on October 20, 2014, there have been far more murders by estranged and mentally ill

people who were not Muslim.

Nevertheless, PM Stephen Harper exploited the Canadian public’s fear of terrorism that has been fanned by the international and Canadian media. In 2011, he stated that “Islamicism is the biggest threat to Canada.” He introduced anti-terrorism legislation, violated the rights of individuals suspected of terrorist activities, supported niqab bans, and introduced the Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Bill. In the 2015 federal election Harper and the Conservative Party continued their attacks on Muslims to secure and motivate their core supporters. Election signs of ethnic, Muslim candidates were vandalized and even had bullet holes shot in them.

On an encouraging note, Hashim said that Islam is evolving in Canada. Younger Imams in their thirties after the Orlando shooting recognized that Muslims must confront homophobia and make space for a respectful dialogue with the LGBTQ community. Hashim concluded that we all must create Canadian space for respectful dialogue and human interaction with our neighbours of all faiths and life styles.

— *PowerPoint research prepared by Khadijah Kanji of the Noor Cultural Centre*

## Sports

# Swinging In the Heat

**20 plus dedicated golfers took to the greens, September 14**

**BY JIM LOFTUS**

In anticipating the number of golfers for the ARM, September 14, 2016, Annual Fall Golf Tournament, Jim Loftus based his projection on the attendance numbers of 40 to 50 golfers as experienced at the 2014 and 2015 Fall Golf Tournaments.

However, as Jim and a majority of Ontario golf courses experienced, our gloriously very hot, very humid, with very little rain, summer, resulted in a large number of senior golfers cancelling their golfing plans due to heat exhaustion, overly sore arms, shoulders or ankles, changed holiday plans and/or various family or medical commitments. Thus, Jim’s anticipated 40 to 50 golfers for the Fall Tournament was dramatically reduced to 20 plus, play-under-any-condition, avid golfers.

Marvelously, our smaller numbers seemingly resulted in a greater sense of congeniality on the golf course throughout the game, and at the post-game luncheon and awards celebration.

So, despite the smaller numbers, we were delighted that our very generous supporters, Educators Financial Group, won the mixed doubles prizes through the great golfing team of Lisa Raponi, Brad Higginson, Adele Iozzo and Mike Hanniken. Lisa also won the ladies’ longest drive and closest to the pin awards.

Teachers Life representative, Duane Young, carried off the men’s longest drive award and presented numerous awards on behalf of Teachers Life to the men’s low net winners group of Ralph and John Cowan and Bob Antonyshin, and the men’s closest to the pin award, Dino Cirone.

ARM’s Swing For Kids children’s charities fund was also a winner, in that \$900 was raised through the Tournament’s Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle and the Hole Sponsorships provided by Educators Financial Group; Valu-Mart, Underhill Dr., Don Mills; Parkway Honda, Eglinton Ave East; Ridgewood Electric, Mississauga; and Metro Golf Dome, Milner Ave, Scarborough. George Meek also donated a \$50 gift to the SFK Fund.

Shares of the 50/50 Raffle went to Dino Cirone with his first and third winnings of \$75 and \$30, and Robert Royal won the second prize of \$45 which he immediately returned to the SFK fund. This is the second time Robert has very generously returned his 50/50 winning prize to the SFK fund.

On behalf of ARM Chapter 12, a very sincere thank you is extended to all of our participating golfers; Educators Financial Group; Teachers Life and all the hole sponsors named herein, for their very generous support for ARM’s children’s charities endeavours.





# Intelligent Life On Earth

*How might an extra-terrestrial define intelligence? Caring for and sustaining your planet? Treating all members of your species equally, with dignity and compassion? Resolving disputes in a peaceful, rational way?*

BY PAUL ROOK

Using modern technology, humans have been carrying on a search for intelligent life in the rest of the universe. However to determine if there is intelligent life we need a definition for intelligence. One of the most used definitions is that “intelligence is the ability to develop and improve technology while integrating it into our society.” Wow. Isn't this amazing. We create a definition of intelligence and it fits us perfectly.

However, maybe we shouldn't be so arrogant in assuming we are the gold standard for intelligence. In fact, there is a good argument to be made that we should be looking for intelligent life on earth. The Trump campaign has definitely convinced me that this search is necessary.

What if Mulder of X-Files is right and there are intelligent beings out there? However, they may have different standards for determining intelligence. These could include caring for and sustaining your planet; treating all members of your species equally, with dignity and compassion; and resolving disputes in a peaceful, rational way. How do we stack up using these standards?

We don't rate well in caring for our planet. Humans seem to think that it is here for us to exploit. We rapidly exhaust resources that are finite. A study just released by the World Wildlife Fund proves that we are in the midst of a major extinction of animals. What is responsible for this you ask? It is being caused by humans aided by our technology. We certainly are good at creating technology, but some of that technology has led to problems that threaten our existence. The foremost of these is climate change. If we are truly an intelligent species we would have accepted the reality of climate change decades ago and altered our way of doing things.

Instead, some members of our species, realizing our planet and therefore humans may be doomed, have come up with a solution. We just move to another planet. This suggestion in itself makes me question human intelligence, especially as this idea has been suggested by intelligent people such as Stephen Hawking. He has said we must be off this planet by the end of this century. There are a few difficulties with this suggestion. First, the farthest humans have gone from Earth is the Moon and we haven't been there since 1972. In fact, we don't currently have the equipment to return. Second, don't these people realize that it would require enormous space ships that would have to have capacity for sustaining people for generations? Moreover, not everyone would be going. How would they select the travellers? Am I correct in thinking that

the wealthy and powerful would be at the front of the line? Or am I just being a cynical curmudgeon? You decide.

How are we doing in caring for each other? Well we do have food banks, shelters for the homeless and agencies and charities to help the less fortunate. But these are band-aids that cover up the real problems. An intelligent species from another world might ask why, with all our planet's resources, we have many of our species suffering. The basic reason is that we have allowed an economic system to develop which allows a very few people to amass enormous amounts of wealth. Could it be that if we divided our wealth equally that everyone would have a comfortable lifestyle? Don't look for too many politicians to make this argument. Their campaign donations from the wealthy might dry up. Try suggesting this yourself and see what reaction you get.

How are we doing caring for our species in other lands? Well, we have Doctors Without Borders and other groups that go into war-torn countries and try to provide aid. However, any intelligent species observing us would ask why don't we just stop creating the wars and building the technology that makes them more horrendous. The answer is simple. We are still operating at an emotional and tribal level when dealing with other ethnic groups and countries. Very often our emotions overwhelm our rational side leading to racism, and views such as “My country right or wrong.”

So how are we doing at resolving disputes? Well we did have a cease-fire in Syria that lasted for less than a week after years of a mindless civil war, with so many factions that you need a score card to keep track of the factions. We created the United Nations but then gave the five permanent members of the Security Council the power to veto any action that might be taken to end a dispute. Could it be that we prefer fighting to talking?

So let us go back to the question of whether there is intelligent life in other parts of the universe. I believe that there is. So why haven't they contacted us? They are probably afraid to. Think of how we have treated new peoples when we come across them on earth. It usually involved weapons not dialogue. If they are out there I can see no reason why they would want to have anything to do with us. And if we think we can head for another part of the universe after we have destroyed Earth, I think they would object to that. Why would they let us move in and lower the standards and property values in their area of the universe?

the Quangels and interesting, lifelike secondary characters. On a floor above the couple lives an old Jewish woman, nervously awaiting her fate; her neighbours are watching, some with the thought of protecting her, others greedy for a chance to steal her possessions. On a floor below is a retired judge pretending to be nothing more than an old scholar buried in his books. Also in the building are a gambler and his prostitute wife, and a family of Nazis dominated, because of his superior fanaticism, by the sixteen-year-old son. At the main doorway is a snitch, stationed where he might overhear a word, a rumour, anything he can peddle to the authorities. Especially memorable is the local letter carrier, who imprudently resigns from the Nazi Party, thereby giving up her job, after seeing a photo of her son, an SS officer on the Eastern front, holding a baby by the foot, about to smash it against a car.

But it's neither the characters nor the suspense story that draws us to *Every Man Dies Alone*. We turn to it to see what life was like for ordinary Germans under the Nazis, and Fallada paints a chilling picture, a nightmare world of spies, denunciations, betrayals, cruelty, an entire nation living in terror. Resistance, bravery, humanity may not be extinguished, but they flicker in an overwhelming gloom. Fallada knew

what it was like to be denounced by the Nazis; in 1935 he was officially declared an “undesirable author,” was excoriated by the Nazi press, and his books were removed from public libraries. But he was no hero of resistance; he knew what it was like to be frightened into silence, retreating for a period into writing harmless fairy tales. And, sadly, he knew what it was like to be so terrified that, for a moment at least, he submitted. When he was told to add a pro-Nazi flourish to one of his novels, and when he heard that Goebbels had said if Fallada didn't know what to think of the Nazi Party, then the Nazi Party would know what to think of him, he complied. “The guilt of every line I wrote then still weighs on me today,” he later wrote.

Yet the value of *Every Man Dies Alone* goes beyond all this. In the midst of the detective story and the social realism is something more impressive, an earnest meditation on a fundamental moral question: When there is no hope of resisting evil, when it opposes you with forces so overwhelming that you have no chance of success, is there any purpose in standing against it? What purpose could there possibly be? That's what excited Fallada about the Gestapo file, and that's what makes the novel so extraordinary.

## Considered

# This Idea Must Die: Scientific Theories That Are Blocking Progress

John Brockman, ed.

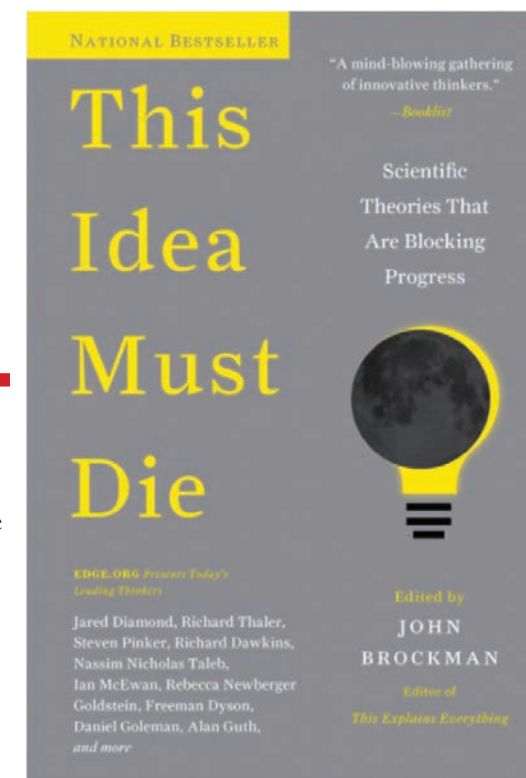
REVIEWED BY DAVID SCHREIBER

In 1948, physicist Max Planck described the progress of science as a battle between newly discovered truths and old ideas championed by senior scientists who fight stubborn, rear-guard actions until they die. It has been summed up in the memorable phrase, “Science advances one funeral at a time.”

*This Idea Must Die* attempts to rectify the process, if not by speeding up the death of old scientists, then at least by killing off some old ideas. In a series of brief essays, most only a few pages in length, 175 leading scientists pack their pet peeves into tumbrels and head them to the guillotine. It makes wonderful reading for those odd moments when you want to engage with something substantial but are short of the time or energy to tackle a major paper or book.

Some topics, not surprisingly, are aimed at specialists. As general readers we probably don't care much about causal entropic forcing, stationarity, inclusive fitness, the somatic mutation theory, or string theory. And most of us, because our minds are bogged, are insulated from concern about

an eleven-dimension theory of the universe. More accessible, if not entirely riveting, are essays which twist the knife into subjects which few people have little deep allegiance to any more, such as IQ, the concept of race, the absolute distinction between nature and nurture, lab mice as valid models for humans, and common sense. Some essays are useful in clarifying issues, such as Richard Dawkins's piece debunking “essentialism,” that is, the search for “essences,” the unwillingness to accept continuities. This has impeded progress in biology, as anti-evolutionists





Considered

# Every Man Dies Alone

by Hans Fallada

REVIEWED BY DAVID SCHREIBER

At the end of the war, German author Hans Fallada was not well. Throughout his life his mental state had been sketchy—as a youth he and a friend had tried to commit suicide together by staging a duel with pistols—and he had been locked up a number of times in jails and insane asylums for violence, theft, and various addictions. Nor were the Nazi years and the war therapeutic.

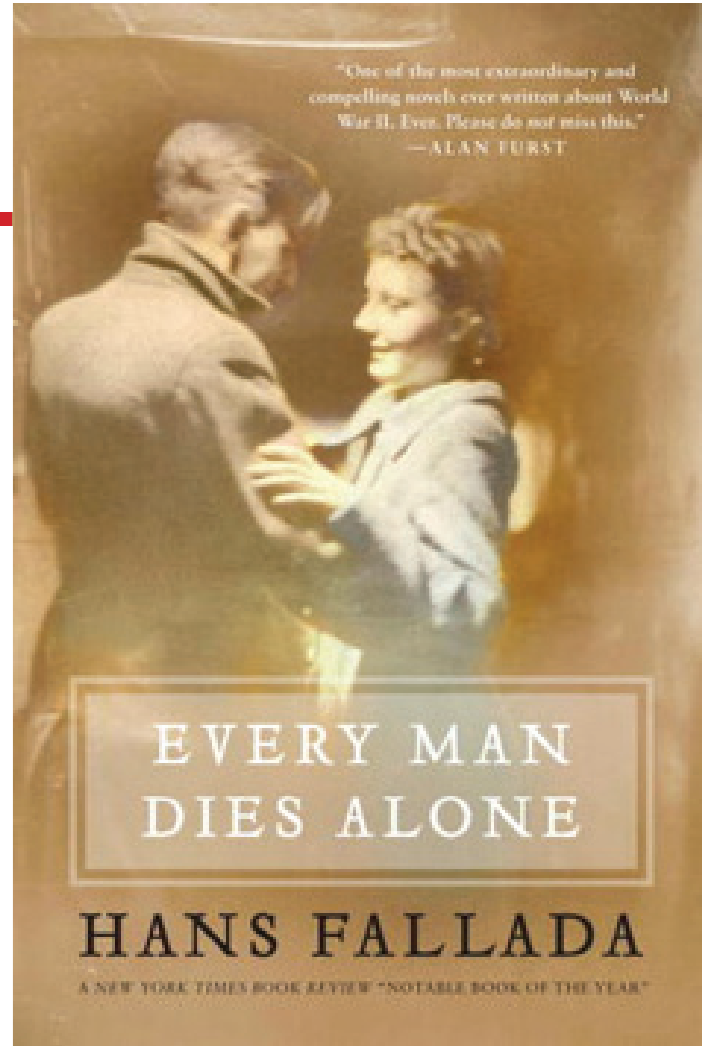
At the end of the war, a Soviet cultural official found him and his wife recently released from hospital, he for morphine addiction, she for attempting suicide. With a view to restoring some purpose to Fallada's life, the official handed him a Gestapo file, suggesting it might be turned into a novel. The file concerned a middle-aged Berlin couple, the Hampels, simple working people, the kind Fallada usually wrote about. For nearly two years they had conducted their own little campaign of protest against the Nazis, dropping postcards in various places around Berlin with messages such as "Mother! The Führer has murdered my son! Mother! The Führer will murder your sons, too, he will not stop till he has brought sorrow to every home."

Fallada was not impressed; the Hampels' protest was so feeble, so ill-conceived, almost ridiculous in its hopelessness. If the White Rose group from the university could not arouse the public with their vastly more articulate handbills, and if the carefully planned coup attempted by von Stauffenberg and other top army officers could not succeed, what hope was there in the Hampels' little postcards, with their awkward penmanship and bad grammar, left in the stairwells of public buildings in Berlin? Then for some reason Fallada had a



Gestapo photos of the Hampels

change of heart, and he suddenly began writing at break-neck speed, finishing the entire 500-page novel in 24 days. It was, he told his family, "a truly great novel."



On one level, *Every Man Dies Alone* is a detective novel, a good one, with the fictional Quangels trying to avoid capture by a Gestapo inspector assigned to catch them. Initially they are motivated only by grief over the loss of their son in the war, but their outrage soon expands until the postcards condemn the regime on bigger issues, including the plight of the Jews. Unsophisticated the Quangels might be, but they are exceedingly cautious, and they are not easily run down, which does not sit well with the inspector's superiors. The most interesting character in the book is the inspector, patiently and methodically tracing the location of postcards with pins on a map, confident of finding the culprits eventually and not much concerned with what his superiors think. Far from being a Hollywood stereotype, he is simply a good cop, almost a gentleman, kind-hearted—up to a point—with no animus for the Quangels. Seeing himself as a professional, apolitical, he doesn't think much about what goes on in the basement cells of Gestapo headquarters.

Fallada's novels were usually about the German working class. His *Little Man, What Next?* (1933), about the struggles of a family during the Depression, had been a bestseller, translated into English, made the Book of the Month in America, was turned into a Hollywood movie. So he had the skills to flesh out the Gestapo file with an authentic milieu for

## Final Income Statement ARM Chapter 12 July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

	Revenue	Income
OSSTF Rebate Fees	\$12,120.00	\$17,320.00
Teacher's Life Contributions	\$2,200.00	
OTIP Contributions	\$3,000.00	
 Balance from 2014/2015	 \$13,647.47	
	Expenses	Revenue
Executive Lunches	\$1,942.06	
Luncheon Meeting Expenses	\$8,238.39	
Luncheon Meeting Revenue		\$5,248.00
Newsletter Expenses	\$9,076.32	
Golf and Curling Activities Expenses	\$7,654.89	
Golf and Curling Activities Revenue		\$8,288.00
Theatre and Excursion Expenses	\$3,297.70	
Theatre and Excursion Revenues		\$2,932.00
Gifts, Cards, Membership & Charities	\$1,005.15	
Advertising	\$0.00	
Office & Miscellaneous expenses	\$19.51	
National CURC Conference	\$1,140.30	
Transfer to Swing for Kids charity	\$6,000.00	
 Totals	 \$38,374.32	 \$47,435.47
 Net Income over the period		 \$9,061.15

Note: The final transfer of \$4625 for the SFK charity will be made before the Dec dead line.

Treasurer: Michelle Barraclough



# Clean Cities, Clean Towns, and Clean Planet

What should Canada do now?

BY CAM KILGOUR

It was fitting that former Mayor David Miller addressed a group of educators on a gorgeous, warm fall day. The subject of his talk was Clean Cities, Clean Towns, and Clean Planet. Notwithstanding the normal autumn warm spells, the frequency of such above-average temperatures is a mixed blessing. We can all appreciate a lovely mid-October day and the attendant colourful display of leaves; however, if we lived in the Arctic, our perception of the heat would be unsettling. Miller opened with an anecdote about the glacial melt in the north and the tell-tale signs of climate change.

Toronto was fortunate to have “one of the two Davids from High Park/Swansea” as both a councillor and, from 2003 until 2010, a mayor. He is an accomplished fellow. Trained as both an economist and a lawyer, he was raised by a teacher, his mother. His own children have been educated at TDSB schools, including Humberside C.I. Indeed, he prefaced his words by acknowledging the hard work of the audience through their contributions to public education. After his own public service in the mayor’s office, he devoted himself to the mandate of the World Wildlife Fund Canada, of which he is president.

His speech drew a capacity group of astute members who seemed to recognize the urgency of addressing a defining issue of our time. As mayor, he attended the Copenhagen Conference Of Parties in 2009 and expressed that Canada, at that time, should have been embarrassed by the lack of leadership and political will on climate change. He was telling the truth as Harper’s government boasted about becoming an energy superpower while scientists warned of the tragic consequences of exploiting the tar sands.

Miller chose to frame the discussion in terms of a question: What should Canada do now? Though the dire effects of dangerous anthropogenic climate change are already evident, there is hope in the action of enlightened governments around the world. Cities apparently produce approximately 70 per cent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, mainly through the buildings, transportation infrastructure, and electricity generation. And, according to Bill Clinton, “cities are showing us how” to reduce our carbon footprint.

The exemplars of progressive action can be found in cities such as Shenzhen, China where all vehicles, both public and private, are electric. San Francisco has a comprehensive approach to energy efficiency. Guangzhou is greening its public institutions. Melbourne and Sydney have committed to sustainable emissions targets on short timelines. Calgary’s power, including light rapid transit, comes from wind power in a province that



still burns coal (the use of the latter fuel source due to contracts with private companies).

There are signs of movement within Toronto. Miller pointed out some flaws of the Transit City plan and yet he is optimistic that the necessary transit lines will, in time, serve the needs of Torontonians. He knows that the remedy to gridlock and inefficiency requires government funding and political will to serve all communities. A longtime TTC user whose family does not own a car, Miller studied the problems faced by residents in low-income pockets of the city. He listened to a woman from northern Scarborough who rode buses for hours to two jobs. Miller recognizes that building a smart city serves social justice.

New technologies are transforming the economy and some of that innovation is coming from local initiatives such as Enwave Energy, originally Toronto Hospitals Steam corporation. Miller added that the focus of the WWF is non-partisan. To that point, he acknowledged that some of the ideas contained in the LEAP manifesto are great. His own organization has been working with the Gitga’at nation to protect the waters of coastal BC. This discussion of Canada’s present and future strategies to green the economy stimulated ARM members.

# The Granite Brewery

245 Eglinton Ave E., Toronto (416) 322-0723 <https://www.google.ca/#q=The+Granite+Brewery+toronto>

BY ALLAN HUX (416.487.8255 OR [ALLANHUX@SYMPATICO.CA](mailto:ALLANHUX@SYMPATICO.CA))

*I would like to thank George Edelstein and Bill Pryde for nominating The Granite Brewery in mid-town Toronto. and I invite you to nominate your favourite pub now.*

In my inaugural column on Great Pubs in Toronto in February, I suggested there are at least eight key criteria that must be considered. These are: the brews, fare, service, atmosphere, design/layout/décor, price, location, and accessibility and I will address them in random order.

*The Granite Brewery* is a very fine pub on the southeast corner of Mount Pleasant Rd. and Eglinton Avenue. Although the postal address is on Eglinton, access is from Mount Pleasant as is the access to their free underground parking. For the healthy, green crowd, *The Granite* is a nice walk east from the Eglinton Station on the Yonge subway or a short bus ride if the weather is inclement. I wonder how many years we will have to wait to ride the Eglinton LRT to get there? One other unique feature is *The Granite*’s own beer store which boasts longer hours than the regular Brewers Retail outlets, Monday through Saturday: 11:30am – 11pm and Sunday: 11am – 11pm.

This was a very handy pub for teachers at Northern Secondary School and North Toronto Collegiate. Although I never taught at these fine schools, I was invited to *The Granite* after a few PD days. It features a wide range of home-made brews. Of course its convenient location made it very popular with many other people in mid-town Toronto. And I must confess a bit of a bias as I had my retirement party at *The Granite Brewery* in June 2010. It was a great party.

There is a large seating capacity and it is divided into several rooms including a bar, the Library, the main room in the back, as well as an outside garden area. The Library is my favourite space when I am visiting with a few friends and there is a fireplace to take off the chill in the cooler months. One of the most attractive

features is the physical accessibility for people with canes, walkers and wheelchairs. The bar, Library, large room and washrooms are all on the ground floor unlike the two previous pubs that I reviewed which had stairs to navigate.

The regular menu is extensive with soups, salads, pastas, sandwiches, burgers, entrees and desserts. The six main salads are mixed herb chicken and portobello, blackened salmon, Greek, spinach, garden, and Caesar. Red onions do figure very prominently in five of these. As a person with an onion allergy this caught my attention, but the manager assured me that all salads are made fresh and they can withhold the onions. Phew! The entrees feature steak, salmon, sausages, two curries (lamb and chicken), ribs, meatloaf, and fish and chips. Prices are reasonable with 1 piece of fish and chips \$13 and 2 pieces only \$16. I really enjoyed the chicken souvlaki dinner with 2 skewers on rice and Greek salad (minus all those onions.) Needless to say, the service at *The Granite* is excellent and Ron, the manager, was very willing to answer my questions and accommodate my allergies.

All the brews served are brewed at *The Granite* including the Best Bitter Special, Hopping Mad, an IPA, Galactic Pale Ale, Peculiar, Ringwood, Keefe’s Irish Stout, Ringberry, and they have 5 rotating drafts. I enjoy one of these, called Hazy Dazy, and for the few who are not huge fans of beer or ale the best crossover option may be Gin Lane Ale that they describe as a “barley wine” is generously hopped. A blend of two-row, carastan, black malt and flaked barley give this ale a winery sweetness. Bill, George and I invite you to join us for a toast to November on Tuesday, **November 29** at *The Granite Brewery* at 1:00 p.m. You will be joining a fine new ARM tradition. I would like to thank Trevor for nominating the Gull & Firkin in the Beaches and Karma, Manfred, Neil, Paul, Rosemarie and Jim who joined us to celebrate back to school month on Tuesday, September 27. Cheers.