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# After School

armchapter12.org

Volume 20, Issue 2, May, 2018

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## **SPECIAL**

# **Provincial Election Issue**



ARM Chapter 12 PAC Rep and election workshop organizer Charlie Hawkes shared the stage with OSSTF Toronto President Leslie Wolfe and ARM Chapter 12 President Manfred Netzel

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# Editorial Chatter

With Doug Ford's ascent to leadership of the Progressive Conservative party, Ontario faces an extraordinary challenge that could take us back to the worst of Mike Harris's governments. For this reason, this issue of *After School* stresses the provincial election and how members of OSSTF can work to elect a public education friendly legislature. Using the combined leadership of OSSTF Toronto President Leslie Wolfe and ARM Chapter 12 (Toronto) President Manfred Netzel, April 25 saw a large turnout of Active Retired Members who wanted to assist with electing the endorsed candidates in Toronto. All Active Retired Members should help the best candidate in their ridings to stand off the Conservative onslaught. So far, they appear to be in the lead; but with our efforts and those of others who value good public services, we can elect a responsible government.

This issue also features another fine article from travel writer Michelle Barraclough about working to assist educational efforts in Guatemala. Commitment like hers inspires all of us to help spread education to all members of society at home and away.

The chapter, in two of its meetings and luncheon events, talked

about your health and legal wellness, as reported by Jim Mile and Charlie Hawkes.

With three reviews to read, members have a fine opportunity to find out about good reads for the coming summer months. David Schreiber leads us into considering the life of the Empress of the East, a European slave who eventually became Empress beside Suleyman the Magnificent. Getting a handle on the great tax ripoff will help stimulate your desire to help out in the election. Finally, Jim Mile reviews Larry French's recent memoir, *Man on the Move*. A fascinating life.

With all the excitement of the election, Michelle's article and photos, two reports on luncheon events and three excellent book reviews, we should not overlook two tributes to the late Marion Evans who made such a memorable contribution to the ARM Chapter 12 Executive. Jim Loftus and Karma Naike capture some of the essence of this wonderful person.

Have a good spring and summer. See you in August.

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## 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)**

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### Active Retired Members Chapter 12 (Toronto) Executive

President:	Manfred Netzel 416 767-8786
Vice- President:	James Loftus 416 447-0811
Vice-President:	Neil Walker
Secretary:	Bill Pryde
Treasurer:	Michelle Barraclough
Executive Officers:	Charles Hawkes Paul Headdon Rosemarie Mohring Karma Naike
Members at large:	Bruce Archer Chris Aslanidis Marion Evans Roy Evelyn Julia Harney Allan Hux Jim Mile Millie Oliver Paul Rook Don Wright

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### ***After School*** Volume 20, Issue 2, May, 2018

*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:** Michelle Barraclough, Larry French, Charles Hawkes, Jim Mile, Manfred Netzel, Ed Preston, Paul Rook, Neil Walker

#### Newsletter Contact Information

[nwal.42@gmail.com](mailto:nwal.42@gmail.com)

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# Calendar

**Wednesday, May 9, 2018. Relationships – Ellie Tesher, The Toronto Star.** Listen as Ellie talks about keeping relationships going, how to handle conflicts, what makes a good relationship and lots of other aspects of personal business and romantic relationships. Erie Room, 60 Mobile Drive. Registration 10 am. Lunch \$20. Confirm attendance in advance with Jim Loftus, 416-447-0811.

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018, ARM's Annual Spring Golf Tournament, on the Classic Course, Rolling Hills,** Warden Ave, north of Stouffville Road, Gormley. Registration at 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Tee-Off at 10:00 am. \$68 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 \$68 per golfer, by cheque, to Jim Loftus, 301-7 Roanoke Rd. Toronto, ON, M3A 1E3. Cheques should be mailed by May 11, 2018 and made payable to ARM Chapter 12. Call Jim Loftus for additional information at 416-447-0811.

**Wednesday, May 30, 2018, ARM Chapter 12 Annual General Meeting,** 60 Mobile Drive, Lower Level, Erie Room. Registration, 2:00 pm. Registration starts at 2pm,

business meeting runs from 3-5pm. Keynote speaker is Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition, who will address the state of our public healthcare system and some solutions for the new provincial government. BBQ dinner, \$35, starts at 5 pm immediately following the meeting and presentation. Confirm attendance in advance with Jim Loftus, 416-447-0811.

**Thursday, June 14, 2018, Stratford Theatre Trip.**

Participants are reminded to confirm their choices of pick-up location and meal by calling organizer Karma Naike at 416-783-6591.

**Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 1:30 pm Theatre Excursion. THIS EXCURSION HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

because Souleppper has changed the presentation for that date. *A Chorus of Disapproval* is no longer being presented. Members who purchased tickets for the original excursion presentation have had their tickets automatically changed to the new show by the theatre. Members may cancel their tickets for a credit or a refund by contacting the Young Centre for the Performing Arts box office at 416 866 8666, and are advised to do so as soon as possible.

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## Out of Town Events

### CHAPTER 3(Sudbury/Rainbow)

**May 31, June 29, July 27, August 31. Monthly Chapter Breakfasts** Starting @ 9 am on the last Friday of every month, members meet for breakfast @Gloria's Restaurant 469 Bouchard St., Sudbury Contact: Lee Ferguson (President) [lferguson@isys.ca](mailto:lferguson@isys.ca)

### CHAPTER 13/16 (Durham/York)

**May 31. Chapter AGM** Location in Uxbridge TBA Contacts: Colleen Ireland (President) [colleen.r.ireland@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.r.ireland@gmail.com) or Cyndie Jacobs (Secretary) [cyndiejacobs1@gmail.com](mailto:cyndiejacobs1@gmail.com)

### CHAPTER 21/18 (Hamilton/Wentworth)

**May 15. Joint Dinner & Theatre Excursion with Chapter 24.** This is a dinner and theatre excursion to St. Jacobs Country Playhouse in North Waterloo to see the 2 pm matinee production of *West Side Story* using the participants' own means of transportation. At the time of printing, tickets were no longer available. Contact: Milt Payne (President) [milt\\_payne@hotmail.com](mailto:milt_payne@hotmail.com)

### CHAPTER 22 (Niagara)

**May 9, June 13, August 8. Monthly Chapter Breakfasts.** The location in May is *Tammy's* 3551 Garrison Rd. / Hwy 3 (also Hwy #1), Ridgeway. In June, the location is *The Pelham Street Grille* 1507 Pelham St.(also Hwy #3), Fonthill. In August, the location is *Downtown Dolce* 225 King St., Port Colborne. Contact: Ray Marshall (President) [rmarshall23@gmail.com](mailto:rmarshall23@gmail.com)  
**May 23 Chapter AGM.** Business starts @ 10 am. Location is the District 22 Office 1877 Merrittville Hwy, RR1, Fonthill. Contact:

same as above.

**July 18. Lunch & Showboat Theatre Excursion** Lunch will begin 12 noon @ *San Marco's* 164 Clarence St., Pt. Colborne. Afterwards, proceed to the *Showboat Festival Theatre* 296 Fielden Ave. for the 2 pm show *Screwball Comedy*. Tickets are \$32 pp and should be purchased by June 13 from the theatre (905-834-0833). Lunch RSVP via Garry. Contact: Garry Lemon (Social Convenor) [garry101@yahoo.com](mailto:garry101@yahoo.com)

### CHAPTER 24(Waterloo)

**May 15. Joint Dinner & Theatre Excursion** See details as under Chapter 21/18 events. Contact: Rich Clausi (President) [richclausi@kw.igs.net](mailto:richclausi@kw.igs.net)

**June 5 OTIP Information Workshop** The presentation by Anita Chamberland begins @ 9:30am located in the District 24 Office, 225 Centennial Court, Kitchener. Other business of interest will follow. Contact: Rich Clausi (President) [rclausi@kw.igs.net](mailto:rclausi@kw.igs.net)

### CHAPTER 25 (Ottawa/Upper Canada/Limestone/Renfrew)

**May 24 Chapter Breakfast Meeting & Presentation** This is an annual event for over 10 years where local lawyer *Izzy Farber* provides useful legal information for seniors. This year, he will cover the issues of how to downsize living accommodations and issues related to medically-assisted death. The event begins @ 10am and is in the District 25 Office, 9 Corvus St., Ottawa. As this is an RSVP event, the deadline is **May 22nd**. Contact: Norma Sharkey (613) 680-0117 (before 7 pm) or by email [riknor2rogers.com](mailto:riknor2rogers.com)

# Where Has the Time Gone?

## *A Presidential Retrospective After Seven Years*

BY MANFRED NETZEL, PRESIDENT, ARM CHAPTER 12 (TORONTO)

As part of my annual spring cleaning chores, I came across a back issue of *After School* dated Volume 13 Issue 3, 2011. Of course, it was the 16-page August issue created by a then recently-elected executive officer on the Chapter 12 executive, Neil Walker. The content included some articles by now-deceased colleagues Ian Cameron and Steve Fuller, several book reviews and a very convincing piece by then (and current) political action officer Charlie Hawkes as to why our members should not vote for then PC Leader Tim Hudak, in the upcoming 2011 Ontario election. However, the item of content that most caught my attention was the review of the recent 2011 Chapter 12 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Besides being the author of the piece, which had photos of our invited guests and participants, a nice tribute to the outgoing president Karma Naike was highlighted. Of course, it was also the event at which yours truly was elected as the new president of this fine organization, almost seven years to the month that I am now writing this summary retrospective farewell in the same position I will be leaving after June.

Thus, it seems only appropriate that my last Presidential Perspective contribution to this ARM publication not be a tribute to me, but rather be about the key persons, issues and accomplishments that help describe this septennial as your president. A truly successful organization must always be a collective effort by a group of talented and committed people. This thought is especially true of a volunteer-based leadership group, which has been my experience in my almost decade of involvement with ARM Chapter 12. Besides the current executive, which includes several members already involved back in 2011, there have been many that made the journey in ARM better and more successful for me and the organization. You know who you are, without naming names for fear of forgetting you. Sadly, several are no longer with us and for them we mourn, including the most recent loss of our dear friend and executive colleague, Marion Evans. There will be some tributes to Marion found elsewhere in this issue.

As retired members of OSSTF, and constitutionally affiliated with both our home District 12 (now known as OSSTF Toronto) and the provincial ARM Council, we have the need and responsibility to support, collaborate with and advocate for local and provincial federation initiatives, events and projects. I have tried in my duties to encourage such cooperation whenever possible, often with the close assistance of individuals both at the district office (namely, David Pickering, Mike Platt and their competent support

staff, past and present) and the provincial office (Tammy Gulla, Scott Burgess, Giovanna Papatheodorou, Jim Spray, Paul Kossta and Earl Burt in particular). Since financial, database and logistical requirements to operate this chapter often require having and maintaining good relations with our partners, my role as president has always placed personal relationships at the top of my list which, in turn, has saved this chapter time, money and frustration.

Similarly, the relationship with the presidents of the other ARM Chapters across Ontario has become an increasingly important part of this job, both for advice and for helping to promote ARM's goals and voice within OSSTF and in the larger community. During my tenure, our local membership has stabilized at around 600, while 3 new ARM chapters were founded in York-Durham, Sudbury and Waterloo. Besides having a good and visible presence at the annual OSSTF Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA) through a display booth staffed by many ARM volunteers, our political clout has also increased through internal lobbying so that we now have a permanent representative at both provincial council and AMPA.

At this time, I would like to give special recognition to my colleagues Ray Marshall, current Chairperson of ARM Council, and Mary Lou Cunningham, Secretary of ARM Council, who, besides both being local ARM chapter presidents have also been good friends and mentors over these years of my involvement. By not naming the others in these positions, it is in no way meant to diminish their impact on me or the group.

Of course, having good relations with our current ARM benefits sponsors is also imperative as ARM members expect and have a right to be offered the best and most cost-effective healthcare, insurance and investment services possible. In that respect, I have been fortunate in creating (or maintaining) close dialogue with our representatives from Educators Financial Group (EFG), Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) and Teachers Life (TL). This year for the first time, the three sponsors also agreed to fund the catered lunch provided after our annual All-Sponsors' Workshop in January. Special thanks at this time must go to Anita Chamberland and Keren Higgins (OTIP), Marian Ollila and Chuck Hamilton (EFG), as well as Sandra Porfirio and Duane Young (TL) for making the past years a pleasure.

Although there have always been politically astute and experienced leaders and members in Chapter 12, I believe that if my departure from the presidency would leave one legacy (not intended as a narcissistic term) it would be the

heightened efforts and resources related to political activism and member engagement. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the focus of the August 2011 issue of *After School* was the position that there were seven key issues facing Ontarians in that election year which made it clear that ARM members, educators and those in the public sector and anyone who claimed to be a progressive voter could not vote for Tim Hudak. Ironically, we now face the same political scenario in the current provincial election, substituting the target with Doug Ford. Under the guidance of Charlie Hawkes, and ably assisted by Bill Pryde and our webmaster Steve O'Brien, I am sure that the printed and electronic messages necessary before June 7th will be crafted and distributed to the most effective level possible.

Unlike the situation in 2011, however, the ability for the labour movement, its members and supporters, to change the presumptive outcome, is now restricted to a far greater degree, even if the consequences could be similar. Thus, our willingness and ability to work with the home district, OSSTF and the social justice movement has never been more critical. I will not take more ink space to dwell on the importance of ARM members' becoming more informed and involved in the June election campaign, as there are other calls to action found elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to the new sense of close cooperation with District 12 (through President Leslie Wolfe), our joint efforts are somewhat precedent-setting. The April 25th joint information session with Leslie and me is just one example. A full list of endorsed candidates and their targeted ridings in Toronto is also presented for your perusal in this issue.

The strength and sustainability of Chapter 12 has always rested on our ability to offer a wide variety of sports, cultural and leisure activities to suit the varied tastes and interests of

our membership. This was already in place when I assumed the top job, through golf and curling events organized largely by Jim Loftus, theatre bus and boat trips planned by Karma Naike, Rosemary Mohring and Paul Rook, or countless local excursions or events within the city by Jim Mile, Steve Fuller, Millie Oliver ... and more recently by Chris Aslanidis and Allan Hux. Even the topic of travel has taken on a bigger role in our information provided both in *After School* and with our newest venture in creating a Travel Club through Michelle Barraclough. I'm sure that this tradition will continue in the years ahead. The larger workshop/luncheon meetings and the AGM were always a big challenge to provide interesting topics by knowledgeable speakers, both at an accessible location and for an affordable cost. I think that we largely achieved those goals, especially when reviewing the many media, wellness, legal, political, economics and social justice advocates we have hosted over my term as president.

In closing, the Executive has nominated Vice-President Neil Walker to be our official representative at ARM Council for the 2018-2020 term. For the AGM on May 30th, Neil has also put his name forward for the role of president. I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy and hope that you will as well, even if you are unable to attend and vote at the meeting. As I leave the job, I want to express my gratitude for the superb support, mentoring and advice that has been offered me over the past septennial by so many people. Rest assured that I will continue to offer the new leadership team the same support and advice, as I contemplate my new role as a member-at-large for the coming year, maybe more.

In Federation,

*Manfred*

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

**Check out newsletters and the calendar at**  
***www.armchapter12.org***

**Notify ARM and OSSTF of address and email changes**  
***armchapter12@gmail.com***  
**&**

***Giovanna Papatheodorou, 416 751-8300***

## Great Pubs

# Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub

225 The East Mall, Etobicoke, 416.231.9411 <http://scruffymurphys.ca/> and menu <http://scruffymurphys.ca/main-menu/>

BY ALLAN HUX (416) 487.8255 OR [ALLANHUX@SYMPATICO.CA](mailto:ALLANHUX@SYMPATICO.CA)

We visited Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub in Etobicoke two evenings in a row due to a little misunderstanding. Rob and his engineering workmates have a band, the *Blunt Instrument*, and Rob's wife, Susanne, is a close friend and former colleague of my wife. So Denise persuaded me to waive my subway accessibility criteria with the promise of a fine pub meal and evening of entertainment. You can imagine our surprise when we arrived in the middle of a snow storm on Friday, February 9, to find out that the Shiver Rock Festival was scheduled for Saturday, February 11 from 7 to midnight. But all was not lost for two reasons. First, we got to return on Saturday night and on Friday we met Glenn, the organizer of the Shiver Rock Festival, at Scruffy's. Glenn is a retired principal from the independent school system and a passionate rock music lover. Glenn had brought his family to Scruffy's for dinner on Friday night to check out the venue. We met his wife who sings in his band and his 94-year old mother whose late husband had taught at Harbord Collegiate for 30 years after World War II and had retired five years before I arrived as the history head at Harbord C.I.

For our Friday meal, I ordered the Cobb salad and had a Keith's draft or two. The Cobb was served on a large square plate with the ingredients laid out very neatly in 5 rows with lots of bacon, chicken, lettuce, eggs, cheese, tomatoes and greens. I have to say that this is the best Cobb salad I have ever had in a pub, and yes, they did hold the onions and gave me a salad dressing on the side. Denise had the medium chicken wings special with fries and had two Mill Street Organics (\$12.20). We actually took the TTC on Friday night and the 111 Bus from Kipling subway station was only a 10 minute ride. We were worried that we would have to wait a long time out in the bus shelter on our way home, but the staff checked with the TTC and informed us of the time for the next bus and we waited less than 5 minutes. It was a lovely Friday night date and we were looking forward to our return visit.

On Saturday, we had received quite a dump of snow, but we had invited a friend to join us and so Denise bravely decided to drive. I stored a snow shovel in the trunk just in case. We left at 4:30 pm with the plan of arriving by 6:00 pm that would guarantee us securing our table that we had staked out Friday night. The trip from Avenue Rd to 401 to Islington to Bloor to Old Mill went very smoothly and we arrived in about 40 minutes. Our friend was almost ready and we arrived at Scruffy's before 6 pm. There is a lot of parking in the strip mall and our table was wide open.

Glenn was thrilled to see us back and told us about the 5 bands that would entertain in turn with a 40 minute set each hour.



Glenn's *Fireside Acoustic* duet band was up first at 7 pm and we decided to order quickly before the crowd arrived. Denise and Olga ordered the chicken wing special (two dinners for \$23.90) so you know that the wings are excellent when Denise had them two nights in a row. On Saturday she went with hot wings and they were definitely hot while Olga had bare wings and she said they were meaty. She had enough left to take home for lunch on Sunday. Olga is not a beer drinker so she had two gin martinis (\$21.90) which she enjoyed over the evening. I decided to avoid onions that were in the soups, pasta, and lamb shank meal which looked terrific and settled on the two piece haddock and chips dinner with coleslaw (\$19.00). This meal was huge and a great value. The fish was delicious and I dined leisurely over three hours and was able to take a half a piece of fish home.

There was a limited number of options for brews and virtually no local craft beers on the menu and so I enjoyed two pints of Keiths (\$15.00). This limited selection was disappointing in comparison to the Wallace and Village Idiot pubs. Scruffy Murphy's is a spacious pub with seating on four different levels. The washrooms are on the main level and fully accessible. The bands played in the lower level and set up around the pool table which was out of commission this evening. Our friend Rob's band was the third to play and we enjoyed their performance, and checked out at 10 pm.

We enjoyed the 6 hours that we spent at Scruffy Murphy's over the two evenings and highly recommend the food, service and very friendly patrons. The range of beers was limited, but the value of food and drinks was excellent and I recommend you visit the pub when you are in the west end. Join ARM members to check out this pub at 1:00 pm on Friday, June 1. Cheers !

# Strange times in Ontario politics

*A joint call to action*

*from the presidents of ARM Chapter 12 (Toronto) and OSSTF District 12 (Toronto)*

BY MANFRED NETZEL

As you read this issue of *After School*, the upcoming June 7th Election Day is only somewhat over one month away. You may have also attended our joint OSSTF election information meeting on April 25th, which offered a co-presentation with OSSTF Toronto (aka District 12) to a group of interested and enthusiastic ARM Chapter 12 members. This meeting was precedent-setting, not so much about the topic, but really because it represented the first formal planned and collaborative political event in my memory between the leadership of our active District colleagues and us, ARM Chapter 12.

President Leslie Wolfe made an impassioned appeal at the recent meeting about the importance of becoming more informed and involved in the current election campaign because of the potential for a Doug Ford majority government at Queen's Park and its related consequences. Every member of ARM Chapter 12 and our colleagues in the other ARM Chapters still remember the direct and indirect actions undertaken by Mike Harris and his *Common Sense Revolution* in the mid to late 1990s. Some of the fall-out from that destructive Progressive Conservative regime we still live with, even as retired educators, ranging from the Mega City of Toronto and



**ARM Chapter 12 President Manfred Netzel welcomes over 35 participants to the April 25 PAC provincial election workshop. With him are workshop organizer and PAC rep Charlie Hawkes and OSSTF Toronto President Leslie Wolfe**



**ARM C12 Executive Member Allan Hux queries the presidents about election strategy**

the often dysfunctional TDSB, to continued underfunding of public education, healthcare, other public services and much deteriorating of local and provincial infrastructure some of which has also been privatized.

We may remember that new PC Leader (and possible Premier)

Doug Ford has most repeatedly proclaimed from the night of his election onwards that “the people of this province are ready for change . . . and I say that relief is on the way.”

However, as the *Toronto Star* recently editorialized: “Without any elaboration, this is worrisome, for change is not inherently positive . . . and brings with it risks. In fact, risk as a cataclysm usually brings chaos or disaster. Positive change tends to be slow, considered, persistent and evolutionary.”

Another important reason for greater individual involvement in this election is the new regulatory reality of very restrictive political contributions and advertising by groups and organizations such as unions. Details about the new electoral giving and spending rules are presented by our PAC Officer, Charlie Hawkes, elsewhere in this publication. Furthermore, to identify the endorsed candidates and priority ridings in Toronto (of which there are three more than in 2014) undertaken by OSSTF Toronto, we have included a list at the end of this article. A group of dedicated executive has undertaken a phoning initiative as of mid-April to reach out to as many of our members as possible. We have sent out several email blasts to those with active emails and have also posted all related information on our website and social media platforms for your convenience.

For those of you who were unable to attend the April 25th event, Leslie and I have composed this joint appeal in our newsletter, also a first, to strongly encourage you commit some time (at least 4 hours, if possible), campaign donations and, of course, casting a vote on or before Election Day. Please read the following appeal from my fellow colleague and OSSTF Toronto President Leslie Wolfe:

# OSSTF Toronto needs you!

BY LESLIE WOLFE, PRESIDENT, OSSTF DISTRICT 12 (TORONTO)

Every Ontario political pundit must have a headache from continuously having to shake their head at the current state of Ontario politics.

No one has ever seen a political party implode so completely, so close to an election as did the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party. Add to that the whiplash turnaround from what was widely, although erroneously, lauded as a *progressive* Conservative platform under Mr. Brown to a party led by the famously populist, right wing reactionary Doug Ford, and we are all left startled and wondering how to stop what will surely be destruction of public institutions under a Ford premiership.

Last provincial election, Tim Hudak was soundly rejected on the premise that he would let go 100,000 public sector workers in order to save \$2 billion. Mr. Ford has promised to find “efficiencies” to the tune of \$6 billion. Our estimate is that in education that would mean the loss of some 7000 jobs across the province.

We’ve seen this movie before. In fact we’ve starred in it. When a government looks to cut large amounts from its budget, we know how it ends for teachers, education workers and schools.

The job of the OSSTF Toronto executive is to advocate for and protect our members and publicly funded education.

In past years, we have been actively engaged in the electoral process, both donating money to progressive candidates, and paying for release time of our members to work on the campaigns of those candidates. With the changes to political financing laws, OSSTF can no longer do either of these things. In fact, we can’t even take our members out for a beer after they volunteer to canvass.

Over the past few weeks, OSSTF Toronto members have been meeting with nominated candidates from across the city, and working closely with provincial OSSTF to determine the best strategy for keeping Toronto from becoming a Tory base for a Ford government.



As a result of this work, we have determined a number of priority ridings and candidates where we are asking all OSSTF Toronto members – including Active Retired Members (ARM), to focus their efforts.

You will know that campaigns are won with boots on the ground. People who are able to assist with getting out the message, identifying the vote, and pulling the vote on E-Day will make all the difference.

Working members of the District are being asked to give a minimum of four hours’ time each to one of our endorsed candidates. We are hoping that members of D12 ARM will be able to do more, signing up as OSSTF-based volunteers for one of our endorsed candidates, to work on their campaign during the writ period of May 7 to June 8.

If we are to protect Ontario from the type of havoc wreaked on publicly funded schools by Mike Harris – and many think it may be even worse, with Mr. Ford in the pocket of certain groups that would benefit from being able to voucher their education tax dollars to private religious schools – we all need to pitch in. Polling shows it will be an uphill battle, and pundits are saying that whether Ford gets a majority, minority or loses will likely be based on the election outcome in the City of Toronto.

To let us know which candidate you’ll be working with on behalf of OSSTF, please send an email to [cahawkes10@gmail.com](mailto:cahawkes10@gmail.com) and sign up with your endorsed candidate.

There hasn’t been as important an election for publicly funded education in 20 years. We hope you will join your working OSSTF Toronto colleagues in this fight to protect our schools.



David Orenstein leads off the questions after Leslie Wolfe’s presentation

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# **OSSTF Toronto Endorsed Candidates**

As of April 30, 2018

## **NDP Candidates**

**Beaches-East York – Rima Berna-McGown**

**Davenport – Marit Stiles**

**Etobicoke North – Mahamud Amin**

**Humber River-Black Creek – Tom Rakocevic**

**Parkdale-High Park – Bhutila Karpoche**

**Scarborough Southwest – Doly Begum**

**Spadina-Fort York – Chris Glover**

**Toronto Centre – Suze Morrison**

**Toronto Danforth – Peter Tabuns**

**University-Rosedale – Jessica Bell**

## **Liberal Candidates**

**Don Valley East – Michael Coteau**

**Don Valley North – Shelley Carroll**

**Etobicoke Centre – Yvan Baker**

**Etobicoke Lakeshore – Peter Milczyn**

**Scarborough Guildwood – Mitzie Hunter**

**Scarborough North – Chin Lee**

**Willowdale – David Zimmer**

**If you choose to support a pro-public education candidate in this election, look up the candidate's contact information online.**

**Each candidate has a website with that information.**

# New game in Ontario

*Have the new election financing laws changed Ontario provincial politics?*

BY CHARLES HAWKES

Mark Hanna, US senator, famously commented in 1895: “There are only two things that count in politics: money, and I forget what the second one is.” Canadians are well aware of the truth embodied in this statement, particularly when we observe the almost grotesque amounts that fuel US elections and finance lobby groups. The federal government under Prime Minister Chrétien banned corporate and union donations to political parties in 2003. Finally, the Ontario government fell in line by acting to limit the influence of big money in politics.

The new Ontario laws completely ban unions, corporations, and other organizations from supporting political parties, candidates, or riding associations with donations. OSSTF, for example, cannot negotiate time release for teachers to work in a campaign as in the past. What the federation or a corporation can do is encourage their members as individuals to engage in the election campaign, either by donating time or money to a chosen candidate. Individual donations to a riding association, candidate, or political party are limited to \$1200 for each, totaling \$3600 for a given year. Party fundraisers are still allowed, but sitting MPP’s, government officials, and political staff are not allowed to attend.

“Third parties” are defined as any group that is not a political party, such as the Working Families Coalition, a group that spent a lot of money in 2014 opposing the Progressive Conservatives. They face new limits on their spending as well, along with political parties who are allowed to spend \$1 million on advertising in the 6 months up to election day. It should be noted here that unions and corporations may apply to become a third party as long as their spending is on advertising, and the spending limit is observed.

Finally, to help parties adjust to these limits, parties will be receive a per vote allowance of \$2.71 for every vote received in the last election. This subsidy leaves the Liberals with about \$5 million, PCs with \$4 million, NDP with \$3 million, and the Greens with \$630,000.

Have the new laws changed provincial politics? The ban on donations holds the promise of limiting the influence of business or labour on public policy. The limit of \$3600 on individual donations is almost 90% lower than the old



**Political Action Committee representative Charlie Hawkes outlines changes to electoral funding**

limit of \$33,250, reducing the power the well-heeled might have. The per-vote subsidy for a party based on its past performance means that getting the vote out even if it doesn’t win is money in the bank for the party in the next election. Surely this is helpful in equalizing the exposure of voters to all party platforms instead of some ridings being written off as not winnable by a particular party.

The new election laws encourage parties to find creative ways to engage their members to participate in the election process. Social media will undoubtedly play a much larger role in Ontario elections, both as a way for individuals to contribute money with a few clicks, and to become informed on issues. Money will always be important in politics, but the unfair advantage the wealthy have had is reduced. Unions too will have to accept the same limitations as business groups. Their challenge is to find ways to engage and motivate their members to become involved in elections.



## 3 ways to make your money work harder for you in retirement

### **ACTION PLAN #1: Create a budget.**

Yes, it's the simplest piece of financial advice that everyone should follow, yet so many forget about. Being aware of your monthly expenses going out (*versus pension income coming in*) is the easiest way to keep your retirement spending on track. More importantly, it will give you an idea of your monthly room for savings—because being in retirement doesn't mean you should stop socking away savings.

Use our [budget calculator](#) to get started on ACTION PLAN #1.

### **ACTION PLAN #2: Put your savings to work for you.**

Once you're comfortable with your budget, put a chunk of that monthly savings into something that will generate interest—such as a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA). The great thing about a TFSA is that it easily enables you to create another source of potential investment income, and it's all tax-free.

### **ACTION PLAN #3: Look for ways to minimize taxes and maximize government programs.**

If you want to pull out all the stops to ensure maximum cash flow in retirement, take advantage of smart options available to you such as income-splitting. This is where the top income provider in a relationship can allocate some of their pension income to their spouse in order to minimize the tax they'll have to pay on that income.

Find out more about these 3 action plans at: [educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/ActionPlans](http://educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/ActionPlans)

**You've got retirement questions? We've got educator-specific answers!**

Have one of our financial specialists [contact you](#) to make YOUR money work harder in retirement.

*The information provided is general in nature and is provided with the understanding that it may not be relied upon as, nor considered to be, the rendering of tax, legal, accounting or professional advice. Please ensure to consult your accountant and/or legal advisor for specific advice related to your circumstances. Educators Financial Group will not be held responsible or liable for any losses, costs, damages or expenses incurred by reason of reliance as a result of the aforementioned information. The information presented was obtained from sources that are believed to be reliable. However, Educators Financial Group cannot guarantee their completeness or accuracy. Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses may all be associated with mutual funds. Please read the prospectus before investing. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, as their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.*

Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 1:30 pm Theatre Excursion.

# THIS EXCURSION HAS BEEN CANCELLED

because Souleppper has changed the presentation for that date.  
A Chorus of Disapproval is no longer being presented.

Members who purchased tickets for the original excursion presentation have had their tickets automatically changed to the new show by the theatre.

Members may cancel their tickets for a credit or a refund by contacting the Young Centre for the Performing Arts box office at 416 866 8666, and are advised to do so as soon as possible.

# Remembering Marion Evans

*ARM's Own Iron Lady*

BY JIM LOFTUS

It is deeply saddening to inform ARM members of ARM Executive Member Marion Evans's sudden passing on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at the close of a brief four-day hospitalization, necessitated by her fall down the basement staircase of her home. The fall further exacerbated her already greatly overtaxed heart and breathing capacity. Marion's passing is also deeply shared by her extended families of cousin Cathy Alexander and cousin-in-law Debbie Garlin.

Marion's teaching career spanned many years in the early 1980s at East York's Gordon A. Brown Middle School, where she formed and became president of the local branch of the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario. She also served with her colleague, Max Bandey, as joint teacher negotiators dealing with educational issues within the East York Division of the Toronto District School Board.

Marion never let the grass grow between her toes, and often joined her many friends and colleagues in extended journeys throughout all continents across the earth's globe. In equating Marion's very considerable personal, socioeconomic and political attributes with those of Britain's former Prime Minister; the self-proclaimed Iron Lady, Margaret Thatcher,

## *A pleasure to have met her*

BY KARMA NAIKE

Marion was a unique personality who joined ARM Chapter 12 (C12) executive about seven or eight years ago. She was not a familiar face, just a new, self-assured, bright-eyed older woman who jumped right in on the discussions, and soon asserted herself as active when she enlisted on J. Loftus's Registration Team, providing matter-of-fact, polite service at the door, and more.

It was about her second year in the group when she volunteered to be part of the C12 staff for the ARM booth team at AMPA 2012. She was animated as she talked about ARM with folks browsing the displays, and her camaraderie was evident when she was game in checking out The Bay with the group to finally decide on a lunch venue.

Not long after our erstwhile leader and friend Ian Cameron passed way, I remember her walking into the memorial service venue, the very image of a woman elegantly dressed, medium heel pumps, navy suit, small handbag, and matching broad-brimmed felt hat tilted upwards, proceeding with a warm glance, giving me a glimpse

I recall Marion's presence at ARM's 2010 Annual General Meeting, at which her own Iron Lady questioned in a strong, confident and outstandingly knowledgeable manner, many monetary line items in the ARM treasurer's Annual Financial Report.

Some two or three days later, the Evans-Loftus paths crossed at the local Food Basics checkout counter where Marion's fiery Iron Lady recounting of her AGM questions led to my invitation for Marion to become an ARM executive member. Thus, from September 2010 to the time of her death in 2018, Marion continued on the executive, often displaying her wry humour and very confident, common sense positions on all ARM policy issues, while consistently assisting me in greeting, talking with and registering attendees, and accounting for fees collected at all ARM luncheon meeting functions.

In mourning Marion's untimely departure from our midst, let us hope and pray she might meet with her Iron Lady counterpart, Margaret Thatcher, and attempt to instill their Netherworld sense of system and order in our otherwise sadly Trumpian, Fordishly crazy humanoid earthly environment.

into the sophisticated Marion Evans. I thought she looked like a dignitary who takes the salute in a parade. As she was elegant in self-presentation, so she was in her speech. At meetings she expressed disagreement strongly, in crisp terms, but never offensively. She reminded me of the classic school marm, no nonsense reproof, with a twinkle in the eye.

Many C12 members may have met Marion as she greeted folks registering for events, and her sociability was also evident as she usually joined in post-executive meeting lunches. But I think she was also very private.

A few years ago, we had gotten word that she would be attaining her 80th soon, so we thought we'd surprise her at an upcoming luncheon. It seemed that she suspected something, as oddly, suddenly, she couldn't stay, had to leave, behaving somewhat nervously. By chance we had purchased two small cakes, instead of a large one so we wished her a happy birthday, gave her a cake and bouquet which she hurriedly accepted, and left. I was worried, but she was back at meetings, just fine. Possibly she didn't want a fuss.

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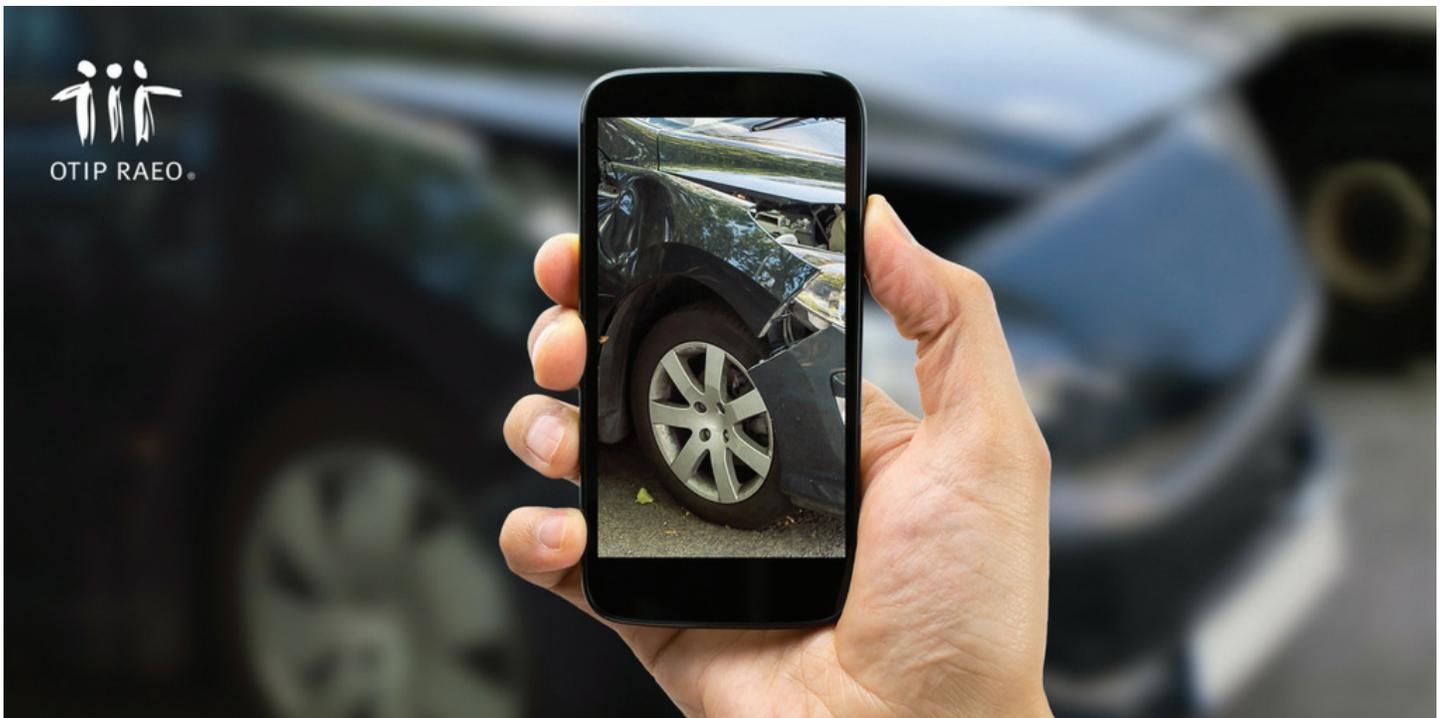
**Continued from page 12**

I think Marion became fond of us just as we were fond of her. She never missed a meeting or C12 event at 60 Mobile Drive. She would wait for latecomers with a smile. And at our meetings she revealed her political community involvement, her patronage of the arts in East Toronto, and her keen awareness of all facets of union happenings, and current news in general. She was a bright lady who liked to be involved where she could. Two years ago, when asked to contribute to the winter Holiday Celebration she presented a Stuart MacLean story that was well received. She seemed pleased.

Last year she was preparing to present “The Orange Tablecloth.” When I talked to her a couple of weeks before the event, she was keen, but unsure that she would be able to

participate. She wasn’t feeling well but didn’t want anyone else to read her orange tablecloth story. I kept her name on the program and told her so. Then after the holidays, I phoned to see how she was doing, and she could hardly speak; she told me she was losing oxygen, I said that was serious, she said she knew, I said I was sorry. She remained on my mind. A couple of weeks after I phoned, a young woman answered, her niece. When I asked for Marion, she told me she had passed away on January 23. Shocked and sad, I asked if there was a way C12 could honour her. She remarked, “I don’t think so. You know how she was.”

I think Marion let C12 into her life, and in a way schooled us to learn one can be efficient without IT. The memory of her dry wit will always bring a smile. We are pleased to have met you, Marion Evans.



## Don’t get “wheeled” into a staged car accident

Auto Insurance fraud is on the rise in Ontario; as a result, drivers are paying higher insurance premiums.

Avoiding an accident is among the highest priorities for most drivers, but for fraudsters, an accident is the goal. These scams can take place in many ways, including: staged accidents, false claim details and fraudulent accident and claim reports. They are often elaborately planned and can include the fraud collaborators such as the motorist, the tow truck company, health-care providers and the auto body repair shop.

These scams result in financial gain to the fraudsters, but are very expensive to insurance companies, resulting in increased premiums.

To learn more, visit [www.otipinsurance.com/article20](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article20)

# Man on the Move

*A memoir by Larry French*

BY JIM MILE

Who is Larry French? In case you don't know him, he isn't French at all and he didn't speak French until he learned it at school. Now, he's completely bilingual. Larry has travelled Europe, US, South America, studied at the Sorbonne and contributed to the profession and advancement of teachers. He has Irish roots; the former altar boy grew up in northern Ontario which is where he began his journey.

The little town has the name Swastika and there is a surprising connection to Hitler. The name sticks out even today. It was a typical small town upbringing with lots of hockey and outdoor winter activities which Larry loved and continues to love to the present. Snow has always been a joy, not the heavy white annoyance to shovel. Family and friends and games made for a pleasant early childhood.

With Irish in his blood, his attachment to poetry comes on the first page of the introduction with a quote from Yeats. Larry looks to Yeats, philosophers, filmmakers and many other writers for inspiration, guidance, comfort and pleasure. This elevates his book above what would interest just relatives and friends to a universal appeal that is entertaining to read.

A practical health benefit to literature that he mentions early on is that memorizing poetry may delay the onset of dementia and that reciting poems is a useful tool to keep motionless while undergoing a CTscan. Besides, discussing verses, novels and movies with friends makes great party fun says Larry.

Back in elementary school the great thrill of recognition came in grade three when the teacher announced exam results and Larry came first. Looking back, he quotes Keats' "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer":

Then felt I like some watcher of the skies  
When a new planet swims into his ken.

After graduating from Queen's University, Larry went off to Paris and the Sorbonne. He strolled the boulevards and sat in the cafes where Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Joyce, Voltaire, Balzac and many other famous writers walked, drank, talked and composed. Paris inspired and excited him; there was no other place to match it. And he found a girl.

Larry is a Hegelian; thesis, antithesis and from that clash the synthesis, and he interprets the world and his life in these terms. A major step in his career began with changing from a regular teacher to OSSTF staff. Here is where Larry's activities appear on the provincial political stage and events become familiar to many of us. This is the inside story. Parallel to his own life was the thesis, Bill Davis' extension of full funding to separate schools. This gave rise to the antithesis or backlash. Opposing groups arose, chief among them OSSTF which strongly opposed the funding change. The Federation created a political action group for the 1985 provincial election. Larry's OSSTF connection and his NDP membership got him on the group. The "Election Desk" as it was called had a mobile roving

bus travelling around during the campaign confronting leaders and then helping elect anti-separate funding NDP candidates. In the dialectic, the synthesis fuses elements of the thesis and antithesis to produce an often unexpected new structure. In this case, the Conservatives lost the election but the separate funding remained. This synthesis was not satisfying.

After this campaign, Larry became a full member of OSSTF staff as Queen's Park lobbyist. The next major issue in which he played an important role and one that many teachers recall was pension reform. A large portion of the Teachers' Pension Plan portfolio was required to be invested in Ontario Government Bonds, in effect, denying teachers the power to manage their own pension. OSSTF was convinced it could do without Ontario Bonds but the Liberal Government refused. An election was imminent and the Federation went into action. Billboard space was rented, news conferences held, and the election desk again with Larry involved was re-activated. During the campaign, OSSTF organized a huge rally in Hamilton at which treasurer Bob Nixon and NDP leader Bob Rae spoke. The NDP won and the Rae Government increased education funding and the reformed Teachers Pension Plan became a reality. There were other struggles not at all successful: Rae's "social contract" freezing wages and Harris' savage attack on education and social services.

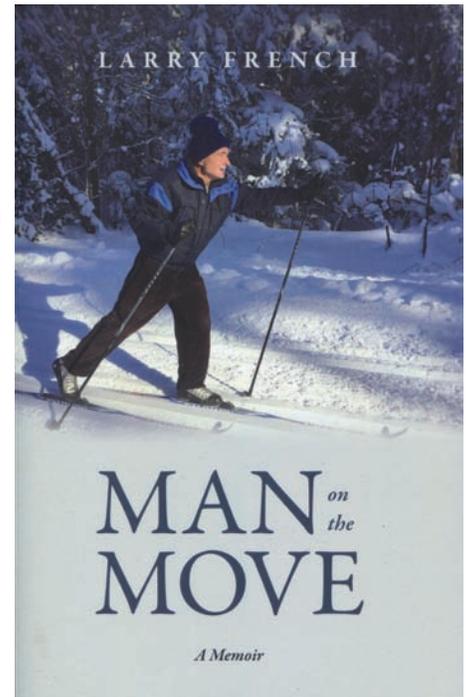
That's over now. Larry has retired, he is eighty and he has to decide what to do. As always, he turns to poets for guidance. In T.S. Eliot's Gerontion:

Here I am, an old man in a dry month  
Being read to by a boy, waiting for rain.  
Then he quotes Tennyson's Ulysses:  
Old age hath yet his honour and his toil. . . .  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

But he prefers Camus who says we should make the best of this life because that's all there is. The best is to enjoy your family and friends along with the wine and song.

That will put us in harmony with the universe and the electrons will dance. It's a fine ending to a full life and a good book.

"Live long and prosper," Larry.



Considered

# The Great Revenue Robbery

Richard Swift (ed) for the *Canadians for Tax Fairness*, 2013.

REVIEWED BY DAVE GRACEY

As we approach a provincial election in Ontario, Doug Ford, like Mike Harris before him, is promising a big tax cut. For 40 years the attack on taxes has been the mantra of right wing (and some centrist) politicians. They are enthusiastically supported by right wing think tanks such as the Fraser Institute, and the corporations who finance them. The corporate media promotes the message. Thus we have “tax freedom day” when we cease paying taxes to rapacious government, and constant attacks on debt and deficits.

The campaign has been extremely successful. In the US, a series of tax reforms, from Reagan to Trump, have shifted billions from social programs to corporate profits and the wealthy. Tax cuts by our federal government from Mulroney to Harper have cut \$50 billion annually from government revenue. In Ontario the loss has been about \$20 billion annually. Most of this has been bestowed on the wealthy, which translates into increased inequality.

We were promised that reducing corporate taxes would spur investment and create lots of jobs. In reality, it has increased profits and executive compensation. Investment

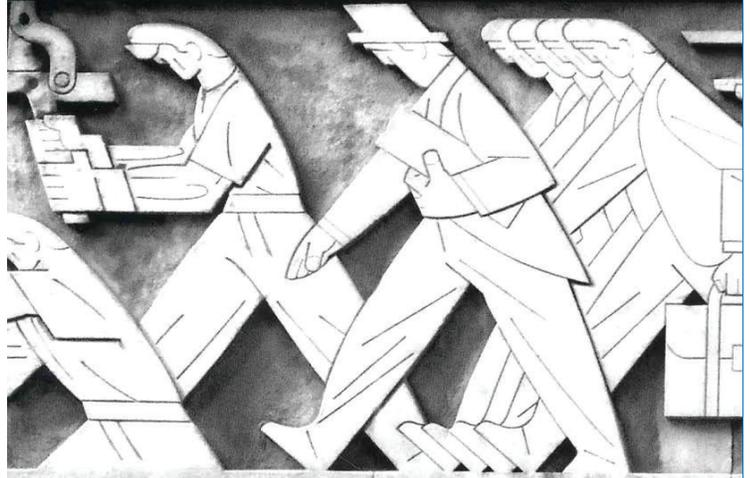
by business has actually declined, and corporate cash reserves rose \$750 billion from 2001-2010. Much of the bonanza to the wealthy has found its way into tax havens. Meanwhile funding for social programs, for hospitals, for schools, and for infrastructure has failed to keep up with population growth. Despite these dismal results, the campaign continues. Trump’s recent cuts to corporate taxes (15 per cent) have stimulated calls for Canada and Ontario to lower ours even more.

In Toronto, John Tory and company insist on keeping the property tax at or below the inflation rate, despite the clear need for increased spending on transit, public housing and infrastructure.

We have been conned. Taxes are in fact “the price of

**We have been conned. Taxes are in fact the price of civilization**

## THE GREAT REVENUE ROBBERY



HOW TO STOP THE TAX CUT SCAM AND SAVE CANADA

Edited by Richard Swift for *Canadians for Tax Fairness*

civilization.” Reduced revenue for governments gives the right the perfect rationale for cutting spending and that is exactly what has happened. Citizens of the Nordic countries

understand that high taxes (approaching 50 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)) are essential to fund social programs and fund a decent society. But taxes must be fair and progressive. We need a wealth tax, an inheritance tax, a financial transaction tax and more progressive income and property taxes.

Polls clearly show that most Canadians are prepared to pay more if the taxes are fair and the revenue is used for social programs. We need politicians who will

champion the cause and confront the tax cut scam. There is some indication that is beginning to happen, but here in Ontario we face a daunting challenge in the coming election. Before you vote, read this book.

# Settling into Guatemala

*A tale of two schools*

BY MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

Two unusual women are leading a trend in education in Guatemala – Vickie Horsfield, a Canadian, and Karla Rosales, a Guatemalan. Both know that the only way to advance a society is education. So both, in their own ways, are trying to encourage a new generation of Guatemalan kids to have a future.

Not my first rodeo, as they say. I have been to Guatemala several times and enjoy each visit independently of the others. Last year I finally found a project I could volunteer at with no set time commitment. I know it sounds simple but most organizations want at least a six-month commitment. As a teacher, I assumed that they would jump at the chance of having a trained professional to organize or do whatever clerical work was necessary. The organizations look to the amount of time they would need to train you and decide whether they are willing to input the time. At any rate I found Vicki Horsfield and she runs an after-school program for students in San Antonio de las Aguas Caliente. Her organization, Creating Opportunities for Guatemalans, helps disadvantaged students get the extra help they need to succeed.

As a volunteer, I can go in for a short period of time and teach a unit to the students combining English with science. Last year, I did a unit on composting. We set up everything from worm bottles, to an actual composter. This year was an overview on how the composter was working and what they had to do to fix the problems. It boiled down to remembering to turn the compost weekly. I left a duty schedule for the upcoming year. We will see how well they stick to it.

This year I concentrated on the practical application of small-space gardening and the reuse of plastic bottles. As in most places, the amount of plastic waste is astronomical. So we started with plant towers. We used pop bottles to make the towers and planted into the sides. By the time I left, most had germinated with vegetables and



**After School Project 3. (That's writer Michelle at the right)**

were doing well. My hope is that the students take these ideas home and use them to produce some of the food they might need.

After interviewing Vicki, I discovered that the project had come about serendipitously. She had gone to Guatemala to study Spanish the summer of 2012. That summer, she encountered William Garcia, who himself had benefited from a sponsorship program making him the only one of seven siblings who graduated from high school. Now, William is the co-director and teacher at the project begun in 2014.

The students come from the pueblo of San Antonio de las Aguas Calientes. Many come from single parent homes. All would be considered the working poor. The system still expects them to come to school in uniform, three uniforms to be exact, regular, gym and parade. If any are missing the student misses the activity and the marks associated with it. There are additional costs including, but not limited to, supplies for the teacher. What for me was the most rewarding was the appreciation I felt from the students. Additionally, Vicki has achieved charitable status for the project. So, if you are interested, please visit her web site: <http://www.creatin->



**Recess at the school, Colegio Mixto de Santa Terasita**

[gopportunitiesforguatemalans.org/](http://gopportunitiesforguatemalans.org/) and sign on to her Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/Creatin-gOpportunitiesforGuatemalans>

The second is a school that services the young people in Chimaltenango. Located in this rather large market city, the local vendors in the market are at or below the poverty line. This school with which I have been involved, is run by my former Spanish teacher, Karla Gonzales. She has just over 70 students from kindergarten to grade 11. Her school is called Colegio Mixto de Santa Teresita, Chimaltenango. Of the 70 or so students, about 34 are on full scholarship. Karla started running the school in 2012 and the numbers have steadily increased. The vision for the school is to increase the academic level and form good citizens. They offer a full syllabus which includes English, communication and language, music, art, citizenship, the local language and morals. She is trying to give them an education where they can excel and have a better future than they would otherwise have.

Traditionally, in Guatemala, boys are sent to school before the girls in the family go to school. Additionally, if the family needs the money, the kids are sent out to work in the fields or wherever they can make a few cents. Thus, as an incentive, English will give the kids a way to earn a lot more, by working with tourists, one of the major industries in Guatemala. Karla also offers the opportunity to help the needy students find a future. If

you would be interested in helping sponsor students in this area, the best way would be to send money through Western Union. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/colégiomixtosantateresita/> and <https://colegio-mixto-santa-teresita.webnode.es/>

In either situation, to give a child a new life and hope for the future would cost about \$500 Canadian per year. You would become a godparent (padrino) to one of the students. If you belong to an organization that would be able to help either the after school project in San Antonio or the school in Chimaltenango, please contact me and I would be happy to make a presentation or discuss

the possibility of sending help. Write to [barracoughmichelle@gmail.com](mailto:barracoughmichelle@gmail.com)



**Setting up our vertical gardens - an after-school project**

Considered

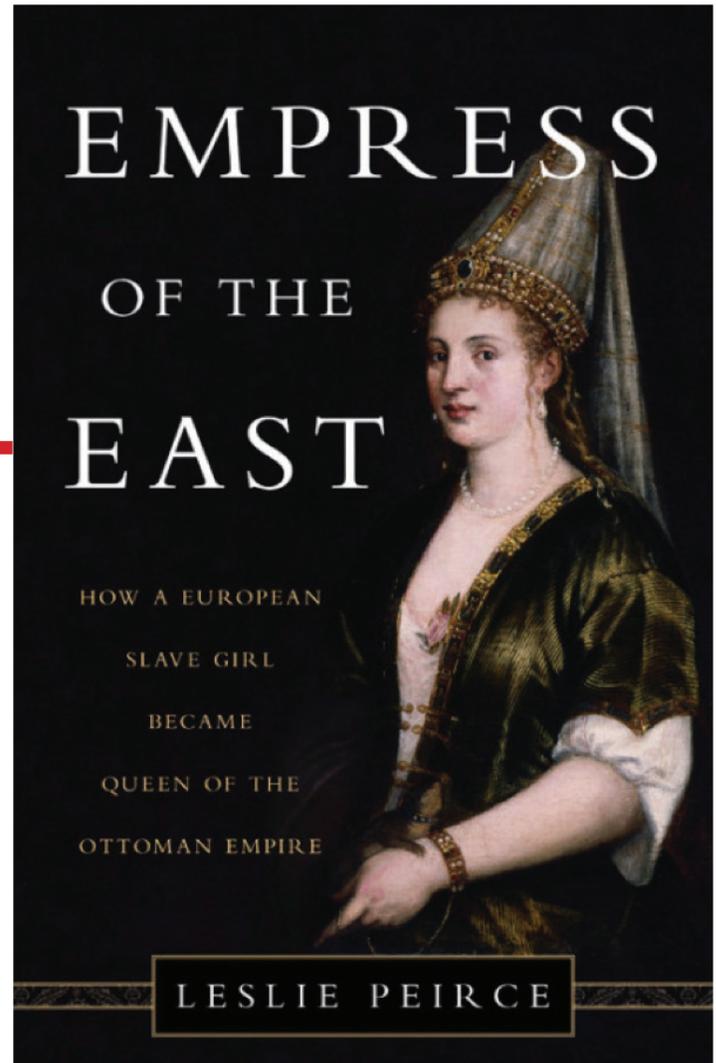
# Empress of the East: How a European Slave Girl Became Queen of the Ottoman Empire

By *Leslie Peirce*

REVIEWED BY DAVID SCHREIBER

The sultan's harem was an object of constant fascination for the West. For European women it was probably a nightmare, a symbol of horror and sexual degradation; for men it seemed a pleasure garden, a perfect setting for erotic fantasies. For the sultan himself, however, it was neither. While hardly a palace of pain, the harem had a serious purpose that was not about indulging his lusts, for above all else it served a dynastic function. It was a factory for male heirs. No real importance attached to the sultan's momentary feelings (never mind the concubine's) provided the essential duty was performed — one sultan put the empire in jeopardy because he was not attracted to women — and once the woman became pregnant the erotic relationship ended. She was banned from his bed and withdrew permanently into the women's quarters of the palace.

Unlike the royal houses of Europe, where primogeniture was designed to ensure orderly succession after the death of a king or queen, the Ottomans developed a very different system. The sultan would create several potential heirs from among the concubines. After giving birth to a son, the concubine, now a royal mother, would separate from the sultan and devote her life to raising her son. All her efforts were directed toward inculcating in him the character and the political and military skills required to outmaneuver, when the sultan died, all the other sultan's sons, so that he could seize the throne, either through skill or violence. (Female children, free from a future of this high-stakes competition, were prized and raised with great affection.) In the early years of the empire, before concubines were turned into royal mothers, sultans had married princesses of other nations, as European royalty did. This practice, however, did not last, the Ottomans judging that the danger presented by foreign-born wives with divided loyalties outweighed the benefit of creating political alliances. The marriageable daughters of leading Ottoman families were also ruled out as potential mates on the grounds that this,



too, might encourage challenges to the ruling dynasty. Thus concubines and the dynastic harem came into being. But where could a steady supply of concubines come from? Since they would live as slaves, Islamic law presented a sticking point, since it forbade a Muslim from enslaving another Muslim. The solution was for the Ottomans to buy Christian slaves from Crimean Tatars, whose periodic raids virtually emptied villages over wide areas in the nearby countries to the north, in what are now the Balkan states, Ukraine and southern Russia.

One such slave was a clever girl of seventeen, probably from southern Russia. Despite the horrific experience of enslavement, she must have impressed her captors, for they named her Hürrem, Persian for “joyful” or “laughing.” She probably began in the household of a high official before being given as a gift to the sultan. “Young but not beautiful, although graceful and petite” was how she was described in a report written by a Venetian ambassador.

Suleyman the Magnificent, aged twenty-six, had already sired a son with another concubine before he encountered

the girl. Then, as tradition dictated, the mother and the boy were shunted aside, and in 1520 Suleyman moved on to Roxelana, as she was then known, the next womb in the assembly line. That's when something unaccountable happened between the two, something completely out of the norm, something that in time overturned many of the empire's precedents and traditions. Many people thought she exercised black arts over the sultan and called her a witch. Today there would be people pointing to the Stockholm Syndrome. But the most credible explanation is that Suleyman and Roxelana simply fell deeply, passionately in love.

What alerted the rest of the world was that, after giving birth, Roxelana continued as Suleyman's mistress rather than being banished to a remote nursery. Suleyman did not turn his attentions to another concubine. In fact, it was later said that he was never unfaithful to her all his life. Within a short space of time, the couple had five more children. Nothing like that had ever happened in Ottoman history. More and more Roxelana appeared with him in the main palace, normally off limits to women except for brief conjugal visits. Finally she moved there permanently into her own apartments. And after his mother died, Suleyman freed her from slavery, and the two married, forming a monogamous, nuclear family in the sultan's palace, mother, father and children. Throughout the empire and throughout Europe people were amazed.

If Roxelana had done nothing else, her transformation from slave girl to sultan's wife would have ensured her a place in history. But after she settled into her new position, she proved to be much more than a clever girl who merely knew how to take advantage of opportunities. Her intelligence she placed in the service of the sultan and the empire, keeping herself up to date on political affairs, advising him, even engaging in diplomacy of her own by corresponding with and sending envoys to influential figures in foreign countries. Other powerful women were of special interest to her, such as Princess Bona of Milan, who married the King of Poland, and her daughter, Isabella, Queen of Hungary (a letter to Isabella began, "We are both born from one mother, Eve . . ."). She also made a name for herself through many charitable works, starting with a large complex in a neighbourhood in Istanbul known for its



**The tombs of Suleyman, Roxelana, and their daughter Mihrimah in the garden of Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul.**

women's market. The third largest complex in the city – no one would mistake her power – it consisted of a mosque, two schools, a fountain, and a hospital for women. In cities and towns across the empire and beyond she founded soup kitchens, hostels, baths, and mosques, including in the holiest cities of Islam, Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem. After her death, succeeding generations of royal Ottoman women looked to Roxelana as an example and made themselves wielders of real political power, serving as advisors to their sons and sometimes serving as regents.

*Empress of the East* is an excellent biography of Roxelana, covering most of what is possible to know about this extraordinary woman. It is especially strong in explaining Ottoman traditions and putting Roxelana into her political context. It is not, however, a vivid portrait. Contemporary sources are scant. Some of her letter to Suleyman have survived, but they consist largely of effusive missives telling him how much she misses him. Some European diplomats sent reports on what they observed about the Ottoman court. But mostly the author tries to put Roxelana's life together through circumstantial evidence. It produces truth and precision at the expense of drama. For drama one could turn to the Turkish television series "Magnificent Century," available on Netflix (sometimes), in which Roxelana plays a big part. It contains a lot of historical fiction, of course, but it makes a welcome complement to this more serious biography. Afterwards one might listen to the second movement of Haydn's Symphony No. 63, which was written about 1780 as incidental music for a stage work which featured Roxelana.

# Straighten up and walk right

*Chiropractor Dr Karin Hammerich told us about health goals and how to achieve them*

BY CHARLES HAWKES

ARM members gathered at the Canadiana restaurant in the west end on April 18 to hear a presentation on chiropractic practices, enjoy a delicious lunch, and chat with friends. Dr. Karin Hammerich is chair of Chiropractic Practices at the Canadian Chiropractic College in Toronto, and along with her teaching and research work, runs a private practice as well. She focused on the application of chiropractic diagnosis and treatment for seniors, and made a strong case for preventive measures we can take in our daily lives to avoid many health problems.

Dr. Hammerich first defended the medical integrity of chiropractic treatment, noting that chiropractors practice in family health units, hospitals, and universities. Coincidentally, on the same morning as her presentation, the Toronto Star featured an article about a chiropractor who travels with musicians and rock groups such as Avril Lavigne and Radiohead to help them cope with the physical demands of performances and long tours.

The first step in chiropractic treatment is to determine whether the patient's pain is caused by genetic or organic problems. Attention next shifts to how the joints move in general; a diagnosis is then formed, along with a plan for treatment. Dr. Hammerich stressed



that the longer a person leaves strains, sprains, back pain, and persistent headaches untreated, the worse they tend to get. She noted, however, that after treatment, especially for sore backs, the patient has to wait for a time for nature to act for full relief from pain.

Seniors can do much to prevent health issues that send them to chiropractors. Spinal stenosis and osteoporosis, the bent over posture, and spinal curvature seniors tend to develop can be ameliorated through proper exercise, and keeping the internal structure of the body strong and flexible. Daily walking, flexibility exercises, weight control, and light work with weights all help. Chiropractors stress that “motion is lotion” for the body, and to demonstrate, we all stood and went through a series of flexibility exercises. Balance, so important to avoid falls, can be improved through practice and proper posture.

Properly designed backpacks used by our grandchildren should not be loaded any higher than 10 to 15 per cent of the child's weight. Avoid looking down for extended periods at cell phones and computers to avoid mounting pressure on the spine. Use ice, not heat on minor joint strains. Too many seniors are over-medicated. Cut down on pain reduction drugs and statins by searching for natural solutions for pain and cholesterol.

Karin Hammerich made a convincing case that chiropractic is about both effective treatment by its practitioners, and promoting healthy and safe living habits.

# To Sue or Not to Sue

*Juan Carranza, Carranza LLP, offered a morning of down-to-earth thoughts on the issue of lawsuits*

BY JIM MILE

“See you in court, ya bum!” Next day, the judge says “You win” and you take the shirt off his or her back. And the following day, you deposit big bucks in your bank account. Jeez, it would feel so good to shout that really loudly and to have such a positive outcome. Unfortunately, lawsuits are not quite so simple in the real world as our ARM guest speaker pointed out. Steve O’Brien, our computer guy, also a paralegal and law clerk himself, introduced Juan Carranza of Carranza LLP. As head of his law firm specialising in personal injury cases, Juan has a staff of seven lawyers. In addition to handling



So, do I sue or not?

As usual, it depends:

Liability - Who is at fault?

Can we prove causation?

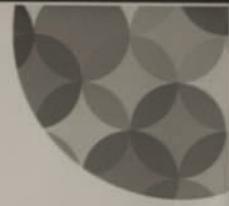
Damages? Minor or Significant?

Does the defendant have the ability to pay?

Limitation Period? Are you out of time?



## Disabilities from Accidents in Canada



- More than 13,000 preventable deaths per year
- 200,000 hospital stays
- 3 million visits to emergency rooms
- **60,000 disabilities**
- Economic cost of over \$20 billion
- Not to mention the incalculable emotional price of the deaths and disability on families, friends and communities

cases here, he also has done “pro bono” work for native Central Americans seeking property rights in their country.

There are shocking statistics on negligence, a major cause of suffering in Canada. There have been approximately 13,000 preventable deaths per year, 200,000 hospital stays, three million emergency room visits. For people over sixty five, slips and falls are the major cause of injuries. Examples of negligence are careless driving, alcohol and driving and unsafe premises. In law, the elements of negligence are the failure in duty of care. These can happen in incidents of driver to driver, manufacturer to consumer, doctor to patient, property occupier to guest or tenant and homeowner to guest involving alcohol, though this last one has not been given clear direction by the courts.

It comes down to standard of care which means reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions that are likely to hurt your visitor or neighbour. The key phrase is “how would a reasonable person act?” There are exceptions to that rule such as where a special skill like a doctor’s is required. This is not the same as the test of the ordinary reasonable person.

A trial involving personal injury is different from a criminal trial where the question is guilt. A civil trial considers responsibility and loss. The loss has to be connected to a cause. This requires evidence and perhaps even testimony of experts and can be complicated if there are multiple causes.

There are four kinds of losses: first, non-pecuniary like pain and suffering; second, pecuniary like loss of income; third, punitive damage and fourth, aggravated damage where a loss is made worse as a result of negligence. Losses three and four are uncommon. Roughly, 85 to 90 per cent of negligence cases involve cars.

Defences against negligence include self-defence, defence of others, defence of property, necessity, and acceptance of partial fault.

To win a negligence case, a good lawyer is basic. There are two common ways to find a lawyer: ask friends and/or check the Law Society on the internet. To select a good lawyer, look for experience and success in your kind of case and, importantly, a feeling of confidence in her or him. You may not need a lawyer in the case of a car accident. Your insurer will defend you.

The decision to sue or not requires answers to five questions. First, liability, which means was the other guy at fault? Second, can you prove causation? Third, how great was the damage? Fourth, does the other person have the ability to pay? Finally, are you within the two-year time limit allowed to commence a suit? However, at the end of the day, you and that “no-good bum” may not even meet in court because 99 per cent of civil cases are settled out of court.

# ARM at AMPA 2018



(Left to right) Some of the people who helped with the ARM booth: Suzanne Burchell of C21/18 – Hamilton/Wentworth (She designed the booth!) and retired Secretariat member Wendy Hirschegger, active in C 11 – Thames Valley (London-Middlesex)



Manfred Netzel is president of C12 – Toronto, Ray Marshall is president of C22 – Niagara and is also chair of ARM Council, as well as ARM's delegated rep at both AMPA and PC. Sandy Stewart is PAC rep for C25 – Ottawa/Upper Canada/Limestone/Renfrew

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Wednesday, May 30, 2018

# ARM Chapter 12 Annual General Meeting

60 Mobile Drive, Lower Level, Erie Room

Registration starts at 2pm, business meeting runs from  
3-5pm

Keynote speaker —

Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition

Natalie will address the state of our public healthcare  
system and some solutions for  
the new provincial government

BBQ dinner, \$35, starts at 5 pm  
immediately following the meeting and presentation

Confirm attendance in advance  
with Jim Loftus, 416-447-0811.