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# After School

armchapter12.org

Volume 20, Issue 3, August, 2018

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**Relationship  
Issues?**

**Ask Ellie**



May 9 — *Toronto Star* advice columnist Ellie Teshler told ARM members about her answers to readers' queries.

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# Editorial Chatter

A very successful event in May gave us our cover story. Advice columnist Ellie Teshler spoke to over 30 ARM members about her column, the people who write to her, their issues and her advice to them and thousands of readers.

Pages 4 and 5 are my first attempt at writing a column for Presidential Perspective. Thanking and praising Past-President Manfred Netzel was the easy part. The rest of it? How much can one say about Doug Ford's government? Just a little is plenty.

Our Annual General Meeting on May 30 gave us a new executive and several interesting, even inspiring, speakers. Members of the executive spoke very briefly to their annual reports as all of them were written beforehand and assembled into a handy booklet by Secretary Bill Pryde.

Our guest speaker was Executive Director Natalie Mehra of the Ontario Health Coalition. As she spoke prior to the Ontario election, *After School* has reproduced their most recent news release. OHC stood strong in the Harris years and will do so during the Ford years.

Book Reviewer David Schreiber gives us a Great Lakes story this issue. Captain Richard Metz tells us of the real life of a Great Lakes sailor.

Karma Naike gives us a glimpse of the enjoyment many people get out of our annual Stratford excursion in her write-up on this year's expedition. *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Rocky Horror Show* were well received because of their high production values and first class acting and directing.

Charles Dickens, anyone? Stefan Sierakowski brings us up to date on the Toronto presence of Dickens in The Dickens Fellowship, Toronto Branch. The group continues to thrive after 113 years.

Larry French tells us of lessons in life from great writers and thinkers from Omar to Baudelaire.

Allan Hux takes us to a cottagers' great pub, The Embers in Bobcaygeon. Not accessible by subway and streetcar but a fine establishment for the cottage gang.

Finally, Millie Oliver tells us of the ARM excursion to the Aga Khan Museum - a great afternoon!

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## ARM Chapter 12 Invites You

***After School* needs articles, photos, drawings, poems, other works of art, and 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:	Neil Walker	416 949-7088
Vice- President:	James Loftus	416 447-0811
Vice-President:	Roy Evelyn	
Secretary:	Bill Pryde	
Treasurer:	Michelle Barraclough	
Executive Officers:	Charles Hawkes Paul Headdon Karma Naike	
Members at large:	Bruce Archer Chris Aslanidis Julia Harney Allan Hux Jim Mile Rosemarie Mohring Manfred Netzel Millie Oliver Ed Preston Paul Rook Don Wright	

### ***After School*** Volume 20, Issue 3, August, 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

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# Calendar

**Wednesday, September 19 or October 3, 2018, depending on numbers. Annual Fall Swing For Kids Golf**

**Tournament.** Classic Course at Rolling Hills Golf Course, 9:30 am Registration, 10:00 am, Shotgun tee off. Cost: \$68 includes 18 holes of golf, cart for two, Buffet luncheon including choice of meats, three 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 15 or more children's charities across Toronto. Send \$68 per golfer, by cheque, to Jim Loftus, 301-7 Roanoke Rd, Toronto, ON M3A 1E3. Cheques should be mailed by September 14, 2018 and made payable to ARM OSSTF Chapter 12. **Call Jim Loftus for further information, 416-447-0811.**

**Wednesday, September 26, 2017. Municipal Elections: Former Toronto Councillor and candidate for City Council Shelley Carroll and OSSTF Toronto President Leslie Wolfe** speak about the municipal elections and how we can help the progressive side. 10:00 am registration. Luncheon \$20. 60 Mobile Drive. Lower Level – Erie Room. **Call Jim Loftus to confirm attendance, 416-447-0811.**

**Friday, October 12, 2018. Travel Club** meets 1 to 3 pm. Pam Lock will tell us about Islands of the Western Indian Ocean. If you are able to join us, please bring some goodies to share. The coffee and tea will be provided. **Please let me know that you can make it, by emailing: barracloughmichelle@gmail.com**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Your Good Health.** Food expert and chiropractor Dr Sher Bovay talks about healthy nutrition for the retiree. Personnel from Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre tell us about and lead us in demonstrations of healthy exercise for the senior person. Luncheon \$20. 60 Mobile Drive. Lower Level – Erie Room. **Call Jim Loftus to confirm attendance, 416-447-0811.**

**Monday, November 19, 2018. ARM's Annual Fall Curling Bonspiel,** at the Donalda Club, Don Mills. 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,** as spaces are quickly filled.

**Wednesday, November 28, 2018. OTIP Information Workshop.** Registration 10:00 am. Presentation 10:30 am. Luncheon provided. 60 Mobile Drive. Lower Level – Erie Room. **Call Jim Loftus to confirm attendance, 416-447-0811.**

**Wednesday, December 5, 2018. 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.** Lunch includes turkey with all the trimmings, beverage choices, good company and live music to usher in the spirit of the season.

**Tuesdays, January 8 to March, 2019. 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 by Thursday, December 27, 2018.**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019. Annual Sponsors' Workshop. 60 Mobile Drive, Lower Level, Erie Room.** Registration begins at 9:30, presentation starts at 10 am. \$20 cover. Representatives from OTIP, Educators' Financial and Teacher's Life will present general information and any changes to exiting benefits plans for 2019. **Call Jim Loftus to confirm attendance, 416-447-0811.**

**Monday, March 18 or 25, 2018, depending on numbers. ARM's Annual Spring Curling Bonspiel,** at the Donalda Club, Don Mills. 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,** as spaces are quickly filled.

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 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, buffet 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 17, 2019 and made payable to ARM OSSTF Chapter 12. **Call Jim Loftus for additional information at 416-447-0811.**

**Wednesday, May 29, 2019, ARM Chapter 12 Annual General Meeting,** 60 Mobile Drive, Lower Level, Erie Room.

# In Praise of Our Past-President and Facing up to Trump-lite in Ontario

*Time for us to step up again, as we did in the time of Harris*

BY NEIL WALKER, PRESIDENT, ARM CHAPTER 12 (TORONTO)

Big shoes. That's what Manfred Netzel has left for me to fill. Manfred, president of ARM Toronto for the past seven years, was an outstanding president.

Manfred is a fine meeting chairperson. Everything was always well organized when Manfred was in charge. His manner as a chairperson is always a combination of charm and firmness. Whenever we had to discuss a topic that was complex or contentious, he was unfailingly fair in ensuring that everyone who wished to speak had a turn. If someone drifted off-topic, he had a friendly and firm manner of reminding the person that they were out of order.

Manfred ensured that ARM Toronto continue as a part of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada, an organization that represents the interests of retired former and current union members.

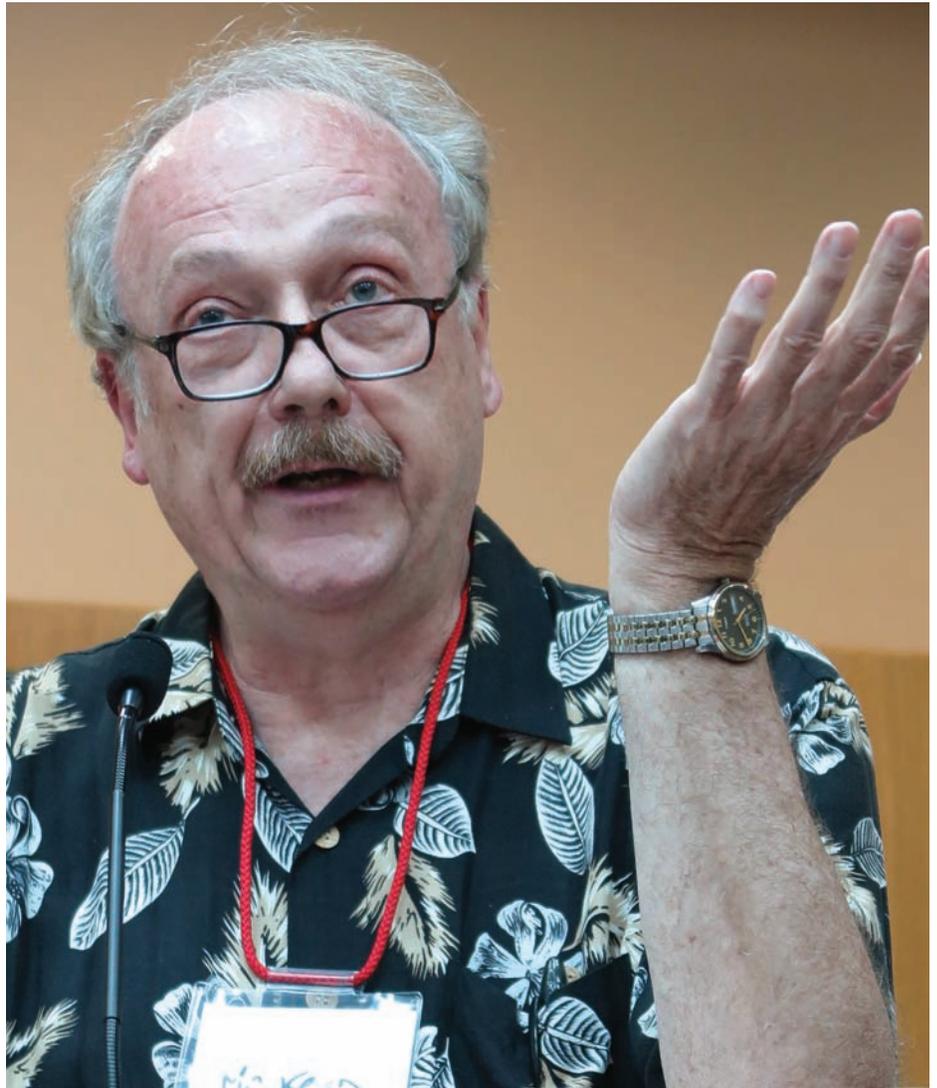
During his time as president, Manfred piloted ARM Chapter 12's establishing itself online. With IT guru Steve O'Brien's expertise and under Manfred's leadership, ARM now can contact many of its members via a group email message, read the most recent *After School*, and see our most recent calendar of events.

Every fall, Manfred would put a 500 dollar donation to the Daily Bread Foodbank on the executive meeting agenda. Every December, Manfred would present the cheque to the Daily Bread Foodbank's executive director at the CBC's Sounds of the Season fundraiser.

Based on our ongoing relationship with Daily Bread Executive Director Gail Nyberg, we invited her to address our Annual General Meeting in 2017.

Whenever ARM featured a luncheon presentation, Manfred arranged for a small gift to the presenter as well as determining the presenter's favourite charity so that the treasurer might write a cheque, usually 150 dollars, for that charity.

Under Manfred's leadership, ARM Chapter 12 (Toronto) made some adjustments, with Treasurer Michelle Barraclough's full



**Manfred Netzel, Past-President, ARM Chapter 12 (Toronto)**

support, to financial operating procedures that put us on a more professional footing.

When Manfred attended a provincial ARM Council meeting, he always produced a written report, detailing the many activities of ARM C12. As part of this activity, and inspired by his commitment to ARM as a provincial organization, he also sought notices of upcoming events from the other ARM chapters. Manfred would then assemble these and pass them along to *After School*.

Never one to hide his political beliefs, Manfred wrote fully in every issue of *After School* about issues we face as citizens. His

thoughtful essays received a lot of attention from our members.

But what becomes most apparent to me as I assume the role of president is how very organized Manfred is. His ability to balance all his contacts with the demands of the ARM C12 schedule never fails to impress me.

I look to your good example, Manfred. Thank-you for seven years of excellent service.

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**H**ead enough about Donald Trump, his lies, confusion, insults and harms to Canada, poor manners and unceasing narcissism? Good, because Ontario is following in the footsteps of American voters. Originally billed as a kind of Trump-lite, Premier Doug Ford is just as penurious with middle and lower income citizens and as set on undermining democracy as the American president.

List the horror stories from Queen's Park. Diminishing Toronto City Council after the municipal election campaign has begun, threatening to cut healthcare funding, appointing a virulent privatizer with a track record of leading privatization of health care in BC, pulling a widely researched sex-ed curriculum back to its 1998 iteration, killing the cap and trade system, privatizing cannabis sales, and freezing the opening of safe injection sites, proven life savers.

There's more, but let's look at the larger issue – 40 per cent of the Ontarians who voted gave absolute majority power to an inexperienced phony populist. Phony? Watch where the money goes. Who will benefit from the cuts Ford has promised? Who will suffer?

Doug Ford's privatization and anti-democracy romp would never be occurring but for the First Past The Post (FPTP) system of elections in Ontario. With proportional representation, the Progressive Conservatives would not have majority power. The Liberals and NDP would constrain Doug Ford and his acolytes.

Consider Trump and Ford's attitude to freedom of the press. Trump's is well detailed. Ford less so, But consider what has happened at a Ford media conference. The Premier or one of the caucus speaks and across the back of the room are the party's political staffers applauding incessantly until the government spokespersons leave the studio without the media's having the slightest opportunity to ask any questions. All that is left to report is the government's words.

However, this tactic will backfire as media players such as the Ontario Health Coalition and OSSTF get into the picture. For example, an interview with OSSTF President Bischof or OHC Executive Director Natalie Mehra at the media studio in the legislature will increasingly become the news.

In 1995, the Mike Harris government came in and started stripping workers' rights, closing hospitals and schools, cutting funding to health and education, cutting welfare rates by 21.6



**Neil Walker**

per cent. We unified in the face of this onslaught of cuts and redistribution of wealth to the already wealthy. You likely remember the Days of Action when we worked with many other unions to close down cities around Ontario for a day and stage a day and weekend of marches and rallies. We may face the need to pursue similar tactics again. Ford has come into power acting in the Harris mode. Move fast, institute some popular measures such as buck-a-beer, start cutting workers' rights, and launch cuts to health and education and welfare. Ford has even cut the experimental program of guaranteeing a minimum income to every person in selected towns as a means of showing that people should get jobs, not state support.

What are we to do as we are retired from the job, but not the fight? We have the time now to write letters to the editor, attend rallies, volunteer to help get people out to the rally, sign petitions and invite others to sign as well, and meet with your MPP.

Now is the time to support your federation and your neighbours in resisting the Ford emperors.

## Meetings

# ARM Chapter 12 (Toronto) AGM

*ARM members listen to guest speaker Natalie Mehra from the Ontario Health Coalition, elect the 2018-2019 executive and listen to reports and greetings from OSSTF and other groups*

BY BILL PRYDE

**A**RM Chapter 12 (Toronto) May 30, 2018 – the Annual General Meeting heard reports and elected a new slate of candidates to the executive.

President Manfred Netzel welcomed members and guests and requested a moment's silence in memory of deceased members, in particular, Executive Member Marion Evans.

Harvey Bischof, President of OSSTF brought greetings from the OSSTF Provincial Office and spoke on the Ontario provincial election, specifically the withdrawal of endorsements for Liberal candidates. He also addressed negotiations in 2019, particularly the identification of as many local issues as possible. He then answered questions from the floor.

Leslie Wolfe, OSSTF Toronto, President was ill and unable to attend, but sent greetings from OSSTF Toronto.

Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit President Linda Bartram was unable to attend, but OTBU Vice-President Vince Zambrano brought greetings and spoke about the occasional teacher job situation in Toronto, especially since the Toronto District School Board has hired about 200 contract teachers from the occasional teacher ranks. He also reported that, in concert with provincial OSSTF, OSSTF District 12 Toronto had rescinded endorsements of Liberal candidates in Toronto.

Congress of Union Retirees of Canada President Barry Stevens, brought greetings from CURC and spoke about the imminent Ontario election and mused about the future control of electricity in Ontario.

The election of ARM Chapter 12 Executive for 2018-2019 saw the following take office by acclamation

President: Neil Walker

Vice-Presidents: Jim Loftus and Roy Evelyn

Secretary: Bill Pryde

Treasurer: Michelle Barraclough

Executive Officers: Minimum of two to be elected and no maximum. Therefore, all who are nominated are elected. The following people have been nominated and elected:

Charlie Hawkes (Political Action), Paul Headdon (Pensions), Karma Naike (Entertainment)

Members at large: Minimum of 2 to be elected and no maximum. Therefore, all who are nominated are elected. The following people have been nominated and elected: Bruce Archer, Christos Aslanidis, Julia Harney, Allan Hux, Jim Mile, Rosemary Mohring, Manfred Netzel, Millie Oliver, Ed Preston, Paul Rook, Don Wright



**OSSTF President Harvey Bischof brought greetings from OSSTF and took questions from the floor**

Natalie Mehra, Executive Director, Ontario Health Coalition, delivered the keynote address. Manfred Netzel introduced Natalie, who spoke on the health care, especially hospital and long-term care, situation in Ontario and the positions of the Ontario political parties prior to the Ontario election. Manfred thanked her on behalf of the members.

The meeting received greetings from our Benefits Sponsor Representatives, Educators' Financial Group (EFG), Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) Teachers Life.

Treasurer Michelle Barraclough spoke to her printed report and provided an update on Chapter 12 finances. Her final report follows this article.

CURC / Toronto Retirees' Network ARM Representatives Margaret McPhail and Don Wright spoke to their printed reports and provided elaboration.

Entertainment Committee Representative Karma Naike spoke to her printed report and added other remarks. Chris Aslanidis noted plans for in-town theatre excursions for 2018-19.

Political Action Representative Charles Hawkes spoke to his printed report and provided an election update and responded to questions.

Pensions Representative Paul Headdon Paul spoke to his printed report and provided a pension update and responded to questions.



# The Ontario Health Coalition Brings Us Up-To-Date

*Follow the OHC's plan for action on October 23*

As the Ontario Health Coalition's Executive Director Natalie Mehra spoke to our Annual General Meeting on May 30, just before the Ontario election, it seemed more to the point to reproduce the main text of an up-to-date news release from the OHC in this issue of *After School* in place of a summary of her comments. This release, a few days old, sets the stage for a protest in October at the Ontario Legislature.

**Rally 12 p.m. Tuesday  
October 23 Queen's  
Park Toronto (outside  
Ontario Legislature) — Please join us and tell Doug  
Ford that we need to rebuild and improve our public  
health care: NO cuts and privatization!  
Posted: August 11, 2018**

Economist Mike Moffatt from Western University has tallied up what Doug Ford has proposed to cut. The total is a whopping \$22 billion that Doug Ford in cuts from provincial revenues over three years. That means that we would lose \$22 billion from the money that our province uses to fund health care, education, roads, transit, and all our social programs. In context, the Harris government of the 1990s — you remember, the government that forced mass hospital closures, amalgamations, privatization and cuts — cut \$15 billion (current \$) over their first four years. So Ford's cuts would be worse if we don't stop them. (Note: we stopped the Harris cuts to health care within a few years.)

At the same time, Mr. Ford promised to end hallway medicine. These two sets of promises are contradictory.

One clue to what's planned came a few weeks ago when Mr. Ford appointed axeman Gordon Campbell to be his financial guru. Mr. Campbell is the former B.C. premier who



**OHC Executive Director Natalie Mehra explains the folly of hospital closings**

cut and privatized hospitals and their services en masse. Under his leadership, user fees for patients ballooned to the worst in the country. As a result of his policies, B.C. is ground zero for health care privatization in Canada, two-tier medicare is rampant, long waits and poor access to care exist throughout the system and, appallingly, Mr. Campbell is helping the private clinics in their attempt to bring down public medicare laws in Canada through a court challenge.

Mr. Ford has no mandate whatsoever to cut and privatize health care. But given the pro-private anti-public health care people he is surrounded with, we are deeply concerned that they will try to foment a fiscal crisis and use it to justify pushing through cuts and privatization that would devastate our public health care.

We all know that we cannot take any more cuts. What we urgently need in our province is to reinvest, to rebuild our health care — not cuts and privatization.

Sometimes the best defence is a good offence. The best way to protect public health care is to push for what we know we need and to ensure that this government is afraid to cut and privatize health care. We need to set the agenda and make

them respond to us.

Please join us. A show of strength is vitally important at this juncture. We know that the people of Ontario are with us. No one wants more cuts. The overwhelming majority of Ontarians oppose health care privatization. We need to

mobilize, to make visible the public demand to improve our public health care. We need to inspire people to stand up and make cuts and privatization impossible. We can do this. We've done it before. But we need your help

## Setting the Agenda:

### **What Ontario really needs for health care**

- Hospital funding must be set at a rate that will protect service levels and stop cuts. This means a 5.3%/year funding increase for the next four years.
- A capacity plan must be developed to plan to meet population need for care.
- Closed hospital wards and floors must be reopened, closed Operating Rooms must be funded, and services that have been cut must be restored.
- Closed and privatized outpatient services must be reopened and restored in our local public hospitals to meet population need, including but not limited to outpatient physiotherapy, labs, day clinics and others.
- Patients must be protected from extra-billing and user-fees in private clinics. Canada's and Ontario's Medicare laws must be protected, strengthened and upheld.
- An immediate moratorium must be declared to stop the closures of local hospitals, consolidation of local services and the mega-mergers of our local public hospitals.
- New hospitals must be financed using public borrowing rather than exorbitantly expensive P3 privatization, with sound management and public oversight. The substantial savings generated from this can be used to rebuild public capacity and improve access to care.
- Our public hospitals and health services must be governed democratically in the public interest by Board of Directors that reflect the diversity of our communities.
- Services must be transparent, accountable and responsive to patients and communities. Legislation must be amended to provide full access to quality of care information in public hospitals. Staff should be protected when they advocate for quality and access issues in the public interest.
- Concrete steps must be taken to move public funding away from activities that do not add value and are not improving care.
- Curtail exorbitant executive salaries and the use of PR firms, unnecessary advertising and consultants.
- Cease the practices of shadow-billing and price-based procedures in hospital clinical care.

***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:416-751-8300)***

# Dear Ellie

*The popular advice columnist outlines what makes a good relationship*

BY MILLIE OLIVER AND DON WRIGHT

Ellie Teshler, the popular Canadian journalist and advice columnist for the *Toronto Star* gave a dynamic presentation at our ARM Chapter 12 luncheon meeting on 9 May, 2018, emphasizing issues that arise within relationships. Ellie provided examples from her letters and communication with clients over the years. She has received many letters from men and women dealing with low self-esteem, which have impacted the quality of their relationships. Other topics of significance to writers include, in order of popularity: love, marriage, dating, sex, divorce, relationships, cheating, followed by forty-four other topics.

Ellie believes that intimacy can be very positive in a relationship and that couples can continue to experience intimacy right up to 90 years and beyond. Intimacy can be very satisfying without sexual intercourse. Caressing and stroking can be very pleasurable. Sex and Intimacy will not damage relationships.

When a partner says, “I’m done with sex!” something is usually wrong with the marriage. Ellie believes that those who play together, stay together. She spoke of her friend, enjoying life at 104 years old. He treasures friendship and companionship most of all. Human need for connectedness is ageless. Physical conditions may prevent sexual intercourse, but should not reduce the supply of hugs and caresses.



**The *Toronto Star* advice columnist Ellie Teshler spoke about relationships and her readers’ letters with clarity and humour**



**ARM C12 Secretary Bill Pryde finds the humour in Ellie’s response to a question**

One of Ellie’s letters dealt with dating married men. A woman stated that she was fed up dating married men. “They just dated me to have sex and then dumped me.” Ellie’s advice was straightforward and simple: “Stop dating married men.”

Another topic she spoke about was on-line dating. Reference was made to a Stanford University survey, in which 50 per cent of couples met through friends and 50 per cent met on line. Seventy per cent of gays met on line. One third of the couples married between 2005 and 2012.

Ellie gave us some online dating tips; for example, take a good look at a person’s profile. Is it authentic? True age? Pay attention to suspicious ones. Look carefully at profiles to recognize scammers. For a first meeting, it is wise to meet in a safe, public place. Take time to really talk. No phones. Be present in your relationship.

She left us with the following: Laughter and love are the best medicine for a long-lasting relationship.

In a question and answer period at the end of her presentation Ellie graciously answered all questions.

Q. Did you ever have a letter from people who were homicidal?

Q. Did you call the police if you did get such a letter?

A. Never got such a letter.

Q. Did you ever get a letter from someone who was suicidal?

Q. Did you call paramedics if you did get such a letter?

A. Got letters from sad, depressed people. Did not publish their letters but personally contacted them to urge them to seek help.

It is interesting to note that Ellie started as an occasional

teacher and later pursued her career in Journalism. She started the Advice column, which is syndicated across Canada, with the Toronto Star in 2002, following the death of Ann Landers.

The presentation was a wonderful experience. Members really enjoyed Ellie's insights. She was very personable, positive, and approachable.

## Fan Mail

**One of our authors is moved to write not only about Ellie Tesher's presentation and her column but to her.**

Dear Ellie,

After hearing from you I thought I might write to offer my comments. Please know that I do understand the challenges you face and the ongoing struggle to meet deadlines.

But first, some background. I read Nathanael West's *Mis Lonelyhearts* many years ago as part of an undergraduate degree in English. Although the work had popular appeal at the time, I found it heavy, depressing, and overly dependent on religious symbolism. I was, at the time not a strong fan of religion. Or of aggressive men of the cloth.

At the same time, I became a fan of the music of John Prine. Most importantly, Prine tells the stories of the poor, depressed, lonely and troubled. I was impressed by his deep understanding of alienation and the sorrows of loss. He was able to express this understanding in clear and naked language for persons who couldn't. Consider some of his lyrics:

*We lost Jamie in the Korean War  
And we don't know what for  
I guess it doesn't matter anymore*

*Me and Loretta, we don't talk much more  
She sits and stares through the back door screen...*

*Someday I'll go and call up Rudy  
We worked together at the factory  
But what could I say if he asks "What's new?"  
"Nothing, what's with you? Nothing much to do."*

*So if you're walking down the street sometime  
And spot some hollow ancient eyes  
Please don't pass 'em by and stare  
As if you didn't care, say, "Hello in there, hello."*

Ellie, your work is skillful, accurate, and powerful. You don't need symbols, Christ figures, or southern music to enhance or embellish your advice. Your approach is tough but delicate, clear and direct. In the words of Bob Dylan, "Keep on keepin' on."

*Sincerely,  
Don Wright*

### Travel Club

## Islands of the Western Indian Ocean

**Friday, October 12, 1 to 3 pm**

**60 Mobile Drive, Erie Meeting Room**

**Friday, October 12**

**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

*Pam Lock*

has kindly agreed to give us a presentation on the Islands of the Western Indian Ocean. The islands of the Seychelles, Mauritius, Reunion, Madagascar, Comoros and Mayotte lie off the coast of Africa. Travellers today can learn of the varied histories (settlers from Africa, India, and Arabia as well as the Europeans and their colonial empires). We will also be introduced to the wildlife including giant tortoises, lemurs and sea turtles.

If you are able to join us, please bring some goodies to share. The coffee and tea will be provided.  
Please let me know that you can make it, by emailing: [barracough.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:barracough.michelle@gmail.com)

# Great theatre makes a great reason to get together

June 14, 2018 – the Stratford trip pleases 31 ARM members and guests

BY KARMA NAIKE

This trip was quite a surprising success. The two theatrical selections were at least vaguely familiar to many, but the presentations of *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *To Kill A Mocking Bird* were dynamic in their particular genres and we left the theatres well-pleased.

Good theatre stimulates. *The Rocky Horror Show* that iconic title associated with the emergence of sexual freedom in the 70s attracted only five of our members, but like the rest of the audience we were enthralled by the brilliance of the portrayal of the story- the seduction of the naive into the world of the

transvestite.

Dr Frank N Furter- mad scientist, physically gorgeous, hedonistic genius, has cult followers, and creates Rocky Horror, a physical cherubic type. All become part of his community. Brad and Janet, a naive traditional couple gets lost and caught up in wild ride of sexual freedoms in the world of the transvestite, and we see the frailty of innocence. But that world gets blown up in its excesses, save for a few who escape in a space ship, Brad being one.

Maybe the escape of a few ensures the phenomenon



## Would you pass the test when it comes to these 5 financial literacy questions?

The latest financial literacy report card is in and the results are... interesting.

'Interesting' because according to a national online poll conducted by Ipsos, 76% of Canadians 'believe' they are financially literate. Yet 57% failed the test on basic financial literacy.

**The survey also discovered there is a generational gap when it comes to passing basic financial literacy questions:**

- 52% of Baby Boomers (*born between 1946 and 1964*) passed
- 45% of Gen Xers (*born between 1965 and 1981*) passed
- 31% of Millennials (*born between 1982 and 2000*) passed

**Where do education members stand on the subject of financial literacy?**

Interestingly enough, according to the over 2,400 Ontario education members that have taken part in the [Educators Financial Kickstart Challenge](#) (*to date*)—only 44% believe they are financially literate.

With the national ratio of household debt to disposable income remaining at record-breaking levels (*Canadians currently hold a whopping \$1.70 in debt for every dollar of income as of May 2018*), there is definitely room for significant improvement when it comes to financial literacy.

**So in the spirit of financial literacy, we would like to share with you the top 5 financial literacy questions that are stumping Canadians, along with the answers (*in order to give you the edge on getting a passing grade*). You will find the questions at: [educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/ARMTop5](http://educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/ARMTop5).**

that is expression of sexuality, traditional and other will survive, and has. Above all, the music was wonderful. Each character had a terrific voice. The lead, Dr Frank N Furter, was great, but when the wimpy Brad, Riff Raff, Hunch Back, and the Narrator belted out their tunes, the audience, was spellbound. Great music, fun entertainment, prescient in its story.

*To Kill A Mockingbird*, Harper Lee's American historical drama has been lauded as a story about race in the US, although Harper Lee thinks of it as a "love story," so there was much anticipation about this production. However it was well received.

This play, forty-five minutes longer than ours, meant we were waiting in the bus for the others, and when they came on board there were such looks of satisfaction on the faces, short positive comments too. It was a great production. Following are excerpts

from Allan Hux's comments --" -the children Scout, Jem and Dill are amazing, and one or more child actors are on stage for much of the two hours, forty-three minutes play. Jonathan Good in the role of Atticus Finch is calm, composed and powerful in the courtroom, yet compassionate as a single parent.

The focus of the play is on family dynamics and relations with neighbours, more than that of race relations in 1935 Alabama. But the basic message to respect and honour your neighbour is powerfully delivered. And the issue of minority representation on juries is relevant in Canada."

Other facets of the trip were quite satisfying, the bus ride allowed freedom to enjoy the scenery in the lovely weather, having a meal with friends at a restaurant with accommodating service, in a rustic setting, pleasant. And the extra treats and prizes on the bus, courtesy Friends of C12, all in all, made for a good time.



## How to Deal with Floods

Floods are a common – and often costly – natural hazard in Ontario that can happen at any time of year. Overland water flooding can be caused by melting snow, ice jams, fresh-water hurricanes, breaking dams and heavy rainfall that oversaturates the ground. Summer thunderstorms in particular can pose a major flood risk in Canada.

Overland water flooding can leave you and your family at risk for serious injury, and your property at risk for extensive damages. Below are some tips to help you and your loved ones stay safe and mitigate potential losses from overland water flooding before, during and after the flood occurs.

To learn more, visit [www.otipinsurance.com/article23](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article23)



# Sea Stories: True Adventures of Great Lakes Freighter Captain, Richard Metz

By Richard Metz

REVIEWED BY DAVID SCHREIBER

Toronto may be a port city on one of the greatest waterways in the world, thousands of ships may pass by it every year, hundreds may turn into its harbour, including cruise ships and ocean-going vessels from as far away as Brazil, Turkey, Germany, Australia, and Japan; it may host thousands of debarking passengers and crew; yet the port leaves barely a ripple in the consciousness of Torontonians. Unlike some of the other ports on the Great Lakes, Toronto does not consider it important to mark the opening of shipping season with any fanfare, apart from a small ceremony on the bridge of the first salt-water ship of the year, where the captain is presented with a top hat made of beaver (the media have other things to do). Torontonians think of shipping about as much as they think of their own heartbeats. Some of this is understandable: with an economy as large and diverse as Toronto's, shipping is not prized here as it is in places like Thunder Bay and Duluth; our docks, located in remote areas, hidden behind fences and closely guarded, are virtually invisible to the public; and the shipping lanes on Lake Ontario tend to the far side of the lake. But perhaps it's a latent awareness of our maritime situation that makes the memoirs of a Great Lakes ship captain like *Sea Stories: True Adventures of Great Lakes Freighter Captain, Richard Metz* not only interesting but also strangely relevant.

The stories Captain Metz wants to tell are of bad weather,

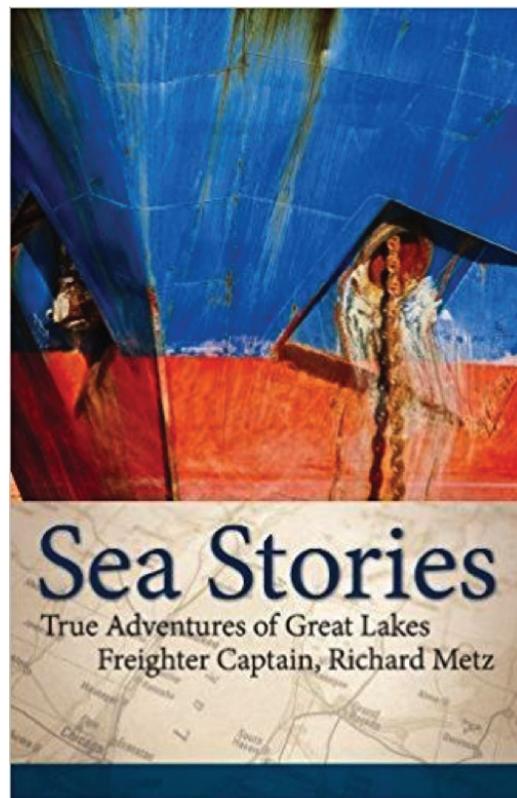


**Captain Metz with a bell awarded to him for being the first laker into port at Windsor, 1999.**

drunken crews, failing engines, anchors that drop without warning, narrow locks, lift bridges that might or might not knock off the top of the ship, and near collisions.

They are good tales. But at least as interesting for nonsailors is the mental stretching one has to

do to remap a familiar region on the imagination. Thunder Bay is no longer on the Trans-Canada Highway a day's drive beyond Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie; it is a harbour past the Soo Locks and Whitefish Point, past Rock of Ages Lighthouse, on the other side of Isle Royale, tucked in behind Pie Island where you can shelter when southwest gales are blowing. Owen Sound is not a vacation and recreational town; it is a place where you may tie up for the winter. Big urban centres like Toronto, Chicago, and Detroit get little mention by Metz, because he is usually heading to or from smaller places, places that only locals and seamen will have heard of – Burns Harbor, Copper Harbor, Houghton, Lorain, Port Stanley. Movement, rather than mindlessly following roads, requires setting a course over open water, an acute awareness of weather, scrupulously up-to-date charts, a constant monitoring of traffic on all sides, and extremely delicate handling of the ship through locks and canals – the locks at Snell and Eisenhower, the Beauharnois Canal and the South Shore Canal and, of course, the Welland Canal and





**Soo River Trader. Captain Metz's favourite ship. Built 1906. Length 530 feet. Scrapped in 1984.**

Soo Locks.

Having Google Maps at the ready adds to the pleasure to reading *Sea Stories*, since Metz often defines his locations nautically. It was while closing in on Fawn Island in the St. Clair River that a wheelsman horrified the captain by failing to respond an order to turn to port, casually explaining that the wheel had come off in his hand (he was fired). The fog was impenetrable while rounding Mission Point, when a mate raised an alarm to report that an upbound ship was coming their way, underlining the danger by adding, "And it's Canadian!" (Americans in the 1960s thought Canadians were poor sailors, drunk most of the time. Later Metz worked for many years with a Canadian company and came to believe Canadian sailors were among the finest ship handlers in the world.) We read how Metz hopes to get to Passage Island before a storm hits, how he will have to face a mean Nor'easter close to Angus Island, how when he reaches Battle Island Light he will have to turn and expose his port side to the elements. For sailors the positions would probably come loaded with meaning and memories, but even for general readers the stories light up when we are able to pinpoint the locations on a map.

As background to Metz's adventures, we learn a lot about life on a Great Lakes ship, the cargo, the missions, the many uses of

the anchor, the duties of all the ranks from deckhand to captain, their qualifications, the hiring and firing, Christmas away from home, the respect a great cook enjoys. For those of us impressed with what it takes to earn a PhD, the road to a captaincy may come as a shock. Many years of working as deckhand through first mate are required before one can qualify to take the written captain's exam. Then come the orals. A PhD candidate endures a measly three or four hours. In Thunder Bay, Metz began sitting with his examiner at 8:30, took a short lunch break, then continued to 4:30. That was Day One, and it was followed by two more like it. It was grueling and almost inconceivably thorough.

Now retired, Metz lives on Lake Superior, where he still watches the ships and uses his marine radio to talk to those he is familiar with. He notes that there are fewer ships on the lakes now, at least partly because of the decline of the steel industry. New ships can now be over 300 m long, while in his early days a large ship was only half that size. Despite the increase in size, a typical crew today is 12, down from the 34 of his day. The day will come, he believes, when ships will sail without a crew. Metz's book may thus represent one of the later documents of an era that could be entering its sunset years.

# Charles Dickens in Toronto, 2018

*“The traveller sees what he sees; the tourist sees what he has come to see.”*

**G.K. Chesterton**

*“We do not remember days; we remember moments.”*

**Cesare Pavese**



**BY STEFAN SIERAKOWSKI**

Charles Dickens was born on 7 February 1812. His literary works have the largest circulation of any English writer, and are now published in most languages throughout the world. Through many of his works, Dickens managed to portray and highlight realistically many of the social problems and injustices which lurked beneath the surface of life in Victorian London. He wrote about child exploitation (including child labour and the fate of orphans), workhouses, the legal system, and the personal effects of debt, often set against a background of London's criminal underworld.

Dickens's own childhood experiences, working as a child labourer to support his family, while his father was serving a sentence in the Marshalsea Prison for debt, had a deep and significant impact on his life, and these experiences later re-emerged in many of his works, particularly *David Copperfield*, which is seen as semi-autobiographical. Mr. Micawber's character in *David Copperfield* was based on his own father, John Dickens. Mrs. Nickleby, mother of Nicholas in *Nicholas Nickleby*, is thought to be based on Dickens' own mother.

In *Little Dorrit*, Amy Dorrit leaves the Marshalsea Prison, after visiting her father for non-payment of debt, and Little Nell's deathbed scene in *The Old Curiosity Shop* is based on Dickens's experiences with his own sister-in-law, Mary, whom Dickens loved, and who lived and tragically died, in the family house in Doughty Street. Dickens's later employment as a solicitor's clerk is also drawn upon in many of his works.

Charles Dickens died on 9 June 1870. In his will, he left his soul to God and the mercy of Jesus Christ and had wished for a private, unadvertised funeral, where no one should wear any “scarf,

## **The Dickens Fellowship, Toronto Branch – 113 Years Young**

With its long and colourful history in Toronto, The Dickens Fellowship, Toronto Branch at one time had 5,000 members drawn from the academic and literary elite of the city.

The charter of the Toronto Dickens Fellowship is dated May 9, 1905; the branch still has that original charter, signed by Kate Perugini, Charles Dickens's daughter, and president of the world-wide organization at that time.

The founder and first President was E.S. Williamson, a well-known lecturer and interpreter of Dickens. Professor Goldwin Smith of The Grange was named Honorary President. The fellowship became famous for its annual dramas, which were performed at venues all over Toronto, including many churches, Jarvis and Harbord Collegiates, and the hall of the Conservatory of Music on College Street.

From the beginning of the group, funds raised were devoted to children. Over the years, the group endowed four cots at the Hospital

cloak, black bow, long hatband or other such revolting absurdity.” However, public demand ensured that he was buried at Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. So popular was Dickens that flowers thrown into his grave (which was left open for a few days) overflowed.

We can imagine we know all about schooling in the age of Dickens, if we had read of Dotheboys Hall in *Nicholas Nickleby*, where the boys learned science by weeding the garden, and hygiene by cleaning the school windows. We know of Thomas Gradgrind in *Hard Times*, a man of realities, a man of facts and calculations, whose star pupil was able to describe a horse as “Quadroped. Gramnivorous. Forty teeth. Sheds coat in the spring. Hoofs hard. Age known by marks in mouth.”

You might be surprised to learn that Dickens also knew of, and wrote about, another kind of school, a finishing school. Finishing schools still exist today. The London School of Etiquette gives a Teen Etiquette Class on Saturday mornings for six weeks (try to get any teenager you know to attend that one!).

Or there is a one-day General Etiquette Workshop for a mere £199, where you can learn:

- Dining Etiquette – how to eat correctly;
- Grooming – how to present yourself at all times;
- Language – elocution and small talk;
- Department – how to comport yourself correctly;
- A – Z of Etiquette – the dos and don'ts of every day living;

Dickens wrote about a finishing school in 1835, The Misses Crumpton School for Young Ladies. The story, from *Sketches by Boz*, is titled “Sentiment.”

for Sick Children (earlier under different names), contributed cottages and a dining hall to a children's camp in Bolton, and hosted Christmas parties for ill and needy children.

The branch currently supports Holland-Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. Funds are raised from donations and from the Annual Dickens Christmas Tea.

A brief history of the branch is on the website: [dickenstoronto.wordpress.com/branch-history/](http://dickenstoronto.wordpress.com/branch-history/)

We would be glad to provide further information about the Fellowship.

Sincerely,

For the Dickens Fellowship, Toronto Branch:

Stefan Sierakowski, Publicity Director

Jean Paton, UK Liaison: 416-923-2035 or [jeandougpaton@rogers.com](mailto:jeandougpaton@rogers.com)

## Baudelaire and the reason for living: a message for those living in troubled times.

*Stéphane Hessel representing the 99% versus the rapacious and all too successful 1%, says “Indignez-vous!” “Get angry, everyone!”*

BY LARRY FRENCH

**B**audelaire, equally wise, says “Enivrez-vous!” “Be always drunk. Nothing else matters: that is the only question. If you are unwilling to feel the horrible burden of Time weighing on your shoulders and crushing you to the earth, be drunk continuously. Drunk with what? With wine, with poetry, or with virtue, as you will. But be drunk.

“And if sometimes, on the stairs of a palace, or on the green side of a ditch, or in the dreary solitude of your own room, you should awaken and the drunkenness be half or wholly stripped away from you, ask of the wind, or of the wave, or of the star, or of the bird, or of the clock, or whatever flies, or sighs, or rocks, or sings, or speaks, ask what hour it is; and the wind, wave, star, bird, clock, will answer you: ‘It is the hour to be drunk! Be drunk, if you would not be martyred slaves of Time; be drunk continuously! With wine, with poetry, or with virtue, as you will.’ “



Or as the great Omar put it:

Come fill the cup, and in the fires of spring  
The winter garment of remembrance fling!  
The bird of Time has but a little way to fly,  
And lo, the bird is on the wing.

Simple words of wisdom in this age of Trump and Ford.

# For the Family Cottage Gang

*Embers Grill, Restaurant and Pub, 36-38 Bolton St., Bobcaygeon, Ontario, 705-738-6343*

BY ALLAN HUX (416) 487.8255 OR ALLANHUX@SYMPATICO.CA

This summer holiday, Denise and I have her family cottage on Sturgeon Point in the Kawartha Lakes in July and so I decided to combine some time at the lake with a wonderful lunch at Embers and invite you to enjoy this unique spot. Denise's great-grandfather, grandfather, and father farmed in Fenelon Township of Victoria County. The first Grahams settled in the area in the 1830s and so it has a powerful attraction for her. As an in-law I am drawn by the lovely cool water of Sturgeon Lake, the beautiful sunsets and the lovely walks and bike rides around "the point." The Graham cottage sits on the Trent water system half way between Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon. Fenelon has the larger and more interesting locks, but Bobcaygeon currently has the better pub in my view.

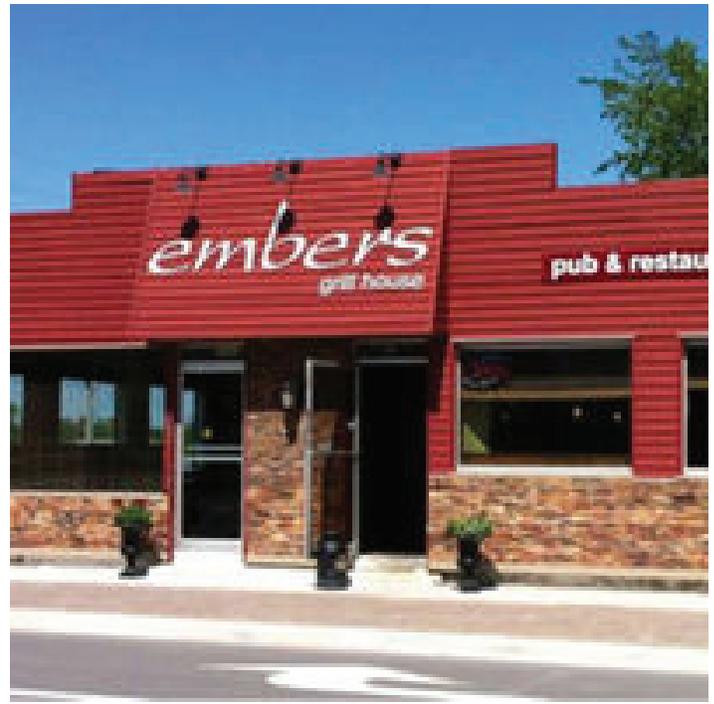
As you know, I believe there are at least eight key criteria that must be considered when reviewing a pub. These include the location, atmosphere, design/layout/décor, brews, fare, service, price, and accessibility and I will address them in random order.

The Embers is perched on the corner of Canal Road and Bolton Street across the road from the Bobcaygeon River which with the help of Lock 32 of the Trent water system connects Sturgeon and Pigeon Lakes. The added feature is the single lane, swing bridge which you can see very clearly from the pub. Small boats can pass under the old bridge, but larger boats line up and wait their turn. A loud bell signals when the bridge will be closed to cars and swung open to let the larger motor and sail boats pass. The Embers's two outside walls facing Canal and Bolton Streets lift up and open the pub to allow patrons an outstanding view of the boat, car and pedestrian traffic.

The main room continues the garage door theme into the ceiling where the tracks hold the walls. The Canadian touch of hockey sticks, paddles, water and cross-country skis also rest on the metal rafters. The booths, tables and chairs are quite comfortable and wisely break from the garage theme. On a very hot day the breeze and the ceiling fans made the room very comfortable. None of my four visits have been in the cold months from November – April.

The fare is excellent. Denise had the Thai Chicken Salad with onions (\$12.99) and I had the Spinach Chicken Salad with no onions (\$12.99). Our thoughtful server had a second person carry out the salad with onions while she brought my meal to make sure that they did not touch. This is a first assuming she wasn't kidding me. All the staff were excellent.

The four page menu offered the usual wide range of starters, salads, burgers, sandwiches and classic meals. The latter included two pieces of fish and chips and Balsamic Chicken each at \$17.99 and the Atlantic Salmon at \$24.99. They do not have a set dessert



menu, but on July 2 had homemade coconut cream pie, several other choices and Kawartha Dairy ice cream.

The wine list offered a limited selection, but they did serve a full 9 ounces for nine dollars unlike some places. There was a nice range of brews and I enjoyed an 11 ounce Great Lakes Blond (\$4.99). They had a special table flyer advertising Mad Dog APA brewed by the Old Dog Brewing Company (<https://olddogbrewing.com>) right in Bobcaygeon and I will be sure to sample it on my next visit in 2018. They clearly promote Canadian wines and brews. Locating the washrooms is always key when drinking brews and the facilities are readily accessible on the same floor as the pub dining rooms. But the main entrance is one step up from the sidewalk and so I asked the new owner if they were planning to add an accessibility ramp. He assured me that they would in the near future.

After our meal, Denise was very keen to cross the street to another Kawartha landmark and visit Bigley's Clothes and Shoes. Four-fifths of this famous store caters to women, but I did purchase a new cap inscribed with "Bobcaygeon O." I will be sure to wear it to the next ARM 12 meeting. Our last, mandatory stop in Bobcaygeon was the visit to buy ice cream at the original Kawartha Dairy factory outlet. Be sure to bring your Gord Downie and The Tragically Hip CDs and enjoy a leisurely trip to Embers Grill and Pub in beautiful Bobcaygeon, a great Ontario small town.

# ARM C12 Enjoys the Aga Khan Museum and Park

*History, natural beauty and peaceful contemplation make for a fine first day of summer*

BY MILLIE OLIVER



It was a beautiful, hot Wednesday, June 20, 2018. At the Aga Khan Museum, a group of us, along with our tour guide, enjoyed The World of the Fatimids and the Aga Khan Park and Garden.

We were very fortunate to see a collection from the Fatimid Dynasty, one of the greatest civilizations in the world of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Century. It was a wonderful period where Moslems, Jews and Christians lived and worked harmoniously.

The collection consisted of ivory, rock crystals, glazed ceramics, many other luxurious objects and huge marble wall panels, beautifully carved.

From there, our guide took us on a walk throughout the park and garden, designed by the Beirut-based landscape architect, Vladimir Djurovic who travelled to many gardens around the world before designing the park we have now, which truly encompasses spirit, art and nature. We were introduced to Art in the Park, which featured artistic photographs by Aida Mulneh.



We took in rows and rows of lavender, roses and Saskatoon trees, Quite the oasis. Throughout the park, there were benches where we could take in the views and meditate. What a great afternoon!

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# Labour Day Parade 2018

**Monday, September 3, 9:15 am**

**Meet at the OSSTF area near  
Centre Avenue and Armoury Street  
early enough to get your OSSTF loot**

**Look for the OSSTF banner and  
join your friends in ARM for the march along  
Queen and down Dufferin**

**OSSTF Toronto Members are asked to boycott the @LetsGoToTheEX in support of the locked out @iatse58 workers. Help your own kids learn about the necessity of fighting for workers rights and supporting each other in the goal of #goodjobs4all!  
#LetsBoycottTheEx #LetsNOTgoToTheEx**