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# AFTERSCHOOL

[www.armchapter12.osstf.ca](http://www.armchapter12.osstf.ca)

Volume 22, Issue 1, February, 2020

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OTIP's Anita Chamberland's final ARM C12 presentation. Many thanks and happy retirement !

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## Editorial Chatter

You'll notice that, in this first edition of 2020, the format has changed a little. Unfortunately, our regular editor, Neil Walker, was unable to attend to this one, so I'm pinch hitting as acting editor for now. I'm not familiar with the desktop publishing software Neil used, and so am using something more familiar. Also, it's shorter than usual because of time limitations, but do expect longer editions down the road.

The Presidential Perspective is especially important in this edition. Please read it carefully. The financial statement for 2018-19 follows this, and serves to shed light on the Presidents message.

The events mentioned in the Upcoming Workshops indicate that the executive has worked hard to line up some "heavy hitters". We don't think you'll want to miss these.

Charlie Hawkes has submitted a book review that will complement our keynote speaker at the ARM AGM, May 27. Looking forward to seeing you in the near future.

Ed Preston

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## Got a picture, poem, or opinion to share ?

**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 Ed Preston, [lightsmith98@gmail.com](mailto:lightsmith98@gmail.com)***

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### **ARM Chapter 12 (Toronto) Executive**

Acting President: Manfred Netzel 416-767-8786

Vice-President: James Loftus. 416-447-0811

Secretary: Bill Pryde

Treasurer: Michelle Barraclough

Executive Officers: Charles Hawkes, Paul Headdon, Karma Naike, Neil Walker

Members At Large:

Chris Aslandis Julia Harney Allan Hux

Jim Mile Rosemarie Mohring Millie Oliver

Candace Phoenix Ed Preston Paul Rook

Don Wright

### ***After School***

### **Volume 22, Issue 1, February, 2020**

*After School* is the official publication of Active Retired Members of OSSTF, Chapter 12 Toronto (ARM C12).

Opinions expressed in *After School* are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policies of ARM C12 or of the OSSTF.

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

**Editorial Team:** Michelle Barraclough, Larry French, Charles Hawkes, Jim Mile, Manfred Netzel, Ed Preston, Bill Pryde, Paul Rook, Neil Walker.

**Contact *After School*:**

***[lightsmith98@gmail.com](mailto:lightsmith98@gmail.com)***

# Calendar

**Wednesday, February 19, A Conversation with former Premier Kathleen Wynne.** Reflections on her political life and times, both past and present. 60 Mobile Drive. Registration begins 9:30 A.M. Optional catered luncheon provided @ **\$22.00**. Please contact **Jim Loftus** to confirm your attendance: 416-447-0811

**Friday, February 21, ARM Travel Club.** Another exciting and exotic travel experience revealed by an ARM member. Starts at 1:00 P.M, 60 Mobile Dr. Refreshments/snacks provided and encouraged.

**Friday, February 28, Pub Visit and Get together.** Join us for the first pub lunch in 2020 @1:00 P.M. **Louis Cifer Brew Works**, 417 Danforth Ave. (just east of the Chester Subway Station.

**Saturday to Monday, March 14-16, OSSTF AMPA (Annual Meeting of Provincial Assembly).** All ARM members are welcome to attend as observers of the business sessions each day. Sheraton Centre, 123 Queen St. W. (near Bay St.)

**Wednesday, April 22, Charter City with former Mayor John Sewell as guest speaker.** See article later in this edition for further information. Canadiana Restaurant, Six Points Plaza. Registration starts at 9:30 A.M. Optional sit-down lunch @ \$25.00. Please contact **Jim Loftus** to confirm your attendance: 416-447-0811.

**Wednesday, May 20, ARM C12 Annual Charity Spring Golf Tournament: Swing for Kids.** Contact **Jim Loftus** for details, cost and location: 416-447-0811

**Wednesday, May 27, ARM C12 AGM with author and journalist Linda McQuaig as keynote speaker.** See article later in this edition for insight. Registration 2:00-3:00 P.M. Optional BBQ dinner at 5:00 P.M: **Cost:TBA**

**On Wednesday, June 17th, traditional bus trip to Stratford with the following plays available: Hamlet, Richard III and Spamalot ( a Monte Python spoof).** Ticket prices range between \$80 for dramas and \$96 for the musical, not incl. bus transportation or lunch. Contact: KarmaNaik 416-783-6591.

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

Check out newsletters and the calendar at the revised website

[www.armchapter12.osstf.ca](http://www.armchapter12.osstf.ca)

Notify ARM and OSSTF of your address and email changes  
(see following "President's Perspective")

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

**OSSTF: Michelle Arsenault 416-751-8300**

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## President's Message: A New 2020 Communications Strategy for ARM Chapter 12

Dear ARM Chapter 12 Members:

At its first Executive Meeting for 2019-20 on September 11th, your new leadership group was presented with some fiscal realities that required several difficult decisions to be made. One of these decisions involved a review of our current newsletter production and distribution policy, which resulted in some changes beginning in 2020 that are summarized below.

As you can see from the ARM Chapter 12 Financial Statement for 2018-19 found elsewhere in this issue, we are solvent and are aiming for another balanced budget for the coming year. At the same time, our revenue sources are projected to be *stagnant* due to no foreseen changes in our OSSTF rebate (circa \$12,000) nor other current sponsorships from OTIP and other sources. Meanwhile, our expenses continue to *rise* in areas of events-related costs such as catering, room rentals and speaker fees or honorariums. The biggest single expense for our Chapter continues to be for the production and distribution of our award-winning publication *After School*, which you are currently enjoying in hard copy format. Specifically, the total cost of providing you with four hard copy issues mailed to your door consumes some **three-quarters** of our total annual budget. Clearly, this is unsustainable !!

Your Newsletter Editor (and Past President) Neil Walker has already undertaken several steps to reduce costs such as reducing the size of each issue, using lower-cost paper stock and changing mailing to lower third-class postage rates. While admirable, this has not resulted in the major cost savings required to bring it in line relative to the total annual budget for Chapter 12. Several other ARM Chapters in OSSTF have already decided to offer or convert their membership communications to completely online offerings, or to produce a minimalist product that would, we feel, not meet the needs and expectations you have shown over many years of excellence through *After School*.

In order to strike a balance between the current situation and changing to an online publication only, the Executive overwhelmingly passed the following motion:

*BIRT each year, beginning in 2020, After School will be published in four digital issues, **one** of which will also be in print form.*

So you can see, and hopefully understand, the size and provided content is not as you have become accustomed to. However, preferred quarterly format and high quality of this publication will remain. The big difference will be that the membership will now have the onus to ensure that **your email contact information is accurate and made aware to both OSSTF and Chapter 12**. We also hope that these big savings can be passed on to you through bigger subsidies of our many other planned events in 2020 and the years ahead. Feel free to let us know your reaction to this change .... our intention is to review the situation in time for the AGM in late May.

In Federation,

Manfred Netzel, Acting-President

**ARM Chapter 12 Final Financial Statement  
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**

Income Statement	ARM Chapter 12		July 2018 - June 30, 2019	Total Revenue
Balance from 2018			\$4,391.31	
	Revenue	Expenses	Revenue	
OSSTF Rebate Fees			\$12,180.00	\$16,180.00
EGF Contributions			\$1,000.00	
OTIP Contributions			\$3,000.00	
Executive Lunches		\$2,190.91		
Luncheon Meeting Expenses		\$5,814.33		
Luncheon Meeting Revenue			\$3,919.00	
Newsletter Expenses		\$9,680.20		
Golf and Curling Activities Expenses		\$3,737.23		
Golf and Curling Activities Revenue			\$3,796.00	
Theatre and Excursion Expenses		\$612.64		\$482.32 accrued from 2017/2018
Theatre and Excursion Revenues			\$482.32	rebate from Stratford
Gifts, Cards, Membership & Charities		\$1,517.30		
Office & Miscellaneous expenses		\$69.57		
Health Coalition Conference		\$80.00		
<b>Totals</b>		\$23,702.18	\$28,768.63	
<b>Net Income over the period</b>			\$5,066.45	Note: there are 2 more bills which will accrue to 2019/2020
Income Statement		RM SFK Chapter 12	July 2017 - May 10, 2018	
ARM SFK Chapter 12		Expenses	Revenue	
Balance from 2017			\$4,705.45	
SFK Revenue			\$1,730.00	
Charities supported				
Bank Charges		\$9.75		
Total			\$6,435.45	
Balance	\$6,425.70			

**Note: The Committee for Charitable donations:  
Manfred Netzel, Neil Walker, Candice Phoenix, Jim Loftus, Bill Pryde and Michelle Barraclough**

**The following charities each received \$1500 cheque by December, 2019: Red Door, Massey House, Covenant House, and Rosalie Hall**

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## Kathleen Wynne: Passionate Advocate for Public Education and Women

In June 2019 the ARM 12 Executive agreed to invite Kathleen Wynne to speak to our members on February 19, 2020 to share her perspective on growing up in Ontario, raising 3 children in Toronto and the decision to enter public life in her community. She kindly accepted our invitation and we invite ARM members to hear her perspective on family, community and politics.

Kathleen Wynne was a neighbor of mine when we moved to North Toronto in 1987, an avid jogger, and engaged parent of 3 children who attended Toronto public schools. In the 1990s Kathleen joined with her new partner, Jane Rounthwaite, and they became active members in our local United Church and in the community.

Kathleen and Jane have become important role models for people in the LGBTQ2S community. Kathleen proceeded to become actively engaged in the broader Toronto community. In 1997 she founded the Metro Parent Network to advocate for students, parents and families in the Mike Harris era of cutbacks. In 2000 she was elected as a trustee for the Toronto School Board where she defended the rights of students to have a quality education. Recognizing that the provincial government held enormous power over education she ran in the 2003 provincial election and was elected as a M.P.P.

At Queen's Park she served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Ministers of Training, Colleges and University Education from 2003-2006 and was then elevated to cabinet as Minister of Education where she served from 2006-2010. As Education Minister she worked to reduce class sizes, introduced full-day kindergarten and provided more opportunities for secondary school students. As a Cabinet Minister and Premier from 2006 – 2018, she continued to advocate for public education and worked with parents and teachers in complex times.

At the ceremony unveiling Kathleen's official portrait as Premier of Ontario she noted that she is the first woman to serve as Premier of Ontario and how important it is for students touring Queen's Park to see a woman on the walls with all the male Premiers. This is a key educational opportunity for girls and hopefully an inspiration to many. In addition, Kathleen's insight on collective bargaining in these latest challenging times will be very interesting and she will be happy to entertain your questions. Be sure to register online or by phone with Vice-President Jim Loftus {416-4-447-0811}

### Why April 22, 2020, is important

This is the date for an ARM meeting with special guest speaker: **John Sewell**, former mayor, lawyer, urban advocate (especially for Toronto), and monitor of Metro police activities. John will be presenting the case for Toronto to become a **Charter City**, along with supporting details.

If you have not been following the progress of this movement, here is a very brief outline of what it seeks.

The drive toward Toronto achieving **Charter City (CC)** status is one that would essentially give the city much greater autonomy to finance and administer its own affairs. Currently, it is a "creature of the province", enshrined in the Constitution, and subject to full control, and the whims, of the province.

While the movement has been more or less simmering on the back burner for a number of years, recent events have turned up the heat: Doug Ford's vindictive interruption during the 2019 civic elections, mandating 25 councillors; the Ford government's threat to take over Toronto's subways, and the replacement

of the relief subway line with the Ontario line running from Don Mills and Eglinton (Ontario Science Centre) to downtown and then on to Ontario Place. The latter is under review to determine its future, and best bets are that the Ford Government will be pushing for a casino, regardless of the wishes of Toronto City Council and the citizens that it represents.

Other examples of provincial interference into the affairs of the city are the Ontario Municipal Board, which often overrides - subsequent to petitioning from developers - land use, zoning, and planning decisions made by the City, Market Value Assessment of properties for taxation purposes (Harris government), Metro amalgamation (Harris again), squashing the John Tory's proposal for tolls on the DVP to help pay for public transit in the city (Wynne government), and the list goes on.

In Canada there are some quasi CCs, but that status can be easily amended or terminated by the provincial government in which they're located: Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Saint John and others. For Toronto, "a constitutionally-protected City Charter that can only be adopted or amended with the consent of the city" is proposed.

"If Toronto had had a City Charter as we proposed in 2018, the Ford government would not have been able to unilaterally reduce city council and revoke Toronto's powers of governance against the will of the city. Nor could the province unilaterally change the rules for amending the Charter. That would require the agreement of the federal parliament. No rules are fireproof but the ones we propose would afford solid protection for the city." (Charter City Toronto)

"A key goal of a City Charter will be to give the city the authority to act independently of the province on matters within the municipal sphere and without having to go to the province for permission to make decisions."

There are many prominent politicians, business leaders, urban planners, and academics supporting Charter City Toronto, and the list is growing. The Charter City prospect is also being considered by other municipalities in Ontario, even though there is very little likelihood of it becoming a reality under the current provincial government. That being said, the idea is expanding, the planning is evolving, and the momentum is growing.

See the events **Calendar on page 3** for time and location. Please let me know by email if you'll be attending so that we can plan seating, and whether or not you'll be staying for lunch.

Ed Preston      [lighsmith98@gmail.com](mailto:lighsmith98@gmail.com)

## An Appeal to Members of Chapter 12

The Ford government has launched an unprecedented attack on the Ontario educational system. Your executive is asking you to take a little time to phone, meet or write your local MPP to register your opposition to this program. Polls indicate that a majority of the public oppose increasing class sizes, on-line courses, and layoffs to hundreds of teachers and educational support staff. It's important to keep the pressure on the government, and support Liberal and NDP members in their opposition to this destructive program. Please help by phoning, writing a short note, or meeting with your MPP. (C. Hawkes)

## PHOTOS: PAST MEETINGS



Oct.16/19: P.C. Jason Peddle of Toronto Police gave a very illuminating and useful seminar: on-line and telephone fraud, and cyber security in general. If you've been victimized, you can call Jason at 416.808.0130



Dec.4/19: Annual Holiday Season Dinner Party at the Latvian Centre. Great music, readings (Larry French below), a parody skit (provincial government), carols, and a fabulous dinner.





**Deluxe Travel Insurance (page 12)**

**95 days per trip!**

- Included in all plans
- No additional premium
- Covers you for emergency medical expenses up to \$2 million per person, per trip
- \$6,000 trip interruption/cancellation insurance per person, per trip




Jan. 22/20: OTIP Workshop at 60 Mobile. Anita's engaging workshops have been most helpful, Thanks!



On Jan. 22/20 Neil Hetherington of the Daily Bread Food Bank gave us a snapshot of the work being done by DFB and why. On Dec. 6/19, Neil Walker and Manfred Netzel donated a cheque for \$500.00 at Sounds of the Season on behalf of ARM C12.

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# Book Review

## **The Sport and Prey of Capitalists** by Linda McQuaig. , Dundurn, Toronto 2019

Linda McQuaig is a renowned investigative journalist who has written a number of books on tax evasion, corporate fraud, income inequality, the oil industry, and government debt and deficit issues. She has two attributes essential for a general reader: an ability to clarify complex financial and economic issues, and at the same time, to tell a good story. She brings the same qualities to this book that challenges the prevailing dogma that our large public enterprises should be privatized.

The book's title refers to a speech by Ontario Conservative premier James Whitney, in 1905 during the struggle to create Ontario Hydro. Water power, he emphasized, should not be captured by private business, but be considered an asset of the people of Ontario. And what a struggle it was between the business elite, led by Henry Pellatt (who built Casa Loma.), and Adam Beck, a former mayor of London, Ontario. When the public led by Beck won against the business privatizers, Ontario Hydro went on to become one of the most admired public enterprises in the world, used as a model for public power in Roosevelt's New Deal.

McQuaig believes that public ownership of large provincial or national enterprises fits Canadian geography and our national character better than in the US. Canada is huge, but thinly populated, and aside from the CPR, a private, but heavily subsidized, national unifier, we have benefitted far more from public enterprises financed by government. She argues that Canadians admire and defer far less than Americans towards individual business success, and more easily accept the need for government enterprises.

The CNR was formed as a Crown corporation in the 1920's to take over five bankrupt private companies. It gave generations of efficient freight and passenger service to Canada, and broke the monopoly of the privatized CPR. It was also the first railway anywhere to broadcast radio into its passenger cars when the medium was in its infancy in the 1920's. The excitement over radio and CNR's use of it eventually led to the formation in 1936 of another Crown corporation, the CBC, after a long struggle against private broadcasters.

One of the best chapters in the book deals with medical issues. Before World War 1, diphtheria was a leading killer of children under 14. Medication to combat it existed but was far too expensive until a Dr. John Fitzgerald found a low cost treatment for diphtheria in a small lab at the University of Toronto. He promoted a new and even radical idea that lifesaving medications and vaccines should be free and universal for the citizenry. This led to the establishment of the non-profit Connaught laboratories which went on to have a storied record in developing vaccines and medications for a range of diseases, and providing them at low cost for mass production. However, Connaught was privatized in 1985. McQuaig argues that this loss of a public enterprise undermined the establishment of a Canadian pharmacare program which should have been twinned years ago with Canada's medicare system.

Chapters on banking, the oil and industry, hydro, Highway 407, and the auto manufacturing, all privatized enterprises, further develop her argument that Canada could do better if these enterprises had been kept, or brought partially or fully into the public domain.

C. Hawkes

# Giving inheritance money early

Whether you're just starting out in your education career or are now enjoying your 'after school' years, we'd like to talk to you about... money.

After all, 'money is what makes the world go round'—at least according to the old proverb (*and the musical Cabaret*). And that world will keep on spinning, long after you're gone.

Yet many people continue to wait until they've passed away to pass on inheritance money, which could mean missed opportunities for them, as well as the loved ones they're leaving behind. Over the next decade, Canadians between the ages of 50 and 75 are set to inherit an estimated \$750 billion. That's a lot of inheritance money, which could be helping those heirs a whole lot sooner.

## **Enter the benefit of gifting that money early (also known as a 'living inheritance').**

If you retired at the top of the pay grid, chances are you're collecting a pretty healthy pension. And if you happen to be debt and mortgage-free in retirement, and/or managed to accumulate investment income over the years, you could also find yourself having a sum of money over and above what you need to maintain your retirement lifestyle.



## **Gifting some of that extra money now enables you to make the biggest financial impact on your loved ones when they might need it most.**

For example, if you have children or grandchildren in their late teens or early 20s, this is a period when they are faced with unique financial challenges, such as paying for post-secondary education. Upon graduation, it can also take a while to pay off any student loans and other forms of accumulated debt—potentially delaying the ability to save up for a down payment on a home, or get married and start a family. This is where providing a monetary advance on their inheritance can make a world of difference.

To learn the advantages of giving inheritance early visit:

[www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/ARMNov19](http://www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/ARMNov19)

The financial specialists at Educators Financial Group are trained to help you with your estate planning needs.

Get in touch today at: [educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/getstarted](http://educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/getstarted)  
or call 1.800.263.9541



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# **ARM CHAPTER 12 AGM**

**May 27, 2020**

**Keynote Speaker: Linda McQuaig**

**Author: The Sport and Prey of Capitalists**

**60 Mobile Dr.**

**Registration: 2:00 - 2:30 P.M.**

**BBQ Dinner @ 5:00 P.M. (Outdoors/Indoors)**

**Cost: TBA**

**We Need Your e-mail address**

**For vital communication as we go forward**

**If we don't already have it, please send it to:**

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

**Michelle Arsenault: 416-751-8300**