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# After School

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Volume 12 Issue 3, Summer, 2010

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## Curmudgeon's Corner

Paul Rook introduces a new department and tells us what's on his mind this issue 4-5



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## Fall Calendar

**Saturday, Sept 11** -- OSSTF District 12 is holding a training session to prepare volunteers for participation in this year's city election of trustees. (October 25). If you are interested in the training session to be held on Saturday, September 11, contact Charles Hawkes at [cahawkes@rogers.com](mailto:cahawkes@rogers.com).

**Wednesday, Sept 15** -- Fall Golf Tournament  
Contact Jim Loftus, 416 447-0811.

**Wednesday, Sept 22** -- Jerusalem Restaurant.  
Topic TBA Contact Jim Loftus, 416 447-0811

**Thursday, September 20.** Let's Go To the Races!!! Woodbine Race Track. 12:00 pm.  
Front entrance. Tour behind the scenes. 1:00

pm Favourites Restaurant. Buffet - \$18.00.  
Reservations needed. Café, no reservations. à la carte, main floor \$10+ Choose one and let me know. Contact Millie Oliver, 905 839-0117 or 416 580-9992.

**Thursday, Oct 21** -- *12 Angry Men*. St Jacobs Theatre. \$99 includes bus, ticket and lunch.  
Payment due by Friday, September 10. Contact Rosemarie Mohring, 416 425-6677.

**Wednesday, October 27** -- A west-end restaurant TBA. Topic TBA. Contact Jim Loftus, 416 447-0811.

**Wednesday, December 1** -- Holiday Luncheon.  
Tucker's Restaurant, Eglinton and Warden.

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## Editorial chatter

### You are a member

Along with your ARM membership, you share our institutional membership in the Congress of Union Retirees in Canada (CURC). Don Wright makes the case for individual membership in CURC as a means to supporting our friends, neighbours, and family members who are stranded without proper pensions and income support.

The years of retirement can be a time of searching for meaning. CURC is one way we can continue to contribute to social change. Wasn't that the reason many of us went into education in the first place?

### Loss

The death of Liz Barkley hit everyone hard. No matter what Liz's health had been, she often seemed larger than life. Her energy and her commitment alone made her appear to be worth two of any ordinary person.

Liz was always willing to share with others and include them. When someone suffered a personal setback, Liz was all practical advice and action mixed with a lot of TLC. No one was ever left behind if Liz was going for a coffee. Always, wherever Liz was, her friends were.

Her unique way with the English language made

her stories memorable. Who can forget her telling of her exchange of missiles with then-education minister David Cooke? During the Social Contract debacle, Liz emerged from an unsuccessful government meeting into a wall of television cameras with the truth: "Jesus, what a mess!" It was the quote that led the news across Ontario.

Now that Liz is gone, our memories of her will continue to inspire dedication to OSSTF and public education in Ontario and to the struggle for social and economic justice.

### Take pen in hand

Does anyone actually own a pen?

Whether with a pen or a keyboard, ARM members with the desire to write are welcome at any time in *After School*. Subject matter should be of interest to ARM members, such as political news, restaurant recommendations, tips on enjoying retirement, medical updates or great travel deals.

Please e-mail the article to [armc12.nw@gmail.com](mailto:armc12.nw@gmail.com) as a doc, docx, txt or rtf file. Or send it as a penned document to Neil Walker, ARM Chapter 12, c/o District 12, OSSTF, 1482 Bathurst St., Suite 300, Toronto ON, M5P 3H1.

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

|                           |                   |              |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>President:</b>         | Karma Naike       | 416 783-6591 |
| <b>Vice-presidents</b>    | James Loftus      | 416 447-0811 |
|                           | Manfred Netzel    | 416 767-8786 |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | Mel Herman        |              |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | Eric Dempster     |              |
| <b>Executive Officers</b> | Charles Hawkes    |              |
|                           | Paul Headdon      |              |
|                           | Boris Mischenko   |              |
|                           | Rosemarie Mohring |              |
| <b>Members at large</b>   | Ian Cameron       |              |
|                           | Ralph Cowan       |              |
|                           | Julia Harney      |              |
|                           | Tom Michalczuk    |              |
|                           | Jim Mile          |              |
|                           | Neil Walker       |              |
|                           | Don Wright        |              |

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### After School Volume 12, Issue 3, June 2010

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

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: Stephen Fuller, Sally Pengelley, Neil Walker

Newsletter contact information:

Neil Walker: [0armc12nw@gmail.com](mailto:0armc12nw@gmail.com)

Deadline for submissions to September (Fall) Issue: Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

# ARM learns about immersion programs

Immersion is growing in aboriginal education, around the world

by Juliana Harney

ALLEN TOULOUSE is a University of Ottawa graduate and history researcher at the Sagamok Reserve (Ojibwa) near Sudbury, Ontario. During ARM's visit to First Nations House, he presented a video about an immersion program for Maori students in New Zealand.

In the video we heard the opinions and goals of Maori cultural leaders and teachers from the Maori Immersion School. The school's 90 students learn Maori values and philosophy, language, gardening, fishing and hunting for boar and elk.

Fourteen percent of New Zealand population is Maori. The Maori do not live on reservations: they live communally in clusters. They meet for rituals in Marae (cultural centres). Some of their mythology survived through body tatoos. Traditional Maori values oppose the values of Colonialism.

Sagamok Reserve started an Ojibwa Immersion School in 2007, now expanded from SK to grade three. English instruction begins in grade four. Similar immer-

sion schools exist on Manitoulin Island and British Columbia. The Sagamok students were inspired to see the success of the Maori Immersion program.

Toulouse's goal is the preservation of indigenous languages and cultures. Of mixed heritage, (Ojibwa father and Irish Dutch mother), he is studying the effects of mainstream media and culture on aboriginal peoples.

Brought up in Ottawa and then on the Sagamok Reserve, Allen has worked with aboriginal people throughout Canada. For two weeks in November 2009, Allen and his two sisters accompanied a group of students and youth from the Sagamok Reserve to visit the Maori in New Zealand. The Maori students will visit the Sagamok Reserve this summer.

Allen Toulouse plans to edit his 20 hours of video about the Maori and Sagamok peoples into a documentary film. For more information, check youtube ATOULO 35, phone Allen Toulouse at 1 (705) 865-9956 or write to Box 159, Massey, Ontario P0P 1P0.



Cultural and linguistic documentarist Allen Toulouse, with, left to right, his sister Chevaun Toulouse, Eleanor Pine, an Elder who teaches at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, and Marla Toulouse.



**Curmudgeon's  
Corner**

**The search for**

# **intelligent** life

**Who are the**

**most influential** people  
**on earth?**

**by Paul Rook**

When we think of a curmudgeon, we usually think of the traditional definition which is “a crusty, ill-tempered, churlish, old man.” (The Portable Curmudgeon Redux by Jon Winokur). We tend to picture such a person as waving a cane and shouting at the children who are trespassing on his lawn. Well, I don’t have a cane yet, and as I live in a townhouse I don’t have much of a yard. As for churlish, I will let you decide.

There is another definition. A curmudgeon

“is anyone who hates hypocrisy and has the temerity to say so: anyone with the habit of pointing out unpleasant facts in an engaging and humorous manner.” Curmudgeons who fit into this tradition include Mark Twain, Will Rogers, and Dorothy Parker. Parker was famous for her book review which included the sentences “This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force.”

Rogers was famous for saying: “I don’t make

jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.” Since retirement. I have been watching government, business and society and here are my observations.

One of my retirement projects was searching for intelligent life – not in space but on earth. I must report that it has been a long but futile search. I gave up my search when Time magazine declared that Sarah Palin and Lady Gaga were two of the 100 most influential people on earth.

I have also come to the conclusion that if there are intelligent life forms on other planets they should stay as far away from our earth as possible, so they don’t pick up our bad habits.

One thing that prevents humans from being intelligent is that we have an infinite capacity to fool ourselves and to be fooled by others. Take anti-aging lotions and procedures. Folks, they don’t stop aging. They just stop the appearance of aging with the result that everyone in nursing homes will look young.

Since the recent economic unpleasantness, Canadians have been told that we have accumulated too much debt because we lack “financial literacy.” In fact we have too much debt because we have been conditioned by financial institutions and businesses to buy as many things as possible, often without having even the down payment for them, and to accumulate credit cards and then max them out. It should, however, bring you comfort to know that financial literacy is going to be taught in schools and the curriculum will be created by people from the same financial institutions that got us into this mess. I and many of you had the best course in financial literacy from parents who lived through the Great Depression.

The G8 and G20 conferences contain many examples of how we can be fooled. First, does anyone believe that anything meaningful happens

during these meetings, when the leaders spend most of their time posturing on issues, participating in photo ops and driving around town with their entourages?

Harper’s government has created an expensive lake inside the Toronto Convention Centre, with Muskoka chairs and such, so that the press will get the feeling of Ontario’s countryside. Of course, more than half of these people will have just come from the G8 Conference at Huntsville, where they will have experienced real Ontario lakes and country style living -- or at least luxurious country style living.

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### **One thing that prevents humans from being intelligent is that we have an infinite capacity to fool ourselves**

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Then we have one billion dollars in security costs to keep out the protesters. Yet most of the protesters are non-violent. Indeed, protesting is supposed to be part of our democracy. Call me cynical, but I have a feeling that they concentrate on the protesters so we won’t begin to realize how little is being accomplished by our leaders. Or that what is being accomplished is not really in our best interests.

If security is so important, which genius decided to put the G20 in the busiest part of Canada’s largest city and inside a building which is very difficult to secure?

Harper won’t provide money for needed improvements in Toronto but he will waste one billion dollars and cause costly disruption to, at the very least, business, theatre and the travel industry. I guess that sends a clear message to this city and its voters.

One final comment on the G20 conference. The leaders were in a fortress like the knights of old. Only their opinions will count. They moved through the city in expensive motorcades surrounded by guards, like nobles in carriages. I guess that means that the rest of us are just like serfs to them.

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# You are a member

**As the economic collapse continues to wreak its savagery on workers whose company pension plans were not actuarially sound, the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada works for our public pensions**

by Don Wright

LAST YEAR AARON REGENT EARNED \$24 MILLION. He was perhaps the best paid corporate executive in Toronto. His total package worked out to \$2 million per month, \$500 000.00 per week, \$100 000.00 per day, or \$12 500.00 per hour. As part of it all, his company, Barrick Gold Corp. put more than \$650 000 into his pension plan account last year.

On the other hand, a minimum wage worker in Toronto fortunate enough to have steady work over the full year could earn as much as \$19 320.00. In almost every case, this wage package would not include seniority, job security, benefits or a company pension.

Regent earned more than 1200 times as much. Nearly a hundred other chief executive officers on The Globe and Mail corporate list earned more than \$1 million last year. As part of their total salary many received a pension top-up. Ten chief executives received more than a million dollar pension boost.

Two-thirds of Canadian workers have no company pension plan. They will rely on public pensions alone. They will live in poverty, without dignity. Many of us have crossed the river, but we are going back to help those who didn't make it. We want to ensure that current pensions, and those of our children and grandchildren, are adequate.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) are working together with labour councils and union locals and CURC area councils to build better packages for all retirees. In a nation as rich as Canada, we cannot allow those who

mined the ore, cut the timber, assembled the automobiles and built the schools, office towers, hospitals, libraries and homes and who were the driving force in building a strong Canadian economy, to live in abject poverty in their retirement. As a result, CURC is doing something about it.

## **CURC's campaign for a better retirement**

Unions and retiree groups still have some members who believe that wages and pensions magically drop from the sky, or that kind employers and governments provide pensions based on generosity, goodwill, and an appreciation for our hard work and outstanding contributions to society and the corporate world. Most of us know better. Most of us understand that in an arena owned by corporate capitalism and with rules based on unregulated greed,

we don't get what we deserve, we get what we negotiate. Increasingly, those negotiations are taking place in our courts. And so CURC is negotiating with governments for better public pensions. After the epic collapse of Enron and hundreds of other bankruptcies, we have painfully learned that corporate sponsored and controlled pensions are not the answer.

At the same time, senior executives in banking and finance are negotiating with governments and in the media for better opportunities and less regulation in the selling of Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP). These retirement vehicles have defined premiums, rather than defined benefits. Even though they have seen retirement savings plans lose value in the financial crisis, senior financial executives continue to argue that these vehicles

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**Annual management fees for RRSPs are up to five times higher than CPP fees. The CPP is universal, portable, and stable**

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are better retirement investments than public pensions with defined benefits. This is simply not true.

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) works. Annual management fees for RRSPs are up to five times higher than CPP fees. The CPP is universal, portable, and stable. It is not subject to market conditions or corporate bankruptcies. It is not structured to earn profits. The benefits it pays to retirees are predictable and reliable.

The CLC/CURC plan calls for doubling CPP benefits over time. Premiums paid by workers and employers would see a gradual and manageable increase. Increased costs to government would be relatively low and reasonable.

The CLC and CURC have been conducting a lobby campaign to convince government and opposition MPs of the urgency of fixing public pensions now. Chapter 12 ARM members have been major players in this campaign along with retirees from Steel, Auto, postal workers, from Service Employees International Union, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario and Canadian Energy and Paperworkers.

The Toronto and York Region CURC Council has designed a training workshop, updated 15 seasoned lob-

byists, trained 19 new lobbyists, lobbied MPs and MPPs

Other local CURC councils are working across Ontario and Canada to convince both government and opposition Members of Parliament that our current public pensions are dangerously inadequate. Over time, we must

- double the CPP
- improve the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Old Age Security
- insure company pensions against loss

### **What can you do to help?**

- Upgrade your affiliate membership in CURC
  - buy a \$15 individual membership. (These fees support the work of CURC)
- Call your Member of Parliament
- Call your Member of the Provincial Parliament
- Visit [curcclc-ctc.ca](http://curcclc-ctc.ca) –learn about how to help
- Join the Facebook page, 'Retirement Security For Everyone'
- Write a letter to the editor
- Volunteer for lobby training
- Call and write Mayor David Miller (416 397-2489). (See below.)

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## ***An appeal - - -***

**Ken Georgetti, President, Canadian Labour Council, is asking CURC and its members to support the drive to achieve a sound retirement for all Canadians**

THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES met in Toronto from May 28 – 31 and passed an emergency resolution calling on Ottawa to expand the Canadian Pension Plan, (CPP), increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by 15 percent, protect Canadian pensions with a federal system of pension insurance and hold a National Pension Summit.

Activists are asked to phone Mayor David Miller (416-397-2489). Ask him to write the federal and provincial finance ministers and urge them to support the four principles of this resolution. Follow up with a letter to David Miller with the same request.

To Ken Georgetti's appeal, ARM C-12 executive member, Don Wright, adds his own appeal to all members of ARM C-12:

*I urge all Chapter12 members to become involved in this urgent and important issue. There is nothing more important we can do today for our fellow retirees.*

— Don Wright, President, Toronto and York Region CURC Area Council [donrite@rogers.com](mailto:donrite@rogers.com) 647 828 5725 416 242 3481

# on a down day in April

The names, the smiles, the voices of the people we never forget

by Karma Naike

APRIL IS A TIME THAT TRIGGERS PROMISE at the sight of peeking buds, promise that is thwarted by disruptions and fluctuations of the weather that can puncture any hour, any day. April weather often profoundly affects the onset of sudden flu time for temporarily fragile folks who sometimes seek comfort under a blanket with a book, or just watching TV.

Such was my condition on April 9, 2010, when, having read the newspaper, I turned on the TV. The news, covered in elegant pomp and ceremony, was a commemoration of Canada's launch onto the international wartime scene, and paying homage to that generation of 650,000 soldiers, mere youths, who put their lives on hold for Canada to serve in the Great War. On April 9, 1917, when Canadians stormed Vimy Ridge and laid siege for four days, these youths established Canada's stature as an independent nation on the world scene. This news item coincided with the passing of John Babcock, the last surviving World War I veteran at age 109 who agreed that any ceremony should honour all those who served, not him only. The event of national and military significance was all the more outstanding by the keen participation of students. I thought that it was our memory of the history of the collective of our home, Canada, - its people and events, that create a common bond. As a retired teacher, seeing that students were learning to appreciate Canada's history, I felt rather patriotic and I wandered down memory lane to the time of my teaching days.

First destination was Greenwood School, a high school for New Canadians, getting ready for Remembrance Day Assembly, an annual event. I remember the rehearsing of the passages, the poems, and the teaching of what November 11th means so that this event would be meaningful. There were logistical preparations besides getting material from the Board and other libraries. One felt the fierce but gentle feelings of patriotism among the staff who taught relevant material at appropriate language levels. One line of a poem stands out – *In the morning, and at the going down of the sun, we will remember them* ..... Later on I learned that one staff person, Colin Leslie, had an

uncle, John Fairchild Leslie, who had been killed at Vimy Ridge and whose remains were never found. His name is engraved on the Memorial. All of us felt the sacrifice of war keenly and to personally know someone connected to a war hero made the commemoration ceremony a great moment for us.

I drifted to other folks with whom I shared many fun times together. We were younger, but one person stood out that day. This was Anna Kogan, a Russian immigrant teacher who came to our school with an accent as thick as sponge. She taught Science. One can imagine the students' first responses to her teaching. There were many discipline problems. But she persevered. She often phoned or came to ask me about pronunciation and she would practice her English a great deal. She started a Science Club and would say to the students 'You have to learn Science, Science is important!'

Eventually, she got the students on side and the lab was always abuzz with afterschool Science Club activities. A few years later, she took the students to Philadelphia for a science competition 'Invent An Alien' and our school won. We felt proud. But Anna also endeared herself to all the staff; she hosted staff parties and made friends on personal levels. A year after she retired, her retirement gift being a set of luggage, she visited our school and came to tell me, in the Guidance Office, that she and her husband Mark, were going to Egypt. Very excited.

Then one October day, in 1998, I heard on the news of a plane crash – an Egypt Air plane was downed. Worried sick if Anna was on that plane. Fears realized. Anna and Mark Kogan were victims of the plane downing. That tragedy still saddens my heart. A lifetime of dreams of a warm, adventurous and generous couple, all nullified. A loving life, a victim, in another's self-negating act.

I was impressed by many but reflections over time reveal the people that reached us at a profound level. Such folk that I visited in my reverie were Camille Natale and Bill Kennedy – they were union people and although I can't profess to know them very well, we were friends at union meetings and events. The reason for my lasting

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affection is their purity of purpose, love of union and public education that these two individuals, both friends, embodied.

When Camille spoke at district council, or at the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA) about the negative effects of advertising in school, or the impact of corporations on social institutions and the labour force, especially on women and children in third world countries, her eloquence quieted the audiences. With similar conviction and commitment, Bill Kennedy raised his voice, using updated research on TDSB meetings and other relevant sources to support his stand. His was an indomitable spirit in the pursuit of research and a voice for liberal arts education in schools and on social issues that mattered.

I remember Bill's dancing with me at several AMPAs, waltzes, rock 'n roll, other dances, and getting an audience. I remember Camille in her gregarious, embrac-

ing manner always being part of a large group – talking, laughing, dancing, and hanging out.

Times, events and moods, evoke images that affirm our inner wealth. Recently, I read that Robert Fulford, a Toronto journalist, said that memory is the greatest gift of civilization. I guess that it is our organized living which has stimulated the development of memory, the demise of which is the demise of self. Remembering Pat Boone's "April love is for the very young" and Shakespeare's "The uncertain glory of an April day" (*Two Gentlemen of Verona*, 1:3:85), I think that the excitement and disappointment, the smiles and tears that youth experiences are like the fluctuations of an April Day which the young have the disposition to handle. We have managed the vicissitudes that life brings, and our memories have built armour for our power to meet any changes or uncertainties that may arise. Older, wiser and richer aren't we?

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## ARM Antiques Show April 14, 2010

# For the love of Old stuff

### ARM members discover value in the most unexpected places

by Jim Mile

There are people who love old stuff, antiques. They look in shops and at garage sales, and go to malls on weekends to wander among dealers' displays. For these people ARM holds a special event that goes one step beyond looking and it takes place at a buffet restaurant. But first comes the show and then the food.

ARM's antique shows have been held for five years and they are faithfully attended by a cadre bringing their paintings, porcelains, silverware, gold watches and doodads to be appraised by a panel of antique dealers.

After people settle into their chairs at Tucker's Marketplace and carefully place their treasures on the table in front of them, the event begins with introductions. Tony Casey has been the constant dealer at all the shows. He invited two other dealers Michael and Christopher to join him. They are knowledgeable in different fields; the specialties this time were jewellery, paintings and timepieces.

To start, each panel member held up and talked about one of his own favourite items. Then the appraisals began. Everyone had the opportunity to sit

down with a dealer and show the pieces she or he had brought. Dealers provided lots of detail on most items; few could stump them. Of course, they gave estimates of value as well. Some sales have occurred as a result of shows.

At the end of the session, each dealer in turn described the most interesting piece he had seen that morning and it was held up for all to admire. There were a number of surprises and a few real treasures to everyone's delight. Perhaps the most impressive at this year's antiques road show was a Georgian silver tea pot. Or was it the Omega lady's gold watch?

Look around you – perhaps the next ARM antiques road show will surprise you with the value a family heirloom has acquired over the years. However, mere dollars and cents are not the only measure of a piece's worth. The tea set of Thousand Faces china you inherited from a favourite aunt may be worth money, but the best antiques in show are the ones loved for the beauty they add to your home and the memories they evoke.

# agenda reveals the **eSSence** of ARM C12

by Manfred Netzel

A proposed agenda is a reflection of the character and substance of an organization as much as it is a guideline for procedural decorum. If one focusses on the former, then ARM Chapter 12 has a complex character and a great deal of substance. The agenda, with its extensive list of verbal and written reports from dedicated voluntary executive members, the well-run elections, the list of invited guests from OSSTF and external agencies, a fascinating key-note speech by CAW Senior Negotiator Peggy Nash, and a ceremony of special acknowledgements for long-



Keynote speaker and CAW Senior Negotiator Peggy Nash (left) and ARM C12 President Karma Naike.

standing service by current or retiring executive members (OK, you thought that everyone was already retired, right?) were a premonition of good things to come. This result was all but assured when one saw the entire gathering was chaired by former chapter vice-president, Paul Rook.

Just over one month ago, some 40 members of the active members of Chapter 12 ARM were informed, entertained and dined at the 11th Annual General Meeting held at OSSTF Provincial Office at 60 Mobile Drive.

A second-year retiree and member of Chapter 12, I find that the most impressive aspect of this organization is its ability to balance its program and activities between hard union issues or political action and its social, sporting and cultural activities. This bi-polarity (a good thing in this case)

was clearly evident as one report after another identified everything from organized lobbying for improved public and private pensions through our affiliation with CURC (Congress of Union Retirees of Canada) or being involved in the next municipal elections to upcoming sports activities (golfing or curling) and cultural and entertainment events in Toronto and further afield (Native Centre, High Park walks, Stratford or Muskoka).

The current and re-elected executive has a wide range of talented and committed members who help to maintain this balance. Led by President Karma Naike, and assisted by a team of re-elected colleagues, the membership is well-served in many areas such as fiscal management, a website, phone contacts, as well as written and electronic communications.

At any Annual General Meeting, a highlight of the event



Past-president Ian Cameron presents former editors of After School Jim Mile (centre) and Al Williams with gifts recognizing their contributions to ARM C 12.

should always be a keynote address by some articulate, engaging and thoughtful speaker. This year, Peggy Nash fulfilled the role ideally. As a senior CAW Negotiator, who was also the first female in North America to lead union bargaining in the auto sector, she has had a long and distinguished career as an activist for improved women and childrens' rights, more environmentally-friendly transpor-

tation policy, and greater redistribution of wealth through agencies such as The United Way, YWCA and The Canadian Labour Congress. On top of all that, Nash also was elected in 2006 as an NDP MP in the Toronto riding of Parkdale-High Park, and served with distinction until the election of 2008.

Her address began with a touching tribute to the late OSSTF leader, Liz Barkley, whom she admired greatly for her principled political fights during the turbulent period of the Social Contract under Bob Rae, and later the Harris regime. The themes of her address then focussed on the state of pensions in Canada and the need for immediate reform of the CPP, as well as a brief review of the David Miller mayoralty and where the City of Toronto should be headed in the post-Miller era. As a member of the Board

of Invest Toronto, the city-run economic development agency, she had some very clear views about the need for a strong public education system, good infrastructure and an increase in investment in the Green Economy for well-paid jobs. Her own political fights are continuing as the Ontario Auto Sector restructures, and will continue as she has already been nominated again to be the NDP candidate in Parkdale-High Park in the next federal election.

Finally, with the business of the AGM concluded, the attendees enjoyed an excellent buffet dinner. As we wine and dined, a student trio of musicians led by the son of executive member Julia Harney provided great musical entertainment. If I haven't made the case clear enough, if you couldn't make an afternoon available for your union this year, then plan to make it next year.

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## Steve Fuller's *My Toronto*

# My favorite restaurants

## Wanna be classy?

**Rosewater Supper Club** -- If you want to impress or emulate rich people in an up-scale eatery — without being forced to eat almost-raw Brome Lake duckling, one-bite lamb chops, almost-extinct ocean species such as Sea bass, try the Rosewater Supper Club.

**India** — Cuisine of India. Yonge north of Sheppard. I haven't been there recently, but it still gets a pretty good rating.

**Thai** — Thai Mengrai. On Toronto St. The best in town! Make reservations. They do wonders with seafood. Talk to the manager, visit the kitchen, chat with the chef.

**Chinese Noodle House** — Swatow, (Chinese fast food). On Spadina, first block above Dundas, East side.

The last time I was there, the special soup was wonderful.

**Put Pork On Your Fork** — Search for Jacob Richler's columns on the Internet. For a nice Jewish boy, the son of renowned author Mordecai, he's a real treyf maven. (If you want Yiddish definitions, look them up on the web or ask the author.)

**Russian and mid-Eastern Food** — I live in the mecca of this cuisine, Bathurst and Steeles. If you like mountains of food, noise and good prices, go to Me-Va-Me (Bathurst and Steeles). It's good if you're afraid of eating alone. If you like better stuff in a quieter and more comfortable place that's just as good, try Shoom-Shoom on Bayview above Steeles in the Longo Plaza. Sababa on Steeles between Bathurst and Yonge

(North Side is just as good and has more mid-East stuff such as humus, baba ganouj) They bake their own pita bread and make great falafel to go; other prepared dishes are available, all in the attached shop.

**Best Bagels** — I probably won't go to heaven because of this, but I don't like Montreal bagels very much. If I want OK taste at a good price, I like What-a-Bagel, but my favourite is Panera (Both have several outlets.)

While you're there get their cheese-soaked mini baguettes and then die happily.

**Kosher Pizza, Falafel, Bourekas** — Try the feta-and-spinach deluxe pizza at Tov-Li; it's to die for. All their stuff is vegetarian and some is even Vegan. (two locations, on Bathurst below Steeles (West side) and below Wilson (East side).)

**Spicy stuff, the ultimate** — You have to visit Hot, Spicy, Spicy at Leslie and Finch. Be careful and take your fire extinguisher!! This is not for people who think that Szechuan is too hot! Eat at your own risk; it's not kind to your ulcer!

**Pizza and other Italian delights** — Many years ago we went to Filippo's on St. Clair Ave. W. It was wonderful! We haven't returned there, but we've driven by and it looks like it's prospering. It would be fun to try it again. It's like an upscale bistro.

If you want to visit one of these places, let's get a small group (4-5) together and do it!! Call Steve Fuller at 416-661-7775.



# Swing For Kids

## Annual Fall Golf Tournament

**Wednesday,  
September 15, 2010**

### Time

**09:30 Registration**

**10:00 Shotgun tee-off**

If playing the Championship Course, please arrive earlier as we will have to tee-off around 9 am so that we finish together. Shotgun start means we tee off at the same time and finish together so that lunch will be ready at about 1:00 to 1:30 pm.

### Place

Rolling Hills Golf Club.

### Cost

\$65 for 18 holes in Classic Course; \$75 if you choose to play the Championship Course; \$20 for lunch only. Includes 18 holes of golf, power cart for two (compulsory). BBQ lunch menu includes choice of 3 salads, vegetable platter, assorted cookies and dessert squares, coffee or tea, taxes, gratuities and prizes.

**Send your cheque** for \$65 (Classic Course) or \$75 (Championship Course) or \$20 (Lunch only), to Jim Loftus, 7 Roanoke Rd., Apt. 301 Toronto M3A 1E3. Make the cheque out to ARM C12 Fall Golf Tournament c/o Jim Loftus.

**Deadline** Cheques must be in by **September 9, 2010**. Since places are limited, please act soon.

### Directions to golf course

Rolling Hills Golf Club  
12808 Warden Avenue  
Gormley, Ontario L4A 7X5

Golf Shop: 905 888-1955

### From Toronto

- Take Hwy 404 north to Stouffville Road
- Turn right (east) on Stouffville Road and drive to Warden Avenue
- Turn left and go north 2 kms on Warden Avenue
- Entrance is on the left side (west) of Warden Avenue

**Registration** Please notify us at [armchapter12@gmail.com](mailto:armchapter12@gmail.com) so that we'll have a good idea of how many will be registering. Include your team members' names and phone numbers and e-mails if possible. Please indicate skill level, 1 being a novice and 5 being a good golfer.