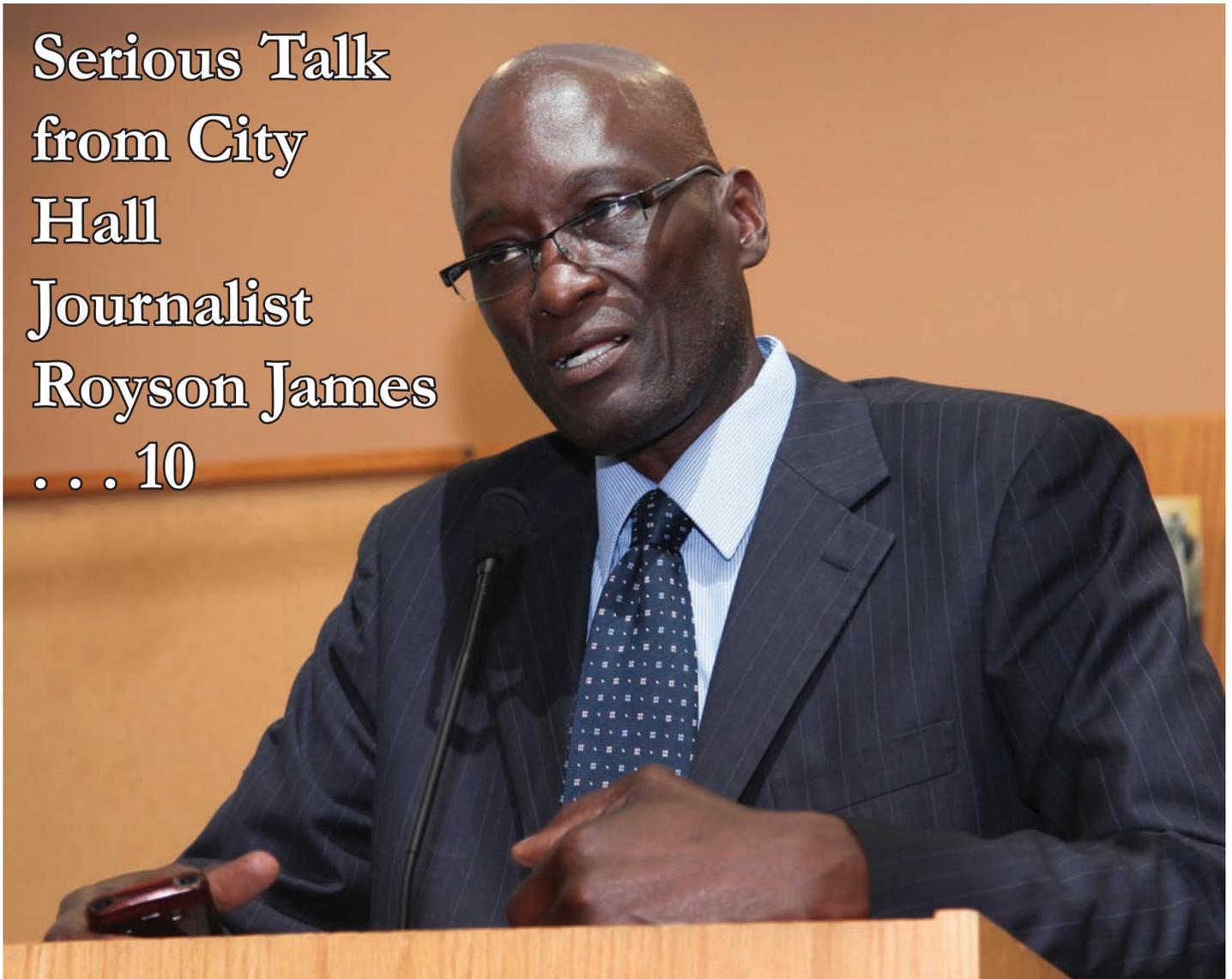

After School

armchapter12.org

Volume 16, Issue 4, September, 2014

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Editorial Chatter

We are sad to have to remember one of the devoted members of the newsletter team and the ARM Chapter 12 executive, Steve Fuller. He was a good friend to ARM and to the newsletter crew and we will miss him dearly.

President Manfred Netzel thinks it is time to get serious about the Toronto municipal election and outlines why in Presidential Perspective.

This past June featured a wonderful Stratford expedition. Both plays received positive reviews and the photos attest to the spirit of bonhomie that characterized the expedition.

Toronto Star municipal columnist, Royson James, easily held the attention of ARM Chapter 12 members at the Annual General Meeting on June 4. His tales of the antics city hall has hosted in recent years and his comments on the unpublicized actions of Mayor Ford gave us a fascinating look behind the media circus that Ford has inspired.

The complacent Canadian is Paul Rook's target in this edition's

Curmudgeon's Corner. His call to us in our somnolence will stir you to want to take action to halt the erosion of Canada's caring society.

Photographer Ed Preston shares with us some of the outstanding photographs he brought back from a trip to Korea in May of this year. His work captures Seoul's beauty and its importance as a centre of outstanding design.

David Schreiber considers the usefulness of philosophy in the era of Google. As always, Schreiber's review outlines the book's qualities and its main arguments.

April 22 saw ARM Chapter 12 members attending a sobering presentation on the issue of age and one's driving licence. Laying to rest some of the ageist myths about driving a car, presenter Don Wright shared his research into safe driving and the danger signals one should be aware of as one evolves into greater seniority behind the wheel.

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After School Volume 16, Issue 4, September 2014

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

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

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

Editorial Team: Larry French, Cyndie Jacobs, John Jansen, Manfred Netzel, Ed Preston, Paul Rook, Neil Walker

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Calendar

Wednesday, September 17, 2014, Swing for Kids Annual Fall Golf Tournament.

Rolling Hills Golf Course. Challenge Course 9:30 a.m. registration, 10:00 a.m. shot gun tee off. Cost: \$70 includes 18 holes of golf, cart for two, BBQ 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 needy children's charities across Toronto. Send \$70 per golfer, cheque to: Jim Loftus, 301-7 Roanoke Rd. Toronto, ON, M3A 1E3. Cheques should be sent by Sept.9/14 and must be payable to ARM C12 Fall Golf Tournament, c/o Jim Loftus, coordinator. Call Jim Loftus for further information, 416 447-0811



9:30 am: Registration. 10 am: Presentation begins. 12 noon: Lunch \$18. 60 Mobile Drive. When you or a family member encounters a medical problem, dealing with doctors, reports and hospitals can be overwhelming. Our speakers will provide you with information to help you navigate the medical process.

Paul Rook will provide you with a variety of practical tools and techniques that will improve your time with doctors and in hospitals. Paul learned these from a course created by a nurse, which course he helped to pilot. His knowledge was also acquired as a member of committees at The Scarborough Hospital and from his own medical experiences. Sheila Moore from OTIP's Cancer Care Program will explain how to access this plan and how it can benefit and support patients with cancer. Our third panelist will explain how to access palliative care and how it can benefit the patient and the patient's family. Phone Jim Loftus at 416-447-0811 to let him know you are attending.

Monday, November 17, 2014, ARM's Annual Fall Curling Bonspiel,

at Donalda Club, Don Mills. 9:30 a.m. Registration. 10:00 a.m. presentation begins. \$25 per player, after subsidy. Fee includes curling and excellent luncheon. Maximum of 32 curlers. Non curlers may have lunch at \$20. Register with Jim Loftus ASAP (416 447 0811) as spaces are filled very early and quickly.

Wednesday, September 24, 2014. Downsizing for Seniors.

Mary Dempster, part of a top-drawer Toronto realty team, gives us the lowdown on the market and considerations to think of when downsizing. Registration 9:30 am. Session begins at 10 am Lunch at 12 noon, \$18. Please contact Jim Loftus at 416 447-0811 if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Lady Muskoka Cruise.

Situated in picturesque Bracebridge, the Lady Muskoka cruise offers an incredible 2¾ hour luncheon cruise you are sure to enjoy. You will also visit Maple Orchard Farms for free time at the gift shop. Cost: \$96 per person including motorcoach transportation with washroom. Register by September 5. Make cheques payable to ARM Chapter 12. Please write Muskoka Cruise on the memo line of your cheque. Mail to Rosemarie Mohring, 272 Laird Drive, Toronto M4G 3X4. When registering, include your phone number. Cancellation no later than 6 pm, September 22. Phone Rosemarie for information on transportation, pickup and times at 416 425-6677.

Wednesday, October 22, 2014 Plans, Strategies and Tools For Improving Your Health Care Experience

Wednesday, December 3, 2014. ARM's Annual Holiday Celebration

at the Latvian Centre, 4 Credit Union Drive (adjacent to 60 Mobile Drive – OSSTF building) 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 6 to March 17, 2015. 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 \$260 for all 10 weekly sessions and \$32.50 for each single session. Confirm your choice of 10 or single session participation with Jim Loftus at 416 447 0811 by Tuesday, December 23, 2014.

Wednesday, January 21, 2015, ARM's Annual Review of Investment, Estate, Health, Travel and Life Insurance Plans

Representatives of Educators Financial Group, OTIP/RAEO and Teachers Life will review existing plans, significant changes of investment, estate, life, health care and travel related insurance planning. Question and answer period will follow. Location, 60 Mobile Drive. Registration 9:45 a.m. Luncheon \$18. Register with Jim Loftus, 416 447 0811.

In Remembrance

Steve Fuller – Renaissance Man

Saxophonist, writer, thinker, scientist, chef, artist, teacher

BY ROBERT FULLER, LAURA FULLER AND MARLA PERLMUTAR



Steve Fuller warms up with the Toronto Saxophone Quartet before a concert at York University

This past May, a frequent contributor to this newsletter and member of the ARM Chapter 12 executive, our father, Stephen Fuller, passed away after a 23-year-long heroic battle with heart disease. Those of you who made his acquaintance through his articles on a wide range of fascinating topics on these pages, may have some inkling as to the breadth of his knowledge. Truly, Steve Fuller was a renaissance man.

His long and varied career in teaching was spent primarily at Leaside High School in East York, where he was a revered teacher. His science classes were usually over-subscribed, as he took his students on many an intellectual journey to the four corners of his discipline. His field trips and practicums were unmatched,

and included fascinating places and wondrous lab experiences. He impacted the lives of his pupils profoundly, as former students who sought him out have attested. He was stopped in the street many times by delighted students who told him that he had been their favourite teacher. This was a source of great pride for him and gave him reassurance that he had chosen the right career path for himself, which had culminated in a master's degree in education.

Steve was not only an educator. He was also a gourmet cook with knowledge, appreciation and skills in various types of international cuisine. He wrote a number of articles for this publication pertaining to this hobby. He enjoyed the challenge of culinary

research and the mouth-watering experiences of many restaurant visits in order to review, sample and delight in his discoveries. He enjoyed the feedback he received and loved to prepare and share meals with friends and family.

He was intelligent and well-read and was a master of trivia on every topic. In fact, he was an arm-chair Jeopardy champion who surprised others with his wide breadth of knowledge. Interspersed with an unusual sense of humour and a strong opinion on many issues, from politics to religion, conversation with our father was never boring.

He was also an inveterate traveller, exploring this continent far and wide from coast to coast – from Alaska to southern California and from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland. He delighted in sharing his love of travel with his family and opened their eyes to different cultures and locales. When he'd finished with all the Canadian provinces and most of the United States, he set his sights on Europe and the Near East with his loving travel partner and wife, Irene. In recent years, he attended both of his granddaughters' Bat Mitzvahs in Israel.

His skills extended to the arts as well. Not only was he a musical encyclopaedia, he was a talented professional musician with a mastery of his treasured saxophones (all 5 types), clarinet and flute. He began to play as a child and started playing in bands as a teenager. He was honoured to have played with: The Royal Regiment, 411 Squadron, Queen's Own Rifles, Teachers' Wind Ensemble, Encore Band. Recognizing his talent and ability, he was often given solos which would wow the crowd. He even achieved the rank of Sergeant during his musical career. He founded and led the Toronto Saxophone Quartet which played at many illustrious public functions, as well as private engagements that include his daughter's wedding and performances at his grandchildren's schools. He was always quick to volunteer his time and efforts and performed for the veterans at Sunnybrook on a regular basis.



Steve Fuller, a dear friend to ARM Chapter 12

If that wasn't enough, his manual dexterity was also on display in many houses, as demonstrated by his exquisite wood craftsmanship in the form of dollhouses, furniture, gift items and religious art. His versatility was endless and we have many treasures lovingly crafted by him, as do his friends and other relatives.

The variety of his accomplishments was not limited to dry land. He was also a seasoned sailor. Steve spent summers on Lake Ontario, dancing over the waves, his sails full and his eyes on the horizon. He and his first mate, Irene, spent many wonderful days on the water and, when his children and grandchildren joined them, it gave him the utmost pleasure.

Steve Fuller will be missed by all who knew him and those whose lives he touched. His legacy will be carried on by the centre of his universe, his beloved wife Irene, his adoring children Robert, Laura, Marla, Gail, Peter and Ian and his cherished grandchildren Alexander, Kira, Sydney, Dale and Harrison.

Presidential Perspective

Let's Get Serious About Our City's Political Future

Wide choice of excellent candidates means it is easy to involve oneself in the municipal election



BY MANFRED NETZEL, ARM CHAPTER 12 PRESIDENT

In just over two months, we and our fellow Torontonians will be asked to exercise our democratic right to vote in the 2014 municipal elections. Although this will be the second general election we have faced this year, it is seen by many as the most important for Canada's largest city and Ontario's provincial capital. I tend to share this view and also believe that its significance is best summed up by a quote from humorist Mark Twain: Put all your eggs in one basket and watch that basket.

Fortunately, the voting public was greatly motivated to participate in the 2010 municipal elections and came out in record numbers (50.5 per cent) to elect their city council and school board representatives. Although the resulting winner for the office of mayor has proven to be a disaster, the most number of female councillors since amalgamation were also elected (15) as were several candidates with ethnically and racially diverse backgrounds. However, according to some political observers, many of those elected to both the public and Catholic boards left something to be desired. In the case of the TDSB, a former deputy minister of education, Charles Pascal, has referred to the past term of office as "a reign of terror" which must come to an end after these elections for Canada's largest school board. Since this is ARM Chapter 12's only newsletter issue before the October



Four more years? Time to get to work for Olivia.

27th vote, I felt it was important to express my hopes and concerns about the electoral outcome and also encourage you to get informed, enthused and actively involved in the process. Simply, it is time to get serious about our City's future and make sure that the combined tax revenues of over \$13 billion budgeted to operate the City and the public education system are spent with vision and purpose.

When it comes to who occupies the mayor's office, it should be clear that the current incumbent must be removed. The recent series of opinion polls seem to reflect that same sentiment by most decided voters, and I am confident that this will not change by late October. What is not clear is whether the latest opinion leader, John Tory, would be the best alternative based on his

past political and business record. As was recently stated by *Toronto Star* editorial writer Bob Hepburn, serious lapses in judgement over the past 20 years by Tory question both his business acumen and also his political principles. Specifically, his acceptance of the “negative-option billing plans for Rogers cable subscribers as CEO in the 1990’s, followed by his decision as Kim Campbell’s campaign manager during the 1993 federal election to run TV ads which mocked Jean Chretien’s facial paralysis and finally his policy pledge as provincial PC Leader during the 2007 Ontario election to extend public funding to all religious schools are all examples of a lack of decisive and thoughtful leadership. My support goes to Olivia Chow.

A quick analysis of the current crop of city councillors tells me that many of the incumbents are worthy of re-election, especially after the mayor’s powers were stripped and re-allocated to his deputy and his colleagues. Of course, incumbency is a distinct advantage in politics, including at the municipal level, where only 5 lost their seats in 2010 and, generally, 90 per cent are returned from one election to the next. Since the mayor’s brother and a few others have decided not to seek re-election or should be replaced, there are some opportunities for new representatives such as Lekan Olawoye (Ward 12 York South-Weston), Alejandra Bravo (Ward 17 Davenport), Paul Bocking (Ward 35 Scarborough South-West) and Bob Spencer (Ward 36 Scarborough South-West). All of these candidates have been (or likely will be) endorsed by the Toronto and York Region Labour Council and OSSTF District 12. In the case of the latter two candidates,

both Bocking and Spencer have strong educational backgrounds and progressive records.

Finally, the election of school board trustees is even more advantageous for the incumbents since a small percentage of voters usually bothers to vote for these candidates. Yet, the last term of office for the TDSB has seen numerous examples of bad leadership (remember Chris Spence?), mismanagement, conflicts of interest and much in-fighting between trustees and also reportedly with senior staff. Who can forget the media’s documented reports of gross financial negligence in long-standing maintenance and procurement practices? Due to retirements amongst several current trustees, there are also opportunities for new blood to shape the public education system in Toronto, including my own very experienced and committed representative, Irene Atkinson. Names to consider in your area include Robin Pilkey (Ward 7 Parkdale-High Park) who has financial expertise as a CPA, Chris Moise (Ward 14 Toronto Centre-Rosedale) as a small business owner and community activist, and Manna Wong (Ward 20 Scarborough-Agincourt) who is a volunteer tutor and ESL instructor, as well as a caseworker for an MPP. All of these candidates have also been (or will be) endorsed for your consideration.

I hope you have enjoyed the superb weather of this current summer with family and friends. Now, as the political season turns to election day on October 27, you should also feel motivated enough to help shape the vision and direction of our city. Please become involved and keep informed over the next two months for everyone’s sake.

Keep up-to-date with ARM Chapter 12 events

Check out newsletters and the calendar at

www.armchapter12.org

Stratford Fun Part One

Man of La Mancha

Hero for all times

BY KARMA NAIKE

The 2014 Stratford Festival production of *Man of La Mancha* received a sustained standing ovation for its performance on June 27, in contrast to the mediocre media reviews earlier in the season. It has been subsequently noted as “magnificent,” “stirs the soul” – well deserved accolades.

The show tells the story through its powerful characters, Don Quixote de La Mancha, Aldonza, Sancho Panza and the rest of the shadowy cast that sets up the background, all framed within the magnificence of the songs, *The Impossible Dream* and *The Missive*, sung through Dulcinea’s reprise when she adopts this persona lifting her above the oppression of her Aldonza self, and drawing out the raw emotion of the story.



(L to R) Lynette Hamid, Roseanne Vidale and Winsome Freemantle enjoy a sunny day and a good play

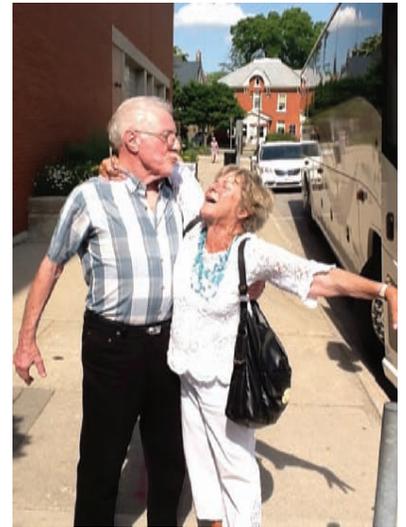
Panza, and taken away by officials, and the brigands who ridicule his poetic raillery. Nonetheless, Don Quixote never gives up on his quest, however beaten down. And finally his devotion to the abused Aldonza is validated when she transforms her identity as Dulcinea.

There are poignant scenes that remain with the audience: the weakling character’s boast of chivalrous encounters is comic yet tender, the dutiful devotion of

the servant to the beaten-down Don Quixote is warm, and Sancho Panza’s rise in Don Quixote’s final hours is heroic. Then there’s the music, set to the background of string orchestra, while the guitarist onstage captures a taste of the Castilian culture. The prisoners’ shadowy existence depicts the reality of the times. Most dramatic was the rape of Aldonza, subtle but powerful. However, Don Quixote’s demise by authorities is redeemed by Dulcinea’s new acceptance and devotion to the dream through song and the final choral rendition. The most surprising and affecting scene was to see and hear a beautiful voice rising from the crumpled decrepit form of Don Quixote like a phoenix rising from the ashes, magical and transformative!

Many of us have been familiar with the Don Quixote character through children’s literature and other references, but this production aroused my curiosity to do some research. It is noteworthy that the Don Quixote story is that of the author Miguel de Cervantes, a soldier, a duelist, a slave, a tax collector who remained poor by paying the taxes of the poor himself and was recognized as man of valour and bravery and as a great writer even in his time. According to critic Harold Bloom, Cervantes himself wrote, “Don Quixote was born, and I for him... We two alone are as one.” Harold Bloom also wrote of *Don Quixote*, “this first modern novel is the finest, and only Shakespeare comes close.”

It is only fitting therefore that this magnificent production of Cervantes’ work is being presented by the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in 2014.



Jim Loftus and Rosemarie Mohring prove that live theatre brings out the ham in everyone

William Shakespeare's *King John*

BY ALLAN HUX

Why did just four people choose to see *King John* on the June 27 ARM Chapter 12 trip to Stratford? For myself, the reason was simple – I had never seen or read this play, I wanted a new experience, and I like the Tom Patterson Theatre with its intimate setting. I was not disappointed. Tom McCamus' *King John* was sufficiently scheming, slippery, and surly to live up to our stereotype of *King John* from popular culture fostered by the television, films and classic comic books on Robin Hood and Richard the Lionheart, John's older brother. John had been Regent while King Richard II was fighting in France and on the Crusades, and he succeeded as King of England on Richard's death.

Shakespeare captures the history of intrigue in this play with meddling by King Philip II of France and his agents who challenge John's claim to the English throne. The English religious and lay barons also rise up against John for his plotting, unpredictability and new taxes. Interestingly, Shakespeare does not present the negotiations and signing of the Magna Carta as part of the play. Was this because in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I and King James I successful noble revolts were forbidden topics in the Court?

King John does have some positive achievements when he settles the dispute between two brothers, Robert and Philip (the Bastard) Faulconbridge. Philip, the younger and alleged son of King Richard II, is claiming a part of their father's estate, and Robert, the elder, is demanding that he be recognized as the true heir to the estates. King John upholds the elder's claim in law even though he was the fifth and youngest son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. As consolation, he offers Philip a knighthood and a chance to fight with the King John in France which Philip accepts. Lady Falconbridge's horror at her reputation being challenged in such a public manner has added interest for audiences over the past 400 years.

The really nasty episode in the play is John's plot to kill young Arthur, his nephew, and the son of his older brother, Geoffrey. Arthur has the best claim to the English throne and to extensive lands in France. Seana McKenna's performance as Constance, Duchess of Brittany, and Arthur's mother, is perhaps the best in the



(L to R) Stanley Algoo, Imogen Algoo, Sonia Malik, and Brigitte Daniel enjoy a bus trip with friends and a good play.

company. McKenna played Mary Stuart last year and her power as an actor is unrivalled. She demands that John release her son and return him to her, but John is insecure in his claims to the throne and paranoid about all the schemers around him. John pressures Hubert, citizen of Angiers, to kill Arthur, and then betrays him when the young lad's body is discovered pushed off a wall of the city. Noah Jalava's Arthur and Wayne Best's Hubert are strong performances that bring the tragedy of this young Prince's murder to life. The historical record seems to support this interpretation of John's perfidy in Arthur's death and it is interesting to note that the assassination of a prince does not seem to be out of bounds in the times of Elizabeth I and James I.

If you are planning a trip to Stratford this year, I strongly recommend that you include *King John* on your list of plays to see. The costumes, sets and performances are well worth the investment of your time and money.

Serious Talk About Toronto's Government and its Mayor

Star municipal affairs columnist Royson James gives the ARM Chapter 12 Annual General Meeting the lowdown on his city hall beat

BY CYNDIE JACOBS

The Chapter 12 AGM on June 4 was well-attended and a great opportunity to socialize with fellow members from across the city and beyond - into Durham Region. President Manfred Netzel reported that the process has begun to allow ARM members living in Durham Region to become members of Chapter 12 if they so choose, since District 13 does not have its own ARM chapter.

The guest speaker for the AGM was Royson James, municipal affairs columnist for the Toronto Star since 1982. He writes about Toronto politics and his main focus for months has been on whatever is the latest Rob Ford fiasco. He had also written several columns about the then imminent provincial election.

James began by posing the question: "Remember when we thought that Mel Lastman was the craziest mayor of Toronto – ever?" He then detailed the path Toronto took from Mayor Mel, through the struggles of amalgamating the six municipalities into the mega-city, followed by the years with David Miller at the helm and the end result of Rob Ford, who promised to stop the wasteful spending - the gravy train.

He provided some statistics about the sheer quantity of material he had for his columns - all from the last few months of Rob Ford's scandals. There was enough to write a lengthy column every day, let alone three weekly columns. He spoke about the reactions from the public to the reports from the Toronto media - that many question the veracity of these stories. He laughed about this; they have only scratched the surface of what has really been happening. They would not be able to print half of what they know.

Most of what the public reads about Rob Ford has been known for some time - the drunkenness, the crazy and wild lifestyle, the drugs, the domestic issues. Sadly, the entire Ford family simply enabled the Ford boys and, when trouble ensued, Ford senior bailed them out. No one challenged the Ford boys – socially or otherwise.

Prior to speaking about the provincial election from his perspective, Mr. James answered a few questions about his predictions for the municipal election. Currently, he stated, it appears to be a three-way race.

He also advised us to keep a close eye on the frequency



Royson James fascinated Active Retired Members at the AGM with his tales of covering Toronto City Hall

of reports documenting more Ford troubles. He suggested that Ford's core supporters may continue to support him, but that others will tire of the prevalence of the bad boy reports in the media.

When asked about his predictions for the provincial election that was to follow the AGM by only eight days, James spoke very candidly about the parties and their leaders. His opinion of Hudak is that he doesn't like him as a leader and that the Tory policies make no sense to him. "His policies are crazy," he stated. He believes the transportation/transit issues have become so divisive both at the municipal and provincial levels, that neither the Tories nor the NDP are in good positions. Rob Ford has damaged the conservative brand, resulting in a wiser electorate.

Additionally, traditional, core NDP supporters are voicing their concerns about the direction of the NDP platform and writing open letters of criticism; that does not bode well for Andrea Horvath and the NDP.

He summarized by re-stating what the Liberals have promised with transit over the next few years, how the Tory policies make no sense and how the NDP is its own worst enemy at the moment. He left it up to each of us, as voters, to decide how to cast our ballots. The rest is history to readers of *After School*.



Curmudgeon's Corner

The Complacent Canadian

Is there anything that makes us blow a gasket?

BY PAUL ROOK

this anymore.” There are times when I fear that the Canadian equivalent is “I am as complacent as heck and you can do anything you want.” This especially seems to apply to some of the initiatives of the Harper Government.

When it was announced that home mail delivery was ending the reaction was muted at best. I guess you could attribute some of this to the influence of the internet and perhaps people feeling that mail only brings flyers and bills. But this decision will have a negative impact on many Canadians, especially seniors. Logically should there not have been a public debate and a discussion of alternatives? After all, Canada Post is a public service. But there I go again, looking for logic in a world where it seems to be increasingly short supply.

Harper promised in the 2011 election to maintain or increase funding to the CBC. Instead there have been drastic cuts that threaten its very existence. Its world famous documentary department will soon disappear. Yet, in a poll, 81 per cent of Canadians said they believed the CBC protects Canadian culture and identity. Very few, however, have raised their voices to protect this valuable public treasure. Why? Is it because the public has not noticed this death of the CBC by a thousand cuts? The more frightening cause may be that Canadians are afraid or unwilling to stand up to the government.

Let's speculate for a minute why the Harper Government is slowly strangling the CBC. Could it be because the CBC is one voice that can speak freely on issues and hold the government accountable? Maybe it is just an ideology that sees a very limited role for government which seems to be fighting crime, taking military action and negotiating more and more free trade agreements.

You say you didn't know there are more free trade agreements. Maybe that is because they are negotiated in private and never discussed in elections or with Canadians. I never thought I would say this, but remember the good old days of the 1988 election when Mulroney's Free Trade Agreement with the United States was the election issue. Hundreds of thousands participated in protests against it. I guess you can't protest what you don't know about. Or is it that Canadians do not care?

Which brings to me to the issue of obsessive secrecy in Ottawa. Our scientists in the civil service have been muzzled. They can no longer speak freely to the press. Instead all

questions to them must be directed to the Prime Minister's Office for answers. Research documents have been edited or even destroyed. One government scientist was even forbidden to speak about his novel about climate change.

Ah, climate change. Maybe this is a clue to why this happening. After all, if are denying that climate change is occurring maybe you don't want evidence supporting that there is climate change kicking around. That sort of thing might lead to questions or even a public debate about the Harper government's record in this area. Our prime minister has walked away from the Kyoto Accord and has worked to try to prevent any more international agreements dealing with climate change. He has recently said that not one country would take action on climate change at the expense of its own economy. Perhaps he should look south at what Obama is doing. Maybe we should send him information about all the jobs being created in other countries as they develop new technologies for cleaner transit and power. Could it be that Harper is taking his stands on climate change because he is committed to developing and exporting every last pocket of oil in Canada? By strange coincidence, most of that oil is in his home province of Alberta. But coincidences do happen!

I will give Canadians credit because enough people protested to get changes in the foreign workers program. There is, however, one bizarre thing happening. We are actually importing pilots from other countries to fly our air force planes, because it is more cost effective. How times have changed! In the Second World War pilots from Commonwealth and other countries were trained in Canada. I hope the Government is making sure that the pilots flying our planes are not from countries that we might go to war with. That could be embarrassing.

What is embarrassing is the treatment of our military veterans. They are just as much heroes as the soldiers who died in battle and who were properly honoured by this government. So why are the veterans being nickled and dimed and denied proper care if they have ongoing medical problems. We even have the spectacle of the Veterans' Affairs Minister running away from veterans' relatives, who are seeking answers to legitimate questions. Canadians lined up along the highway of heroes to honour the dead. They should also be lining up to support and honour the living.

The free flow of information and open honest debate are the life blood of democracy. It is my profound hope that Canadians will wake up and insist that we have these debates and information. Even a curmudgeon can hope from time to time.

Korea 61 Years Later

PHOTOGRAPHER ED PRESTON TELLS US IN WORDS AND PICTURES ABOUT KOREA'S RESURGENCE



Dongdaemun Design Plaza

Seoul was designated as the World Design Capital in 2010. When my son, Cole, and I visited in May of this year, our experience verified this on a daily basis.

Cheonggyecheon Stream

This was an open stream prior to the 1960's bordered by poorly constructed makeshift houses built by migrants coming into Seoul after the Korean War (1950-53) looking for work. Over an 18 year period from 1958 to 1976, the stream was covered with concrete to accommodate a major roadway and expressway above (think Gardiner Expressway and Lakeshore Blvd. as a comparison). The project exemplified a landmark of Korea's industrialization and modernization.

In 2003, the mayor of the city, facing considerable public criticism, courageously initiated a project to dismantle the expressway and tear up the roadway below to reveal the stream and give it new life. This was a significance piece of an overall thrust to

bring nature back to the city and to promote eco-friendly design.

When the stream was re-opened, it was nearly dry. Now, the city pumps 120,000 tons of water each day from the Han River, its tributaries, and groundwater from subway stations. The water eventually makes it way back to the Han. The renewed 11 km. stream was opened in 2005, has been hailed as a major urban renewal success, and has served as a catalyst for further central business district revitalization. As for the displaced traffic, overall volume has declined while ridership on subways and buses has increased. The air in the central business district is cleaner, and the stream acts as a natural cooling agent for adjacent areas.

Dongdaemun Design Plaza

In a busy area of the city where once were located a major baseball stadium and a soccer stadium, now sits an incredible piece of architecture and surrounding park designed by British- Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid. Readers should Google her to appreciate the



Modern architecture



Cheonggyecheon Stream

work that bears her name. Construction began, under considerable criticism and skepticism, in 2009. The official inauguration was on March 21, 2014, just before our arrival. The building, an outstanding aesthetic statement in its own right, is destined to showcase Korean and international design in all fields.

The National Museum of Korea

The public museum tradition in Seoul goes back to the



The National Museum of Korea

beginning of the twentieth century. The National Museum was established in 1945. As it grew, it required more space. The museum was relocated to its present site in 2005, and stands as a remarkable edifice to house over 310,000 art and cultural items from Korea's past, with 15,000 on display at any one time. Based on floor space, it is the sixth largest museum in the world, and since its opening in 2005 has hosted nearly 25 million visitors.

Not bad for a country the size of southern Ontario, that was in shambles in 1953.

Considered

Plato at the Googleplex: Why Philosophy Won't Go Away

By Rebecca Newberger Goldstein. Pantheon (March 4 2014)

REVIEWED BY DAVID SCHREIBER

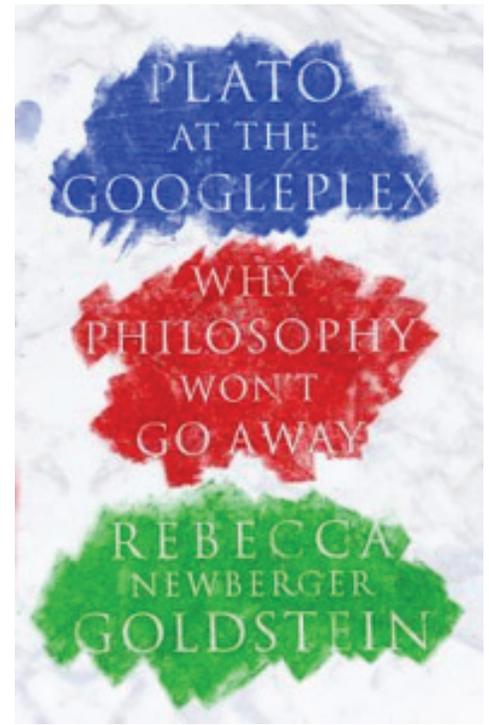
Is there any value in philosophy for us today? Science answers our age-old questions about matter, time, and the origin of the universe. For guidance in living we turn to religious faith and newspaper columnists. *Plato at the Googleplex* is an attempt by philosophy professor Rebecca Goldstein to plead the case for philosophy using a novel approach, imagining Plato resurrected from ancient Athens, plunked down in our world, and participating in five dialogues on contemporary issues. The result is both entertaining and stimulating, and shows that many of the issues taken up by Plato three thousand years ago even today require philosophical solutions.

While touring the Google campus, Plato draws one of the techies into conversation. At first the philosopher is thrilled to learn of the vast amount of information gathered on the Google servers—virtually all the world's knowledge in one place. How odd, he says, to find all knowledge so localized, but how wonderful that it resides “in the cloud,” just where he always said it must be! And surely, with their privileged access to all the world's knowledge, the Google staff must be the modern equivalents of the philosopher-kings of his *Republic*. His excitement fades, however, when he asks whether the giant database includes knowledge of what makes life worth living. Yet the question itself opens a lively Socratic question-and-answer session how one might determine what makes the best life. One suggestion is that perhaps each person knows what's best for them. Or maybe not—people like Lindsay Lohan and Michael Jackson do not seem to know. Perhaps there's no knowledge of what's best, no truth involved at all, just personal preference; everyone makes up one's own mind. But do we really believe that Ghandi merely preferred to live the way he did, and there's no qualitative difference between his life and Rasputin's? Finally the techie proposes a crowd-sourcing solution. Everyone's opinion could be recorded and weights could be assigned to each opinion, with the final answer extracted by a Google-like algorithm, the way top results are produced for a search query. A few pointed

questions from Plato makes it clear that any weighting system has to be biased with its own presuppositions about what makes the best life. Plato's role in these dialogues is not to reveal

ancient solutions that modern people have forgotten. In fact, what he argues for here is the entirely unconvincing idea of letting a coterie of high-minded philosophers decide the issue for everyone else. Like the original Socrates, Plato's purpose is to expand the thinking, not bring it to a stop, to demand clarity, challenge easy answers, draw inferences, offer illuminating analogies. Politely but doggedly he works to tug the conversation into deeper waters. If philosophy is conceived of that way, as a tool kit for sharpening the reasoning process, it's hard to deny its usefulness.

In a second dialogue we see that careful thinking about what makes the best life is no armchair exercise, as Plato joins a public debate at the 92nd Street Y on the topic of child-rearing. On one side is a psychiatrist, for whom childhood is a crime scene with the young as traumatized victims of the narcissistic expectations of their parents; on the other a tiger mom, for whom childhood is a boot camp preparing the young to battle for the world's prizes. The two enter a lengthy, heated exchange, with Plato commenting mildly from the sidelines, until finally he details how in his idea of the best society the state will identify his specialist-philosophers in early childhood and train them for their high calling. The others denounce him, of course, as such things as an antidemocratic elitist or a stooge for tyranny. His theory gets no credit. Yet in the dialogue's interplay of ideas we see that in the raising of our



children we do take a position on the philosophical question of what makes the best life and that, by uncovering our assumptions and holding them up to the light, as philosophy tries to do, we can only improve our understanding.

In another dialogue, moments before he is to undergo a brain scan, Plato engages a neuroscientist in conversation about how persons are related to neuron behaviour. The scientist vigorously expounds the proposition that mental life is simply brain activity, no more. Plato responds with key questions: When you have described all the firing of neurons that underlie, for example, Socrates's decision to drink the hemlock, have you really given a full explanation of why he did it? Is neuroscience just a repeat of the old mechanistic view of life in which choices, intentions, and free will are nullified?

Despite its subtitle, only half the book consists of dialogues illustrating the relevance of philosophy. The result is a rather curious hybrid work. Preceding each

chapter of dialogue is a chapter at least equal in length providing extensive historical background about how Plato developed his views. There are detailed, scholarly commentaries on the complex relationship between Plato and Socrates, on Greek pre-history, the cultural effects of the Persian wars, the Athenian *weltanschauung* at various points in the city's history, and much more. While highly interesting on its own, much of this material seems at odds with the main thesis about the usefulness of philosophy today. Learning more about the purpose of Socrates's relentless buttonholing of his contemporaries and how his withering logic exposed the shallowness of their beliefs does seem to help establish the enduring value of philosophical analysis, but an etiology of Plato's fanciful notions and discredited theories does not.

The dialogues of *Plato at the Googleplex* are entertaining and thought-provoking, the historical chapters are enlightening; both are well worth reading. As a whole, however, they are like a door slightly off its hinges.

ARM'S Loyal Supporters

ARM's Annual Spring and Fall Golf Tournaments, the Fall and Winter Curling Bonspiels and our various educational, social and recreational events have continued to receive the very generous support from the Educators Financial Group; OTIP/RAEO and Teachers Life Insurance Society. As well, representatives of each sponsor have actively participated in all of Arm's sporting events as illustrated in the accompanying photographs, left to right..

1. Arm Curling Bonspiel, March 17, 2014. Left to right: Teachers Life reps. Sandra Porfrio, Richard Williams, Beth Milner, Duane Young; OTIP's Robin MacDonald; Educators Financial Group

Dave McGuire, Toni Montero-Rios, Sonny Segui and ARM's Jim Loftus.

2. ARM Spring Golf Tournament, May 21, 2014. Left to right: Teachers Life rep. Duane Young presents prizes to Educators F.G. Andy Sikorski, CEO, Chuck Hamilton, financial advisor Lisa Raponi, and OTIP's Robin MacDonald, as Jim Loftus introduces the group.

3. ARM Spring Golf Tournament, May 21, 2014 Mens 1st. Prize Winners. ARM's Ernie Eason (centre) proudly golfed with sons Steve, Jeff and Serge.



Before They Come For Your Keys

BY DON WRIGHT

The ARM Chapter 12 luncheon was held at the Canadiana Restaurant in Etobicoke on April 22, 2014. In an attempt to increase the attendance of west end members ARM has held a few events at this venue in the Six Points Plaza.

Prior to lunch, members enjoyed the presentation, *Before They Come for Your Keys*. This event proved topical as the provincial government announced changes to testing for older drivers the day before.

Designed and presented by Don Wright, ARM member, with technical assistance from Steve O'Brien the topic was well received by the group and generated an animated discussion. Beginning with humorous photos that highlighted his main message, Wright emphasized that driving ability is NOT about age but is very much about the knowledge, skills and the health of the driver.

Popular thinking, unsubstantiated by statistical data, suggests that older drivers have poorer driving skills and cause more accidents. This unfair assessment too frequently results in arbitrary cancellations of the licences of older drivers. In fact, studies show that as a group, younger drivers have a higher accident rate, usually due to inattention and lack of experience, skills or knowledge. Older drivers with a broader experience of weather and traffic conditions, may be more focused and attentive. Wright reviewed the three ways in which we lose a licence to drive:

- medical events (i.e. seizures)
- traffic violations
- declining health issues (i.e. vision, mobility)

The *Mayo Clinic Plan for Healthy Aging, 2006* lists the following behaviours that indicate it may be time to give up your keys:

- miss traffic signs or signals
- move too slowly on the roadway
- become anxious in busy intersections
- upset your passengers who may refuse to ride with you
- make erratic moves
- react too slowly
- become afraid to drive

When the time does come for older persons to give up their driver's licences, they need to accept the reasoned advice of their doctors, family members and trusted friends and look for alternative travel choices.



(The CAA suggests that today's costs to operate an automobile for a year averages about \$10 450.00. That would pay for more than 400 \$25.00 taxi fares or for a very attractive annual vacation.)

Wright explained how it is possible to teach an old dog new tricks as the last several decades of research have given us a better understanding of our brain. This research indicates that the very plastic and responsive nature of our brains allows them to adapt to new concepts and ideas and to provide us a fresh outlook and focus on our driving skills and behaviours.

Although our prehistoric brain saw others as potentially dangerous and life threatening, today's brain has less need to be suspicious and can be more trusting and able to accept others as less threatening and more friendly. We can then be more able to see roadways and highways as shared public spaces in which we act more cooperatively with our neighbours. In addition, we know that our brains can deal more easily with understanding new and changing laws especially respecting police and other emergency vehicles, highway construction crews and service vehicles.

Wright ended his presentation encouraging drivers to try moving to a more positive attitude on the road, acknowledging that other drivers are not the enemy but our neighbours in a shared space. An active question and answer session followed the presentation. One concern raised worth highlighting: *When a driver's licence is taken what alternative is there for photo id?* You can obtain an *Ontario Photo Card* from a Service Ontario Centre (1-800-268-8758 or www.serviceontario.ca)