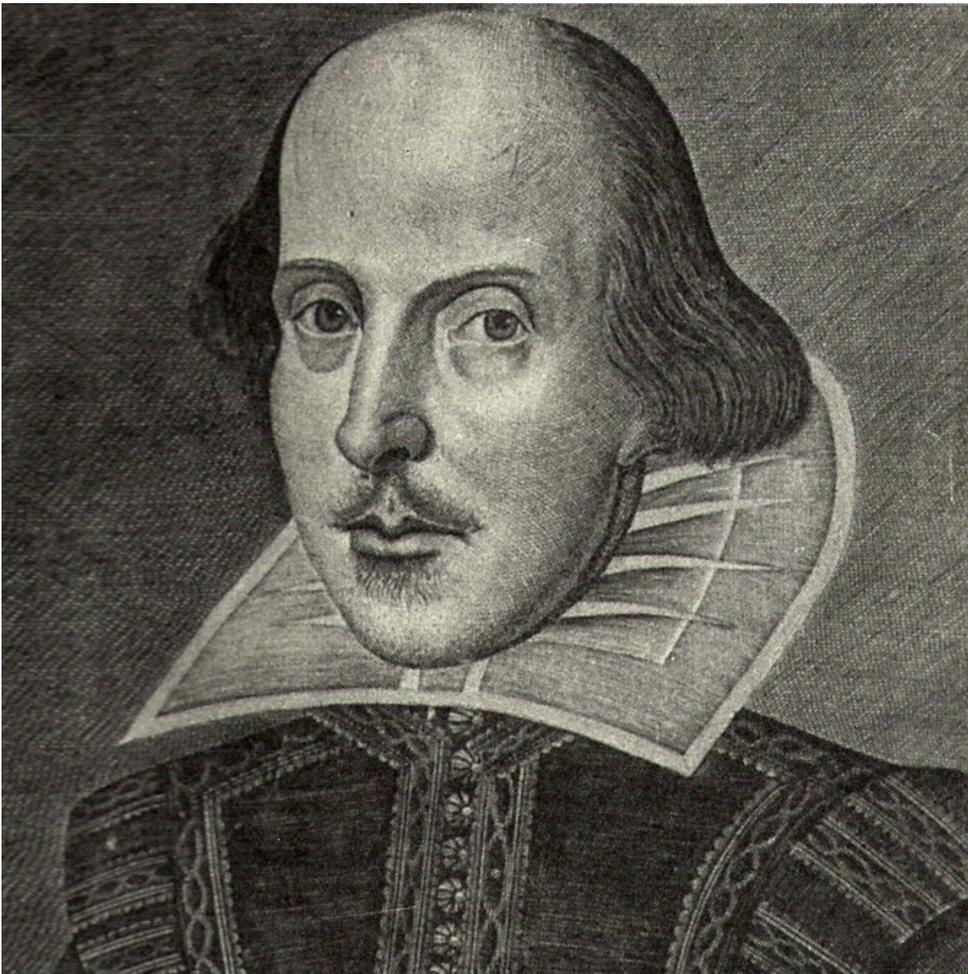


After School

Volume 12 Issue 4, Fall, 2010



The Retired Bard

Larry French introduces a new department featuring the creative work of our members

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Calendar

Wednesday, October 27 Visit to Applewood Estate, a heritage homestead in Etobicoke, birthplace and childhood home of JS Woodsworth, social reformer and founder of the CCF. Tour: 10:30 – 11:45 am. Lunch at Badger and Firkin Pub, 555 Burnhamthorpe Road at the West Mall. Cost: Donation to Applewood Estate, lunch menu at 15 per cent discount, except alcoholic drinks.

Wednesday, December 1 Luncheon Meeting – Tucker's Restaurant. 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

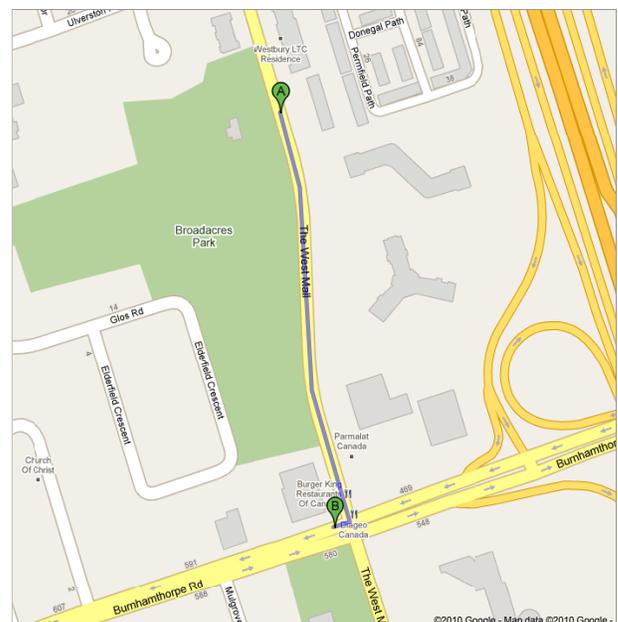
Thursday, January 20 Chiropractic clinic, 1600 Leslie Street. 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Wednesday, February 23 Luncheon Meeting – EFG on estate planning at Tucker's Restaurant . 10:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Wednesday, April 20 Luncheon Meeting – Slides of Europe, the Holocaust

Google maps
Canada

Directions to 555 Burnhamthorpe Rd, Toronto, ON
450 m – about 56 secs



Letters

Rook's Right

Curmudgeons of the World Unite! We have nothing to "loose" but massive accumulations of bile and suppurating indignation! To say that I enjoyed Mr. Rook's dead-on ambushade of insight into the ever-expanding slough of contemporary imbecility, "The Search for Intelligent Life," is to understate the level of my response.

As a fellow fan of Winokur's collected curmudgeonisms, I've torn out the article and inserted it as a worthy addition to those volumes.

As Laurence J. Peter concluded in *The Peter Principle* (his exposure of the pervasive presence of incompetence throughout society) "sooner or later, man must reach his level of life-incompetence." Mr. Rook has done his bit to certify the fearfully imminent accuracy of that pronouncement.

Thanks for including such an eloquently outspoken article in the newsletter.

Sincerely,
John W. Gray, Etobicoke

Editorial Chatter

Remember how you promised yourself that you would really get serious about your writing, your painting or your photography once you retired? Now is your chance to show your progress to date.

This issue marks the introduction of a new department, The Retired Bard, that features members' creativity. The page editor, Larry French, a poetry addict, has let us publish one of his works that springs from his admiration of the poetry of William Butler Yeats. Have you a hidden talent as a poet, a short story writer, a visual artist, a photographer? If so, please consider contributing to The Retired Bard.

The Mayor and Osso Buco

It seems as if the Toronto mayoral race will not leave the media until the swearing in on December 1. Pollsters tell us of anger or a desire for change. One person seems to have set the agenda for everyone else -- Rob Ford. Labour's favorite, Joe Pantalone, seems to trail in third place. Yesterday, his friend and supporter, in an "anyone-but-Ford" move, switched allegiance to Smitherman.

We consider the pros and cons of Ford as a mayor of Toronto in two articles by our vice-presidents. Ian Cameron offers something that is lacking in this race: a vision for Toronto. Meanwhile, as a balance to all of this strife and speculation, Stephen Fuller's Toronto promotes preparing a fine dish: osso buco.

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After School Volume 12, Issue 4, October 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 author's intentions.

Editorial Team: Stephen Fuller, Sally Pengelley, Neil Walker

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List of endorsed trustee candidates

Still hold education as an ideal? Show your support for good trustees in the October 25 election.

By Charles Hawkes

THE FOLLOWING LIST GIVES THE NAMES of 17 trustee candidates endorsed by OSSTF District 12 for election on October 25. Most are incumbents, but several candidates who are seeking office for the first time will be supported by volunteers from 40 or so schools in District 12.

Please consider supporting District 12's campaign to elect these endorsed trustees who are sympathetic to the needs of students, parents, and teachers.

Etobicoke North: Wards 1 & 2: Saadiq Malik
Etobicoke Centre: Wards 3 & 4: Chris Glover
Etobicoke Lakeshore: Wards 5 & 6: Andy Kyriakos
York West: Wards 7 & 8: Stephanie Payne
York South-Weston: Wards: 11 & 12: Chris Tonks
Parkdale High-Park: Wards 13 & 14: Irene Atkinson

Davenport: Wards 17 & 18: Maria Rodrigues
St. Paul's: Wards 21 & 22: Adam Chaleff-Freudendhaler
Toronto Centre-Rosedale: Wards 27 & 28: Sheila Ward
Toronto-Danforth: Wards 29 & 30: Cathy Dandy
Beaches-East York: Wards 31 & 32: Sheila Cary-Meagher
Don Valley East: Wards 33 & 34: Michael Coteau
Scarborough South-West: Wards 35 & 36: Parthipan Kandavel
Scarborough Centre: Wards 37 & 38: David Smith
Scarborough-Agincourt: Wards 39 & 40: Sam Satiropoulos
Scarborough-Rouge River: Wards 41 & 42: Shaun Chen
Scarborough East: Wards 43 & 44: Ashwin Balamohan

Sessions for OTIP ARM renewal meetings

The following dates are listed as sessions for OTIP ARM renewal meetings

1. GTA East, February 7, 2011, Holiday Inn, 50 Estate Drive, Scarborough at 2 PM;
2. GTA North, February 7, 2011, Holiday Inn, 7095 Woodbine Avenue, Markham at 10:30 AM;
3. GTA West Mississauga, January 14, 2011, Holiday Inn, 2565 Argentinia Road at 10:30 AM.

To reserve, email rmacdonald@otip.com.

Job opportunity

The Law Society is looking to recruit teachers to work as Invigilators (Proctors). The Law Society's licensing examination is held in Toronto and Ottawa. The Law Society has come to understand that retired teachers make the best proctors.

If interested, please contact:

Cathy Weyman

Head, Examination Administration

Office of the Registrar

The Law Society of Upper Canada

tel. 416-947-3994

email <mailto:cweymanlsuc@rogers.blackberry.net>
[netcweymanlsuc@rogers.blackberry.net](mailto:cweymanlsuc@rogers.blackberry.net)

Wanted for computer workshop

A few computer tech volunteers are needed to get together with those who wish advice or basic training at a cafe (ie Starbucks) which has free wi fi.

Those who wish advice or lessons buy the coffee and/or lunch for those giving it. Please contact Eric Dempster at armchapter12@gmail.com.

“What is the city but the people?”

–William Shakespeare, 1608: *Coriolanus*.

“Any city, however small, is in fact divided into two, one the city of the poor, the other of the rich; these are at war with each other.” – Plato, c. 378 BC.

By Ian Cameron

DURING THIS ELECTION, personal attacks, not a vision for Toronto, have received most media coverage.

A city is a construct of the mind, not just concrete condos and expressways. The city is the people. There is a serious divide between rich and poor in our city. Thousands of people live a sub-human existence while others flaunt their wealth. But this does not have to be. On October 25, 2010 I hope you vote for the candidates that most closely match your vision.

For Toronto, the diversity of our people and our neighbourhoods is our chief strength. As U2 put it, “We are one, but we are not the same.” How can we build on the excellence in our diverse cultures? How can we see each neighbourhood through a different lens and support the differences? How can we care for and provide productive employment at decent wages for those who do not have the advantages that we have? If all of our citizens are productive, we will have the resources to support one another.

People cannot lead productive and fulfilling lives unless they are properly fed, clothed and housed. They must be healthy to be productive. The vision must incorporate food, clothing and shelter, and it must also maintain and expand an excellent public health care system. My vision for Toronto sees well-funded public education, access to the arts, and other things we are already doing well, as vital. With a productive citizenry, we can meet social needs.

Politicians must interact with the people, and act on their concerns more so than they do now. People without a voice must be given a voice. This alone requires government restructuring and more democratic input into decision making.

To carry out the duties and expenses of Toronto’s government, there must be revenue sources alternative to the present system. If the city is handling many of the provincial and federal problems, there must be adequate funding to carry out the city’s responsibilities.

A unionized and properly paid civil service is a must.

A vital and competitive private sector is, too.

We need to redress the balance between cars and condos using our space, and people. We have a transit plan. Implement it. Encourage alternative transit and public transit (free in the downtown core?) With the whole city in mind, it might pay.

We should build on our strengths: theatre, parks, the CBC and other broadcasters, our film industry, Science Centre, Opera, AGO, ROM, hospitals, universities, an excellent library system and sports facilities.

We need to connect with our waterfront. With a growing population, publicly-held land should be increased, not decreased. This particularly applies to public parks and public schools. As population grows and changes in its composition, change the use of public schools. Keep the land in the public domain.

Places where people can interact are the essence of livable cities. We need spaces to loaf and love and be at ease. Young people, especially, are the driving force of good cities. Accessibility to the joys of living in Toronto is the right of all citizens. A sustainable Toronto is important. Jane Jacobs was a great fan of Toronto. On the economic front, she saw “import replacement” as a key for the city. Why, for example, do we see trucks from BFI (Browning Ferris international of Texas), and WMI (Waste Management International of Boston) on our city streets? Efficiency? We can buy bigger trucks for fewer runs to the dump if that is the question. The profits taken out of the city by BFI and WMI could be used for such things as paying employees properly and improving service in the public sector.

We must not step over a dying person in the street to get to the art gallery. We need both justice and beauty in our lives. Alienation and anger are not the building blocks we need if we are seeking to improve on an already great city. Toronto’s Peace Garden helps Toronto be a centre celebrating non-violent conflict resolution.

Act on Oct, 25 by voting for the candidates in the municipal election who best match your vision.

Toronto cannot afford Rob Ford as mayor

Don't be blinded by anger -- Ford will take Toronto back to the 1950s

By Manfred Netzel

WITH THE 2010 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN TORONTO

less than two months away (at the time of this writing) and public attention to the issues, candidates and their promises beginning to sharpen, I thought it was appropriate to focus on the leading candidate (according to the latest opinion polls of decided voters) for the top job of Canada's biggest city: Rob Ford.

Toronto voters cannot and should not allow a mayoralty candidate like Rob Ford to be successful for three main reasons, that have little or nothing to do with either personal style or questionable behaviour

1. His campaign platform promotes less accountability and democratic representation than the current political system;
2. His financial promises would increase our public debt and reduce important public services; and
3. His vision for the future of Toronto is based on divisiveness, intolerance and actually runs counter to the expert research and analysis of leading demographers and urban thinkers in Canada and abroad.

Who needs less accountability and democracy?

One of Rob Ford's major campaign promises as Mayor would be to cut the size of Toronto City Council in half by 2013... from the current 44 Councillors to a "more efficient and cost effective" 22-member decision-making body. According to the city's own 2010 budget data, a Toronto home assessed at \$407,400 pays \$2,400 (excl. education taxes) in city taxes of which only \$13.34 (or 0.6%) is spent on directly funding City Council. A big deal? The other issue of democratic representation is even more important since civic engagement, both between and during municipal elections, is declining, especially with younger voters. How will reducing the size of City Council and increasing the ratio of elected representatives to constituents stop or reverse this trend?

When one compares the number and ratio of elected municipal politicians to residents in many other major cities in Canada, Toronto is certainly not the most

bloated:

* Ottawa (population approx. 800,000) – ratio of elected councillor to residents is 1:34,000.

* Hamilton (population approx. 550,000) – ratio of elected councillor to residents is 1:43,000.

* Edmonton (population approx. 1 million) – ratio of elected councillor to residents is 1:56,000.

* Calgary (population approx. 1.2 million) – ratio of elected councillor to residents is 1:65,000.

Toronto has a ratio of 1:57,000. Not bad, I think, even if Rob Ford doesn't think so.

Who needs a bigger municipal debt and fewer public services and assets?

Several big campaign promises made by Mr. Ford which have found particular support and resonance amongst suburban male voters over 55 years of age, have been those dealing with lower taxes and user fees, stopping government waste, contracting out unionized public services and selling off public assets (not the TTC, but making it an essential service). On paper or during public debate, this may sound very appealing, but do the perceived savings outweigh the actual impact of these measures on city revenues and services?

Specifically, Councillor Ford has promised to eliminate the current land transfer tax, and the \$60 vehicle registration tax, stop the plans for LRT streetcar expansion by switching to costlier subway expansion, stop or curtail further bike lane expansion while dismissing road tolls, privatize garbage collection across the City through open tendering, hire 100 additional front line police officers and introduce garbage incineration or some other gassification while dismissing green energy projects as "just too expensive."

Unfortunately, the approximately \$1 billion in revenues currently raised by Toronto through these newer taxes and fees would not be offset by the relatively small savings related to City Council downsizing or the outsourcing of garbage collection. Ford, himself, has admitted on his campaign website that the latter would

probably only save the City some \$20 million annually. Of course, subways are also significantly more expensive to build than mass transit systems above-ground, so a transit strategy based mostly on subway expansion (while popular with his suburban voter base) is fiscally unsound and generally more disruptive for the locally affected residential and business communities. Ridership levels in off-peak hours also make such systems more costly to operate than dedicated streetcar tracks or bus lanes.

The Ford agenda for crime prevention and reduction is also suspect, when one looks at certain budgetary factors and criminal trends. According to Stats Canada data, the rate of reported crime in Toronto has dropped since 1998, so that by 2008 the number of all reported crimes had come down by 33 per cent. Violent crime such as murder has even dropped since 2007 to 70 in 2008, then 63 in 2009, while car thefts and other property crimes have also been steadily dropping in Toronto. Only gang-related violence has seen an increase. During the same period (1998-2008), Toronto has hired 553 additional police officers with some 288 hired just in the last 5 years. Yet, with a generally declining crime rate, the operating budget for the Toronto Police Service has increased annually since 2004 from \$679 million to \$919 million for 2010-11.

This is equal to 26.7 per cent of Toronto's net annual budget, making it the second-largest department of the City's operating budget after the TTC. In fact, policing costs in Toronto have nearly doubled in the last decade, due largely to generous wage settlements and overtime provisions. Upon closer scrutiny, 90 per cent of the current Toronto Police Service budget is related to salary and benefits commitments with a first-class police constable now earning a base salary of \$87,500. Even the current Chief of Police earns a salary roughly double that of the Toronto mayor.

Who needs a mayor without a clear and credible vision for the future?

Like him or not, no one could ever accuse current Toronto Mayor David Miller of not having a clear and coherent vision of this city for the future. Sadly, I cannot say the same thing for Rob Ford, much as I didn't see one during the Lastman years. Like the latter, Mr. Ford lacks both a thoughtful personal vision and a group of people around him who could help develop a credible

vision and plan for implementation. In the globalized world of the 21st Century, Toronto must follow a direction that leads to both urban maturity and a new urban-based, post-industrial economy that sustains both economic growth and a sustainable environment.

Richard Florida is a leading American analyst of the new urban economy. Now living in Toronto, he says that providing many urban "environments of beauty and delight establishes the key modality for urban economic development".

How does Councillor Ford reflect this recipe for future success if elected mayor?

Certainly not by wanting to limit or even stop migration and settlement to Toronto over the next decade because he thinks we have to look after the current (aging) population first. Almost 50% of all immigrants to Canada already come to the GTA, compared to only 12-15% for both Montreal and Vancouver. His stated public concern about a million new people moving to Toronto by 2020 actually relates to the entire GTA, not Toronto.

Certainly not by dismissing green energy as "just too expensive right now, although we'd love to use it," or by admitting to being a "car guy who loves to drive." Maybe he doesn't know about, or care about, the economic impact on Toronto and the GTA of longer commuting times (now averaging 80 minutes which is tops in North America) and growing traffic congestion. The City of Toronto already annually postpones \$300 million-worth of repairs to its \$10 billion road network to simply keep seasonal traffic congestion manageable. Recently, the Toronto Board of Trade has estimated the economic losses to the GTA due to traffic congestion to be \$6 billion.

After the dust settles in late October, Rob Ford might still come out on top. The last century of electoral history in Toronto would seem to favour the incumbents. If so, then a comment about his fellow councillor earlier this year by outgoing Councillor Howard Moscoe could be insightful. He said, speaking about how hard it might be for Ford to organize a majority of votes among the moderate council members, "I know Rob Ford couldn't pass gas in Council without 23 votes." We'll all see after December 1.

The Ford agenda for crime prevention and reduction is also suspect

Rob Ford: A Leader of Action

A mayor who listens and acts on residents' concerns will make Toronto a much better city

By Jim Loftus

ANY READER FAMILIAR WITH MY solid union background and political leanings, will probably think it's absurdly incongruous of me to even consider casting my ballot for Rob Ford. After all, doesn't the ready-to-hit-the-bricks-chief-negotiator and political action chair of the former OSSTF-District 13-North York, lean decidedly left of centre?

Yes I do, but with a keen eye and a very open mind about the nature of politics and those old clichés such as: politics is the art of the possible; politics makes for strange bedfellows; that great satirical line in Walt Kelly's "Pogo" that "we have met the enemy and the enemy is us." However, there are several reasons why I support Rod Ford, a candidate who walks the walk.

Any consideration for the political acumen of the other candidates is a non-starter for me. Even if David Miller, the corn broom wielder, who vowed to clear out city hall, or the very fine person but far too honest and politically naïve John Tory, were to enter the race, the Loftus ballot would still go to Ford.

Ford has clearly demonstrated his qualities of swift action to me and my fellow tenants in the apartment complex where we reside. The tenants are strongly opposing the landlord's bid to obtain a nine per cent rent increase over three years for a vastly substandard balcony reconstruction project. The tenants' attempts to gain the awareness and political support of Ward 34, Don Valley East Councillor Denzil Minnon-Wong have been absolutely fruitless. Wong fails to grasp the significance of the tenants' plight and is too busy battling Miller and company on property taxes and other issues. Thus, I have sought and successfully obtained the personal assistance of Ford with whom I had previously collaborated in addressing the illegal charging of parking fees to visitors of apartment residents throughout Metro Toronto.

On the balcony reconstruction issue, Ford immediately contacted North York Building Inspection's managing director who swiftly dispatched a senior building inspector to address the tenants' concerns. The battle with the landlord continues but without Rob Ford's intervention the landlord might readily have achieved his goal. Little wonder that we are prepared to demonstrate our appreciation of Ford's grassroots issues support, through the ballot box.

The third reason I support Ford's mayoralty quest lies in his somewhat Mel Lastman style of bravado and his apparently total disregard for failure or ridicule in attempting to bring about a sense of system and order to running the city of Toronto. As well, Ford seeks a truly disciplined approach in dealing with all budgetary considerations facing a city bursting at its seams. In this regard, among all the candidates vying for the mayor's chair only Rob Ford, in my view, clearly demonstrates the necessary fortitude required of the successful candidate.

At this point the writer requests that the reader refrain from lambasting me for my lauding of Ford's capabilities because I, you will see, will be strongly urging Ford to tread most carefully in expressing his concerns about monetary fiscal constraints so that the anger of his grassroots supporters – many of whom, like me, are members of strong organized labour unions and associations such as OSSTF – will not be turned against him. In addition, Ford will be advised to carefully hone his management skills if he is to be at all successful in achieving consensus on the numerous issues to be dealt with by a widely diverse group of councillors each intent on achieving his or her own political goals. Ford will need all of the skill, understanding and patience that one might require of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's conductor.

Reflections on a #1 Best Seller

Is the popularity of the trilogy, *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl Who Played With Fire* and *The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest*, a phenomenon of the appeal of post-modern feminism in society?

By Karma Naike, President, ARM C 12

THE MOTIVATION TO PEN MY THOUGHTS on the above arose from my being alerted to a headline, "Add tattooed, antisocial, bisexual, hacker to her resume," in the *National Post* by journalist Chris Knight, who introduced the character to be portrayed in an English language remake of the film, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo --- but Rooney Mara has been chosen to play the raven-haired tattooed anti-social computer hacker, Lisbeth Salander---." Wow!! I thought. He certainly did not capture her essence, or is it the film?

Asocial, yes. But what draws so many million readers to her is that she endures systemic victimization but never remains the victim, and in the disentangling of her oppression, many are drawn in to save or to destroy her. With her prodigious talents of memory and hacking, Lisbeth is quietly involved in efforts to gain her freedom. She is propelled by a strong urge for justice, and despite some unconventional or illegal methods employed in its pursuit, the reader, though not sanctioning the methods, understands. The wrong inflicted has been heinous. She appeals to our primal sense of justice. Her tattoos matter. Diminutive but empowered, she is noticed.

We are introduced to Lisbeth in the first book as a high-school dropout, sullen and withdrawn, working at an entry-level job for Dragon Armansky. She demands a better job. Soon after, Michael Blomkvist, a disgraced, erstwhile reputable journalist, hired by a wealthy industrialist, Henry Vanger, enlists her assistance to solve a cold case. After the case, she hands Blomkvist the best gift, a full investigative report and documentation on his litigator's extensive fraud and crimes, locally and internationally. Blomkvist will be absolved. She also personally benefits, but suddenly disappears.

The sequel books trace situations that lead back to the time of Lisbeth's youth when her systemic suffocation began. There are references to the current political situation, post Cold War, that are familiar to the readers. The author's research and knowledge of the systems within the government and society allow

the plot to weave the personal thread of Lisbeth's life through unexpected places and ways. Good people work for her, thus setting up a case for good versus evil.

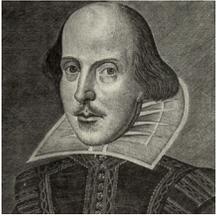
Moreover, we also see emotional-psychological growth.

Lisbeth achieves freedom and justice creatively. Examining how she extricates herself from her guardian's bondage is painful to watch, but very deserving. He is captive, not maimed, but permanently scarred with shame. She saves Blomkvist from a torturous death by serial killer, Martin Vanger, and we, together with Lisbeth, witness Vanger's death without emotion. She uses her hacking skills to prove innocence but never to disrupt society. The author arouses much sympathy for abused women and injustice in general, and shows that the culture of abuse exists beyond class, as in the cases that occurred within the Vanger Family.

Emotional development is sometimes explorative. It may be a contentious statement to say that we feel comfortable with Lisbeth's bisexual life. In the story, she admits only to falling in love with Blomkvist. Her relationship with Mimi, although sexual, was also one of friendship and comfort. Even Mimi noted that she was not a lesbian. She experiences ambiguity about her emotional state. She is fiercely protective of those she cares about and will do her utmost to defend them. But her caring is also positive and reciprocal.

As trust is the biggest factor in her emotional development, we are happy that finally she feels emotionally secure to face Blomkvist as a friend.

This trilogy by Stieg Larsson is a complex and sustaining work for a pop-fiction thriller. The books' language, characterization, pacing, rhythm, and context hold readers as they accompany Lisbeth on her life's journey. The process of victimization and triumph takes us through underpinnings of family, government bureaucracy and cover-ups, criminal elements, social and legal justice systems, international relations, access to information, betrayal, friendship and personal growth. It's a wonderful ride!



And Then!

Larry French's poem, "And Then!" has the distinction of being the first contribution to The Retired Bard, a new department featuring the creative work of our members. Please feel free to submit poems, short stories, photographs and photographs of other works of art. Larry French will select one per issue. Deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2010.

And Then!

A Response to Yeats' poem "What Then?"

O, Great Questioner, 'What rough beast?
You asked, and of Leda and her swan,
'What knowledge?' when the bird released
That breast, those limbs, his royal feast.

Love is like the lion's tooth!

Great rooted blossomer, are you
The leaf, the blossom, or the bole?
A riddle there, hid from man's view;
You bid us find the what, the who.

*O what of that, O what of that,
What is there left to say?*

"What then?" you asked. Perfection brought,
A singing school to us bequeathed.
As singing master, to us taught
Knower, known, and is from ought.

All find safety in the tomb.

Rest easy, Sage! Your words live on.
We Irish poets sing your praise.
Indomitable, your vibrant gong
Spurs us to abundant song.

'That's certainly the case,' said he.

You built a lasting monument,
Your mystic Logos cone in cone,
Sublime, without a crack or dent,
Whole, unique, incandescent.

Said Plato's ghost, "Well done!"

---Larry French



The earth is

doomed

Pass the **deep-fried butter** –
we live on a disposable planet

By Paul Rook

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.

There is more evidence that we are losing the war against obesity. I thought deep fried Mars Bars were the ultimate in health destroying treats. However, they have been surpassed by deep fried butter, which was the most publicized and popular new treat at the Canadian National Exhibition this year. A few people I know have tried these items. I soon expect to visit them in the hospital or a more solemn place.

For those of you who do not have enough to worry about, Stephen Hawking has determined that “the Earth is doomed and that mankind should flee to space.” (Toronto Star August 11, 2010) The Earth is doomed because “the human race is angry, gluttonous, growing too fast and depleting the planet.” As a curmudgeon I can't argue with that description, although he did leave out the word “stupid.” I have named this the disposable planet philosophy. We throw away everything else when we use it up so why not the Earth. It seems to me that this type of thinking just gives ammunition to those who want to keep using up our planet and who fantasize that technology will save us.

Don't start packing yet, folks, because at this point we don't even have the resources to get humans back to our moon. Moreover, the nearest star is several

lifetimes away, so none of us currently living can benefit from this escape caper. Also we will be taking the same destructive human characteristics with us, so we are doomed to an eternity of planet hopping? If there is intelligent life out there, I am sure they will stop us from moving on and bringing down property values in the rest of the universe.

The Harper Government claims to be the champion of “law and order.” If that is the case why are they ignoring the expert opinion of Canada's police chiefs, the RCMP and doctors in trauma units who, based on facts and their effectiveness, are campaigning for continuation of the long gun registry?

Alas, I have found the answer to my own question! The key phrase is “based on facts.” The Harper Government is not a great fan of facts. For example, this is the same government that wants to build more prisons, in spite of the fact that crime has been declining for 10 years. They argue that there is a lot of unreported crime. How will they know there is unreported crime? Simple -- they are going to ask people through opinion polls if they think there is more crime.

As Canadians are bombarded by crime dramas and news, through the media, of course they will assume crime is increasing.

I am not sure how you put unreported criminals in prison. I am, however, sure that our democracy is based on informed opinion and debate. The Harperites are doing everything to undermine the sources of that informed opinion.



Steve Fuller's Toronto

Osso buco

Beef, veal and lamb have never tasted this good. Add gremolata for gasps of appreciation as your guests discover your cuisine capabilities

THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES of recipes saluting some of the major ethnic groups in Toronto, an adaptation of an Italian classic dish. There are more than 400,000 Torontonians of Italian descent in Toronto (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_Canadians). I made this for a friend who could not eat tomatoes. It can be frozen and reheated.

Osso Bucco (Beef/Veal/Lamb) With Olives And Gremolata (Steve Fuller Version) <http://www.homebasics.ca/viewrecipe.asp?recipeid=4898&search=1>
Recipe can be doubled or tripled. It can also be frozen.

- 3 TBSP olive oil
- 2 cups carrots, diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 4 large garlic cloves, minced
- 3 TBSP fresh thyme, chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 6 veal or lamb shanks (3 lb) **See below
- salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup Knorr beef broth
- 28 oz tomatoes, diced **See below
- 1/2 cup Kalamata olives, pitted & halved

Gremolata (optional, but traditional)

- 1/2 cup lemon rind, grated
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- fresh thyme (rosemary?) sprigs-garnish

**** Notes:**

- Substitute for tomatoes - 1 jar each of Pepperonata (Roasted red peppers) + 1 jar roasted eggplant medley 19oz.(560g) each, from a Russian or European delicatessen (EWA Trading Co., Woodbridge)
- Substitute for veal and/or lamb - use thick-cut (1 - 2

inches) short ribs (My favourite mixture is 1/2 lamb and 1/2 beef.)

1. Preheat oven to 375° F (190° C).
2. In large oven-proof casserole over medium-heat, heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) of the oil. Add carrots, onions and celery; sauté until carrots are almost soft, about 7 minutes. Add garlic, thyme and bay leaves; sauté 2 minutes more.
3. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat remaining 2 tbsp (30 mL) of the oil. Season veal with salt and pepper. Coat with flour, shaking off excess. Cook veal about 4 minutes on each side or until browned. Transfer to casserole.
4. Add wine and beef broth to skillet and bring to a boil, stirring to loosen any brown bits; pour over veal. Add tomatoes and black olives to casserole. If necessary, add more broth to almost cover veal.
5. Cover and bake for 2-1/2 or 3 hours or until meat is very tender and starting to separate from bones. Before serving, remove bay leaves. If necessary, boil sauce on stove top to reduce the volume.
6. To make Gremolata, combine parsley, lemon rind and garlic in bowl. Serves 6.

To serve, arrange veal on a platter. Spoon sauce and gremolata on top. Garnish with fresh thyme sprigs.

Tip: Wonderful served with polenta, orzo or mashed potatoes and a good red wine—try Pinot Noir)

(If you have any questions phone me at 416-666-7775. If you have another ethnic group in mind, let me know; I can come up with a recipe.)

My preference is for a lamb and short-rib mixture.

Note: if you want a traditional recipe, copy and paste the website (just below the title) into your browser's URL window..

(Illustration courtesy of iStock Photo)



Gift of education requires planning

In 2009, the average cost of a 4-year undergraduate degree away from home was approximately \$77,000. And each year it increases by 3.5%.¹

By Rayann Huang

AS MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY, you understand the value of education. Arguably a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is one of the best vehicles to help finance the increasing cost of education.

The primary advantage of an RESP is that it attracts government grant money, the Canadian Education Savings Grant (CESG). Your grandchild could potentially get \$500 of grant money per year and depending on their age, they may be eligible to receive a maximum total of \$7,200. Furthermore, investment income is sheltered from being taxed.

Despite the advantages of an RESP, many grandparents' good intentions to use an RESP fall short because they have no way of telling whether they're saving enough.

Ensuring you're contributing enough requires proper planning because the RESP has a defined time horizon. That is, there's a set timeframe that you can get CESG and there's the start date when funds are needed for

school.

An experienced financial planner can calculate if you're on the right track. And if you're not, what you can do to help your grandchild avoid a hefty loan after graduation.

Tip

Contribute to your grandchild's RESP for Christmas. It's a gift that pays dividends for life.

Want to learn more about RESPs?

Tune into our 40 minutes RESP webinar on November 10, 2010 at 7 p.m ET

Help junior graduate without a hefty debt: How to use an RESP

Please visit our website to register for the webinar or call us for more information:

www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca 1-800-263-9541

1 HRSDC, Statistics Canada



Trustee Election Training

ARM C12 PAC Officer Charles Hawkes and Toronto District 12 PAC Chair Angie Romo are looking forward to District 12 and ARM C12 making a big difference in the upcoming trustee elections.

District 12 members and ARM members joined forces on Saturday, September 11, to refresh their election skills. (That is ARM Executive Member Jim Mile in the background).

Says Hawkes, "It was great to feel the energy that District 12 is putting into these elections."

See Hawkes's story on page 3 of this issue listing the trustee candidates District 12 has endorsed.