Greetings.

Your executive had a meeting on May 5th and there were a number of issues discussed and many decisions made. I thought it would be informative for you to see how the process takes place behind the scenes.

The first item on the agenda was The CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON. Heather, Henny, Ian, Jeannette and others had been very active on this since last year’s luncheon. I have had many compliments on the 2015 luncheon and entertainment. Highlight being the performance of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” Starting while I was on my “well deserved” vacation and intensifying in April, the Christmas party was front and centre. There had been some 37 emails circulating through the executive circuit. The big challenge or hurdle we faced was that our site of the last few years, Q-SSIS, is being sold and there is no guarantee that the new owners would be ready for December, and certainly no knowledge on the quality of their product. We went through a period where the owners of Q-SSIS had a potential buyer, then they informed Heather the potential deal had regressed and it was even less likely to happen. We could not wait any longer. Heather had already started a search of other quality locations and narrowed the list down to about 6 options. The other issues to be completed for a successful luncheon, like date, entertainment, agenda, costs to members, food choices, etc, could not be addressed until the location was secure. After discussion on the locations, it was agreed that Heather and Ian would meet with Parkview Manor and negotiate a deal for Dec. 8th. They did, and we now have a good location.

Henny had also been busy and compiled a list of potential entertainers. Some had been suggested by other club members and others came with good references from third parties. As mentioned, nothing could be finalized until the room and date were settled. After my singing performance of last year, I thought I would throw my song book into the competition. I did not get much support from the executive. Actually, no support was evident, even though I have been training in the shower for a number of months. After discussion, it was recommended that Henny follow up with Cara Chrisholm (last year’s entertainer) and two other alternates. She did this and we are very pleased to have Cara as our entertainer again.

Ian then had to confirm that the site had sound equipment, knew our agenda, would serve coffee and cookies, etc. Ted confirmed that he is not running out of his material and he could be persuaded the help me out with mine.

MEMBERSHIP. Bonita reported that we have 161 paid up members and have 8 people on the waiting list. Discussion was held and it was agreed to hold the membership limit at the existing level.

TREASURER’S REPORT was presented by Ian Harvie and we have sufficient funds for the remainder of the year. It was agreed to discuss the issue of annual fees at the next executive meeting and Ian will prepare a report to lead this discussion. The Christmas luncheon subsidy was discussed but it could not be finalized until the next term.

WINTER BACKUP. Jeannette Balgopal recommended that the club work on preparing back up presentations in case bad weather prohibits a speaker from attending. Kevin will look into a few options that could be “standing ready” on the club’s computer.

Other items were decided but room does not allow them to be shown here. Some were announced at the last full club meeting. Others will be announced at the June meeting.

Bill Baxter - President

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What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
I dropped out of the Communism class because of lousy Marx.
Some of us have lived in Canada all our lives, enjoying enviable peace and relative security. Perhaps, others among us spent their early years living in areas that were undergoing political unrest, social injustice or extreme privation. The memoir that the Non Fiction Book Club recently discussed deals with the dreadful human suffering caused by ongoing conflict and turmoil in the Middle East. The book we studied relates the life of a dedicated, humanitarian doctor who, in spite of his own refugee status and distress, used his medical skills in both Gazan and Israeli hospitals. However, after a wartime episode in 2009 killed some of his own children, Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish moved to Toronto to continue his mission of establishing international peace, found through love rather than hatred. He presently is teaching in the medical department of the U. of T., he uses his specialties in a University related hospital, and he is involved with an organization he started that gives education to struggling women from all countries. The members of our club shared their reactions to Dr. Abuelaish’s narration and gave this book a very high rating.

Since we do not meet during the summer months, the book club’s next session will take place on Sept 14th, at 1:30 PM, at McGregor Library. By the middle of July, the library will have gathered enough copies of our selection: CANADA IN THE GREAT POWER GAME 1914-2014, written by Gwynne Dyer.

Joann Brown - Coordinator - 416-497-5842

May's meeting had a great turn out and 102 members signed in. Our guests numbered 9, with 5 of them joining up as new members, 1 joined our wait list, and a special guest, Blanche Wright from Burlington, visiting the Kings. It is always nice to meet our members' family.

The club's by-laws and her badge were presented to Paula Scaffidi. We look forward to "Getting to know Her" with a mini bio.

The missing jacket exchange took place at our meeting. All is now solved.

Our printed membership lists are available. Please let me know of a member who is not returning, or any changes with your file, phone number, email, etc. !!

Bonita Campbell - Coordinator - 416-291-5181
Our speaker for May was Edith George. Edith is a well known Toronto tree advocate. She is a passionate speaker and had our interest for all of her talk. As an advisor for the non profit Ontario Urban Forest, Edith has worked very hard to save the majestic old trees. No tree has been designated a heritage tree in Toronto since the amalgamation in 1999. Of particular interest to Edith is a 350 year old tree that she thinks is the most important tree in Canada because of its history, and therefore should become the Canadian peoples’ tree, and should be preserved for generations to come.

The speaker for June is Carolyn Taylor - Watts. Carolyn grew up in New Zealand, became a nurse, and worked in her profession both in New Zealand and in Canada for 25 years. She started writing newspaper items and short stories, and became interested in 20th century Greek-Turkish history and its WWI aftermath: the burning of Smyrna, forced population exchanges, and poverty in refugee villages.

She will talk about her book: "Helena: an Odyssey"

Meetings are normally held 3rd Thursday of the month, 9:45 am to noon
Agincourt Community Centre, 31 Glen Watford Drive
Join us at our next regular meeting on June 16, 2016
Call Bill Baxter at 416-267-6797 or Bonita Campbell at 416-291-5181
Hope you are smiling!

"He’ll take a dozen long-stemmed roses."

“You can come down now, Everett. The children have grown up and left.”

Management Team
Oct 1, 2015 - Sept 30, 2016

Management Committee

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Welcoming  Any volunteers?

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July submissions by ...

June 30, 2016
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