



# THE SWORD

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**WRITER - THIS ISSUE – WILLIAM LESLIE**

**DECEMBER 06**

**Dave Macdonald becomes a Life Member.** President



Mike Jones presented Dave Macdonald with his Life Membership Certificate for achieving another big milestone in his life.

**A Tribute to Santa Claus – Keith Elliott**

Keith did a tribute to Santa Claus and included the good work done by the late Bill Price as Santa and in real life.

Keith Elliott



Pres. Mike Jones and Life Member Dave Macdonald

**Pause for Thought – Allan Scott** Allan talked about how people want a quick fix for meals with too much glucose. We should more enjoy the pleasure of sitting down and eating at the family table.



Allan Scott

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES – RICK BEYERS**



Rick Beyers the MusicMakers and the Choir

Rick had jokes from Wayne and Shuster on the Ed Sullivan Show, Victor Borge, Jack Benny and other comedians of that era. The songs were Christmas Carols and other Christmas songs. Rick was backed up by the MusicMakers and the Choir.

## SPEAKER- JIM FOSTER



Jim Foster is thanked by John Bobyk

Jim kept us laughing for the full length of his time. I kept waiting for him to speak. He said that he was invited back to the Club since no other speaker was available. He knew Gordon Lightfoot in Orillia and told him that he would never make it in music. In his Christmas theme, he ranted about the Little Drummer Boy, who had no gifts to bring, and woke up all the roosters, and donkeys with his drumming. Jim said that as a boy he knew that the Santa at Eaton's was not the real one. He resented Santa for having a book where he wrote down everything you did, good or bad. He told us about meeting the late Dave Broadfoot for the first time and becoming a writer for him and eventually a good friend. Jim kept us laughing with his irreverent stories of Christmas.

DECEMBER 13

## Pause for Thought – Chuck Mugford

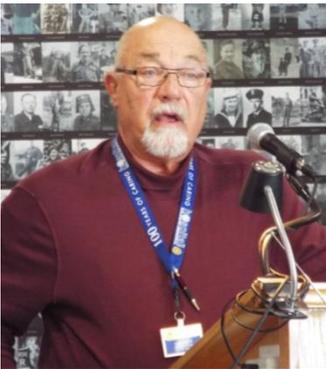
Chuck talked about Gordon Lightfoot who was born on November 17, 1938 in Orillia. Lightfoot achieved international success in folk and country music, and has been credited for helping define the folk-pop sound of the 1960s and 1970s. He has been referred to as Canada's greatest songwriter and internationally as a folk-rock legend.

Some of Lightfoot's albums have achieved gold and multi-platinum status internationally. His songs have been recorded by some of the world's most renowned recording artists, including Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Hank Williams Jr., The Kingston Trio, Marty Robbins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Neil Young, Bob Dylan, Judy Collins, Barbra Streisand, Johnny Mathis, Herb Alpert, Harry Belafonte, Scott Walker, Sarah McLachlan, Eric Clapton, John Mellencamp, Jack Jones, Bobby Vee, Roger Whittaker, Peter, Paul and Mary, Glen Campbell, The Irish Rovers, Nico, Olivia Newton-John, Paul Weller, and Ultra Naté. (From Wikipedia)

Chuck often sings Lightfoot's songs to entertain and sang one of those, as yet un-released for the members.

## Potpourri – Roger Lippert

### SEGREGATION, DESEGREGATION AND RACISM



Roger Lippert

Segregation in the United States is a general term. The expression most often refers to the legally and socially enforced separation of African Americans from other races, but also applies to the general discrimination against people of colour by whites. The term also refers to the physical separation and provision of so-called "separate but equal" facilities, which were separated but rarely equal, as well as to other manifestations of racial discrimination, such as separation of roles within an institution: for example in the United States Armed Forces before the 1950's, black units were typically separated from white units but were led by white officers.

Desegregation is the process of ending the separation of two groups usually referring to races. This term is most commonly used in reference to the United States.

Racism has many definitions depending on the reference media you choose to refer to. In general Racism is discrimination and prejudice towards people based on their race or ethnicity.

Now for a little history: In Ancient Times Slavery existed in the world dating back to the 3rd century BC. In Medieval times from around 500 AD. In Modern times dating from 1500 AD to the present time. Through these many periods in history slave trade was abolished but slavery was not.

Fast forwarding to the American Civil War, fought from 1861-1865, had its origin in the factious issue of slavery, especially the extension of slavery into the western territories. Of the 34 States in the Union in 1861



Chuck Mugford Sings Lightfoot

seven (7) southern states declared their secession from the U.S. and formed the Confederate States of America. Eventually this number increased to eleven (11). A point of interest here is that 4 years of intense combat left between 620,000 to 750,000 soldiers dead. More than the total deaths in WW1 and WW2 combined.

During the Civil War President Abraham Lincoln issued an executive order called the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1861. It purported to change the legal status of more than three (3) million enslaved people in designated areas in the South from "slave" to "free". That within itself had to be traumatic when you have a people who have been looked after all of their lives, i.e., clothed, fed, and housed even though it might have been sub-standard, suddenly had to provide for themselves. There are many more items that came into play in this time relating to the war. The two main items of interest and civic turmoil were Segregation and Desegregation which I defined earlier.

Now to move to my life experiences related to these two (2) issues. First let me say that I was born in Belleville, Illinois, a small community 30 miles east of St. Louis, Missouri. The family home at that time was 45 miles south east of St. Louis near a farming town called Hecker, Ill. The family moved to St. Louis in 1941. My father, a mechanic, worked for the largest Caterpillar dealership in the Midwest. During the war they were building earth moving equipment for the U.S. Navy Seabees. After the war my dad started working for an earth moving contractor that eventually built all the levees on the Mississippi River between St. Louis and Cairo, Ill. You may recall that during the 1993 flooding of the Mississippi River many of these levees were breached causing 100's of millions of dollars of devastation. It was during this time that I recall my first experience with segregation. Dad's work caused him to be away from home 2 to 3 weeks at a time for several years. During this time over the summer months my mother and I would go to the closest city to where he was working and stay for a few weeks. This experience was in Southern Illinois, maybe 80 miles south of St. Louis on the east side of the Mississippi River. I remember several instances during those stays that we would go to diners for dinner and there were only white people in the establishment.

I also noticed that when we walked in the city regardless of the time of day, when we met a African American person or family they would never pass us on the sidewalk on our side of the street, they would cross to the opposite side of the street well before meeting us. I also noticed that in a similar circumstance that if there were white folk on the opposite side the black people would walk in the street.

Now let us fast forward to the early 1950's in St. Louis, Missouri. All the schools, i.e. grade and high school were segregated. The schools were set up in districts with white districts and black districts. Interestingly enough if you were white and happened to live in a black school district you went to the nearest white school and vice versa. Public facilities such as golf courses, swimming pools, restrooms etc. were segregated. That is black and white only facilities. In 1949 officials of the City of St. Louis decided to open a white swimming pool, in North St. Louis Fairground Park, to the city's black residents in response to a Federal Court's holding that prohibiting blacks from using public facilities, as I previously mentioned was a violation of the 14th amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

On opening day approximately 30-40 African American children swam without incident. When the pool closed at 3:00 p.m., a small crowd of white kids gathered and threatened the African American kids as they attempted to leave. The crowd grew and eventually turned into one of the worst race riots the city had ever seen, lasting well beyond 1:00 a.m.

Now we move to 1954, when the schools in the city were desegregated. You may recall that I earlier stated that with the school district set up, if you were black living in a white district you still went to a black school which may have meant a long bus ride (public transportation) versus a short walk and vice versa for white kids. What this meant for the school I attended, is that we had 5 black kids who were now required to go to a previously all white school and a similar number of white kids were now required to attend a previously all black school. There were never any racial problems that I can recall with the integration; however I have often wondered how these kids must have felt.

When I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1956 I went to boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina for twelve weeks. We started with 125 recruits and graduated 85. Included in the 125 were 10 African Americans from Newport, Rhode Island and 15 African Americans from Gadsden, Alabama and a mix of Midwest and East coast white boys and men. Interestingly enough, the two African American groups didn't get along with each other and white recruits would go out of their way to assist the southern group and generally hated the northern group.

My first duty station upon completion of basic and advanced infantry training was Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. I arrived in Jacksonville by bus. While waiting for my transport to the Air Station I went to

get a drink of water. As I bent over the fountain a hand grabbed my shoulder stood me up and said, "Son you don't drink there" and pointed to the wall. I was attempting to drink at a fountain designated Coloured. Upon Closer inspection I noticed that washrooms were also designated the same way "White" or "Coloured." When one stops to look at the environment we live in today we have come a long way; however we still have a long way to go.

### **TRIBUTE TO GORD MICHENER**

Brian Pounder read a tribute to Gord Michener. What I have done since my retirement?

I have been asked to write about my life since retirement. Of course my crowning achievement is my family, my wife, four daughters and eight grandchildren. But apart from this I have continued to follow my interests in astronomy and botany, including four visits to the SNO lab in Sudbury, which recently won the noble prize in physics for the discovery of the missing neutrino. I have also continued my other research into botany and in particular mosses and lichens of which I have over 1000 items to identify. I have also set up a community observatory that is open to the public and contains four quality amateur telescopes. Based on my interests and research I have written up the following statement below. In contrast to what many scientists say, I see no conflict between the spiritual world and the world of science; they are two aspects of the same reality. For example apart from a small amount of hydrogen and helium created at the, "Big Bang", every bit of matter on earth including us was once forged in the middle of a star and subsequently formed into earth; we are literally stardust!

I have a telescope that can see back fifty million years in time; in fact the whole universe is one big time machine, where all the necessary conditions of life have been put in place. For example the fundamental physical constants have to work together with incredible precision such that the electrical force and the gravitational force must not vary by more than one part in 10 to the power of 40 or there would be no stars. It is also true of the other constants causing one scientist to exclaim, "Who ordered that?" Nobody knows how life got started on planet earth, which I like to refer to as spaceship earth our spaceship now provides all the necessary conditions of the riot of life. It seems to me that we are living among miracles especially that of life, and studying the evolution of the universe through science, is as Einstein says, "trying to discover the mind of God."

I am especially partial to the green creatures and in my own way call all of them God's little green children and are worthy of study in their own right. Remember spaceship earth is all we have. Some might argue that we can turn Mars into an Earth-like planet but that is a project a thousand or more years into the future. We could colonize another planet many light years away which with current technology would take many hundreds of generations just to get there if it is possible.

So spaceship earth is all we have. Therefore, look after it well. **Gord Michener.**

### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES – RAE HUTT**



Rae had some new jokes, including a Flu joke. He had us singing Christmas Carols and even Robbie Burns' Old Lang Syne. Rae was well supported by the Choir and the MusicMakers.

**Rae Hutt, MC Backed Up by a Quartet and the MusicMakers**

### **SPEAKER- Dr. BILL BEDFORD**

Dr. Bedford was introduced by Hal Taylor with whom he volunteers at the hospital on Wednesdays. Bill Bedford is a retired dentist and civil servant. In his final year in dentistry, he was asked to work with the Red Cross in Northern Ontario. You had to be married, so he and his girlfriend had five days between graduating and starting the job. The job was on St Joseph's Island on Lake Superior where they were provided with a 37 foot trailer, at one end was their living quarters, at the other was the Dental Clinic. Their breaks were taken on

Friday nights when they drove into Sault Saint Marie for dinner. One Friday, the nurse in charge of the little hospital asked if he could stay to help her with a pregnant woman who was due to give birth that night. He reluctantly agreed but was saved when a nurse from another community arrived to help. Another time a man who had been injured by a tree falling on his head was brought to him. He decided that the proper treatment was to call an ambulance to take him to the Sault. The hospital had two doctors; one who had gained his experience on a whaling ship and one who was senile. The wife of the senile doctor drove him around to see his patients and had him sign any prescriptions that were required. Bill noted that dentistry has the highest suicide rate of the professions and is often very boring.

Bill had a dental practice which he wanted to sell and was asked to go to the Northwest Territories to work in a school that was training natives to do basic dentistry before sending them to work in native villages. He then took a job in Winnipeg where he was responsible for the dental care on all the 60 native reserves in Manitoba. A man suggested that he apply for a vacancy in Ottawa for which he was accepted. He was now in charge of dental services for all the natives in Canada. This job also made him Canada's representative in the International Dental Community. It was accompanied with a big travel budget and a diplomatic passport. You had to be social in this job, so his wife travelled with him. Eventually the government cut back on the money and he had to sit at a desk. He decided to retire. Then came a knock on the door and a man, a retired contractor, asked him to help him with a project to build children's dentistry clinics in Sierra Leone. They got money from CIDA and off they went. The first experience there was to be stopped at a roadblock where their luggage was searched and Bill had an AK47 pointed at the middle of his head, right between his eyes. They were eventually rescued by the people from the agency with whom they would be working.

Everyone enjoyed Bill's story of his dental career.



Dr. Bill Bedford Thanked by Hal Taylor

### UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 31</b> 	<b>LAST MEETING OF THE MONTH. PLEASE BRING A DONATION FOR THE FOOD BANK TO THE MEETING.</b>	<b>Ross Ferguson</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18</b>	<b>St Paul's Musical, Orillia is Born. Tickets \$20 per seat. Dinner is available for an additional charge.</b>	<b>John Bobyk</b>
<b>TUESDAY FEBRUARY 07</b>	<b>Heart and Stroke Luncheon</b>	
<b>Note: If you have any upcoming events, Tag Days, Community Events, Club Events coming up anytime in 2016 or 2017, send the information to the Editor to have them advertised here.</b>		

## DAILY PROGRAM

### PAUSE FOR THOUGHT (Keith Elliott)

Jan 03 Walter Bunn  
 Jan 10 Fred Waller  
 Jan 17 William Leslie  
 Jan 24 Tony Shaw  
 Jan 31 Dick Sleep

### MASTER OF CEREMONIES (Pat Verner)

Jan 03 Dick Sleep  
 Jan 10 John Bobyk  
 Jan 17 Keith Elliott  
 Jan 24 John Watkins  
 Jan 31 Bob Duff

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

(Jim McAdams)

Jan 04 John Davey  
 Jan 07 Gerry Vail  
 Jan 10 Sicotte Hamilton  
 Jan 10 Vivian Pounder  
 Jan 11 Helen Keller  
 Jan 12 John Bobyk

Jan 15 Grace Hoover  
 Jan 16 Mary Dobbie  
 Jan 17 Helen Murray  
 Jan 18 Edna Holmes  
 Jan 21 Marilyn Lippert

Jan 25 Jim Ballantyne  
 Jan 25 Ken Ness  
 Jan 27 Alice Hutt  
 Jan 28 Anne Fitzhenry  
 Jan 29 Duncan Ellis

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

(Jim McAdams)

Jan 02 Jim and Ann Saunders  
 Jan 03 Toni and Brigitte Lisi  
 Jan 17 Roger and Marilyn Lippert

Jan 21 Dennis and Joan Hollands  
 Jan 23 Fayne and Catherine Bullen  
 Jan 30 Jim Birchard and Pat Redhead

## GUEST SPEAKERS

(Rae Hutt, Dave Godward  
and John Smalley)

- JANUARY 03     Anton Skerritt - Reflections of An Olympic Athlete**
- JANUARY 10     Walter Henry – Some Aspects of His Career as a  
Champion Boxer**
- JANUARY 17     John Morrison – My Life So Far**
- JANUARY 24     S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) by an OPP  
Officer**
- JANUARY 31     William Leslie – HMS St Lawrence, Launched at Kingston  
September 1814**

**Note:** If you do not get the Bulletin by email by the weekend after the last meeting of the month, go to the web site to download it. The Champlain Seniors Web Site is <http://www.champlainseniors.ca>  
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