



# THE SWORD

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<http://www.champlainseniors.ca>

**WRITER - THIS ISSUE – RICHARD BEYERS**

**NOVEMBER 07**



Fred Waller

President Bob called the meeting to order at 10 o'clock and adjourned it at 11:30 – military precision. O' Canada was sung by the members with good energy – perhaps because Hal the drummer of the music makers intoned the anthem with a one, two, left, right marching rhythm.

Guests were introduced: Ron Harrison by Hal Taylor and Bob Brassington by Bill Grant. They were welcomed by the members with a hearty round of applause.

The Pause for thought by Fred Waller introduced the club to Ian Plimer an Australian geologist of considerable reputation who in 2009 published Heaven and Earth. He reports that human's consumption of fossil fuels and the resulting production of CO2 are not major contributors to climate change. He claims volcanic

activity and solar activity are responsible,

but not to worry because CO2 is good as plants convert it to oxygen for our breathing and carbon taxes are going to make us poor.

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES – ROGER LIPPERT**



Aldo Digiovanni

Master of Ceremonies Roger Lippert digressed from the usual format. He acknowledged the four club members present who are veterans. Then he reviewed the major battles of the 1914-1918 conflict in which Canadian and Newfoundland "boys" participated: Ypres, Somme, Vimy and Passchendaele. Canada at the time had a population of 8,000,000 but sent 425,000 overseas and suffered 55% killed or wounded. Roger's review of the war was enhanced by wartime songs: White Cliffs of Dover, and the famous Lili Marlene (a sentimental song loved by soldiers on both sides of the conflict). Roger's erudite report revealed the futility of the war and the irony that it was fought in the "hopes that war would cease". He concluded with a somber reading of "In Flanders Fields..."

**SPEAKER- ALDO DIGIOVANNI**

Our guest speaker Aldo Digiovanni brought a message called Age-ability. He believes that: "getting old is OK". Or is he just kidding? Or can we be good at being old?



Roger Lippert as MC with a Small Choir

“Have we gotten it all wrong” the medical model treats aging as a disease and searches for a cure. “What is the purpose of old age?”

NOVEMBER 14



Gill Tillmann

President Bob Bowles introduced Gill Tillmann the games organizing chair for the 2018 Ontario Winter Games. Jill provided a lot of detail about the games: Orillia is the host city. It happens on March 1- 4. It uses venues in Orillia and surrounding communities. To learn all the details go to [www.orillia2018.ca](http://www.orillia2018.ca)

She offered us an interesting opportunity to volunteer – distributing and recovering cards on which Orillians write a message to the athletes, for a donation of one dollar.

Barry Keen agreed to be our liaison so you will be hearing more from him closer to March when he circulates a volunteer board.

Bob Gauldie’s Pause for Thought used PowerPoint to highlight some of the good news that doesn’t get reported. Most are the result of hard work and co-operation such as the development of an Ebola vaccine by Canadian scientists, or proving Einstein’s theory regarding the existence of gravitational waves.

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES –**

**JOHN WATKINS**

John Watkins ably performed the role of Master of Ceremonies by telling appropriate jokes and one liners as usual highlighting age related matters:

- A 65 year old lady friend just had a baby so I went by to see it. She said, – You can’t see it until it cries – I forgot where I left it.
- An old farmer is surprised to find a group of young women skinny dipping in his pond. They shout “go away so we can come out” – He says “OK but let me feed the alligators first.”



John Watkins as MC with the same Small Choir

The music makers provided good support for a rousing rendition of an Anne Murray hit: Anytime you're feeling lonely, Anytime you're feeling blue, Anytime you feel downhearted, That will prove your love for me is true.

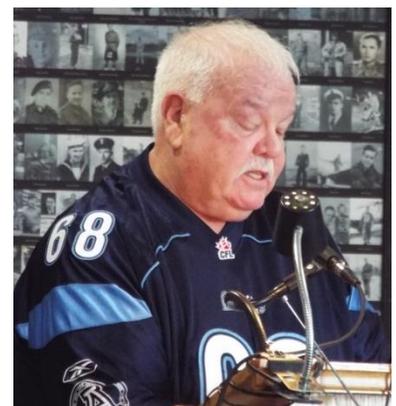
The last half hour was a round table to allow the members to suggest speakers or to comment on our meetings. President Bob immediately ceded the podium to Roger Lippert, who spoke from a prepared text. He forcefully asserted that the “standard” of the meetings is being “eroded”. Time allocation for the regular sections – pause for thought, potpourri, etc. needs better management so the speakers get a full half hour. He reported that he and some other members were offended by the content of some of the “dirty” jokes proffered by the Master of Ceremonies. He reminded the members of the original intent of the Pause for Thought and implied we have strayed. Roger’s text is available for the asking.

The members were all positive about the recent speakers. Dave Godward and Rae Hutt distributed a list of 14 categories of speakers in order to stimulate ideas and suggestions from the members: Travel, Financial, Education, the arts, not for profit, charities, humour, health, environment, local issues etc.

President Bob adjourned the meeting at 11:30 and advised that the Round Table will resume at the January 2 meeting.

NOVEMBER 21

**Pause for Thought** was provided by John Sheepway. He is the accordionist with the music makers. John reminded us of the long and colourful history of the Grey Cup; both the Cup itself and the annual Canadian Football League game between the east and west.



John Sheepway

- 4th Earl Grey provided the trophy in 1909
- It was made by Birks Jewellers
- This year, 2017 is the 105th Grey Cup game
- Calgary in 1948 expanded it from just a game to a weeklong event
- In the 1990's there were 5 American teams for a while
- In 1962 in Toronto the game had to be halted due to fog
- In 2017 the game is in Ottawa between Calgary and Toronto

Jim Campbell reported on the winter coats drive sponsored by the Orillia Learning Centre. Fabricare cleans them with the help of students from the Orillia Alternative School. Then they are returned to the Orillia Learning Centre for distribution to persons in need. So far 450 coats have been distributed. The objective is to provide 900 coats. Jim appealed for more help.

Dave Austin, our treasurer thanked the members who promptly paid their annual dues and reported he is in search of a few members who have not paid.

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES – JOHN BOBYK**

John Bobyk brought his low key style to the role of Master of Ceremonies. He described the first Newfie pilot to fly a Viscount plane. For the occasion, Joey Smallwood the premier of Newfoundland and many Ottawa dignitaries were on board. As they approached Ottawa the weather deteriorated and an instrument landing was necessary. The control tower asked what is your height and position. To which the pilot responded 5 foot 8 inches and seated in the cockpit.

John added a laugh track which he played to alert us to the end of the joke.

And then there was the fellow that travelled all the way to Halifax to visit his daughter. While there he died. Back home and laid out at the funeral home two friends were heard to say “He really looks good”. And the second replied “yes travelling suits him”.

We enjoyed the singing of 3 songs and Blueberry Hill was the one most energetically sung. Everyone seemed to remember Fats Domino.

During the Keeping in Touch part of the meeting a report on Bill Keller included some advice from him: rum and milk first thing in the morning keeps him going at 92 years of age.

**SPEAKERS- LAURA THOMPSON AND HALEIGH FOX**

After the break we learned that the scheduled speaker Tim Lauer, alderman for Ward 4, could not make it. Two staff members of the Economic Development Department of Orillia ably filled the void. Laura Thompson, Manager of Real Estate and Commercial Development and Haleigh Fox, Manager of Tourism and Marketing.

Their reports highlighted:

- Orillia is encouraging development. It has committed \$200,000 to this endeavor.
- 228 James St. east (formally a school) is an example of active participation of the Economic Development Department facilitating the development of this property as a condominium.
- The Orillia Central School is sold. The developer will keep the architectural features.
- A planner has been retained to recommend on the redevelopment of 70 Front St-Metro plaza.
- Tourism and marketing promotes Orillia as a good place to live, work, and develop.

- Tourism is a priority, the Tourism/Visitor Wayfinding Signage program being an example.



John Bobyk as MC with the Choir



Haleigh Fox, Laura Thompson and Dave Godward

For a complete report on the developments in Orillia go to this Orillia web site: <https://www.orillia.ca/en/city-hall/.../Development.../DevelopmentSummary-Current.pdf>

Our speakers were thanked by Dave Godward

**NOVEMBER 28**

President Bob brought to the members the loss of the local paper Packet and Times. It is part of a consolidation between Torstar and Postmedia. As a result the only Orillia paper will be the weekly - Orillia Today.



**Pause for Thought.** John Watkins delivered a profound Pause for Thought. He posed the rhetorical question "what do teachers make?" And proffered that teachers encourage kids:

- to work harder and use their gifts
- to wonder
- to show respect
- to learn to read and write and do math
- all this in a safe environment
- What does a teacher make? A difference.

A Service request from the OPP requires about 43 of us to participate in a training exercise on Friday December 23. Participants are invited for lunch at 12 noon. Two sessions of training will follow: at 1:00 and 3:00 pm. We will finish by 4:00 pm.

John Cropper reported that the poppy sales netted \$37,000.

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES -**

**JOE CIESIELSKI.** Joe Ciesielski conducted the Master of Ceremonies role like a master story teller. He began with his two dogs Timex and Rolex - his watch dogs. All the humor that followed required us to listen carefully and to watch for irony. Joe recalled the habit of mothers' to put a campers' name on his underwear band to make sure it returned from camp. One lad when asked his name peaks at his underwear band and



**Jolly Jokester Joe Ciesielski and the Choir**

states "Fruit of the Loom". The highlight of Joe's presentation was the knowledge he shared of the composers and singers of the songs we sang. His favorite "When you and I were young Maggie" and your scribe's favorite "Get me to the Church on Time".

**SPEAKER- TERRY DUFF.** Our speaker was Terry Duff a member of the Orillia Fire Department. He delivered a sharp, no nonsense list of rules and behaviours.

He encouraged us to be fire prevention oriented. He noted that one of the important rules is to have an escape plan in case of a fire.

- Kitchen fires are the most common and the first defense is a properly fitting lid to smother a pan fire. Do not throw water on a grease fire.
- Extension cords are troublesome and should be avoided. Power bars with circuit breakers are the best type.
- Closing the bedroom door at night will provide 15-30 minutes of extra escape time.
- Think escape first - followed by a 911 call.
- A new generation of smoke/CO detector with a 10 year battery life is coming. In the meantime he prefers the smoke/CO detectors that are ceiling mounted adjacent to the sleeping area.
- Know how is required to operate a fire extinguisher effectively - instead get out and call 911.

John Smalley thanked Terry on our behalf.



**Terry Duff, Orillia Fire Dept.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
<p><b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12</b></p> 	<p><b>LAST <u>REGULAR</u> MEETING OF THE MONTH. PLEASE BRING A DONATION FOR THE FOOD BANK TO THE MEETING.</b></p>  <p>THE SHARING PLACE FOOD BANK</p>	<p><b>Ross Ferguson</b></p>
<p><b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 05</b></p> 	<p><b>CHRISTMAS LADIES DAY LUNCHEON</b>  <b>COFFEE AT 9:00 AM.</b>  <b>WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT AT 10:00 AM.</b>  <b>BAR OPENS AT 11:30 AM. LUNCH AT 12:00 NOON</b>  <b>HAWK RIDGE, GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB. TICKETS \$30.00 EACH. GUESTS ARE WELCOME.</b>  <b>LUNCH: TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS FARE</b></p>	<p><b>Barry Keen</b></p>
<p><b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22</b></p> 	<p><b>INTERVIEW EXERCISE WITH OPP RECRUITS. DURING THE "WITNESS INTERVIEW", THE RECRUITS HAVE THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW SOMEONE THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN OR MET. THIS MIMICS THE SITUATIONS THEY WILL FACE DURING THEIR INITIAL DAYS ON PATROL. LUNCH PROVIDED AT NOON, INTERVIEWS START AT 1:00PM, 2 SESSIONS.</b></p>	<p><b>Jack Allen</b></p>
<p><b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 25</b></p> 	<p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b></p>	<p><b>Santa</b></p>
<p><b>MONDAY, JANUARY 01</b> <b>2018</b></p>	<p><b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b></p>	<p><b>Father Time</b></p>
<p><b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 06 2018 (Tentative)</b></p>	<p><b>HEART AND STROKE LUNCHEON</b></p>	
<p><b>TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018</b></p>	<p><b>SPRING LADIES DAY LUNCHEON</b></p>	<p><b>Barry Keen</b></p>
<p><b>THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018</b></p>	<p><b>CLUB TRIP TO STRATFORD TO SEE THE "TEMPEST" COACH, LUNCH AT ANNA MAE'S AND TICKET, \$130.00 PER PERSON.</b></p>	<p><b>Fayne Bullen</b></p>
<p><b>Note: If you have any upcoming events, Tag Days, Community Events, Club Events coming up anytime in 2017, send the information to the Editor to have them advertised here.</b></p>		

## DAILY PROGRAM

### PAUSE FOR THOUGHT (Rick Beyers)

Dec 05 Christmas Ladies Day  
Dec 12 Joe Ciesielski  
Dec 19 Round Table  
Dec 26 No Meeting

### MASTER OF CEREMONIES (Mike Jones)

Dec 05 Christmas Ladies Day  
Dec 12 Murray Cleland  
Dec 19 Round Table  
Dec 26 No Meeting

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

(Jim McAdams)

Dec 03 Dave MacDonald  
Dec 03 Gloria Taylor  
Dec 07 Georgette Verner  
Dec 08 Mary Doner

Dec 09 Lynn Murray  
Dec 10 Fred Waller  
Dec 11 Harold Moore  
Dec 16 John Sheepway

Dec 16 Karleen Bradford  
Dec 18 Ellen Sheepway  
Dec 29 Larry Fitzhenry  
Dec 31 Fritz Sawade

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

(Jim McAdams)

Dec 17 David and Jane Devine

### GUEST SPEAKERS

(John Smalley, Rae Hutt and  
Dave Godward)

**DECEMBER 05 Christmas Ladies Day Luncheon**

**DECEMBER 12 Canadian Foreign Service - Chris Hazel**

**DECEMBER 19 Round Table**

**DECEMBER 26 No Meeting Today**

**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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