

ARMy Times
The Newsletter of ARM Chapter 29
October 2016

Past President John Zikopoulos
President Jim Stewart
Secretary – Treasurer Sharon Ostman

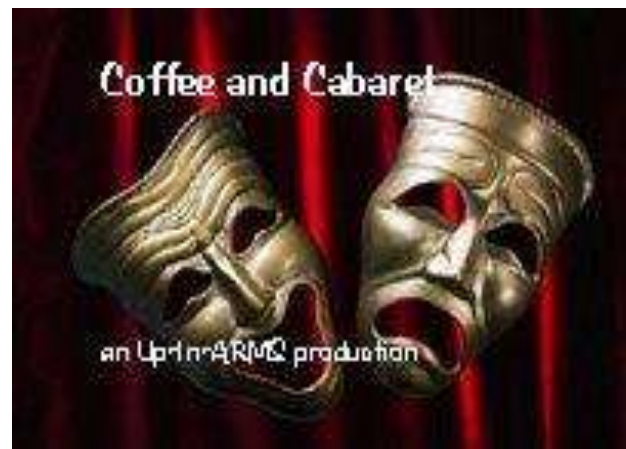
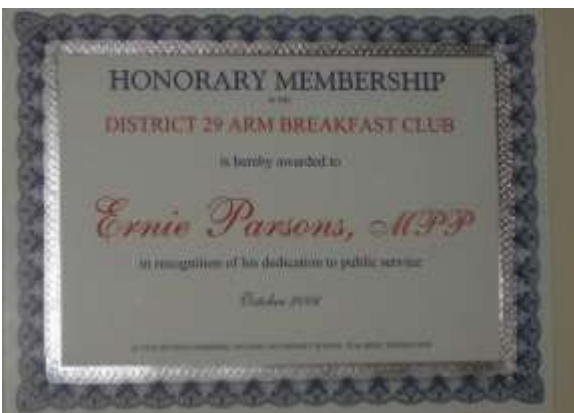
ARM Chapter 29. A History

ARM, the Active Retired Members of OSSTF is nearing the end of its second decade of existence. Seems like an appropriate time to take a look back.

ARM began provincially in 1997. Chapter 29 held its first meeting in November 1998 and its first Christmas wine and cheese celebration in Dec 1998.

The First Ten Years

In the autumn of 2008, President John Zikopoulos provided a 10th Anniversary summary of the first 100+ meetings. Some highlights include: Port Hope dinner theatre excursion (2000); our first Christmas theatre production (2000); Cobourg lunch excursion (2001); the second Christmas theatrical (2004); a luncheon cruise and theatre matinee in Peterborough (2005); and the third and fourth Christmas theatre productions (2006, 2008). There were excursions to Maxwell College and the Stream call centre and guest speakers such as MPP Ernie Parsons.



2009 - Present

Since John's 2008 report, there have been 93 meetings of Chapter 29 between Jan 2009 and October 2016. The seven Christmas gatherings have included two more theatrical productions by our own thespians and two sets of musical entertainment alternating with wine and cheese parties in the pattern established since 2004.

BluZone
entertained in
Dec 2015



The Cuillins
on Skye,
the "Misty Isle

Our breakfast meetings have heard guest speakers talk about topics both serious and light-hearted. Chapter members and friends have shared travel experiences and photos with us, from fishing in the Canadian Arctic, living in Japan, sailing the Greek islands, touring Iceland, cruising to Alaska, on safari in East Africa and island-hopping in the Scottish Hebrides.

More seriously, members have spoken on Belleville history, a local housing initiative, advances in astronomy and photography.



Gerry Boyce with tales from Belleville's past.

From the federation, locally and provincially, we've had updates on negotiations, pensions, the ARM benefits packages and Educators Financial.

OSSTF's Ruth Kirkham
Discusses
Pensions



People in public life have shared their views with us: Belleville's Police Chief; the Minister of Education; the Crown Attorney; a Belleville City Councillor and Belleville's Mayor.



Minister of Education
Leona Dombrowsky
Jan 2011

Other people in the community have shared information about: the Quinte Ballet School of Canada; life in Canada for a young “new” Canadian; police advice re cybercrime and other nefarious schemes targeting citizens; advice re wills and powers of attorney; trends in the insurance industry.

Leah Burgess
Discusses
Her
New
Life
In
Canada



Gerry, Gord and Harold
At the
Belleville Club

We have changed the pattern with five luncheon meetings, not breakfasts, at the Belleville Club or L'Auberge de France. These meetings have been well attended, with certain members able to arrive more easily for lunch than breakfast.

Chapter members have gone on several out of town excursions from 2009 until now. Frank Chapman took us on a tour of "his Prince Edward County". Also in The County we toured Sugarbush Winery and the Glenora Fisheries Research Centre. To the east, ARM groups attended a Sunset Ceremony at Fort Henry and viewed the stone arch dam at Jones Falls. To the west, we attended two theatre matinees in Brighton and a photographic exhibition in Campbellford. As well, two ARM groups toured the expanded Belleville General Hospital.



Sugarbush
Vineyard



Glenora
Fisheries
Research



Fort Henry
Sunset
Ceremony



Locks
At
Jones Falls

Looking forward, chapter members and friends can help sustain the vitality of the group with feedback about what we should continue doing, what to do more – or less – often, what new things to try.

Next meeting will be on Nov 17th at 8:30 – following our standard pattern: the third Thursday of each month at the Northway Restaurant 205 North Front Street, Belleville.

December, as usual, we won't meet according to the above schedule. Our Christmas gathering will be on the afternoon of Monday December 5th at Federation House 114 Victoria Avenue.