

AFTER SCHOOL

Volume 23, Issue 2—June 2021 • www.armch12osstf.ca



MOON RISING SUN SETTING

ARM CHAPTER 12 PHOTO
CONTEST WINNER

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AFTER SCHOOL VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2, JUNE 2021

After School is the official publication of Active Retired Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Chapter 12 Toronto (ARM Chapter 12).

Opinions expressed in *After School* are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policies of ARM Chapter 12 or of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO).

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.

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Cover photo: Jeannette Kogeler

IN THIS ISSUE—ED PRESTON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In this, our only hardcover issue for 2021, we've managed to pack in quite a number of items of interest. The first thing that you've likely noticed is the cover, graced with one of the winning entries from our first photo contest. Jeannette Kogeler submitted an entry for each of the categories under the title of "Life in Interesting Times." A Place and Nature—and won hands down in both. Congratulations Jeannette. Her other submission, and the runners up are found further into this issue.

In our attempts to keep *After School* as current as possible, reflecting trends in education, issues of importance for retirees, and broader trends that impact not just education but Canadian society at large, you'll find how well the articles in the summer issue reflect these objectives. Our keynote speaker at our virtual AGM in May, Linda McQuaig, clearly revealed how privatization has impacted the economic and political landscapes in Canada, exposing the myth perpetuated by corporations that they do it better and at less cost. Charles Hawkes has reviewed her presentation, and if you missed it, you'll find it on our website. Keep in mind though that it won't be there indefinitely.

Leslie Wolfe, now former President of OSSTF Toronto, was the keynote speaker at our virtual "luncheon meeting" on April 21. In the review that we've included, you'll read how she has equated the "Shock Doctrine" postulated by Naomi Klein to the manner in which the Ford government is trying to unfold its vision for education in Ontario: permanent online learning and privatization.

As follow-up to the material on Long-Term Care (LTC) homes in the March issue, Charles Hawkes has provided an excellent review of a very informative and insightful analysis of the broken and inadequate system that regulates and oversees LTC and retire-

ment homes in Canada, *Neglected No More: The Urgent Need to Improve the Lives of Canada's Elders in the Wake of a Pandemic*, by André Picard (2021).

In place of our usual travel section, because of the travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and its variants, we instead asked members of our Executive if they could provide a brief description of where they would like to go once the restrictions are lifted. It could be a place to which they would like to return, or a place never before visited. We have four submissions for this issue, and hopefully there will be more in the fall issue. We'd like to hear from you as well.

In response to a request to Chapter 12 members to submit a brief (500 words or so) description of what they have been doing since retiring, David Orenstein provided a fascinating account of his consuming research into the history of science in Canada, and some of the major players in that history. Whether or not you're interested in this field, it's well worth reading as an illustration of how we all can still be engaged in meaningful activity during "retirement."

In 1996, ARM Council was established for Ontario. Two years later, the Toronto Chapter was set in motion. So, 2021 is the 25th anniversary of ARM Council, and 2023 will be the 25th for Chapter 12 Toronto. We've been encouraging brief anecdotes/reminiscences from our members to celebrate both anniversaries. A few have been included in this issue. Again, if you have something to share here, please send it in.

And of course, a "must read" is the President's Report by Manfred Netzel. While focusing on developments within ARM since his last report in March, he has highlighted a most shameful and lamentable piece of Canadian education history. The recent discovery of the unmarked graves of 215 Indig-

enous children at a residential school in Kamloops is a stark reminder of the unforgivable treatment meted out to our Indigenous people by the federal government from the days of Sir John A. MacDonald right up to the present. It's worth drawing your attention to an outstanding book reviewed by Larry French in March of 2016 for *After School: Children of the Broken Treaty: Canada's Lost Promise and One Girl's Dream* by Charlie Angus (University of Regina Press, 2015). It's available at the Toronto Public Library. If you would like to receive a copy of Larry's review, let me know.

While we endure the provincial government's interminable vacillation on openings and closures for schools, society, and the economy at large, we at ARM Chapter 12 never close. Visit our dynamic website often for news and updates (www.armch12osstf.ca) and keep in touch with *After School* (editor.afterschool@gmail.com). We want to hear from you.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH ARM CHAPTER 12 NEWS AND EVENTS.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT—MANFRED NETZEL

As I pen this article at the start of June, my hope was to begin with words of optimism and thanks for the state of our ARM Chapter and the relatively positive level of both high vaccination rates in Toronto and the hopeful scenario of more 'normalcy' for the citizenry this upcoming summer. In addition, the announcement from Queen's Park that the 2020–21 school year would be 'put to bed' and be given a fresh start in September was seen as a necessary condition for the health and welfare of both students and staff.

However, while this vision will likely still unfold as such, the shocking announcement in very late May of the 'discovery' of the remains of some 215 Indigenous young children scattered over the grounds of a former Indian Residential School near Kamloops has put a collective pall over Canadians, especially our First Nations' brothers and sisters. As a Social Science educator, I was somewhat aware of this dark period of our history and made reference to it when possible in the prescribed curriculum I was expected to teach. Nevertheless, the extent of this systemic treatment of Indigenous children and adolescents really only hit home for me five years ago when our Chapter hosted a residential school survivor and member of the *Truth & Reconciliation Commission*, **Michael Cheena**, as one of two presenters on the topic in a February 2016 luncheon. The other presenter was **Tanya Senk**, then TDSB Coordinator of the local *Aboriginal Education Centre* and a grand niece of Louis Riel on her mother's side. Their combined talks both awakened us and confirmed the urgent need for change in all aspects of our personal and collective relationships with our Indigenous peoples in Canada. Since the oldest Residential School in the country is in Brantford (only an hour's drive from



the CN Tower), closed in 1970 after being 'in business' since 1831, we can only hope that there are not similar examples of total disregard for human life and dignity connected to it.

I do believe there are some positive items to mention as well, starting with our very successful AGM on May 26th. Although still an online event, of course, we were able to host several invited guests from OSSTF/FEESO, CURC and our benefits sponsors. The clear highlight was the keynote address by author, journalist and political activist, **Linda McQuaig**, who provided a review and analysis of the century-old trend by private business and politicians in Canada (and abroad) to sell-off important public assets and services. A more-detailed account of her presentation can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition, the AGM participants unanimously approved important constitutional amendments

prepared by our Secretary **Bill Pryde**, as well as a Financial Statement for the past year presented by Treasurer **Michelle Barraclough**. There were also important updates about our communications services through the redesigned website and 'new look' newsletter *After School*, the responsibilities of Vice-Presidents **Christos Aslanidis** and **Ed Preston**, respectively. Our Newsletter Editor, **Ronda Allan**, deserves much credit for her creative skills in actually crafting this issue and the previous issues since last May. Political Action and Pensions/Benefits were also highlighted in reports presented by **Charlie Hawkes** and **Paul Headdon**, respectively. Finally, the AGM is the opportunity to elect/change your Executive team, so I can proudly proclaim that everyone listed on the inside cover of this publication was acclaimed for the coming year. Congratulations to everyone cur-

rently on the Executive and I look forward to working with you again in the coming year.

Your Executive and I are committed to continuing to follow several priorities for 2021–22. Firstly, we all want, like you, to be able to offer an interesting and engaging series of events and meetings...hopefully, even in-person sometime in 2022. Until we are given the authority by OSSTF/FEESO to hold such activities, we will be limited to online. However, since the passing of our colleague *Jim Loftus* last July, we have not been able to organize any traditional leisure activities such as golf or curling events. It is my sincere wish that some members of Chapter 12 might volunteer to offer their time and skills to assist us in organizing such activities or new ones such as skating parties, pickle ball, tennis or bowling/lawn bowling. Not into sports...so how about a book club, AGO/ROM

visits or theatre nights? Please let us know if you can help with the program for 2021–22.

Secondly, we remain determined to keep the crisis in the Long-Term Care (LTC) system in Ontario on our radar by vigorously supporting the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) in its educational and advocacy efforts. Those of you who are online will continue to receive updates and event notifications from the OHC through regular email 'blasts.'

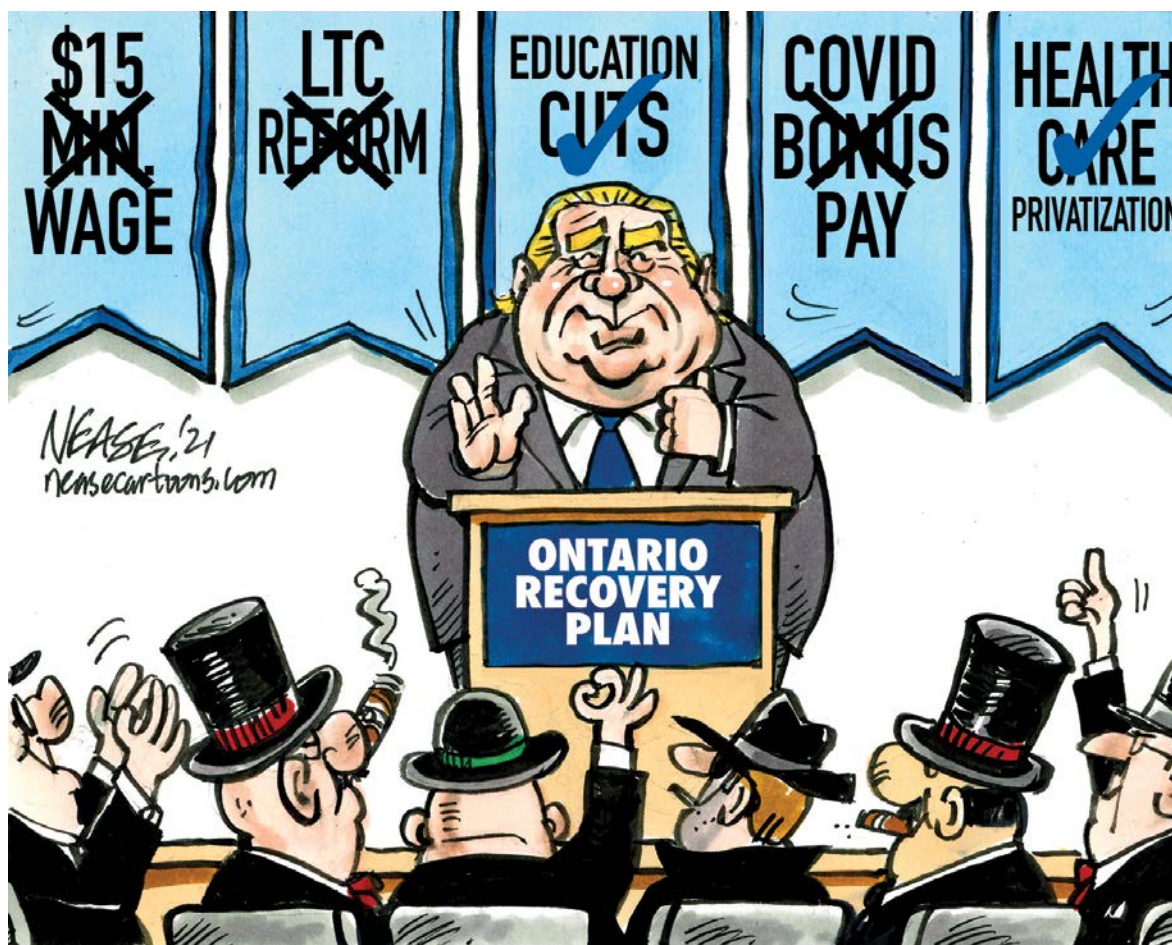
Thirdly, we will continue to work energetically in concert with our provincial and local OSSTF/FEESO colleagues and social justice partners to prepare for the provincial election next June...and hopeful defeat of the Doug Ford government. The end of this regime will be the true prerequisite for a real post-pandemic recovery plan for Ontario.

Lastly, I want to recognize the im-

minent retirements of two strong supporters and friends of our ARM Chapter, *Leslie Wolfe* and *Marian Ollila*. Under Leslie's presidency of OSSTF Toronto, we have experienced the closest relationship with our colleagues in District 12 in my memory. Her willingness to give of her very busy time to offer in-person and online presentations and regular newsletter articles has been both valuable and generous. Meanwhile, as our Educators Financial Group representative for many years, Marian has been knowledgeable and easily accessible in keeping our members informed about personal wealth management and estate planning. Congratulations and many thanks to both Leslie and Marian for their service and on their next stage in life.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer,

Manfred



LESLIE WOLFE: COVID-19, FORD GOVERNMENT, AND SHOCK DOCTRINE—ED PRESTON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Our guest speaker at the April 21 “Luncheon”/Zoom ARM members meeting, the retiring District 12 (Toronto) President, Leslie Wolfe, gave her likely final update as president to ARM Chapter 12. To give us a clear picture of where teachers of Toronto are, and by extension, teachers of Ontario, Leslie unfolded a very specific revelation: “education is the victim of shock-doctrine.” If you’re not familiar with this term coined by Canadian author and activist, Naomi Klein, then follow this link to a short overview of her book *The Shock Doctrine*. (tsd.naomiklein.org/shock-doctrine.html)

In a nutshell, “the shock doctrine”: “using the public’s disorientation following massive collective shocks—wars, terrorist attacks, or natural disasters—to achieve control by imposing economic shock therapy.” Far-fetched? Recall the early days of Mike Harris as premier, and his side-kick,

“create-a-crisis” John Snobelen, both of whom felt that the best way to bring in wide spread cuts in all services, and taxes, was to create a crisis and then answer the call with a correspondingly wide application of privatization. And we all know how well that went, especially with cuts to education, health care, teachers and nurses, oversight and inspections, and opening the door to the expansion of private Long-Term Care residences.

Leslie adamantly maintained that the Ford government has been using, and will continue to use, the current COVID-19 pandemic as a smokescreen to push through its agenda of reductions in funding for health care and education, and the concomitant goal to perpetuate privatization. The previous issue of *After School* demonstrated very clearly the impacts that this course has had on Long Term Care. To meet the costs imposed on our educa-

tion system by the pandemic, the Ford government has tapped heavily into the Education budget, and into the reserve funds of local boards.

For example, \$900 million was diverted from the education budget to give to families to offset the costs of remote at-home instruction, thus reducing the amount available for safe brick-and-mortar schools and classrooms. Leslie’s insight on this: an inroad towards the Conservative much-desired voucher—and by extension, charter schools—system. There is absolutely no doubt that the agenda of Education Minister Lecce is to create a permanent remote learning system, which would eventually fall into private hands. The pandemic is a perfect opportunity to get this ball rolling.

Another example of “robbing Peter to pay Paul” is the diversion of at least \$60 million, and possibly another \$100 million from the education budget to TVO to establish, produce, and broadcast courses from kindergarten to Grade 12. The plan seems to be to eventually sell these courses and programmes to private interests. The province will gradually pull the public into online courses by offering courses that don’t have sufficient demand in any one school, but are justified by a province-wide offering; an example would be creative writing. Our taxes pay for public education, and a sizable chunk of that money is slated toward the antithesis of public education, and everything that it stands for. Thus, \$900 million—previous paragraph—plus \$60–160 million means that the education budget will be short-changed by up to \$1.6 billion. That’s money that will no longer be directed to education in our schools. [*In fact, a “stealth” memo came from the Minis-*



Photo credit: Ed Preston

ter of Education to the effect that the 2021–22 education budget would be reduced by \$1.6 billion.—Editor]

The current buzzword promulgated by the Ford government is “choice.” Leslie has absolutely no doubt that this is a marketing tool for an impending voucher system and yes, privatization.

“Choice” has already found acceptance with our public specialty schools dedicated to art, music, drama, athletics, etc. In her view, vouchers and privatization are quietly moving ahead by stealth, under the cloak of the pandemic, and any claims that Ford truly cares about education are illusory. Watch for this word in the pre-election rhetoric, with the implication that private is/may be better than public.

As for classroom teachers, currently the level of stress is beyond imagination. The Ford government has not provided a solid frame of reference, but only constant on-the-fly changes riddled with contradictions from one week to the next, even one day to the next. It has been incredibly difficult for the federation to advocate on behalf of teachers, with little sympathy emanating from the Ministries of Education or Labour. With respect to health and safety, the Federation must work through local boards on an item-by-item basis which has become very slow and cumbersome. In Toronto, with no solid plan and direction from the provincial government, federation representatives are constantly on the move from the TDSB to Toronto Public Health to the Ministry of Education, and back again in attempts to keep the education ball rolling as safely and as efficiently as possible.

The bottom line: the Ford government’s response to the education crisis brought on by the pandemic has been nothing short of a disaster for students, parents and teachers.

BOOK REVIEW—CHARLES HAWKES

Neglected No More: The Urgent Need to Improve the Lives of Canada’s Elders in the Wake of a Pandemic

by André Picard

208 pages

Paperback \$19.75, Kindle \$13.99

(Random House Canada)

It is shocking to discover that Canada has recorded on average more COVID-19 deaths in Long-Term Care (LTC) and retirement homes than most wealthy nations. Canadians are proud of our medicare system. Why then did we fail so badly to protect our most vulnerable citizens from the ravages of COVID-19? And how do we reform the system of caring for elders in Canada?

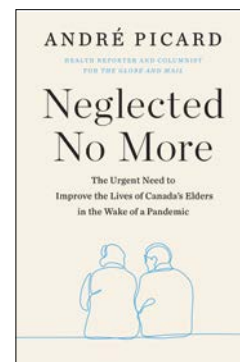
André Picard’s new book answers many of these questions. As the health journalist for the *Globe and Mail* he emphasizes that we don’t need another government investigation of the problems because we already have about 150 reports! And they mostly find the same problems with elder care and make the same recommendations. Instead of piling up these official door stoppers that are not acted upon and forgotten we need to act now. Picard quotes one report “The best time to change course and address the well-being of seniors was many years ago. The second-best time is right now.”

The problems with elder care originated many years ago. Care homes actually emerged from the penal system of workhouses, not the medical system. Until the early 1960s, aged people were required to perform some kind of work for receiving room, board, and care. When Canada developed its medicare system of publicly-funded hospital and medical care, elder care homes were not included in the *Canada Health Act*. Picard points to two reasons. Elder care was regarded as a housing

rather than a health issue. When elders became ill, hospitals would provide all the medical care they would need. And so elder care for decades ‘wallowed at the intersection of housing, social welfare, and health. Many ministries had a claim to it, but none had responsibility for it.’ Ontario just appointed its first Minister of Long Term Care last March.

Picard states that Canada developed a strange amalgam of public and for profit care homes, subsidized and regulated by provincial governments. A basic fee of about \$2000/month is paid by elders in a LTC home with a government subsidy of about \$180 per day for care. Residents are supposed to have four hours of care per day, but the pandemic revealed that homes are so short staffed that elders’ basic needs cannot be met properly. COVID-19 didn’t break the LTC system a recent report concluded; rather it was a shock wave that exposed an already broken system.

What should or rather what must be done to reform a broken system and create a new one? Picard is unequivocal that if we simply build more homes creating more pseudo hospitals, we will fail to meet the complex needs of an increasing number of aging baby boomers. We need more registered and practical nurses, more involvement of doctors on site, better pay for the PSWs with an enforced one-workplace policy to help fix immediate problems. Then we can move to create a new elder care system based around the full meaning of the simple word home.



MEMORY LANE

Reminiscences from the first 25 Years of ARM

FROM EILEEN JENSEN...

Upon retirement I was approached to join ARM. The Constitution had to be amended to allow me, a non-teacher, to belong to ARM. I was immediately elected as Treasurer of ARM. I held that position for four years followed by a year as the Secretary of the group.

In those days ARM was a fledgling organization. Ian Cameron was the President. Our goal was to grow the membership and retain their interest. The newsletter *After School* was born. Every quarter we would gather in the Board Room of District 12 and run an assembly line collating and stuffing the newsletter in envelopes. We became a tight knit fun group.

I was also appointed to the OTIP Advisory Board for six years representing RTIP and ARM members. I initiated the Food Drive at our Christmas Luncheon. At that Luncheon members looked forward to going home with a bottle of wine as a thank you gift.

We also invited many speakers like Claude Lamoureux of the Teachers Pension Board, OTG and OTIP on Financial Planning, and George McClinck on Death and Dying to address the group.

It was a privilege to be part of such an illustrious group of educators.

FROM DAVE GRACEY...

Much of that period (the early years of ARM) are lost in the fog, but the memories that remain are connected for me with our first president, Ian Cameron. Ian was the driving force behind the founding of the Toronto chapter, and his energy and competence got us off to a good start. He made a strong impression with his outgoing and convivial personality and strong commitment to progressive social policies. ARM, for Ian, was a vehicle to express and promote those ideas and he did it with panache and humour. He enjoyed the company of others and was a fun companion on the golf course or at his cottage. I am sure many members of the Executive who worked with Ian will also acknowledge his contribution.

FROM PAUL HEADDON...

I always enjoyed assembling the ARM newsletter at the District headquarters at Bathurst and St Clair Ave. Ian Cameron, Al Williams and myself and other helpers, put the magazine in large envelopes which were addressed with labels. Once the envelopes were addressed and sealed we put every envelope in a postage machine. This process was quite time consuming. The office staff at D12 were very helpful with any problems. After stuffing scads of envelopes in the neighborhood post boxes, we always went out for lunch. It was a very productive and enjoyable day.

FROM LARRY FRENCH...

I retired from Provincial Office in 1997 and joined ARM in 1998. OTIP offered a superior retirement support plan, but equally important, part of the ARM foundational mission was political involvement. RTO was conspicuously absent from this field.

What a treat to enjoy the leadership of people like Ian Cameron. His messages in *After School* were the product of a beautiful, far ranging, always engaged mind. When explaining his deck project, he swerved from Euclid to Newton to Einstein to Quantum mechanics. His strategy when appealing his cottage assessment ranged from the unique to the general back to the unique while curving through multiple regression analysis to the observation 'My love is like a red, red rose,' leading in nanoseconds to a \$27,000 reduction with rebate.

You can see that with presidents like Ian and editors like Jim Mile, Al Williams and Neil Walker, *After School* became the prize-winning flagship of ARM group newsletters province wide.

I loved our rallies and demonstrations, as well as the Labour Day parades led by Ian and Manfred. In recent years the D12 educator group swerved like Ulysses' sailors to the enchanted Lotus Land of the Gladstone Hotel just before the Dufferin Gates while the courageous ARM contingent bravely carried the colours past the Review Stand and into the bowels of the CNE. OSSTF/FEESO's honour was saved.

Karma's Xmas parties and trips to Stratford provided cherished memories as did Jim Loftus' golf and curling fundraisers. My wife Nicole in late life became a golfer and a curler: ARM thus helped to further Canadianize this proud Swiss woman, while adding to our domestic bliss.

We both say, "Thank you, ARM."

LUNCHEON SPEAKER, LINDA MCQUAIG—CHARLES HAWKES

The ARM annual general meeting, welcomed Linda McQuaig, who once again proved that she is as talented a speaker as she is a writer of books and articles, puncturing the business agenda so prevalent in today's politics. She set the tone for her talk by recalling her run for a federal seat in Toronto Centre against future federal finance Minister Chrystia Freeland. Both had recently published books. Freeland's, titled *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else* extolled today's billionaires. Linda's book, *The Trouble with Billionaires: Why Too Much Money At The Top Is Bad For Everyone*, concluded that the world would be better off without them. And, she added, "that's why I'll never become a finance minister."

Linda's theme was the consequences of privatizing government programs and enterprises that should remain public. She said that she tries to see Canadian history through a public lens. Her first example was the formation of Ontario Hydro in 1906, a public enterprise that powered Ontario's industrial development with low-cost electricity for a century. Its formation was a victory for thousands of Ontario citizens of all political stripes after a ten-year campaign against the 'water barons' who owned and operated private hydro dams. Admired by President Franklin Roosevelt, Ontario Hydro inspired the Tennessee Valley Authority, a key project of the New Deal.

Sadly though, governments in the last few years have embraced privatization. Highway 407, built by the Ontario government, was sold to a Spanish multinational with a 99-year lease by the Mike Harris government. Its tolls, now among the highest in the world, will last until 2198! It is the most de-

tested highway in the province.

Linda continued with the public to privatization story by describing Dr. John Fitzgerald's development of a cheaper vaccine alternative for diphtheria in the early 1900s. That discovery led to the formation of the famous Connaught Laboratories, a public research and manufacturer of anti-toxins for typhus, vaccines for penicillin, polio and others. Connaught was self-supporting but became a casualty of Big Pharma's opposition by selling cheaper pharmaceuticals. It was sold to a French multinational by the Mulroney government. Undoubtedly, a functioning Connaught lab today would have developed a made-in-Canada COVID-19 vaccine saving many lives.

The majority of COVID-19 deaths have occurred in nursing homes dominated by for profit companies. Lured into the field of Long-Term Care and retirement homes in the 1990s by ris-

ing numbers of elders, and government subsidies, big chains such as Chartwell (former CEO Mike Harris) have made big money even through the pandemic. The lack of oversight of these homes by the Ford government has been exposed in heart-breaking detail in the *Toronto Star*, and other outlets. Surely care for elders belongs in the public domain, not the privatized one.

Linda ended by arguing for government to lead the fight against climate change. The threat to the environment is as existential as the Second World War was, and we did not balk then at spending whatever it took to win the war. She said that we have a tremendous opportunity now with low interest rates, and the example of Biden's plans to raise individual and corporate taxes to pursue our own green New Deal to fight climate change, create jobs, and reduce inequality. She left us with that challenging and hopeful idea.



Linda McQuaig

Photo: Provided

PHOTO CONTEST: WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS

We've successfully completed our first run at a photo contest for Chapter 12 ARM members. The submissions, while not numerous, are strong and presented challenges to the adjudicators. We hope that you concur with our choices, and request that you stay tuned for an announcement for the next one.

Moon rising Sun setting

(December 29, 2020)

Photographer: Jeannette Kogeler

(Places Category: **\$50.00** prize)

I took this shot of a full moon rising over the city of Toronto, looking northeast from Humber Bay West. It was December 29, 2020 and the last full moon of the year. The sun still cast its brilliant light on glass buildings in the far eastern corner of the city. I had not planned to stop by here for the purpose of photography, yet the excitement was contagious and I started to take several shots when the juice in my iPhone battery ran out! I raced back to my car for the iPad, and took this photo.

My photo is about the inexorable movement of time. There is something urgent about meeting the moment and yet a reassurance that like clock work, the moon has been rising and the sun

setting since the beginning of time. For Covid times, I thought, "this, too, shall pass."

In the distance, a couple walk close to the softly lapping waves, perhaps soothing their worries and concerns. The sumacs, with lost foliage, reveal a hollowed out trail along the eastern embankment of the park. In the foreground of the photo is a charcoal pit, vestiges of summer rites, belonging to a year gone by. Eroded excavation boulders have been placed as seating areas around the pit, reminders of being together. To be human is to be together, and if we can't be together then we need a memory of that. A reminder that this is to where we will someday return.



Red Osier Dogwood in Winter
(December 29, 2020)
Photographer: Jeannette Kogeler

(Nature Category: **\$50.00** prize)

This photo was taken about midday after a winter storm had sprayed its icy mist over the eastern peninsula of Humber Bay West. The sun shone through the ice covered branches, creating dramatic contrast to the water below. The red of the osier dogwood stems seemed to be activated by the white and blue through and around them. For me it was a colour moment. The branches, as well, formed a swirl of movement, together with the lighting, the reds and pale brilliant yellows and dark cerulean blues, a city barely visible far away.



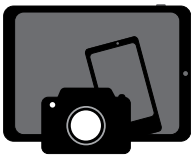


PHOTO CONTEST: BEST RUNNER-UP PHOTOGRAPHS

Hope—First Bloom of the Year

(March 17, 2021)

Photographer: Bill Pryde

(Nature Category: **\$25.00** prize)

*[Bill didn't include a description of the photograph or what he saw, other than "Hope." While this is a strong statement, there are supporting elements in this photograph that are worth pointing out. The background is desolate reflecting what has been left in the wake of the pandemic, especially for those who have lost family members and close friends. The dead leaf in the foreground accentuates this. The bloom, contrasting both in colour and content with the background, gives us all something to which we can look forward. "Hope springs eternal."
—Editor]*



Finding Joy in Every Day

Photographer: Elżbieta Muir

(Places Category: **\$25.00** prize)

Fresh tracks in the snow mark the path for my daily 5 km trek.

With the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 and gyms closed I was looking for a new form of being active. I discovered that walking the neighbourhood is fabulous exercise. So I walk every day: snow, rain, or shine and love it.

[I urge viewers of this photograph to take a little time to reflect on how it serves to represent life in these pandemic times. What is it about it that speaks volumes?—Editor]



TREASURER'S REPORT—MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

OSSTF ARM Chapter 12 financial statement July 2020–June 14, 2021

Income Statement	ARM Chapter 12		July 2020–June 2021	
Balance from 2020			\$7,436.95	
	Balance	Expenses	Revenue	
OSSTF Rebate Fees			\$12,847.50	
Educators financial Contributions			\$1,000.00	
OTIP contribution				Expected \$7,500
Executive Lunches		\$652.56		
Luncheon Meeting Expenses		\$565.00		
Luncheon Meeting Revenue		\$0.00		
Newsletter Expenses		\$4,879.60		
Newsletter Editor		\$3,400.00		
Website expenses		\$775.62		
Gifts, Cards, Membership & Charities		\$2,838.32		
Office & Miscellaneous expenses		\$242.59		
Health Coalition Conference		\$30.00		
Totals	\$0.00	\$13,393.69	\$21,284.45	
Net Income over the period		\$7,890.76		
Income Statement		ARM SFK Chapter 12	July 2020 - May 16, 2021	
ARM SFK Chapter 12		Expenses	Revenue	
Balance from 2020			\$1,284.00	
SFK Revenue				
Charities supported		\$1,274.00		Red Door Shelter, Covenant House
Bank Charges		\$9.75		
Total		\$1,283.75	\$1,284.00	
Balance		\$0.25		

FUN WITH HISTORY OF SCIENCE RESEARCH

—DAVID ORENSTEIN, DANFORTH CTI EMERITUS

During a Four Over Five leave, I planned an early December VIA Rail trip to Quebec City. Before my departure, I went to an enlightening Colloquium at U of T's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST).

When I told the speaker about my travel plans, he suggested that I go behind the scenes at Quebec City's Musée de la civilisation.

Within a couple of days after arriving in a small family-run hotel (within the walls of Vieux-Québec's Haute-Ville), I was seated at a researcher's desk in the bibliothèque of the Musée de l'Amérique francophone (formerly the Musée de l'Amérique française). Among the gems that I held in my cotton-gloved hands was Johannes Kepler's *Tabulae Rudolphinae*, that had been owned by the first Royal Intendant of Nouvelle-France, Jean Talon. Similarly, I got to peruse a bound manuscript volume from the 18th century that included a detailed solar eclipse observation from October 27, 1780!

Consequently, I became a practitioner of the History of Science, and as a novice I wisely decided to

concentrate my research on the History of Canadian Science.

Since then, I've done in-person research in archives, libraries, museums, and historic sites in every province except Prince Edward Island. I've been able to share my excitement with these discoveries by giving talks of varying lengths, at numerous cities from St. John's to Victoria.

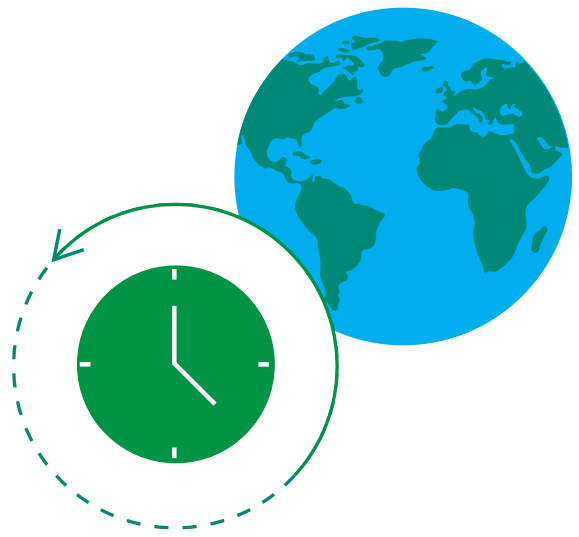
I've also published: various OSSTF/FEESO publications; Royal Astronomical Society of Canada journals and newsletters; history of science newsletters, and bulletins. I've edited books of conference Proceedings, and now, during the pandemic, blogging.

I've blogged for the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association (CSTHA), at (cstha-ahstc.ca); for example, a posting about U of T Astronomy student, Frances Mabel Ashall, who submitted her M.Sc. thesis in 1917 and went on to a teaching career at Central Tech. Other posts include the married U of T astronomers Helen Hogg and Frank Hogg; and various Canadian scientific centennials from 1921, such as the discovery of insulin.

As I write in mid-April 2021, I'm busy working on four more CSTHA blog posts:

- 1 Difficulties of doing historical research during pandemic lockdown.
- 2 Contributions to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (History of Science and Technology).
- 3 "Irvine Israel Glass: Jet Propulsion Expert and Jewish Activist."
- 4 "Helen Hogg and Frank Hogg in Victoria."



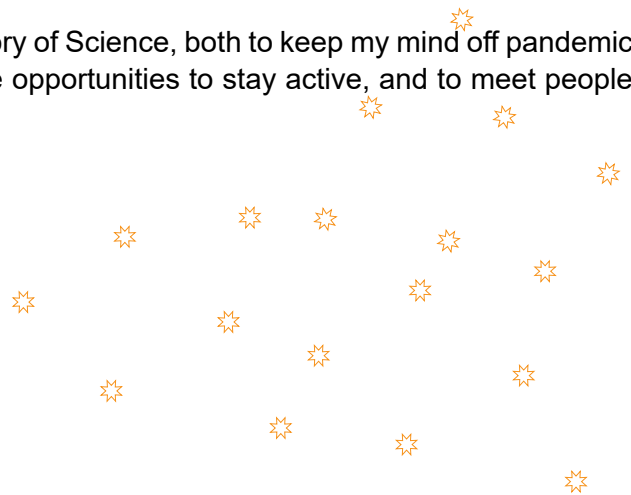
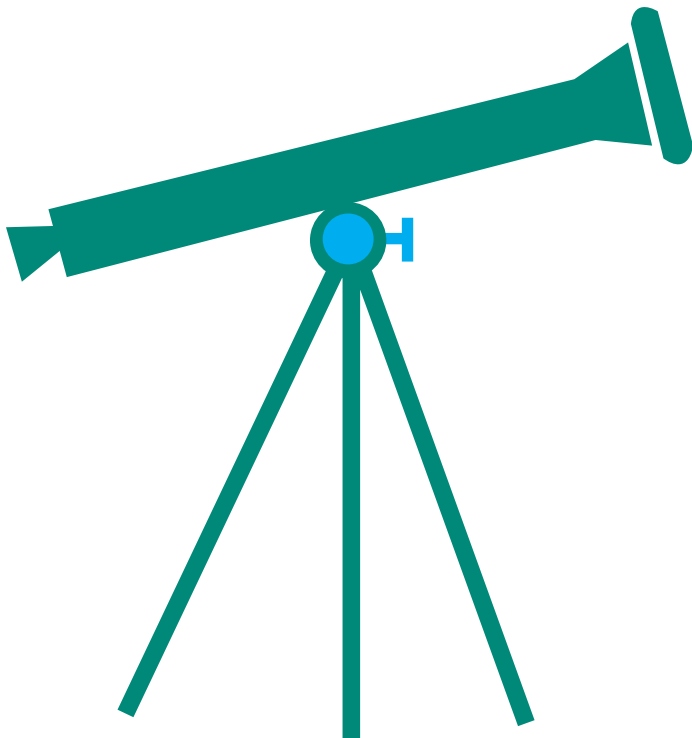


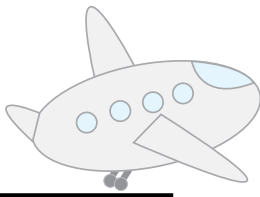
Another pair of blog posts under construction are for the British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM):

- 1 “Having Fun With Time Zones,” looking at the temporal aspects of the various cross-Canada and international events within the wider History and Philosophy of Science and Mathematics community.
- 2 “Homage à Sir Sanford Fleming,” the Scottish-Canadian who made Standard Time Zones possible.

Recently I prepared a talk for the annual conference of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS) which ran from May 29, to June 2: “A Scientific Centennial: The 1921 Toronto Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.”

I’m continuing my highly enjoyable involvement with the History of Science, both to keep my mind off pandemic confinement to my Riverdale neighbourhood , and also for the opportunities to stay active, and to meet people when the pandemic is over.





TRAVELLERS

Since we've all been very restricted in our travel plans, it was decided that we would put together a wish list to replace our usual travel section: a place that we'd like to return to, or would like to visit for the first time. As the pandemic recedes, hopefully the following contributors will be able to give some traction to their wishes.

CHRISTOS ASLANIDIS

One of the places I have missed the most during the pandemic, is the place of my birth, a small city nestled in the mountains of northwestern Greece called Kastoria. I have only visited three times in my life since I left as an infant, and every time I visit, I feel I have come home. From the grand homes built during the Ottoman occupation, to Byzantine monasteries carved into the base of its central mountain, to the stone-age settlements on the shores of its ancient lake, Kastoria is rich with beauty and history. It is both peaceful and lively, and I still have family there. I can't wait to get back.



Kastoria, Greece

Photo credit: Christos Aslanidis

DAVID ORENSTEIN

For thirty years, before the pandemic, I would visit Cobourg, Ontario, at least once a year, and definitely in summer. I miss these visits, so here are:

The top ten reasons why I miss Cobourg

1. Lakeside location between Toronto and Kingston.
2. Convenient VIA Rail day-trip schedule.
3. Detraining at original 1876 Grand Trunk Railway station.
4. The first Victoria College building, at corner of College and University.
5. Town Creek that meanders from VIA station to Downtown Cobourg.
6. Guided tours of Victoria Hall, an architectural gem.
7. Buffet lunch at the Woodlawn Terrace Inn.
8. Local History Rooms in Cobourg Public Library.
9. Downtown location of Victoria Park, with its band shell and clean and sandy Lake Ontario beach.
10. Concerts with the Cobourg Town Band, Tuesday summer evenings at the band shell.



Cobourg Harbour drone view, ON



Cobourg, Victoria Park, ON



VIA Rail, Cobourg, ON

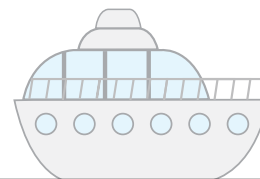


Victoria Hall, Cobourg, ON

EUNICE O'MAHONY

There are two places in the world I would like to visit. Both are my ancestral homes, and both used to be very accessible, but are now much less so. The first place I'd like to visit is Goa, on the west coast of India. Goa used to be a Portuguese colony until the 1960s when it was incorporated into India. Goa became a hippie destination in the 1960s and 1970s, but it's been going through somewhat of a redux, with Goans claiming their place in the zeitgeist by way of music, language (Konkani), food, and religion.

I would also like to visit Portugal, my other ancestral home. This destination is a lot more accessible, and was very nearly achieved last year. However our plans got thwarted by the Pandemic. Looking forward to travelling in a fully vaccinated world!



ALLAN HUX

I am looking forward to travelling back to Sidney by the Sea on Vancouver Island. Sidney is a lovely town and a great place to walk along the water and the streets. Beacon Street has lovely cafes. Sidney also has nine bookstores, some with new books, some used and some carrying both. We have stayed in the condo guest suite with our retired teacher friends, David and Olga. Sidney was the last place that my wife, Denise Graham, and I visited March 1–14, 2020 before she developed cancer and passed away on July 9, 2020.



Sidney by the Sea photos credit: Allan Hux

Sidney by the Sea, Vancouver Island





Sidney by the Sea, Vancouver Island



Sidney by the Sea at night, Vancouver Island



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