



# EXPERIENT 24

Issue 5 Fall 2018

**Experient** (adj) having experience; having knowledge or skill from observation or participation. *Synonym: experienced*

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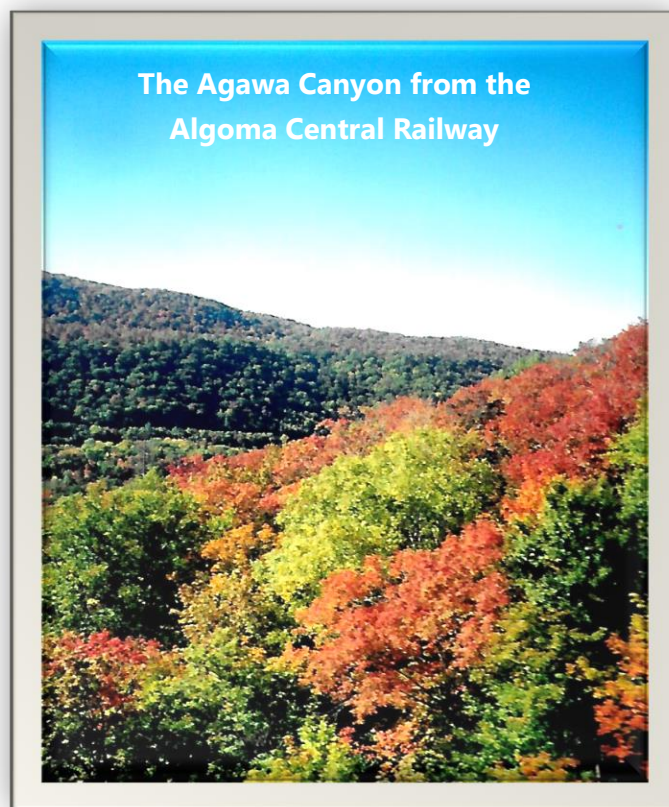


photo by Wendy Foxall

*Retirement does not mean leaving - Keep this link strong!*

## SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT 24 ARM MEETINGS FOR 2018 - 2019

October 2 <sup>nd</sup> -	Guest Speaker - From CAA – Travel & CAA Membership Benefits Annual General Meeting & Election of Executive
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Guest Speaker – John Swatridge – Travel in Newfoundland/ Wine Imports
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Guest Speaker – Ron Bell – Caring Partners Global & their work in Kenya
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Location TBA
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	District 24 Office .
Future Dates	March 5 <sup>th</sup> * , April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , May 7 <sup>th</sup> *, June 4 <sup>th</sup> *.

Meetings are open to all District 24 ARM members. They will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level of the District 24 Office unless otherwise noted. The address is 225 Centennial Court, Kitchener. If in doubt check the website or email Rich Clausi. Come early for light refreshments.

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

As we enter our third year, ARM Chapter 24 has a great deal to be pleased with. Our membership is growing (168+) and, as part of our Outreach, we have developed a large mailing list of those "Almost" Retired members who have attended the D24 retirement workshops over these past two years. We are also e-mailing into Districts 19 and 20 which at this time do not have organized ARM Chapters. Our hope is to help them organize a Chapter--but, in the meantime, those unaffiliated ARM members are welcome to attend our events. Chuck Stemmler, recently retired, has joined our ranks as our Web Master. Our Web "presence" and the archive of Chapter 24 Newsletters is becoming a repository that you can use to stay current on what we are doing; however, a sure-fire way to stay really informed is to attend our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at D24 Offices. All our meetings are General Meetings that feature a guest speaker as well as light refreshments. We have had terrific presentations. At our October AGM, we heard about the discounts and travel services available thru the CAA. Our guest, the manager of the CAA outlet in Waterloo, thrilled the audience with her Safaris into fascinating Africa. We will have a travelogue on Newfoundland with a side trip into wine purchasing in November followed by a session on Caring Partners Global in Kenya scheduled for December. Other speakers are being explored so do let us know of any topics or speakers that you would like us to showcase.

As background, note that our original "founding" goals included: monitoring pension and OTIP benefits, developing a platform for political action, and providing a venue and communication tool for social contact among retirees. We continue to support the goals of OSSTF District 24, but we try to keep a focus on issues that are vital to retirees. There is NO other advocate but ARM for issues that affect you in retirement. Our newsletters have been successful in presenting the ARM perspective and our editorial team has been recognized provincially for their fine work.

A new but elusive priority, as we look to the next few years, might be the development of an Affinity/discount card program. As always, we strive to make your membership in ARM/OTIP a rewarding way to glide into retirement. We may be retired but we are still active and

vibrant--there is no need to end your involvement with colleagues who share your priorities and experience. If you have a niche project that you would like to pursue within ARM, there is ample opportunity to do it with fellow travelers. ARM Chapter 24 is a work in progress.

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### *ARM Executive for 2018 - 2019*

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President – Richard Clausi  
Vice President – Joe Amatruda  
Political Action Chair – John Ryrice  
Treasurer – Brenda Wiles  
Secretary- Rennie Laden  
Web Master – Chuck Stemmler  
Newsletter Editors: Wendy Foxall and  
Michele Alterman, reporter: Gene Heesaker

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In closing, I wish to acknowledge the support of the executive and the membership as we continue to build a framework for OSSTF ARM Chapter 24. We hope that each of you will consider attending our meetings. We hope that there is something for you within ARM Chapter 24.

Richard Clausi, President,  
OSSTF ARM C24, Waterloo



photo by Brenda Wiles

*ARM24 Vice - President Joe Amatruda presents  
The Ian Cameron Award to Michele Alterman,  
Sue Senior and Wendy Foxall.*

# After- School Activities

- Gene Peter Heesaker

Have you ever heard of **CARP**? (And no, I don't mean the ugly fish.)

**CARP (formerly the Canadian Association for Retired Persons)** is Canada's largest advocacy association for members aged 50 plus.

The President and Founder of CARP is Moses Znaimer. (Remember him. He created CITY TV back in the early 1970's in Toronto.) CARP is a non-partisan association that advocates for the improved healthcare, financial security and freedom from ageism for Canadians as they age while providing discounts and benefits for it's over 300,000 members.

Think of CARP as the Canadian baby brother of AARP (the American Association for Retired Persons which has over 34 million members today). CARP would like to develop that type of footprint within Canada and with over 5.9 million seniors now living in Canada...this seems to be an achievable goal.

CARP is a not-for-profit association and does not receive government funding. It is funded through membership fees and through contributions from affinity partnerships. For more information about affinity its partnerships and discounts you can go to: [www.carp.ca/member-benefits](http://www.carp.ca/member-benefits)

## Currently CARP's top 5 priorities for 2018-2019 are:

1. **Improving Pension Protection.**
2. **RRIF Reform**
3. **Combating Elder Abuse in Long Term Care Homes.**
4. **Access to Housing for Low Income Seniors**
5. **Promoting Fitness for Seniors**

For more information about the top 5 priorities and CARP itself you can go to: [www.carp.ca](http://www.carp.ca)

Because of Moses Znaimer's media expertise CARP has created an extraordinary array of complimentary

media platforms. There is *ZOOMER* magazine (ZOOMER being a mash up the words "Boomer" and "Zest" for life.) ZOOMER Radio (which my wife adores) ZOOMER T.V. and the website [www.everythingzoomer.com](http://www.everythingzoomer.com)

My wife and I have been members of CARP for the past ten years and find the membership fee to be a quality investment. I love reading ZOOMER magazine (especially the financial advice) and we both take advantage of the many discounts offered by the affinity partners. One of the great things I have discovered while travelling in the USA is that many vendors who offer AARP discounts to seniors gladly accept my CARP membership card. Denny's is a great example. I simply inform the server that I am a member of the "Canadian version of AARP", show my membership card, and voila, a discount is given to me. (Did you know that AARP offers memberships to Canadians? They do. It could be a good purchase for any Snow Birds who spend a significant amount of time south of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. Check out their website for more details at: [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org))

## CARP's mission statement is broken down into three components:

- **Advocacy. Join CARP and add your voice to represent the interests of aging Canadians**
- **Benefits. Show your membership card and save on travel, health, lifestyle, insurance and much more**
- **Community. Get involved in your community by starting a local CARP chapter in your area.**

CARP often calls its mission statement the ABC's of the association. (Kind of neat if you're a retired teacher!)

I personally think that CARP is well worth the membership fee. However, do not trust my words. Check out the association yourself. You can be old school and call: 1-800-363-9736 or you can be more tech savvy and check out their web site at [www.carp.ca](http://www.carp.ca). Who knows, maybe I'll see you at Denny's in Buffalo using your CARP card to save those valuable American greenbacks!

# A Guide to Programs and Services for Seniors in Ontario.

- Gene Peter Heesaker

My lovely wife and I have just spent the last several months slowly moving my independent 95-year-old father from Toronto to Waterloo.

As a result of this endeavour I was forced to quickly learn as much as I could about the resources and programs available for seniors in our Province. During this educational journey I contacted the Ontario Government for assistance and they sent me an amazing resource booklet entitled, **A Guide to Programs and Services for Seniors in Ontario**. This 100-page gem includes 10 informative chapters. The chapters are broken down into the following themes:

- **Active living**
- **Caregiving**
- **Finances**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Housing**
- **Long Term Care Homes**
- **Safety and Security**
- **Transportation**
- **Key Contacts**
- **Ontario Government I.D.**

**The best thing about this resource guide is that it is FREE!!!** All one has to do is phone the Service Ontario Publications Branch at 1-800-668-9938 and order as many copies as you want. The booklet was just updated as of March of 2018 and includes all of the most recent data available.

My father has moved into the retirement apartments at Ira Needles and Erb Street. It is a fantastic facility and he still lives independently, however, because of reading the booklet I have learned about the process for him to move into a retirement home and perhaps, eventually to a nursing home. He has voluntarily given up his driver's license and has been issued (for a fee) an Ontario Photo Card which he can use as legal provincial identification. (I did not even know such a card existed.)

As my father likes to tell me all of the time, "None of us is getting any younger" and navigating one's way through the aging process is not easy. Hopefully this booklet will make the journey a little less stressful and if I were you, I'd take advantage of this free resource before they disappear.

## Submit articles to YOUR newsletter

We are looking for reader submissions for the following regular features:

### **Viewpoint/Point of view**

An opinion piece on a topic that concerns you personally.

### **After-School Activities**

An update on individual activities or groups that you have joined since retiring from your job in the education sector.

### **Photo Captions**

An interesting or entertaining photo that could be used for a caption contest. Please include the location and necessary background information.

### **Around the World**

A report on interesting places or people you have met while travelling. Include pictures when relevant.

*All members are invited to submit items of interest for retirees and for those who are within sight of retiring.*

*Articles need to be proof-read and not exceed 500 words.*

*Please provide the name of the photographer and/or source and identify the people or places in the photo.*

Note: Editing will be done for clarity and space limitations

Send submissions to:

**experient24@gmail.com**

**by January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019** to be included in the Winter 2019 edition of EXPERIENT24.



Submitted by Leslie Buck

## The Once and Future Liberal: After Identity Politics

Mark Lilla (Harper Collins 2017) ISBN 978-0-06-269743-1

If there is only one book that you will read about the election of Donald Trump, let it be Mark Lilla's *The Once and Future Liberal: After Identity Politics*. Many books are coming out about the political reality in the United States, and no one has time to read them all. Lilla looks at the present disarray of the Republican Party as an opportunity for liberals.

Its 140 pages of clear and readable prose make this book one of the shorter and more accessible on the market. Still, Mr. Lilla, a professor at Columbia

### THE ONCE AND FUTURE LIBERAL

AFTER IDENTITY POLITICS

MARK LILLA

University, supports his arguments well with a lucid understanding of things past and a sincere hope for the future of liberal democracy. He begins by dividing the politics of 20th century America into two main parts: the Roosevelt era and the Reagan era. By doing so, he can explain some of the triumphs of liberalism before the 1980s and the

increasingly crazy libertarian bent since Reagan. He hopes that Donald Trump's presidency is a watershed moment for liberalism.

The problem, he argues, is identity politics. It has destroyed the heart of the Democratic Party because no one is listening to anyone else. Radical individualism is an element of the Reagan doctrine, and identity politics has developed in line with it. The problem has become so acute that, if you do not "identify" with a candidate, you don't vote, while Republicans will support Trump for Supreme Court appointments. Democrats cannot see what they have in common. What liberals need, according to Lilla, is a new message that creates a unifying force among

Democrats. He also argues that the message must be rooted in social reality. Reagan's was, and Trump's is as well. With a liberal message that resonates with the people, Democrats can hope to achieve real power again.

According to Lilla, Liberals also lost the desire to persuade. Many new ideas need to be explained, and people need to understand how all people's rights are important. Identity politics has made it impossible to argue issues because the opponent is condemned and seen as unworthy of a voice. The rejection of other voices has taken on an evangelical tone that brands the "other" as a sinner. You preach to the sinner, but what is needed is persuasion and compromise.

Lilla also explores the Democratic retreat to universities and movement politics. While the party of the 1970s still had union organizers and blue-collar party officials, the party moved towards the educational sector alienating itself from the heartland and factory floor. At the same time, following the success of the civil rights and women's rights movements, liberals felt that the battles would be won in the courts. The political support at state and congressional levels was unnecessary. Both of these trends have led Democrats to leave the field of state politics. Concentration on the Presidency was more important. But hard-fought legal gains were watered down by right-wing state legislatures. Abortion rights is a key example.

Lilla ends his book by noting that the baby boomers were educated in a traditional way but became some of the most revolutionary Americans of all time. They changed many things. Still, they knew how to argue and how to see from another's point of view. Today, most liberals cannot see two sides to an argument. If the Trump presidency is to be a watershed moment, liberals must change.



## Habitat for Humanity Presentation - Michele Alterman

At the February ARM meeting Janine Armstrong (Manager of Volunteers) and Murray Showers (Team Leader and retired teacher) spoke about what Habitat is doing in the KW Region.

Habitat's vision is to build a world where everyone has a safe place to live. In Canada, since 1988, they have built 110 homes for 400 people, including the current KW project of building 45 townhouses over five years. Habitat works with qualified families to help move them from renting to homeownership through 500 hours of sweat equity and an interest free mortgage that will never exceed 30% of the family income.

Homeownership benefits the community because it increases the tax base, improves family finances, stabilizes communities, provides equity to families, improves families' self-esteem, health and happiness. Children in stable homes do better in school. Homes are affordable because no down payment is required, and the purchase prices is a fair market value.



Locally only 20% of income is designated for mortgage payments. To qualify families must have lived in the region for 3 years, have at least one child under 13, a demonstrated need (such as unaffordable rent) and a stable income between \$35-60,000.

Habitat does not receive any government funding and competes with developers to buy land. Sales at the local Restore (which diverts a lot of items from landfill) covers their administrative costs. For example, if you are renovating a kitchen their salvage team will take the items and even give you a tax receipt!

Most of the work done for Habitat is by volunteers – homes are 98% volunteer built. They provide training and tools. In 2016 37,500 hours were logged locally by 1,800 volunteers, including teachers.

Volunteers do not need to be skilled to help – there is training but there are many kinds of jobs to do on a site. If you are interested or want more information, contact Habitat at 519-747-0664 x 223 or [vs@habitatwr.ca](mailto:vs@habitatwr.ca)



October 30, 2018  
D/BU #45/2018-2019

### OMERS Update

To: Presidents and All Members  
From: Harvey Bischof, President

#### For Information

The OMERS Sponsors Corporation completed their Comprehensive Plan Review in late June of this year. Since then, they have been examining the findings of the review in order to determine what, if any, changes they should consider. [Information on the proposed changes](#) is located on the OSSTF/FEESO website homepage under News.

Our Union has two appointees at OMERS. Sandra Sahli is the OSSTF/FEESO appointee to the OMERS SC and Paul Elliott is our appointee to the OMERS Administration Corporation. OSSTF/FEESO members can be confident that our appointees are acting in our members' best interest and in the best interest of all plan members. We support our appointees in their work to help maintain the health and sustainability of the OMERS Plan.

OSSTF/FEESO has maintained throughout the process that the Plan Sponsors must allow the Board to conduct their business free from political interference. This is the cornerstone of good governance practice.

CUPE Ontario has taken a very different approach. They have tried to interfere in the SC Process, influence OMERS staff and board members and impose their political will on the members of the OMERS pension plan. What CUPE Ontario is doing is both wrong and dangerous.

OSSTF/FEESO members are again asked not to participate in any social media or letter writing campaign designed to influence the OMERS decision-making process.

The next meeting of the OMERS SC board is scheduled for November 15, 2018. It is anticipated that they will be considering the proposed changes to the OMERS plan that resulted from the Comprehensive Plan Review and will be voting on individual recommendations at this meeting. We will keep you updated as new information becomes available.

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Protecting and Enhancing Public Education  
Protéger et faire avancer l'éducation publique

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation  
Fédération des enseignantes-enseignants  
des écoles secondaires de l'Ontario  
60 Mobile Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2P3  
TEL 416.751.8300  
TEL 1.800.267.7867  
FAX 416.751.3394  
[www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca)



# Word Play

## To All Who Reed and Right

*We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes;  
but the plural of ox became oxen not oxes.*

*One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
yet the plural of moose should never be meese.*

*You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice;  
yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.*

*If the plural of man is always called men,  
why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?*

*If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet,  
and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?*

*If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?*

*Then one may be that, and three would be those,  
yet hat in the plural would never be hose, and the  
plural of cat is cats, not cose.*

*We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
but though we say mother, we never say methren.*

*Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
but imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim.*

*Let's face it,  
English is a crazy language.*

*There is no egg in eggplant,  
nor ham in hamburger;  
neither apple nor pine in pineapple.  
English muffins weren't invented in England.*

*We take English for granted.  
But if we explore its paradoxes,  
we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing  
rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from  
Guinea, nor is it a pig.*

*And why is it that writers write but fingers don't  
fing,  
grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?*

*Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends,  
but not one amend?*

*If you have a bunch of odds and ends  
and get rid of all but one of them,  
what do you call it?*

*If teachers taught,  
why didn't preachers praught?*

*If a vegetarian eats vegetables,  
what does a humanitarian eat?*

*Sometimes, I think all the folks who grew up  
speaking English should be committed to an  
asylum for the verbally insane.*

*In what other language do people recite at a play  
and play at a recital?*

*Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?*

*Have noses that run and feet that smell?*

*How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the  
same,  
while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?*

*You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a  
language in which your house can burn up as it  
burns down; in which you fill in a form by filling  
it out  
and in which an alarm goes off by going on.*

*Author Unknown*



Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region owns and operates two ReStore outlets in Waterloo Region.

**Waterloo – 120 Northfield Drive East**

**Cambridge – 200 Preston Parkway**

A ReStore is a retail store concept that accepts donations of overstocked, seconds, used, discontinued items and salvageable building materials donated by manufacturers, stores, contractors and individuals. The ReStore then sells those items to the public at a reduced cost, typically 50-80% off the original retail value

## OSSTF adds to the discourse with Common Threads VII: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Society

- Joe Amatruda

There is a buzz with regards to applications involving the new tools of AI, Quantum computing, Robotics, Cyber, Space Force, Biotechnology and Nanotechnology. The impact of the changes ushered in by these new tools will be profound, transformative and pervasive. OSSTF's initiative and leadership in raising a voice in this regard is timely and will hopefully add to voices in other quarters seeking to develop a 'good' path forward <https://www.osstf.on.ca/resource-centre/curricular-materials-and-classroom-resources/common-threads.aspx>

Voices including that of António Guterres United Nations Secretary-General published (May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018) 'Securing our Common Future'.

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/sg-agenda/>

On page viii Antonio Guterres states:

"We must also work together to make sure that developments in science and technology are used for the good of humankind. Our joint efforts to prevent the weaponization of new technologies will save future generations. We owe this to our children and grandchildren."

Less than a week later voices here in Waterloo region at the inaugural 'True North' conference sought to work towards, promote and realize 'tech for good'.

<https://www.communitech.ca/press-release/true-north-conference-and-festival-to-celebrate-tech-for-good-in-waterloo-region-may-29-31/>

Sadly, it seems, these voices are not being considered. On August 31<sup>st</sup> "The United States and Russia were among a small number of countries that blocked the U.N. from moving toward talks on whether to ban so-called killer robots."

<https://www.politico.eu/article/killer-robots-us-russia-block-formal-talks-on-whether-to-ban/>

Add to this is the strategizing of using AI enabled weapon systems in the integrated battlefield as proposed in the new book, *Army of None: Autonomous Weapons and the Future of War*, by Paul Scharre:

<https://www.cnas.org/publications/video/will-wwiii-be-fought-by-robots>

With all this uncertainty, will the World find a path forward to act with 'good' for all? Let's hope 'we' say and do those things that are of 'good purpose' for us and for those who follow us. For it is one thing to 'walk softly and carry a big stick' ... it is quite another 'when the stick has a mind of its own and has the capacity to evolve ... potentially slipping away from our fingers'.

***Let us not take thought for our separate interests but let us help one another.***

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

**District 24 OSSTF**

<http://www.d24.osstf.ca>

**District 24 OSSTF ARM**

<http://www.d24.osstf.ca/active-retired-members-chapter.aspx>

**ARM Council**

<http://www.armcouncil.osstf.ca>

**Edvantage**

<http://www.edvantage.ca>

**OMERS**

<http://www.omers.com>

**Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan**

<https://www.otpp.com>

**OTIP**

<https://otip.com>

**OTIP's Carepath Program**

<http://otip.carepath.ca>