



EXPERIENT ²⁴

Issue 10- Fall 2020

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- **President’s Update** 2
- **Letter to the Editor** 3
- **How to submit Articles** 3
- **Point of View** 4
- **Pandemic musings** 5
- **Book Reviews** 6
- **Photo Contest** 7
- **Helpful Websites** 7



Late September along the Trestle Bridge Trail, Elora,

Retirement does not mean leaving - Keep this link strong!

SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT 24 ARM MEETINGS FOR 2020

Note: For the remainder of this calendar year all ARM meetings will be virtual. Meetings are open to all District 24 ARM members. They will take place at 9:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. If in doubt check the website or email Rich Clausi.

October 6 th	Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker: Brock Godfrey - Cybersecurity
November 3 rd	Zoom meeting – Speaker from Educators Financial
December 1 st	TBA

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

As we all know, it has been a disappointing Spring/Summer.

All Chapter 24 events had to be cancelled. The cancellations were appreciated by our members since we are all in that demographic “danger zone”. We have kept in touch with members via email and website updates. We have also used our website to provide promotional material to our members for distribution to potential members. A sample is available at: c24arm.weebly.com

ARM met in September using ZOOM to plan the year. Our financials are robust—we will route those funds back to servicing our membership once the Pandemic conditions ease. As always, we insist that Funds stay within our mandate- a focus on pensions, a focus on health benefits, political action in support of OSSTF and Social Events for members. We continue to search for ways to give more value-added for the ARM/OSSTF membership card for surely this is the only way to attract members to ARM.

A key to our success is to never stray from our mandate as defined by our constitution and bylaws, and to ensure that member funds are returned directly to the membership via events and services.

Our AGM was on October 6. We had Brock Godfrey update us on Scams and Fraud. We are currently testing how the ZOOM interface can support Powerpoint. There were a few glitches but otherwise it was an excellent presentation. Our November meeting will feature a speaker from Educators Financial, again, via ZOOM.

Our election process was also via ZOOM. I wish to thank inaugural executive members Brenda Wiles, treasurer, and Wendy Foxall for their years of excellent service to ARM. Isobel Cayenne was acclaimed as Treasurer, while we have yet to find someone to lead our Newsletter Team. Other positions were filled by acclamation: R.Clausi

(President), J.Amatruda (Vice-president), Rennie Ladan (Secretary). We hope that one of you will step forward to coordinate our Newsletter Team--this is a special aspect of our organization.

We are also lining up speakers for our future ZOOM meetings; however, there is concern by some of our speakers with the security of videoconferencing. We are refining our systems to address those items. I now own a PRO ZOOM subscription which will address some of these concerns while providing additional features such as dial-up phone access and break-out rooms.

In summary, the word seems to be spreading that our “Social Club” is fun. Besides the excellent speakers, breakfasts, and the lunch after each meeting, we also organize events such as Hockey and Pub nights, theatre events etc. We also created a small jazz band that shivered and played at strike sites. We look forward to restarting live activities when conditions ease so that our members can enjoy ARM to the fullest.

With optimism,
Richard Clausi, President, Chapter 24, Waterloo

ARM 24 Executive 2020-2021

President	- Rich Clausi
Vice President	- Joe Amatruda
Treasurer	- Isobel Cayenne
Political action	- John Ryrie
Secretary	- Rene Ladan
Web Master	- Chuck Stemmler
Newsletter	
Editor in Chief	-
Assistant editor	- Michele Altermann

Political Action

Our Political Action Officer, John Ryrie submitted this letter to the Editor published in the Record newspaper.

Dear Editor

In his plan for opening Ontario's schools in September, Premier Ford is clearly more concerned about saving money than saving lives. The new funding (\$309 million) spread over two million students and 180 school days works out to 86 cents more per student per day – not exactly a huge outlay to thwart a deadly disease. None of this money will reduce class sizes or student proximity. It is for masks and gear. To reduce classes, the Premier would need to hire more teachers and find more classrooms which – costly - he clearly does not want to do. Instead, he is proposing to hire 500 nurses to service Ontario's roughly 5,000 schools. Logically, the nurses will not be able to prevent COVID transmission, only identify probable infections and treat sick students. And ironically, if the nurses each service 10 schools they have the potential to become transmission vectors, as has happened via itinerant part-time staff in Ontario's homes for seniors. This amounts to a phony solution.

It's a shame the Premier cannot see that for a year (perhaps two) we need a transformed staffing model and classroom set-up that keeps students significantly and substantially apart so as to protect everybody: their classmates, their parents, their teachers, and their communities

John Ryrie

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 meet while travelling. Include pictures when relevant.

Book Reports

Tell us about an interesting book you have read.

All members are invited to submit items of interest for current and future retirees.

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

Provide the name of the photographer and identify the people or places in the photo.

Note: All articles will be edited for clarity and space limitations.

Send submissions to:

raclausi@rogers.com



EXPERIENT 

Point of View – On the Road of Life

For the most part, ARM members have reached a point in their lives where there is time to reflect upon where they have been, where they are now and also wondering about probable paths and potential pitfalls on the road ahead. The responsibilities and experiences gained while working in the education sector often create habits of mind where we frequently look for the 'what ifs' or potential risks, and ask 'is this safe'?

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the importance of our collective safety, health and well-being front and center. The pandemic has created the need to develop and follow best practices across all contexts. This is as true for our Long-Term Care Homes, retirement homes, schools, health care facilities as in the wider community, so that no one unduly and disproportionately suffers.

SARS 2003 prompted the development of clearly defined health & safety protocols here in Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/learning-sars-renewal-public-health-canada/chapter-2-sars-canada-anatomy-outbreak.html> Given that the expectations were well established I wonder how is it that these significant and upsetting systemic failures resulted due to Covid-19, particularly in privately operated Long Term Care Homes? One need only read the disturbing report written by Brigadier General C.J.J. Mialkowski detailing his findings <http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6928480-OP-LASER-JTFC-Observations-in-LTCF-in-On.html> to see how badly existing practices failed.

The question that comes to my mind is: How can we as ARM members allocate our political capital to address the concerns for those impacted in the here and now, as well as making the changes needed to ensure that will this will never happen again? I respectfully suggest the following: **Keep current with Ontario Health Coalition News items** <https://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/category/news-events/ohc-in-the-news/> and consider connecting with your local Health Coalition Chapter <https://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/get-involved/find-a-local-health-coalition/>

May we find a path forward that is right, caring and just for...

Those who cared for us ...

For 'us' and ...

For those who follow 'us'

Joseph Amatruda ARM Chapter 24

View Point

Pandemic Musings

A Poem for the Pandemic

And the people stayed home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art
and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated
someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless, and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

Kitty O'Meara,
March 2020



Tough times never last, but tough people do. -Robert H. Schuller



This picture from World War II, a soldier carrying a donkey. It is not that the soldier loves donkeys or has some sort of perversion. What's happening is that the field is mined and that if the donkey was free to wonder as it pleased, it would likely detonate a charge and kill everyone. The moral of the story is that during difficult times the first ones you have to keep under control are the jackasses who don't understand the danger and do as they please.

Book Reviews – Two Novels set in Pandemics

- Wendy Foxall

Why read a fictional book about pandemics during a pandemic?

These two books by Canadian authors are both focused on individuals and how their lives are affected by different pandemics. The settings include Toronto and the Great Lakes area.

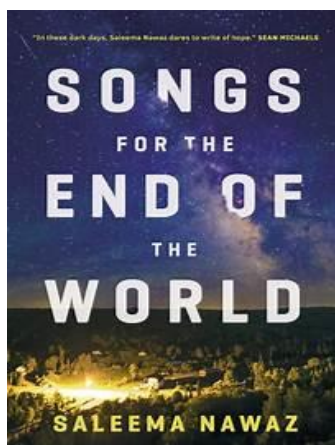
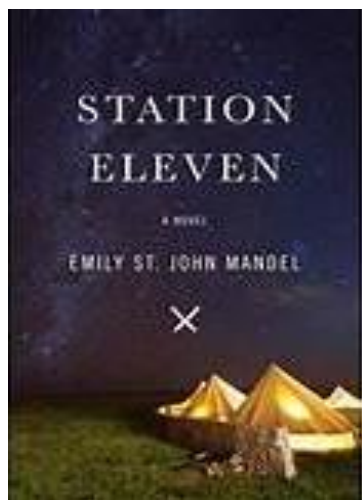
Station 11, by Emily St. John Mandel

This novel begins with an actor dying on stage in Toronto during a performance of King Lear and follows people tangential to him throughout the novel. This pandemic is caused by a very virulent form of Influenza from Russia called the Georgia Flu. Most people who are exposed die within 48 hours. One of the characters states that he believes 99.9% of the global population has been wiped out by the illness. The electrical grid fails, the supply chain is destroyed, resources run out and society as we know it collapses.

Unlike most post-apocalyptic novels, the focus is not on the horrible things that people do to others (although terrible things do happen and are alluded to). Instead we follow a travelling band of musicians and actors trying to bring the arts to scattered outposts.

Most of the novel is based in year 20 after the collapse and follows a group of actors and musicians travelling from outpost to outpost performing for local populations.

They perform music and the Shakespearean plays popular with their audiences. The outbreaks of the plague during Shakespeare's time are discussed, compared, and contrasted. The novel ends on a note of hope and stresses the resilience of the human spirit.



Songs for the End of the World, by Saleema Nawaz

Imagine having an idea for a novel about a world-wide pandemic. You do your research and come up with the following ideas.

- a novel coronavirus originating in China that spreads around the world
- people working from home
- limited trips to the grocery stores
- the importance of personal protective equipment
- the scarcity of N95 masks for health care workers
- the over-whelming of health care systems
- racism against people from China

After years of research and work you finish your novel, find a publisher, and arrange a publication date in August 2020. Even more unbelievable is that is the main character in the novel is an author who wrote a book about a pandemic before a pandemic happened. **Is this an example of good timing or the worst timing ever?** An E-version of this book was quickly released in the early spring. The major difference between the book and what we are experiencing right now is that in the book children are extremely susceptible to the virus and most of them die. This book also stresses the importance of connections between people and ends with hope for the future.

This is what happens when they are really serious about stay at home orders.



Photo Caption Contest

Submit your caption for the picture at right. No prizes will be awarded, just a chance to see your name & ideas in print.

Examples:

"Now, you are not going to that party!"

"Of course, you can borrow the car, simply back it out of the driveway."

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched- they must be felt with the heart.

- *Helen Keller*

The cure for anything is salt water:

Sweat, tears, or the sea.

- *Isak Dinesen*

HELPFUL WEBSITES

District 24 OSSTF

District 24 OSSTF ARM

ARM Council

Edvantage

OMERS

Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

OTIP

OTIP's Carepath Program

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

<http://c24arm.weebly.com>

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

<http://www.edvantage.ca>

<http://www.omers.com>

<https://www.otpp.com>

<https://otip.com>

<http://otip.carepath.ca>