



Christmas Lunch at Rivermead



Anita Pari playing her own composition, a Nocturne in F# Minor.

Rivermead Golf Club was, once again, the venue for our Annual Christmas Lunch, and, once again, **Jim Brough** brought an exceptional student to entertain us. **Anita Pari** (11) is an accomplished pianist, cellist and composer and demonstrated all three talents with pieces by Chopin, one of her own compositions and Glazunov's *Minstrel's Song* for cello and orchestra. Her audience was entranced.

The Club provided an excellent lunch and a very pleasant setting for the event. Our thanks are due to **Bill and Margaret Terry** who made the arrangements for us to use the Club. Jim Brough played the incidental music, accompanied Anita for the Glazunov, and then accompanied the ESU Chorale as we finished the afternoon with carols and songs. In hindsight, *Dreaming of a White Christmas* might not have been as good an idea as it sounded while looking out over the snowless putting green.

Event Bookings We continue to search for suitable locations and catering services for our events. One of the issues we encounter is the venues' requirements for firm numbers well ahead of the event. We have given ourselves little or no margin in setting closing dates so please understand that the "Closing date for reservations" is immutable.

SHOP 2009

Kerry McInnes, Lisgar Collegiate, is the first competitor to have her name on the new **Barbara B. Young** Trophy. Kerry gained first place with Sonnet 55, "Not marble nor the gilded monuments .." and, from As Your Like It, the epilogue, delivered by Rosalind.

The **Rudy Sladen** Memorial Trophy being held by **Caroline Coltman**, Head of Arts at Nepean H.S., in the photograph, was retired after 14 years. Of the 15 names on the shields (one year saw a tie for first place), five are Nepean H.S. students and the trophy was presented to Ms Coltman to celebrate the achievements of her department.

Elana Moscoe and **Charlotte van Walraven**, are both from Nepean H.S. and both came very close to Kerry but had to settle for a share of second place.



Caroline Coltman (holding the Rudy Sladen Trophy) are (l to r) Jordan Tessier, Charlotte van Walraven, Elana Moscoe and Charlotte Newton



Barbara Young and Don Macpherson looking at the new trophy before Ms Young presented it to Kerry McInnes.

Rudy and Cynthia Sladen were long time members of ESU Ottawa and for many years held the positions of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Both were particularly interested in our Youth Programs and Branch members were delighted that Cynthia commissioned the trophy in Rudy's name and established a fund which financed SHOP for several years. The Sladens could always be relied on to take on extra tasks. Rudy organized our Christmas Parties at the army Officers Mess and Cynthia regularly attended Citizenship Court and entertained the new Canadian Citizens to tea.

Barbara Young is well deserving of having the new trophy named after her as she organized our SHOP competitions for the first 16 years.

International Calendar

May 27 - 30 Launch of ESU Malta. This includes the launch ceremony, receptions, dinners and cultural tours, as well as the launch of a branch in Gozo.

June (dates to be announced but immediately following the launch of ESU Malta) Launch of ESU Turkey.

The two launches have been scheduled in consecutive weeks to allow anyone travelling from distant countries to cover both in one trip.

Launches are an excellent way to see a country and give the opportunity to meet people with the comfort of having a common language. They are open to all ESU members and all attendees are made very welcome.

October (dates and a location outside the UK, to be decided) International Council Meeting.

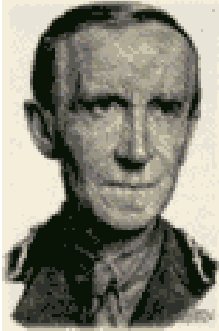
President of the International Council

Prof. Arne Zettersten of Denmark was elected President of the I.C. at the meeting in London, last October. At the same meeting Mrs. Patricia Schroeder, recently elected Chairman of ESU-USA, was elected Vice-chairman of the I.C. replacing Bill Miller (ESU-USA). Mr. Miller was appointed Chairman Emeritus, joining Lord Watson in that office.

Prof. Zettersten succeeded Ambassador Hanabusa (ESU Japan) and will serve for one year. He has been very active on ESU matters for the I.C. including joint authorship of a report on Youth Activities.

Winter/Spring Program

Please use the reservation sheet to make your bookings

<p>Speakers' Circuit</p> <p>John & Joyce Wright</p> <p>February 8th</p>	<p><i>The ESU Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow</i> will be the theme of John's talk. When asked to speak at the ESU-USA AGM in 2007 and to be 'international and forward looking' he started with the surrender of York in the War of 1812. That will be the point of departure of his talk to us.</p> <p>Prior to the 2009 International Council meeting Joyce and John spent a week in Florence. Joyce will cover the meeting and will offer a short, illustrated travelogue.</p>	<p><u>Date</u> Monday, February 8th <u>Time</u> 11:30 am for lunch at Noon (cash bar) <u>Place</u> Army Officers' Mess 140 Somerset Street <u>Cost</u> \$25 <u>Closing date for reservations</u> Wednesday, January 27th</p>	
<p>Tweedsmuir Lecture</p> <p>John Young</p> <p>March 11th</p>	<p>The Fourth Tweedsmuir Lecture will be delivered by John Young who will take as his subject Samuel Johnson. Dr Johnson (1709 - 1784) has been described as "arguably the most distinguished man of letters in English history". He made his mark as a poet, essayist, moralist, literary critic, biographer, editor and lexicographer.</p> <p>John Young is an Ottawa lawyer with a well deserved reputation as a raconteur.</p>	<p><u>Date:</u> Thursday, March 11th <u>Time:</u> 6:30 pm for 7:00 (cash bar) <u>Place:</u> Delta Hotel 361 Queen Street <u>Cost:</u> \$25 <u>Closing date for reservations:</u> Monday, March 1st</p> <p>Light refreshments will be served</p>	 <p><i>Lord Tweedsmuir</i></p>
<p>Special Event</p> <p>Colin McCorquodale</p> <p>The Monarchy</p> <p>April 6th</p>	<p>Colin McCorquodale is a Governor of the ESU and Past-chairman of the London (UK) Branch. He travels regularly to Canada and last spoke to us at our Fall Speaker's Circuit in 2007.</p> <p>His talk will be <i>A light-hearted look at the English and British Monarchy from 1066</i>, with the sub-title <i>40 Monarchs in 40 Minutes</i>. It will include many interesting and amusing anecdotes from Royal History, one of which surrounds the origin of 'Tea'.</p>	<p><u>Date:</u> Tuesday, April 6th <u>Time:</u> 11:30 am for Noon (cash bar) <u>Place:</u> Hellenic Centre 1315 Prince of Wales Drive <u>Cost:</u> \$30 <u>Closing date for reservations:</u> Monday, March 22nd</p> <p>The Hellenic Centre is between Baseline and Hog's Back. There is ample free parking and there are no stairs. Lunch will be 3 courses, served buffet style.</p>	
<p>Dinner & Yeomen of the Guard</p> <p>April 23rd</p>	<p>"Heighdy! Misery me, lack-a-day dee! He sipp'd no sup and he craved no crumb, As he sighed for the love of a layde." If you sup at Algonquin College's excellent International Restaurant you will not be craving crumbs when the cast of <i>Yeomen of the Guard</i> round out the evening with those rather odd words.</p> <p>Returning to a long established practice after a two year hiatus, we have arranged our Dinner and Theatre evening to centre on Gilbert & Sullivan and the Savoy Society.</p> <p>We have reserved 35 tickets in the orchestra, rows K and L which must be paid for or released on March 23rd.</p>	<p><u>Date:</u> Friday, April 23rd <u>Time:</u> 5:30 pm for 6, Theatre at 8:00 <u>Place:</u> Dinner - Algonquin College, Woodroffe Campus, "H" Block, 1385 Woodroffe Avenue Theatre - Centrepointe Theatre 101 Centrepointe Drive <u>Cost:</u> \$64.00 (Theatre only \$34, Dinner only \$33) <u>Closing date for reservations:</u> Monday, March 22nd</p> <p>We can accept Dinner reservations until Thursday, April 15th but after March 22nd you would have to buy your own theatre tickets.</p>	

President's Notes

Here we are at the beginning of the second decade of the twenty-first century, the decade in which The English-Speaking Union will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary. Perhaps this is a point for us to again ask whether there continues to be a place for the ESU in Canada. We see it expanding to many parts of the world as nations recognize the fact that English is the international language of the "global village". John Wright, our National President, and Joyce have reported regularly to us on their experiences at launches of new branches in some countries which might be considered surprising as places for ESU to take root.

As every year Canada welcomes many thousands of newcomers, we must conclude that there are opportunities for ESU to participate in that welcoming process. But how can we effectively reach out to those communities and what can we offer to them to encourage some to join us in the work of ESU?

Personal contact is of course a direct way to introduce newcomers to ESU. While we cannot alter the fact that our present membership can fairly be described as "senior", which in most cases limits our daily contacts with newcomers, there are always opportunities to promote ESU.

Embassies and consulates ought to be another source of introduction although I confess to some disappointment at the lack of response I have had to various initiatives. Nevertheless, I still believe a concerted effort in that area can be successful. Just before Christmas Margaret and I attended a dinner where many of the other guests were from other countries. At our table, for example, was a young woman from the Swedish embassy and the ambassador from Nicaragua and her husband so we took the opportunity to speak about ESU for a few minutes. Now, of course, we should follow up.

Another source of contacts could be community groups of various forms; social, cultural, special interest, etc. that many of us belong to.

Attracting new members may require us to make some adjustments to some of our programs. We have tailored them to fit our existing membership but perhaps need to think of a mix of events which might be more attractive to younger folk.

This is your Branch and your ideas and suggestions will be welcome.

Happy New Year to all!

Don Macpherson
Saigon, Vietnam

Poetry Corner



A. E. Houseman

One of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's famous and much quoted poems was *Excelsior* written in 1841. The poem was often parodied, but this effort entitled *The Shades of Night* by another famous poet, A.E. Housman, is probably more amusing than most. Longfellow took the name from the state seal of New York, which bears the

Latin motto *Excelsior* - translated as 'ever upward'.

Martin Wickham

The shades of night were falling fast,
And the rain was falling faster,
When through an Alpine village passed
An Alpine village pastor:
A youth who bore mid snow and ice
A bird that wouldn't chirrup,
And a banner with strange device –
'Mrs. Winslow's soothing syrup.'

'Beware the pass,' the old man said,
'My bold, my desperate fellah;
Dark lowers the tempest overhead,
And you'll want your umbrella;
And the roaring torrent is deep and wide –
You may hear how loud it washes.'
But still that clarion voice replied:
'I've got my old galoshes.'

'Oh stay,' the maiden said, 'and rest
(For the wind blows from the nor'ward)
Thy weary head upon my breast –
And please don't think I'm forward.'
A tear stood in his bright blue eye,
And he gladly would have tarried;
But still he answered with a sigh:
'Unhappily I'm married.'

Longfellow's first verse for comparison.

The shades of night were falling fast,
As through an Alpine village passed
A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and ice,
A banner with the strange device,
Excelsior!

The ESU Canada Educational Trust, operated for the Branches, is a charity registered with the Canadian Revenue Agency. The registration number is:

119231546 RR0001

