

## EDITORIAL

*By Shipmate Chris Shellard*

Hi Shipmates,  
Here we are into April already and with the winter behind us we can start thinking about our outdoor activities during the summer months.

We are planning to hold a BBQ probably in July, but the original venue is unobtainable and so we have to look around for an alternative site. Sometime ago we held a BBQ/picnic in Centennial Park in Etobicoke and at one time we held one in Sunnybrook Park. They are both good locations, except that Sunnybrook had an abundance of hungry mosquitoes which made life a little uncomfortable. If you have any ideas on any other locations that might be suitable, then let one of the executive members know about it, but please be quick about it as we don't have much time left to organize things.

By the time you get to read this edition, our AGM will be here and for those of you who do not attend our meetings, it will be history. I expect that we shall probably have the same committee members as we have had for this past number of years, but, as I have said before, and I say it again now, we must have some new blood on this committee. We received the Adelaide Branch Newsletter recently, and it shows that they have the same problem as we do, nobody will volunteer to help out. They have now put it to their membership that unless someone takes over the Secretary's and the Treasurer's jobs then there is a distinct possibility that that branch will have to close down. That is something that just doesn't bear thinking about, so you have a year to come up with a solution to our problem. The future of this branch is in your hands Shipmates!

Our plans for the Battle of Trafalgar Dinner and Dance are progressing quite well and things are looking good. All we need now is for you, our Shipmates to come along on the 21<sup>st</sup> October and help make this event a memorable one. You can find out more about this in the Social Director's report on page 4.

In the last edition I reported on the cruise that some of us went on, but I omitted to say "Thank You" to S/M Mike Cubitt who did all the arranging of tickets and haggled over the prices and the positions of our various cabins on the ship. Well done Mike, you did a grand job!

Finally, I would like to say a personal "Thank You" to those of you who have called to say how much they enjoy reading this little newsletter. It is always nice to know that your efforts are appreciated.

Have a great spring, and don't forget to come on out and support us at the Battle of the Atlantic Parade on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

*By Shipmate David Kemp*

Hi Shipmates,

Well it's taken long enough – we have had about five months of snow and ice now it appears that spring is actually here and some warm temperatures will help to make us more congenial, instead of nodding at our friends in the street we will be able to stop and carry out a conversation with them without being frozen to the spot.

Now is the time for spring cleaning and smartening ourselves up. Alex (Our Jack Dusty) has uniform bargains that will brighten our visual presentation. It would be great to go on parade with all Shipmates looking roughly the same.

The summer activities are not far away and apart from the usual parades and things we are looking into another picnic in mid year, but this time not so far out of town so that you don't have to drive too far. Ideas and support would be greatly welcomed.

With the election of half the Executive due to change at the just happened A.G.M. I would like to express my heart felt thanks to all Shipmates who have given their time to attend the meetings throughout the winter even though it meant long wintry drives.

Here's hoping you are all well and we will be seeing you at meetings and social events.

### *Shipmate of the Year.*

In this, very special year, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, and our own 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of our Commissioning, we would like to reinstate the presentation of a Shipmate of the Year Award.

To enable us to make sure that it is given to a deserving Shipmate, we are asking you to fill out the name of the person you feel is the right one to get the award, on the enclosed form. Bear in mind the criteria that is laid out in the form before you write down your candidate's name, and don't just put down a name that you feel would deserve this honour.

*Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.*

### *Membership Report.*

Shipmates, as this edition went to the printers, we had the following numbers.

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Life      | 6         |
| Full      | 68        |
| Associate | <u>17</u> |
| Total     | <u>91</u> |

I am sad to report that 7 Full Members from last year failed to renew for this year. I have sent out 2 reminders to these Shipmates, but so far I have received no response.

*Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.*

## Scribes Scribbles

By S/M Megs Shellard  
(Acting Secretary)

Hello Shipmates,

I don't know where the time goes but we are half way through March already. I only wish the weather would cooperate and let us know that Spring really is on its way. These drastic changes in temperatures we have been experiencing lately are not very conducive to good health. The last few days the weather has been really good with lots of sun, but today they are promising snow, *again*, this evening. As I heard on the Radio we are getting there but it is 2 steps forward and 1 step back.

Chris and I had to attend a funeral of a good friend of ours the other week, S/M Ron Hammett, and it makes us realize how fragile our lives are. We have been told that once we reach 65 we will have reached "The Golden Years". I wonder whoever thought up that one. Granted we do not have to follow the 9 to 5 grind but we certainly have to contend with aches and pains in places we did not know even existed when we were younger. The only advantage I can see is that we can do what we want when we want.

Let's hope that this year will keep us all reasonably healthy with not too many aches and pains.

At the last Executive Committee meeting it was so pleasant to hear that we had no-one in sick bay and only walking wounded, most of who are on the way to recovery.

The other day Chris and I attended the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations for Jean Brodie and it was great to see her again, albeit in a wheel chair. She was looking remarkably well and I know that she appreciates all the good wishes she receives from members.

I am looking forward to the RMA Pub Night that is taking place on April 16<sup>th</sup> as they always put on a good show and rumour has it that we are in for some excellent entertainment.

On the subject of my present position of Acting Secretary, I have enjoyed doing the job for the time being, but I really feel that it should be done by someone who was actually in "The Andrew". (Now I wonder where that name came from?) There is so much Naval jargon that is banded around that it is difficult for someone like me to understand it all and I keep on having to ask for explanations. After all I am only a recent Naval wife!

## Vice Chairman's Chat

By Shipmate Norrie Millen

Hi! Shipmates,

Ever have a "Senior's Moment"? I am sure you all have. Mine are getting more and more frequent and evolving into one long moment. When Shipmate Chris prompted me to submit my article for this issue, I had a brilliant idea for an interesting article. It was so inspiring and thought provoking that I promptly forgot it!

So what do I write about? I am not normally at a loss for words, so I think I will touch base on a couple of topics that may stimulate some argument and conversation. Before I do let me share with you the words that Julie Andrews sang to commemorate her 69th birthday!

Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favorite Things" from the legendary movie "Sound Of Music." However, the lyrics of the song were deliberately changed for the entertainment of her "blue hair" audience. Here are the lyrics she recited:

*Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in string, These are a few  
of my favourite things.  
Cadillac's and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favorite things.  
When the pipes leak,  
When the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favorite things, And then I don't  
feel so bad.  
Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favorite things.  
Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',  
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favorite things.  
When the joints ache,  
When the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had,  
And then I don't feel so bad.*

Certainly sums it up for a lot of us!

The BBC are running a series and are looking for WWII stories, you can check out the details at:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2/>

*Vice Chairman's Chat continued from page 3.*

To close and a subject which has really gotten under my skin. The Malaysian government has decided to award a medal for all who served in Malay and the Borneo confrontations between 1948-66. The Australian & New Zealand's governments have accepted on behalf of all their armed forces who served there, however in UK, Tony Blair has snubbed the idea and will not allow British servicemen to wear the medal, even though it will cost the British taxpayer nothing. Go figure, see details of medal at:

<http://www.nmbva.co.uk/>

To turn down the medal to me is sheer bloody rudeness by the British Prime Minister and his government.

*The way I see it anyway*

## **Social Director's Report**

*By S/M Ed Koski*

Hi Shipmates:

The Planning Committee for the Trafalgar night dinner on Friday October 21st is hard at it coming up with ideas to make this event a memorable one. Tickets are now on sale at \$50.00 each.

To eliminate a "ticket ordered" and "not paid for" scenario this time around, we have suggested a down payment that would cover the cost of the meal then smaller monthly payments which could be paid during the summer for the amounts owing.

We have welcomed the offer from the Royal Marines Association and found two Royals who say they are available to help as required.

We have yet to contact Corporate and individual Donors to assist financially in our endeavours to make this Dinner a memorable one.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 22 at Woodbine / Mortimore is planning a Bus Trip to Orillia on Saturday May 7, probably leaving there at about 8:30-9:30 AM and leaving Orillia at 4:00 PM. The theme for this event is actually a 3 day affair to celebrate the "D Day Dodgers". The exact time of departure depends on the time of the Parade. Cost of the bus is \$10.00/person. I have left a message at the Legion for them to contact me for particulars and then I will order the bus accordingly. Please contact me at my home - 416-285-6939 if interested. (I would like to get the bus to stop at the Yonge/Sheppard Subway also).

## **Sea Facts.**

Here are some facts that are not common knowledge to the average person in the street.

The Royal Navy operates 103 ships and submarines, 236 aircraft and a Commando Brigade. Total strength at July 1, 2004 was 40,510 personnel. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary operates 18 ships.

RN aircraft conduct more than 500 search & rescue operations a year over 10,500 miles of UK coastline.

The Fishery Protection Squadron – HMS Tyne, Mersey and Severn – fulfill a contract for Defra by patrolling 900 days each year around the UK.

80% of world trade is by sea and there are 232 million container movements globally a year. In 2002, 542 million tonnes of freight traffic passed through 52 UK ports. (Air freight was about 2 million tonnes)

In 2002/03, total UK defence expenditure was £26.911 billion – or 2.4% of GDP. We spent 5.6% of GDP on health, 10.9% on social security and 5.2% on education. Other nations percentage of GDP spending on defence included: France 2.5%, Germany 1.5%, USA 3.4%. Spending on UK defence equated to about £16,500 per person. This compares with £22,000 for the USA, £16,650 for France and £16,000 for Germany.

In 2001/02, UK turnover in building and repairing warships, submarines, fishing boats, drilling platforms, pleasure and sporting boats was £2.5 billion. Of this, the Ministry of Defence spent £1.18 billion of their £1.84 billion on building and repairing ships.

Department for Transport statistics show that the UK merchant fleet is still growing. There are approximately 27,000 British merchant seafarers. The merchant fleet is the second largest in the European Community (after Greece) and 12<sup>th</sup> in the world. At the end of the fiscal year 2003/04, UK owners possessed 637 ships – which 403 were registered in the UK.

*All this information is included in the current Royal Navy Calendar for 2005, and was sent to me by Shipmate Terry Sullivan. Thanks Terry.*

### **Social Director's Report continued.**

The Wrens are organizing a bus for the H.M.C.S. Athabaskan Memorial Service that is being held at H.M.C.S. Star in Hamilton for Sunday April 24, 2005. If you are interested, please contact Margaret Haliburton at 416-594-3359.



## WELFARE REPORT.

By S/M Bill Powell.

Hi Shipmates,

I am very pleased to report that at this time there is no-one in Sick Bay. However, there are quite a few

Shipmates who come under the "Walking Wounded" category. They are: Jorgen Olsen, Rob Roy and Jean Brodie who continue in their slow recovery from strokes. Terry Heaps is having a bout of chemo therapy, and Judy Barber and Jean Kemp are recovering from broken bones. John Barrett is continuing with his dialysis and Charlie McKay, who underwent two operations back last October has recently had a cat-scan for further investigations.

Again, if you know of anyone who is ill or in hospital, please let me, or one of our Executive members know, and we will make sure that he or she is sent a card to let them know that we are here to help in anyway we can. Stay Healthy!

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## News from the U.K.

There was a report published in the Daily Telegraph in February that gay and lesbian personnel in the armed forces will be allowed to live in married quarters, or family quarters as they put it, provided their relationship is registered under the New Civil Partnership Act. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence stated that this new policy would come into effect in the autumn of this year.

Anton Hanney, a spokesman for the Navy, said: "We are obliged to give equal treatment to gay and lesbian partnerships under these terms. They already have equal pension rights." However, he stressed that the Navy's no-sex policy would remain on ships, at naval bases and in barracks.

You can imagine that this new ruling has caused some concern in some quarters, not least of which has been voiced by retired naval personnel around the world.

One item that appeared in an unknown newspaper states: - "When asked why he was resigning his commission the Lieutenant replied, "When my great grandfather was in the Navy homosexuals were hung. In my grandfather's day they were dishonourably discharged. During my father's time homosexuality was ignored. I am getting out before it becomes compulsory." Another headline screamed, "It's hearts of oak we need, not cries of 'Hello Sailor!'"

You can make up your own mind, I just report these stories. Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.

## Dates for your Diary.

### 2005

May 1st

Battle of the Atlantic Parade. Details TBA.

May 6<sup>th</sup>

Social Meeting at the Naval Club.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

General Business Meeting at the Naval Club

July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Social Meeting at the Naval Club.

(Please note that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the Month)

July 30<sup>th</sup> Possible date for our picnic. Details TBA.

August 5<sup>th</sup>.

General Business Meeting at the Naval Club.

August 20<sup>th</sup>

Warrior's Day Parade in Toronto.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Social Meeting at the Naval Club.

October 7<sup>th</sup>

General Business Meeting at the Naval Club.

October 21<sup>st</sup>

200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar Dinner

November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Social meeting at the Naval Club.

November 11<sup>th</sup>.

1300. Remembrance Day Service at the Naval Club.

November 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.

Remembrance Weekend in Cobourg.

On the Saturday, those who come down for the weekend usually get together in a local pub for an evening meal and a drink or two.

On Sunday, the day starts off with a parade from behind Victoria Hall to the Cenotaph at 0930. After the service at the Cenotaph, we march to St Peter's Church where a service of Remembrance takes place. This is followed by a brunch at a local pub for those who wish to join us for friendship and comradeship.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Christmas Party at the Naval Club.

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## *New Members.*

At our March Meeting we welcomed two new Shipmates to our Branch. They are, S/M's Ken Goodhind and Doug Stuart.

Ken served in the Royal Navy, with Combined Ops during the war, and is also a member of the Naval Club. Doug served in the Canadian Navy, and he is also a member of the Naval Club, where he is currently acting as Master at Arms.

*Welcome aboard Shipmates.*

### *Naval Obituaries.*

*With thanks to the Daily Telegraph.*

The Reverend Donald Peyton Jones, who died on December 23<sup>rd</sup> aged 90, was a founder of the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service before he became a clergyman, emanating a salty and down-to-earth belief in the Almighty.

As vicar of the North Devon fishing village of Appledore he wore a green Marines beret, white cassock and sandals. He liked to do his parish visiting on horseback, often leaving hoof prints in gardens, and allowed his two cream labradors to enter his church immediately before and after services. He was also an enthusiastic user of pubs where, he used to say, there was often more fellowship and more joy than in church. "A pub is a sort of confessional," he claimed. "People communicate freely after a few drinks; they tell you their personal problems."

"PJ" as he liked to be called advocated burial at sea, church blessings for divorcees and christening conducted in lighthouses. When a woman told him that the only thing she remembered about her marriage was that the vicar wore sandals, he remarked that "it couldn't have been much of a marriage".

He was born in Australia into a naval family and was commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1933, where he specialized in gunnery. At the outbreak of war he was serving in the anti-aircraft cruiser HMS Coventry where he won a DSC during the evacuation of Tobruk. Coventry was bombed and set on fire during that action and had to be scuttled. He also served in HMS Kent and was a beachmaster on Sword Beach on D Day.

After the war he took over command of the Small Raids Wing from the Cockleshell Commander, "Blondie" Haslar, which eventually became the SBS.

When a German pilot asked him when he decided to become a priest, he replied, "When you were bombing me!"

He left the Marines in 1959 as a Major and trained for the ministry at St Boniface College in Warminster. He served as curate in Wythcombe and then in Salcombe Regis.

When he retired from the ministry he moved with his large family to Cawsand where he devoted himself to the Missions to Seamen.

Despite losing his wife and two of his children and also having both legs amputated, he would drive his wheelchair down to the local pub and attend reunions of his old mates before returning to the care of the nuns at Nazareth House.

Commander Edward Stanley, who died on December 3<sup>rd</sup> aged 89, was a submarine ace who served in the "Fighting Tenth" squadron in the Mediterranean during the war, where he was awarded a DSO and a DSC.

He was born in Rochester, when his father was captain of the destroyer *Staunch* in the Mediterranean. He joined the Navy at Dartmouth in 1929 as a cadet. He served his midshipman's time in HMS *Malaya* and from 1933 – 1935 he served in the cruisers *Hawkins* and *Emerald* in Ceylon.

He volunteered for submarines in 1937, and his first tour of duty was in *Rorqual*, a mine laying submarine stationed in Colombo which was on passage to the Far East.

At the outbreak of war he was appointed as First Lieutenant of *Regent* which at that time was undergoing a refit in Hong Kong. When she eventually came out of refit she sailed for the eastern Med, but he missed her first patrol because of illness.

In September 1940, *Regent* had a narrow escape when she surfaced in rough weather while attacking units of the Italian fleet. She dived hurriedly and in so doing almost went beyond her safe diving depth, but was brought under control just in time. The boat suffered several crushed bulkheads.

From 1942 – 1943 he did 9 patrols in command of *P37* and was credited with sinking 15,000 tons of shipping with a possible further 10,000 tons during special operations and gun actions. After these patrols he was rested and spent some time at HMS *Royal Arthur* helping to train young officers.

After this he was given command of *Taciturn* in the Far East, where at the end of the war he was recommended for a bar to his DSC, but he persuaded the authorities to award DSM's to five of his Petty Officers instead. He was mentioned in dispatches.

After the war he held several staff jobs and spent a happy commission as Commander of the cruiser *Bermuda* before retiring at his own request.

In retirement he joined the fertilizer company *Fisons* where he spent 23 years as a "middle" manager.

His wife, Kay Trickett, a former nurse whom he had met in Hong Kong while he was standing by *Regent* in 1940, died in 1991, and he is survived by a son and two daughters

*"COOKS TO THE GALLEY".*

Many of you will have visited the Royal Naval Base in Singapore, and can remember those street vendors who used to cook up some really tasty food in a wok over a charcoal fire just outside the dockyard gates. One of those tasty meals came under the name of "Nasi Goreng", and my wife Megs came upon this recipe in one of her cook books for this very tasty dish.

**Ingredients:**

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 oz. chopped onion.           | 1 tbsp soya sauce           |
| 1 clove garlic – crushed.      | 1 lb cold roast pork, diced |
| 2 oz. butter.                  | ½ lb peas.                  |
| 8 oz. (1 cup) long grain rice. | 1 egg.                      |
| ½ tsp coriander powder.        | 2 tbsp water.               |
| ½ tsp caraway seeds.           | Salt & pepper.              |
| ½ tsp chili powder.            |                             |
| 1 tsp curry powder.            |                             |

**Method:**

Fry the onion & garlic in the butter until soft but not coloured. Cook the rice in boiling, salted water until cooked but still firm (about 12 minutes). Drain and rinse under cold water. Stir the spices and soy sauce into the onion and cook for 1 – 2 minutes. Stir in the meat, heat thoroughly; then add the cooked rice, blending all the ingredients. When the meat and rice are thoroughly heated, add the peas.

Break the egg into a bowl, whisk lightly, add 2 tbsp water and seasoning. Lightly grease a frying pan and pour in the omelette mixture. When set turn it out onto a cutting board and cut into strips.

Turn the Nasi Goreng out into a dish and decorate with the sliced omelette. Garnish with tomato wedges.

Now, I am sure that those street vendors never went to so much trouble to prepare their meals, and I am not exactly sure if this will even compare with what they used to serve, but, give it a try, who knows you might even like the result.

*Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.*

*Crossed the Bar.*

Shipmate Ron Hammett crossed the bar on Tuesday, March 1st, he was 76 years old.

Ron joined the Navy in October 1945 and served as a Naval Airman. He served in Royal Arthur, Gosling, Vulture and Daedalus, and left the Navy in December 1947.

He joined the RNA in 1986, and was a regular attendee until he moved to Milford, which is just south of Picton in Prince Edward County, where he was involved with the Legion.

Our condolences go out to his wife Cheryl and their family.

**We will Remember Him.****NAVAL NEWS.**

S/M Irene Walker, who recently moved down to Halifax, sent me an article from the Halifax Chronicle Herald, showing a picture of HMS Albion, the RN's newest amphibious assault ship entering Halifax harbour. She was over in Canadian waters for winter weather trials, and to quote her Captain, Keith Winstanley, "A great number of the ship's company will never have been in anything like the temperatures you are used to in Halifax".

To quote the paper; "Upon the ship's arrival Thursday, the crew of 370 bundled up in heavy green winter jackets, gloves, face masks and wool toques to ward off the bitterly cold wind, mixed with wet snow that welcomed them".

I wonder what those poor guys who served in the Russian convoys would think about this lot? I know that when I was up off Iceland on fishery protection patrol in 1960, all we had were duffel coats, if you were lucky, or submarine sweaters with oilskins and seaboots on your feet. You still had to wear that naval hat!

The one compensation we had was if we did a ship to trawler transfer, when the man in the life raft, that we used to transfer mail etc, wore an immersion suit, just in case he fell into the sea.

*Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard*

**BURIAL OF ASHES AT SEA.**

Recently I have been asked if I know of the procedure that you must go through if you wish to have a loved one's ashes scattered at sea. I am glad to say that my inquiries were successful and I now have the information should you wish to go this way.

I have the contacts names and addresses for both here in Canada, on both east and west coasts, and in the UK.

On the East Coast, the service is out of Halifax, and on the West Coast it is out of Esquimalt. In the UK, the service is usually held on a Wednesday out of Portsmouth.

If you would like this information for future consideration, please contact me, either by mail, or email and I will forward the information on to you. Of course, a stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

I would like to thank S/M Norrie Millen for his assistance in getting me the information for Canada, and S/M Tony Sattin of RNA HQ for the UK information.

*Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.*

APRIL BIRTHDAY BOYS & GIRLS

Don Ashfield, Jessie Burgess, Betty Butler, Mike Cubitt, Andrew Dunlop, Ken Gray, John Hilferty, Jean Kemp, Jack Pickles, Megs Shellard and Neil Whittle.

MAY BIRTHDAY BOYS & GIRLS

Donna Barrett, Arthur Collins, Ron Douglas, John Parker, Ernie Polisenio and David Seivewright.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL!****AMOUROUS NELSON?**

An article sent to me from S/M Irene Walker states that some of Admiral Nelson's notes were too racy for those staid Victorians.

It appears that several of his personal letters to Lady Emma Hamilton were omitted when his collected letters began to be published in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One letter, written in 1803, when Nelson was in the Mediterranean states, "You are ever with me in my soul, your resemblance is never absent from my mind, and my own dearest Emma, I hope very soon that I shall embrace the substantial part of you instead of the ideal: that will I am sure give us both real pleasure and exquisite happiness".

Later he entreats her, "only continue to love me as affectionately as I do you and we must then be the happiest couple in the world".

This letter was never published as it was considered quite raunchy for the time.

By today's standard, it seems quite tame! What do you think?

*Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard with thanks to Irene Walker.*

**RMA PUB NIGHT  
April 16<sup>th</sup> 2005.**

The Royal Marines Association will be holding their annual Pub Night at the Naval Club of Toronto on the date listed above.

Tickets are \$16.00 per person.

For more information and tickets, please call Mike Cubitt at 416-491-6534.

Come on down and enjoy good company and good food and entertainment.

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