

# Y Bwletin



**Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press**  
**Gaeaf 2016 - Winter 2016**

[www.ottawawelsh.com](http://www.ottawawelsh.com)

Editor / Golygydd: Marilyn E. Jenkins

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## **Contents**

Upcoming Events	p. 2
Ontario Welsh Festival	p. 3-4
Welsh Culture	p. 5-8
History & Past Events	p. 8-10
Luncheon Registration	p. 11
Membership Form	p. 12

**Editor's comment:** Many thanks to contributors to this edition of *Y Bwletin*. If you have news or contributions to make, please contact:

[marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca)

Y Gymdeithas ar y We / The Society on the Net:

[www.ottawawelsh.com](http://www.ottawawelsh.com)



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

## LOCAL EVENTS

**GWLEDD DYDD GWYL DEWI /  
ST. DAVID'S DAY BANQUET**

We are very fortunate to again have the pleasure of holding our Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant/St. David's Day luncheon banquet in the gracious surroundings of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. The easy access, excellent parking, welcoming reception rooms and delicious food make this an ideal venue for our event.

Please join us to honour our patron saint while enjoying good fellowship and excellent food. Our guest speaker this year is OWS member Pawl Birt, long-time Professor of Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa and a recognized expert on the Welsh colony (Y Wladfa) in Patagonia.

We are really delighted to welcome **Merched Dewi** and their director, Betty Cullingworth, all the way from Toronto, who will delight and entertain us with a selection of Welsh songs. *Merched Dewi* ("St. David's Ladies") is a group that sings a wide range of traditional and modern Welsh music **yn Gymraeg** ("in Welsh"). Please come and show them how much we appreciate them making the effort to come here!

**Time:** Reception 11:30 am - 12:20 pm  
Lunch Banquet 12:30 pm

**Venue:** The Royal Ottawa Golf Club  
1405 Aylmer Road, Gatineau, Quebec, J9H 7L2

**Menu:** This year we are offering a choice of herb-crusted chicken or portabello stack.

**Cost:** **Early bird** tickets \$49 each,  
deadline **February 19, 2016**

**Dress code:** Business casual - no jeans or cargo pants.

Please complete the reservation form at the end of this newsletter and return to Marilyn Jenkins before February 19, 2016 to benefit from the early bird price and preferred seating.

All reservations must be received by March 3, 2016.

- Alison Lawson

**ST. DAVID'S DAY GYMANFA GANU**

We are pleased that Betty Cullingworth of Dewi Sant Church in Toronto will be serving as our Gymanfa director this year. Betty is the beloved director of the Merched Dewi choir and a long-time contributor, in many capacities to the Ontario Welsh Festival events.

The irrepressible Alan Thomas will once again be accompanying the singing on the organ and special music will be provided by OWS members.

The event will be held on March 6 at 3:00 p.m., followed by the usual Te bach. Members are asked to bring their hymnals. For those who do not own hymnals, music will be provided.

We suggest that members also invite friends and neighbours to this most Welsh of events! All are welcome to come and sing or just sit and enjoy the four-part harmonies. We look forward to a full sanctuary at Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Merched Dewi

*If you look carefully, you will notice several members of the OWS in the choir.*

- Marilyn Jenkins

**ST. DAVID'S DAY RECEPTION**

There will be a reception held at the British High Commission on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Attendees must be on the list to get in due to security concerns at the BHC. Please inform us of your intention to attend by contacting, after January 31:

[w.wynne-jones@sympatico.ca](mailto:w.wynne-jones@sympatico.ca)

## ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL

**GŴYL GYMREIG ONTARIO**  
**ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL**  
**APRIL 22-24**

Only three short months to go!

The Ontario Welsh Festival will be an opportunity for us all to bask in our proud Welsh heritage. Make no mistake – we intend to let the whole city know that the Welsh community is alive and well in their midst. There are plans afoot to ask the city to designate the weekend as a Welsh Weekend and the Welsh flag, Y Ddraig Goch, will fly proudly from the Lord Elgin's flag-pole for the weekend.

Arrangements are well in hand with a schedule packed with wonderful events – please see the **Schedule at a Glance** below. Among these exciting events, your registration for the Festival will allow you to attend the Daffodil Tea, Noson Lawen, Afterglows, Annual General Meeting, Awr y Plant, Seminars and Gymanfa sessions. The Noson Lawen promises to be extra special with the Masters of Ceremony being the Three Welsh Tenors – not to be missed!

For the Art Gallery Tour, Gold Award Banquet, Gala Concert and Gymanfa lunch separate tickets must be purchased; it is not essential to register. But if you purchase your Concert tickets as a registrant, you will be eligible for preferred seating. Concert tickets are already available from Myfanwy Davies – just contact her at 613-526-3019 or [myfanwy57@sympatico.ca](mailto:myfanwy57@sympatico.ca).

Better still, by registering, you will be helping the Ontario Welsh Festival organisation to cover its costs and remain viable in future years.

Registration forms will be coming out at the end of this month. If you have attended a Festival in the past, you will receive a registration form in the mail. Otherwise, it will be available on line or you can get one from Alison Lawson by contacting her at 613-725-2704 or at [alisonlawson@rogers.com](mailto:alisonlawson@rogers.com).

The two Gymanfa sessions are also open to all (free will offering).

For non-registrants there will be some tickets available to attend the Noson Lawen for \$15.

The hotel is offering a special Festival rate of \$147 per night. Why not treat yourselves to a pleasant weekend. Just phone them at 613-235-3333, mentioning you are with the Ontario Welsh Festival, to reserve a room.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me for any additional information you need. I'll be in touch a little closer to the date with any more news!

- Alison Lawson (on behalf of the Ontario Welsh Festival committee)

P.S. There is still time to make a donation to the Three Tenors Fund.

### **Schedule at a Glance**

#### **Friday, April 22, 2016**

10:30 a.m. Tour of National Gallery of Canada with special emphasis on paintings with Welsh connections.

2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Registration/Cofrestru Hotel Lobby

2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Marketplace MacDonald Room.

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Daffodil Tea/Tê Daffodil Hotel Lobby

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Reception for sponsors and the Three Welsh Tenors at Grill 41

7:30 p.m. **Noson Lawen** under the direction of The Three Tenors at First Baptist Church

10:00 p.m. Afterglow (Social Time) / Amser

Cymdeithasu at the Pearson Room in the Lord Elgin Hotel

#### **Saturday, April 23, 2016**

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration/Cofrestru. Hotel Lobby

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Marketplace MacDonald Room

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Annual General Meeting/ Cyfarfod Blynyddol. Lady Elgin Room

Continued on next page

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Children's Hour/Awr y Plant. Lady Elgin Room  
 1:00 p.m. Gold Award Celebration Banquet/Y Wledd Gwobr Aur. Pearson Room in the Lord Elgin Hotel  
 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Seminar: Introduction to the Celtic Harp. Lady Elgin Room  
 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Seminar: 150th Anniversary of the Welsh in Patagonia, Lady Elgin Room  
 7.30 p.m. **Concert/Cyngerdd** with Côrddydd choir from Cardiff and the Three Welsh Tenors. Dominion-Chalmers United Church  
 10:00 p.m. Afterglow (Social Time)/Amser Cymdeithasu. Pearson Room in the Lord Elgin Hotel

### Sunday, April 24, 2016

10.30 a.m. – 12.00. Gymanfa Ganu. Dominion-Chalmers United Church  
 12.00. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch. Dominion-Chalmers United Church  
 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Gymanfa Ganu. Dominion-Chalmers United Church

- Alison Lawson



Côrddydd



The Three Welsh Tenors

### **The Ontario Welsh Festival: Awr Y Plant (Children's Hour)**

The Ontario Welsh Festival is coming to Ottawa and we are looking for some children and young teenagers who would like to participate in the Children's Hour. The event is meant to be fun, not stressful. Participants are invited to sing, play an instrument, dance, recite a poem or even tell a few jokes.

There may be a short dramatic presentation for any children who wish to participate.

More details to follow.

Date: Saturday April 23

Venue: The Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa.

Time: 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

If you know any children who would like to be part of this event, please contact:

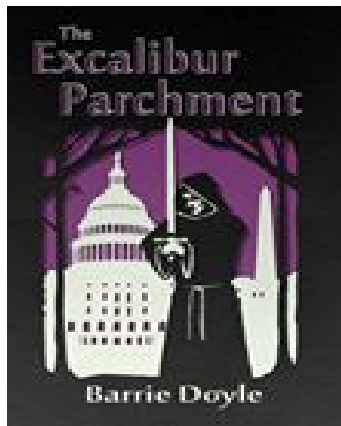
Gaye Brittle at 613-828-7857 or email to: [rgbrittle@hotmail.com](mailto:rgbrittle@hotmail.com)

### **GOLD AWARD WINNER FOR 2016 ANNOUNCED**

We are delighted to announce that our own Roy Morris has been selected to receive the Gold Award for this year. A bio and more details will be uploaded to the website and Facebook in the coming weeks.

Congratulations, Roy! And thank you for your many contributions to the OWS and the Ontario Welsh Festival.

## WELSH CULTURE



Wales may indeed be a land of mystery, castles, music and legend but it is also rarely found as the setting for a modern day suspense thriller!

Welsh-born and raised Canadian Barrie Doyle is a writer who brings the magic of Wales to life in his newly released novel ***The Excalibur Parchment***.

The nation—particularly the south and its quiet valleys—takes centre stage in two different centuries as forces clash to solve a mystery that has its genesis in the mists of the dark ages. Was there really a King Arthur and does his sword Excalibur still exist today and hold legendary magical power? Will Excalibur be an icon for the terrorist reincarnation of the ancient Druids as they seek to seize power in the UK, France and even the United States? Taking their place at centre stage in the book are the valleys themselves and especially Careg Cennan Castle and Coity Castle.

From the intrigues and battles of 14<sup>th</sup> century Wales to the modern day valleys, Wales and its inhabitants are a critical feature in the book which is the first in a trilogy *The Oak Grove Conspiracies*. Book Two, *The Lucifer Scroll*, will be published in Spring 2016.

Author Barrie Doyle was born in Maesteg, Wales and lived in Washington, Los Angeles and Philadelphia as a journalist. He is an award winning communicator and has also lived in Toronto, Hamilton, and Niagara. He is an author and speaker as well as a recognized public relations consultant and professor of media studies at Humber College in Toronto.

He was a regular guest and news analyst on the weekly public affairs programme *Behind the Story* (CTS Television Network) and has done a number of interviews on various radio and TV shows this year about the book. He has also been a guest speaker for various groups including book clubs, schools and seniors.

***The Excalibur Parchment*** is a unique and provocative look at the Welsh people and Barrie provides an interesting, entertaining and informative presentation about the nation as well as the book.

To schedule Barrie for a presentation to your organization or club, simply contact him at 705-209-3137 or email [excaliburparchment@gmail.com](mailto:excaliburparchment@gmail.com). Full bio and further information at [www.excaliburparchment.com](http://www.excaliburparchment.com).

Follow him on Twitter



or

FaceBook



*Note: The information in this article comes directly from the author*

**OWS AND THE KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The Ottawa Welsh Society has been a proud supporter of the Kiwanis Music Festival since its inception. The Ottawa Welsh Society Award of \$300, one of the more generous awards, was presented to Evan Welchner in 2015, in the Vocal Senior/Open Class.

Evan, a student at Algonquin College writes,  
"I have had a love for theatre, especially musical theatre, for as long as I can remember.

I can't thank you enough for helping to give me the opportunity to pursue my dreams like this. Again, thanks so much".

In previous years, we have invited winners to perform at an OWS event and it is hoped that this can be arranged for future winners of the Ottawa Welsh Society Award.

- Gaye Brittle

**WELSH PROGRAMMING ONLINE**

The following letter was received by the Society.

We are contacting you as a Welsh interest society who may be interested to know about S4C's programmes - the only Welsh language TV channel in the world.

More S4C programmes than ever before are now available to watch from outside the UK on the channel's website [s4c.cymru](http://s4c.cymru)

We're working to increase the amount of programmes available internationally, and aim to provide a varied choice of programmes with English subtitles available on most.

To receive the latest news about the S4C programmes available to you, we would like to invite you and members of your society to sign up to receive S4C's international email newsletter.

To receive our regular newsletter, especially for viewers outside the UK, send us your email address via the subscription form on the [s4c.cymru/international](http://s4c.cymru/international) website.

We're also keen to hear from you about the type of programmes you'd like to see. You're welcome to contact the S4C Viewers' Hotline on [hotline@s4c.cymru](mailto:hotline@s4c.cymru) with your ideas, comments or questions about S4C.

Regards  
Ian Jones  
S4C Chief Executive  
Parc Ty Glas Llanisien Llanishen  
Caerdydd Cardiff Cymru  
Wales CF14 5DU  
Ffôn Phone +44(0)29 2074 7444  
Eboest Email [s4c@s4c.cymru](mailto:s4c@s4c.cymru)  
Gwefan Website [s4c.cymru](http://s4c.cymru)  
Awdurdod S4C The Welsh Fourth Channel Authority

*Note: This letter was received in both English and Welsh, but technical difficulties and space considerations led to the decision to include only the English. We offer our apologies to the Welsh speakers in the OWS.*

**UPCOMING CONCERTS****Songs of the Misty Isles**

**Music & Poetry from Wales, Brittany, Scotland and Ireland**

February 28, 2016 at 2 p.m.

St. Andrew's U.C. Pakenham

Mary Muckle, harp

Marilyn Jenkins, soprano

**The Carpenters of Song**

**Music & Poetry of Wales, Brittany, Scotland and Ireland**

April 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Anglican Church on Somerset Avenue

Admission by donation

Mary Muckle, harp

Marilyn Jenkins, soprano

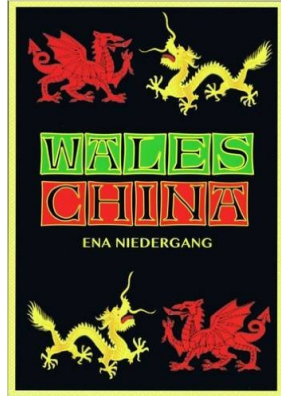
Cantorion Cerdd Dant

**Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir:**

Our annual concert will be at the church on **Saturday May 14th at 3pm** with Karen Donnelly, principal trumpet of the NAC orchestra, as our guest soloist.

Tickets will be \$10, available in advance (at the OWS March events) or at the door.  
Free for school students.

### BOOK REVIEW: "WALES CHINA 250 YEARS OF HISTORY"



Wales China **250 YEARS OF HISTORY** highlights the historical links between two ancient nations and cultures.

The author, **Ena Niedergang**, sets out to recognize the remarkable people and events that have bound these two nations together. This rich history is both varied and, in many cases, has proved to be significant to the evolution of the 'Dragon Nations'. Such a contribution towards this history included that made by missionaries, the military, coalminers, governors, traders, a clockmaker and on and on. The links with China are amazing. Wales and China. **'WALES CHINA 250 YEARS OF HISTORY'** sets out to chronicle the unique history and contribution made by two ancient and fascinating nations.

'The book also takes us into the late 20th century and even to the present day, to chronicle the many contacts between modern China and Wales, many Chinese people living in Wales, and the movement to sustain friendship, trade and cultural or academic exchanges between the two countries.

- Prof. Prys Morgan, Swansea

Ena has highlighted the stories of those historical figures and events that not simply retell what had happened, but also to introduce various Chinese cultures to western readers in the style of 'when Wales and China meet with each other'. She has also included examples of the contribution made by Chinese people who have come to make Wales their home.

'Wales China 250 Years of History' is testament to a unique relationship that has existed between two ancient nations over the centuries.'

- Dr. Qiang Wang

*Note: The above comments were taken from a flyer sent by Ying Hua Books. For information on ordering, please contact the web site.*

info.yinghuabooks@gmail.com

### PATAGONIA 2015

Here are two documentaries about Patagonia from S4C to enjoy. Thanks to Tim Mark, who recommends them highly, for bringing these to our attention.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5x7B9Algyis>

[http://www.s4c.cymru/clic/c\\_level2.shtml?programme\\_id=525273224](http://www.s4c.cymru/clic/c_level2.shtml?programme_id=525273224)

Hint: The button bottom right will give you English subtitles!

## HISTORY

## ONCE UPON A TIME IN WALES: BEING WELSH

Researching family history I learned that The Three Bells Hotel in Richard Llewellyn's novel *How Green Was My Valley* is said to have been based on the Six Bells Hotel in Gylfach Goch, Glamorgan. My paternal great grandfather, Charles Austin, was the publican there from 1923 to 1927: he died there.



Charles Austin



Six Bells Hotel

That Gilfach Goch was Llewellyn's muse is more certain: he used the name of Christmas Evans, who originally sank the Britannia Mine, as the name of the colliery owner in the novel.



Last 2 collieries in Gilfach Goch

As the photo shows the mine was the centre of the village.



Today the Six Bells is a ruin above a village that has turned the slag heaps to parkland and sports fields.

## Boyo, you must read this book, isn't it?

Often I had heard *How Green Was My Valley* lauded as a book every Welsh teenager should read to understand just what it meant to be Welsh. I remember particularly one such mention when we had laughed at the songs of Max Boyce. Someone asked for *Duw it's Hard*. The line that stays with me is 'The pithead bath's a supermarket now.' The chorus sums it up:

*They came down here from England  
Because our output's low.  
Briefcases full of bank clerks  
That had never been below.  
And they'll close the valley's oldest mine  
Pretending that they're sad.  
But don't you worry, Butty bach,  
We're really very glad.*

Finding a possible family connection with the hotel I thought it time to read Llewellyn's novel. It's a long book with small type so it became a reading project!

- Christopher Smart

*Note: Due to space considerations, Chris' article has been serialized. The full article will appear on the web site. The next installment will appear in the Spring Bwletin.*

### CAROL SERVICE December 13, 2015

The traditional pre-Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held in the afternoon of 13 December, a balmy day, perhaps more suited to outdoor pursuits than sitting or singing in church and a day on which over seventy members and friends of the OWS opted for sitting and singing and, I think it fair to say, did not regret their decision. The organist for the Service was our very own Alan Thomas and former OWS President Lezlie Wood graciously served as officiant, leading the Call to Worship, the Offering and the Benediction. There were four Bible readings in Welsh, four in English and one in French. The popular carols were sung with gusto and Côr Alltudion Westminster sang two Welsh carols; *O Tyred Di, Emaniwel* in an arrangement by Alan Thomas and *Y Newydd Hyfryd*. Thanks to Bob Price for organizing the choir and to Alan for his rehearsal expertise. The service was followed by a Te bach, organized and executed by Lezlie Wood and Gaye Brittle, with assistance. The generous offering was divided between the Society and Westminster Presbyterian Church. We owe a big thank you to all who contributed to the Service in any way.

- John Price



Wendy Wynne-Jones reading from St Luke's Gospel.  
Photo: Gwyneth Price

### MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Blwyddyn newydd dda i bawb - Happy New Year to All!

As the new calendar year begins, we at the OWS are wrapping up another year of successful activities and planning for next year. The end of one year means the beginning of a new membership year. A few years ago, the executive decided to facilitate the process by setting the membership year from March to February. This means that renewals are on the horizon!

Over the past few years the number of paid members has decreased significantly. Whether this is due to natural attrition, inattention or forgetfulness - it has an impact upon the ability of your executive to act on your behalf. The monies collected as dues go in large part to cover society costs such as the insurance that we are required to carry in the case of accident at one of our events. Other expenses include: accounting fees, record keeping materials, postage, the support of other agency activities via scholarships (Kiwanis, Ottawa U student) or placement of ads in Society-related publications (e.g. National Eisteddfodau program). This is by no means an exhaustive list, but it will give you a better appreciation of the importance of your fees to the Society's activities.

As membership clerk, I would like to thank all our members for their continued support and look forward to the year ahead. We hope to see you all at our next event!

- Sian W. Jones

### UPCOMING EVENTS

St. David's Day Reception	March 1	5:30 p.m.
St. David's Day Luncheon	March 5	11:30 a.m.
St. David's Day Gymanfa	March 6	3:00 p.m.
Songs of the Misty Isles (Pakenham)	Feb. 28	2:00 p.m.
The Carpenters of Song (St. Luke's Anglican)	April 17	7:30 p.m.
Westminster Choir Concert	May 14	3:00 p.m.
OWS AGM	May 31	TBA



**Noson lawen 2015**  
*Photos courtesy Laurie Jenkins*

## St. David's Day Luncheon Reservation Form 2015

March 5, 2016 at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer, Qc

Note: Early bird deadline is (**received by**) February 19, 2016 with each meal costing \$49.

After the deadline, the meal cost will be \$55. **Reservations must be received no later than March 3, 2016**

There are two choices for the meal; Herb-crusted chicken and portabello stack (vegetarian).

**Every effort will be made to seat you with your friends if your reservation is received by February 19, 2016.**

Please complete a section for **each participant**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Herb-crusted Chicken

\_\_\_\_\_ Portabello Stack (vegetarian)

Please list any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any food allergies or sensitivities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Herb-crusted Chicken

\_\_\_\_\_ Portabello Stack (vegetarian)

Please list any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any food allergies or sensitivities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Summary:

\_\_\_\_\_ chicken meals @ \$49 (early bird) \_\_\_\_\_ or \$55 after February 19, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ vegetarian meals @ \$49 (early bird) \_\_\_\_\_ or \$55 after February 19, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friends with whom we would like to share a table: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send a cheque made out to the Ottawa Welsh Society

Completed forms may be mailed to:

Marilyn Jenkins, 267 McClellan Road, Nepean, ON K2H 8N7

Questions may be emailed to: marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca or phoned to 613-820-6687

## OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2016

**Note: Membership year is March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017**

**Please complete all areas to ensure our information is up-to-date and send the form with your membership fee, as indicated below.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Children/other family members \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Email address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like to receive Y BWLETIN and notice of events by email? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

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### SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 EA.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are not attending the luncheon, please send your remittance directly to the membership secretary:**

Sian Wynn Jones  
39 Hereford Place  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1Y 3S6

20160116