

Selecting Our New Chef: The Final Round of Interviews

Bianca Roth

In the late spring, a small group of frequent users of the Club (Neil Guthrie, Shantanu Roy, Diana Wiley and I) were invited to join Sohail Saeed to assess the two final candidates in the interview process for our Club's new head chef. We were treated to some amazing and beautifully prepared cuisine by two respected chefs on two separate days.

Doug Walker, from the Seasons restaurant in Oakville, served up a lovely seasonal menu that celebrated summer.

Doug's appetizer featured grilled seasonal vegetables tossed in a light balsamic dressing on a bed of light, fresh pea purée.

His main course was "Fish Three Ways" - halibut, salmon and scallops atop a refreshing and bright lemon risotto. All three were cooked to perfection and the risotto was an excellent accompaniment.

The offerings from David Ross, a Canadian catering chef who was once executive chef at the Toronto Athletic Club's Stratus restaurant, were extra-creative.

His appetizer featured goat cheese with a pistachio/panko crust served alongside watermelon, lemon and basil.

David's main featured fresh scallops with roasted red pepper, and shrimp brushed with garlic. They were served on a bed of turnip puree and topped with asparagus and crispy fried potatoes.



Chef Doug Walker

In the end, Doug won the day with not only his fantastic cuisine, but an award winning attitude, and was hired to become the club's head chef. We are in for a treat with Doug's top-notch cuisine and I look forward to seeing where his creativity takes us.

COO's Remarks

By Sohail Saeed

First, I want to welcome everyone back to the Club from summer holidays, hoping all of you had an enjoyable and safe time. We are back in the swing of things at the Club and ready to serve you in the fall.

We have added Chef Doug Walker from Seasons and Pangea Restaurants, Sous Chef Harpak Mohammadi from the Law Society of Ontario and Events Coordinator Abigail Bansie from Earl's Kitchen on King to our team. We are complete again and energized to serve our members with passion. Expect new innovative and thoughtful menus in dining areas and at functions and events.

We have welcomed eight new members and a law clerk so far in the new fiscal year started in July. It is important that new members should be made to feel welcome at the Club so if you have the opportunity, please take a moment to say hello. Equally, if you have friends or colleagues who might be interested in membership, please let me know and I will happily make the necessary contacts.

Maintenance and up-keep of the building continues to be a major focus. Being 90 years old, our building needs additional major repairs and TLC to keep us in line with safety and comfort. Lately we have been getting unexpected surprises. We replaced the 1955 water-cooled HVAC in the Main Lounge with a modern air-cooled system, making it dependable and cost efficient after breaking in dead heat this summer. We continue to repair and address roof leak issues in order to keep the building dry. Your patience and understanding through this process are really appreciated.

Fall will start with a bang with monthly Club Dinners and Wine Circle events. Our fabulous Programming Committee under the dynamic leadership of Diana Wiley will be bringing great events for you. So, keep a close eye on our weekly eBlast and register online for the events that please you. I believe that you will not be disappointed in the performance, food and service at the Club.



Last but not the least, on behalf of my team I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members listed below. We are truly looking forward to serving them at the Club. I would strongly encourage them to speak to any team member and get acquainted with them, the Club and what it has to offer. The memories and camaraderie are created here daily for the past 100 years and will continue to flourish, and now, with you as part of it.

BREECH, Dr. James

Chair Emeritus, Cougar Globe Investments
Non-Res 250

CROWTHER, William

Chartered Accountant, Tax & Family Enterprise
Advisory, Baker Tilly KDN
Non-Res 250

HAMILTON, George T.

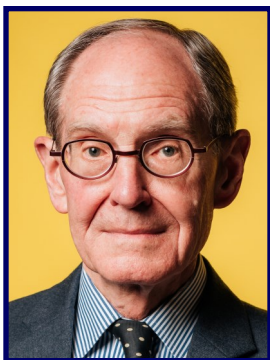
University of Toronto
Student

KAREEM, Khawaja Azmat

Owner/President, Chemex Corporation (Pakistan)
Resident 45+

SZILVA, Melinda M.

Psychotherapist, University of Waterloo School of
Optometry and Vision Science
Non-Res 250



President's Message

Ross Peebles

My term as Club President will end at the Annual Meeting of members later this month. It has

been a great honour to have held this position for the last two years. I have enjoyed the opportunity of interacting with fellow members and becoming better acquainted with our diligent and hard-working staff. I have also developed some appreciation of the complexities of operating a private club.

We are most fortunate to own and occupy a magnificent club house in the centre of Canada's largest city and one of its fastest growing. This is, however, both a blessing and a challenge. While structurally sound, the building was built 90 years ago and like all structures of that age, it would benefit from being upgraded to meet present-

day standards. Over the years, the building has been retrofitted to make provision for modern electrical, heating and cooling systems, but obviously it would be preferable to have these systems incorporated into the structure itself.

Financing these investments is the challenge. Our annual capital budget allocates funds to preserve the integrity and appearance of the club house. These resources are not sufficient to accommodate the more ambitious objectives that members have told us we should pursue.

Increasing membership is the obvious way of generating additional funds. Over the last year, we have successfully replaced the members who have left the Club for one reason or another and, in addition, we have modestly increased our total membership. This growth has not been sufficient, however, to finance our long-term plans. Nevertheless, membership growth is an essential part of our plan and we continue to focus on it as our number one priority.

I hope you will all join this crusade by introducing your friends, family and colleagues to the benefits of membership. To help you, we have printed cards inviting prospective members to have dinner at the Club at a time of their own choosing, with payment being made by credit card. Our hope is that once people have experienced the Club for themselves, they will appreciate the many benefits of becoming a member. The Front Desk staff will be happy to give you a supply of these cards that you can offer to anyone who might be a prospect for membership.

Naturally, the Board is also looking at other ways to achieve our modernisation plans. It remains our objective to be the place where members can meet in elegant surroundings with those who share a common interest in good food and wine, the arts, fitness, travel and more. A rich calendar of events has been and remains the hallmark of our Club. As we ramp up for the autumn season, you can look forward to many occasions to socialise, to be entertained and enlightened. Please make an effort to attend as many of these events as you can. I promise that you will be amply rewarded.

Before closing, I want to say a word of welcome to Douglas Walker, our new head chef. Doug has the difficult task of filling the shoes of someone who has delighted us with his culinary skills for the last 30 years. Clearly, Doug is undaunted by this challenge, however, and has already impressed those of us who have dined at the Club during the summer. New menus reflecting his style and approach to food will be introduced in mid September so please make a point coming to the Club to try it for yourself.

As always, I look forward to seeing you there.

Scotch Whisky Tasting at the Club

Michael Carr

On July 18th I had the rare pleasure of welcoming Club members and guests for an engaging evening of tasting the whiskies of Scotland alongside a delicious paired dinner. We sampled outstanding whisky from across the regions of Scotland, discussing some of the regional variety and idiosyncrasies that go into this interesting and often mysterious spirit.

I had spent my undergraduate days in Scotland, in the seaside golfing town of St. Andrews, where I first got involved with the world of Scotch whisky. In Scotland it seems not uncommon to have extracurricular Scotch appreciation clubs in universities; surely a lesson we in Canada might consider! Since then I have been certified as a Whisky Ambassador and treasured the opportunity to share some of this knowledge with my fellow members at the club.



Many thoughtful questions and comments interspersed the night as we explored from Lowland to Highland and lots of other places in between. The dinner prepared by Chef Douglas was delicious and offered an inspired complement to the whiskies of the tasting. I have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the many guests and hope this is a feature we might extend or repeat in the future. A very special thank you to Jill Hutchison for instrumentally pulling all of this together.

As an important note, this evening was conceived because of my recent involvement with Summit for SickKids; a charity dedicated to raising support in the fight against childhood cancer through climbing mountains. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all the Club members and guests who donated and supported this important cause.

In August I joined our climbing team in the Rockies as we ascended to the summits of five mountains in five days. We often had less-than-favourable weather conditions but steadfastly completed our goal and dedicated each peak to a child



battling cancer, as well as donating over \$50,000 to SickKids in the process. If appreciating quality whisky is worthwhile in its own right, doing so for such a good cause is surely highly commendable!

A Summer Dinner at the RCMI

Neil Guthrie

We tend to think of the clubs which offer our members reciprocal privileges as way-stations on trips to locations far away from Toronto. See, for example, Catherine Latulippe's piece in this newsletter about our reciprocals in Hong Kong and Singapore. We may forget, however, that some of these clubs are very close to our doorstep.

On a Friday in August, a small group (Jenny Mercer, Jeff Haylock, William Delgado, Maria Martins and the author) ventured just north of 380 University Avenue for drinks and dinner at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, which offers us dining privileges during our summer closure. Sean Morley joined us later.

The RCMI has been our neighbour since we arrived on University Avenue in 1929, and many members will remember its old building as a fixture of the streetscape. Structural problems with that clubhouse necessitated rebuilding, and the club took the bold step of integrating new premises in a condominium tower. The ground-floor façade of the new clubhouse evokes (without replicating) the old, but the historic cornerstones laid by successive Governors-General have been incorporated in the fabric. The two pieces of field artillery which flanked the old main entrance now guard the new.

Dark wood panelling gives a club-like feel to the floors occupied by the RCMI, and glass cases preserve the club's remarkable collection of militaria, which includes historic uniforms, sets of medals, cap badges, toy soldiers and weapons. The star attractions of the museum collection



are a fragment of the side panel and the seat of the Fokker in which Freiherr Manfred von Richthofen – better known as the Red Baron – was shot down in 1918. Credit for this is disputed: the Canadian pilot Arthur Roy Brown may have been responsible, or one of several Australian gunners firing from the ground. The Richthofen relics at the RCMI were



donated by Brown in 1920 and are an extraordinary survival of the Great War.

There is a stunning library with an important collection of books and other materials on warfare and military history.

The library, of all the rooms in the club, probably most successfully conveys the feel of the old building.



After cocktails in the bar, our group went upstairs for a very good dinner, then back to the bar – which we shut down around midnight.



While our reciprocal clubs cast a wide net over the globe, we should remember that we enjoy privileges at clubs which are much closer to home.

Our Hong Kong and Singapore reciprocals

Catherine Latulippe

In early May, I relocated to Hong Kong for a short-term work assignment. Since then, I have been spending most of my free time exploring Hong Kong and other parts of Asia. As part of this exploration, I have taken advantage of our reciprocal arrangements and visited the Kowloon Cricket Club in Hong Kong SAR and the Tanglin Club in Singapore.

Kowloon Cricket Club



Hong Kong is a beautiful place (although it may not be obvious from the images you have seen on television recently), but in the summer, with temperatures reaching levels that reminds me of a hot yoga studio, my options for outdoor activities are getting a little bit limited.

The Kowloon Cricket Club thankfully has a beautiful pool, sun deck and patio. It is the perfect place for a leisurely hot summer weekend day, where one can enjoy a very cool



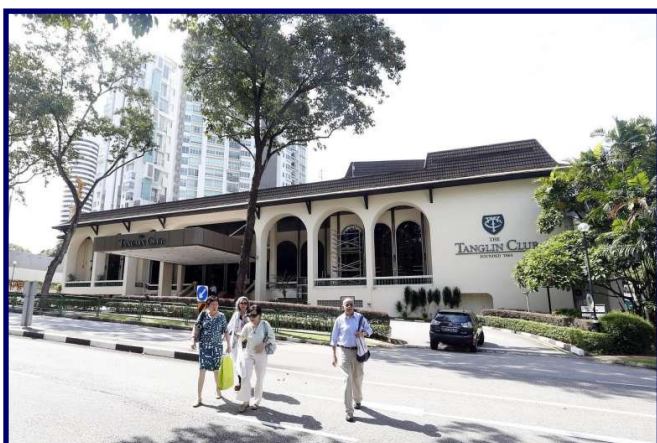
drink in the shade after a few laps. Unfortunately, our privileges there are limited to two weeks every six months.

The Kowloon Cricket Club is best described as a very large and modern, sport-focused, family-oriented club. It is difficult to think of a sport that cannot be played there as it seems to have all the necessary facilities: a cricket ground, four bowling alleys, lawn bowling ground, squash courts and tennis courts, among others.



The club does not provide accommodation, but has all the classic facilities of a club house, casual and formal dining rooms and a bar. Be sure to bring with you the original signed letter of introduction from the Club, your passport and cash as this is the only way for you to pay.

The Tanglin Club



The Tanglin Club is the oldest club in Singapore. It was founded in 1865, 100 years before Singapore itself, as a suburban social club for British officers and expatriates living in what was then the Straits Settlements. Today, the club is no longer in what I would consider the suburbs, as it is a few blocks from the busy Orchard Road shopping district. It also expended its membership to become a truly cosmopolitan club with a membership of 4000 members representing more than 60 nationalities.

This diversity is also reflected in its cuisine, with the Tang Yun, a Cantonese restaurant on the second floor, the Tavern and Fireplace, which looked typically British, and the Tea Room, where they sell French macarons and patisseries, to name only a few of the dining options. The club also



offers accommodations, which I did not use, but if it is like everything else in The Tanglin Club, it would be very pleasant and comfortable.

While I was there, I was lucky to attend



one of the events that the Club had organized in celebration of the bicentennial of the arrival in Singapore of Sir Stamford Raffles, the city's founder. The Tanglin Club had invited guest celebrity chef Shermay Lee to add her touch to a delightful Peranakan and colonial Sunday lunch semi-buffet in the formal Churchill room. The food was fantastic and the service impeccable.

After such a wonderful meal, I decided to enjoy a traditional Singaporean coffee (which differs from regular coffee by the fact that the beans are roasted in butter, I am

told) on the outside patio by their beautiful 25-metre pool. This was the best to end my last day in Singapore, before going back to Hong Kong.

If you find yourself in Singapore, I would highly recommend staying at the Tanglin Club or dropping by for a visit.



Four Works by Bertram Brooker

Neil Guthrie

The FitzGerald Room off the main hallway on the ground floor of the clubhouse houses a number of works on paper by Group of Seven member Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald – hence its name. (FitzGerald was not one of the original Group, but a later addition.)

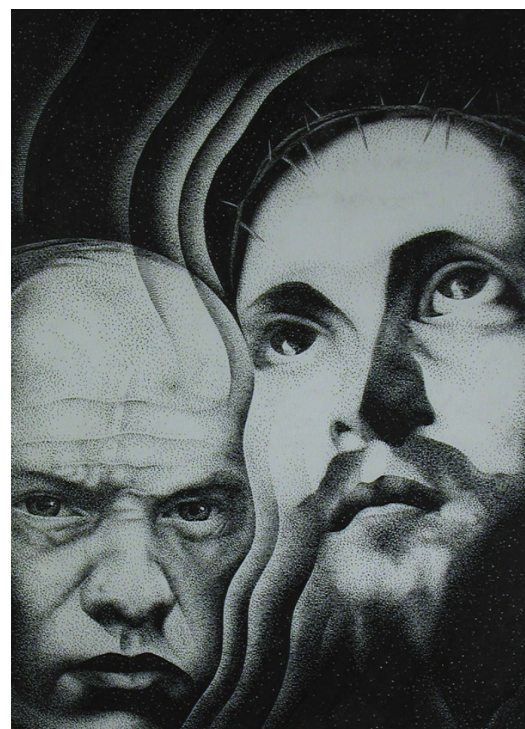
In that room there are also four remarkable pen-and-ink drawings by Bertram Brooker (1888-1955). Like the FitzGeralds (and two works by Kathleen Munn that hang near them), they are works on paper. There is also a Manitoba connection between FitzGerald and Brooker: the former was a Winnipeg native, the latter an arrival in Portage la Prairie when he immigrated from England with his parents in 1905. FitzGerald was also an influence when Brooker took to painting.

The young Brooker worked for the Grand Trunk Railway but later moved to Neepawa, where he ran a cinema with his brother and produced live theatre. He gravitated back to Portage la Prairie and into journalism before going off to war in 1915. In 1921, he moved to Toronto, where he became the editor of *Marketing* magazine and, later, an advertising executive. He befriended many who were prominent in the cultural life of the city, including the conductor Ernest MacMillan and visual artists like Kathleen Munn, Paraskeva Clark and Lawren Harris. After

some sort of mystical experience near Lake of Bays, Brooker began painting abstracts that owed much to European Futurism. (Munn had already started down this path, and the two works by her in the FitzGerald Room are superb examples of her experimentation with Cubism.). Brooker's first exhibition was organised by Harris in 1927. After meeting FitzGerald in 1929, Brooker began to incorporate representational and naturalistic elements in his work.



Crime and Punishment Series: The Judge



Crime and Punishment Series: Christ and Thorns



Crime and Punishment Series: Face and Breasts



Crime and Punishment Series: Napoleon and Axe

A controversy over Brooker's use of nudes led him to write a pamphlet in 1931 about Toronto's narrow-mindedness called *Nudes and Prudes*. In 1936, Brooker's novel *Think of the Earth* won the first Governor General's award for fiction.

Our four drawings might well have drawn the ire of the Toronto critics lambasted in *Nudes and Prudes*, as the

naked female form appears prominently and the drawings date from about the same period. The drawings also contain strange mix of other elements: Napoleon, Great Garbo, Jesus ... and is that Peter Lorre? The drawings were intended as illustrations for an edition of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. The Art Gallery of Ontario has another two from the series.

Dennis Reid, the former curator of historical Canadian art at the AGO and the author of the *Concise History of Canadian Painting* went into ecstasies about our Brookers when he came to the Club in 2002 to give a talk about our collection. In the course of his remarks, Dennis said that 'Brooker is one of those fascinating people who was so good at doing so many things that no one could believe that he could be great at any one of them.' He related our drawings to FitzGerald's naturalism and pointillist style, but also to *Art Déco* and advertising illustration. They are eccentric – and probably not to everyone's taste – but they are extraordinary in subject-matter and execution. Pay them a visit the next time you are lingering in the hallway.

Cameos of Upcoming Performers at the Club

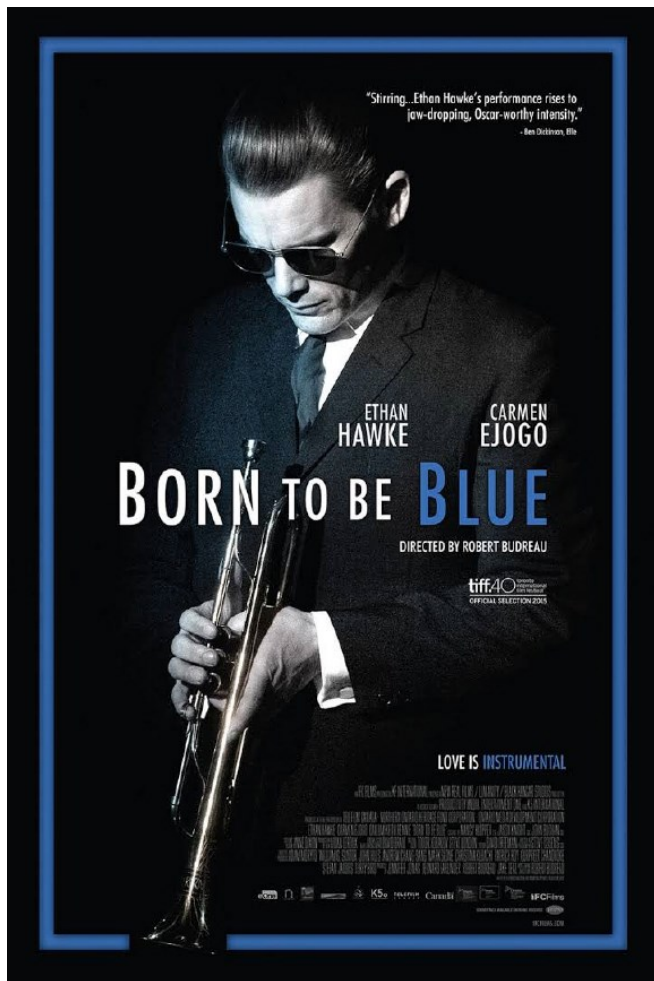
Diana Wiley

Kevin Turcotte Channels Chet Baker

At the Club's upcoming Fall Gala on Friday, October 18, trumpeter Kevin Turcotte will evoke the music of the James Dean of jazz musicians, Chet Baker. Turcotte last played at the Club two years ago – backed by the Dave Young / Terry Promane band – when he gave a dazzling performance inspired by Miles Davis's iconic *Kind of Blue* album.



When film director Robert Budreau needed to build



the soundtrack of his Hollywood biopic of Chet Baker, *Born to be Blue*, he contacted David Braid, a Toronto-based pianist and composer. Braid put together a band of Canadian all-stars, with trumpeter Kevin Turcotte in the starring role, playing not only the part of Chet Baker, but also of Miles Davis and Dizzy Gillespie. Braid said he did this “tirelessly and perfectly” in a performance worthy of an Academy Award. Filming took place in Sudbury, Turcotte’s home town, and the film premiered at TIFF in 2016 to critical acclaim and high praise for the soundtrack.

Ethan Hawke, who gave a convincing onscreen depiction of Chet Baker, was given trumpet lessons by Ben Promane (the son of trombonist Terry Promane, who also played at our *Kind of Blue* gala). Hawke apparently showed both natural talent and grit in his efforts to learn the instrument, and requested videos of Turcotte’s soundtrack performances so he could mime the playing.

A work of creative non-fiction which treats Chet Baker sympathetically but avoids hagiography, the film focuses on a difficult period of his life when he attempts to make a comeback after a drug-related beating knocked out his front teeth. Turcotte says that the toughest part of his role was not channeling the nonchalant magic of Baker’s early

playing, but portraying the imperfections resulting from his injury as he rebuilds his embouchure. The challenge was to show the struggle without making the music so ugly that audiences would not want to hear it.

In our request to reprise this role, we are not presenting him with that particular challenge: Kevin Turcotte’s performance at our gala will channel Chet Baker at the height of his musical powers.

Leonard Gilbert and the Spirit of Chopin

Back by popular demand after his dazzling performance at the Club last spring, concert pianist (and full-time tax lawyer at Thorsteinssons LLP) Leonard Gilbert will play all four of



Chopin’s Ballades as a prelude to our upcoming Club Dinner on Friday, November 29. It is something of a feat to perform all four in succession, as they are considered to be some of the most challenging music in the standard piano repertoire and represent “perhaps the most perfect examples of Chopin’s instinctive sense of musical shape and tonal organization,” according to the *Guardian*. However, according to the lucky members who heard Gilbert’s earlier concert of which they formed a part, they are simply thrilling music!

Still in his twenties, Gilbert is a four-time national first prize winner of the Canadian Music Competition and studied with the distinguished pianist Menachem Pressler. He came to the attention of audiences after his sweeping win at the 2010 Canadian Chopin Competition, where he captured First Prize as well as “Best Mazurka” and “Best Polonaise”. He was the only Canadian accepted to the 16th Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland in 2011. Lest anyone accuse him of slacking, he was called to the Ontario Bar in 2016.

I have heard several people ask him whether he intends to pursue his career as a concert pianist or as a lawyer. His response: “Both. I hope.”