

Become part of the A.B.T.A. (Am Bridge Teachers' Association)

By Barbara Seagram

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If you've ever had an urge to give your partner a piece of your mind, why not turn this into something constructive and teach a larger audience. As an accredited bridge teacher, your pearls of wisdom will now have more credibility!

The A.B.T.A. is a wonderful organization of bridge teachers all over Canada and USA. They have members also in Mexico, India, Israel, Australia, Costa Rica, Greece and Japan. Their motto is "To help those who teach bridge to do it better – more effectively – more knowledgeably and more professionally." See www.abtathome.com for information on how to join A.B.T.A.. Only \$35.00 USD for a one year membership.

The A.B.T.A. has an annual convention which takes place in the few days leading up to the A.C.B.L. Summer Nationals (N.A.B.C.) In 2011, the exciting news is that the Convention will be in Toronto: July 19-22. This is such a fantastic opportunity for all of us to get in on the act and plan to attend. Here is a tentative draft of the program of hospitality events we are planning:

Tuesday a.m. Drive by bus to beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake (an hour or so away from TO). Have a back stage tour at the Shaw Festival, lunch, wine-tasting, shopping and more. Then take in a performance (2 pm) at the famous Shaw Festival (www.shawfest.com) (This is the second largest repertory theatre company in North America.)

Return back to Toronto in time for dinner. Optional dinner out on the town with group.

Wednesday a.m. Conference commences.

11.30 a.m. Luncheon generously hosted by Audrey Grant & David Lindop of Better Bridge.

Afternoon: Conference reconvenes.

Evening: Sightseeing tour of Toronto in a unique vessel that offers land and water tours. Come splash into the lake on a bus that floats. Experience an urban safari of one of Canada's most beautiful cities with all its historic sites and its magnificent waterways. This 1 ½ hr tour will be followed by dinner out with group at one of Toronto's superb restaurants.

Thursday a.m. Conference continues.

Thursday noon: Luncheon at the top of the CN Tower. The restaurant revolves and you will have a spectacular view of the city.

Afternoon: Conference reconvenes.

Evening: A.B.T.A. Awards Banquet

Friday a.m. Conference continues, finishing at noon, in time for you to play in the Summer Nationals, starting at that time.

Amy & Steve Nellissen, as program chairs of the Conference, are planning extraordinary speakers for three days. Pick up all kinds of ideas and brainwaves from your peers as they make presentations. Hear experts such as Fred Gitelman, Jerry Helms, Larry Cohen, Eddie Kantar, Audrey Grant.

Our A.B.T.A. Convention will most likely take place at the Royal York Hotel (100 Front St West). The rates are expected to be high (\$160.00 +) and you cannot book this until Jan 2011 at the earliest. If you are interested, we are holding a block of less expensive rooms at a hotel right across the street from the Royal York. The name of this hotel is the Strathcona: 60 York St. Toronto.

Hotel rooms are being held under A.B.T.A. (You may need to say American Bridge Teachers' Association.)

Petite Classic: \$118.00 Can \$ per room per night + tax (225-250 sq ft. VERY small)

Deluxe class: \$125.00 Can \$ per room per night + tax (250 sq ft with 1 Queen bed)

Executive class:\$135.00 Can \$ per room per night + tax (250-325 sq ft 2 dbl or 2 Queen beds)

Executive Plus: \$148.00 Can \$ per room per night + tax (325 sq ft 2 dbl or 2 Queen beds)

To book, call hotel at 1-800-268-8304 or 416-36303321. Give name of group and state request and dates you wish.

OR email reservations@thestrathconahotel.com.

This is not as nice a hotel as the Royal York Hotel but is very reasonable in case finances are a consideration. The location is superb. You will not have time to be in your room for long!

NOTE: NO-ONE is receiving commission for any of these rooms.

Our A.C.B.L. Summer Nationals (now known as the N.A.B.C.) starts on Friday 22 July and continues on for 10 days. We hope you will plan to stay for the full N.A.B.C. as well as the A.B.T.A. portion. Space will be very limited on the above tours so make plans now and let Barbara Seagram (co-hostess of event along with Enid Roitman) know if you would like us to hold space for you for a particular event. We have to charter various buses and buy theatre tickets now so we need **lots** of lead time and frantically need to know numbers.

Email Barbara now at bseagram@ca.inter.net

See you in Toronto!!