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If you happen to belong to a service club, those good-natured groups like Rotary, Lions and Kinsmen that get together regularly to foster a sense of community while diligently working to amass funds only to be donated to worthy causes, you might consider inviting Miriam and me to speak at your next meeting. Service clubs are always in need of good speakers to counteract the boredom of persistently inflicting petty fines on members and reporting how happy they are with their sales of Christmas trees.



Miriam and I have become experts, and service clubs like to hear from experts, which helps make the membership better informed and more worldly wise. They tend to focus on doctors and dentists, world travellers and such, but Miriam and I offer expertise in a radically different topic. We are experts on toilets. Yes, sadly it has come to that. Between us, we have amassed five University degrees, yet our preferred topic of discussion is the common crapper.

Here for example, Miriam and I will explain to service clubs the derivation of the term, crapper. Thomas Crapper (1836 - 1910) was a plumber who founded Thomas Crapper & Co in London. Crapper did not invent the flush toilet, but he did increase the popularity of the toilet, and he developed some important related inventions, such as the ballcock which has an unfortunate association. Crapper was noted for the quality of his products and received several royal warrants. This does not mean that the Queen knighted him for his plumbing ability.

Miriam and I can wax poetically for hours on water usage, flush capability, dry toilets, chemical toilets, portable toilets, high-tech toilets, and even for the historically bent, the humble chamber pot. We are a veritable Consumers Reports on the pros and cons of innumerable top brands and their myriad product lines which range in price from a modest \$99 to astronomical sums which you will not believe. For example, the Toto Neorest 600 comes in at a \$5,000 price with a wide range of features. For starters, the lid automatically opens whenever you approach the toilet. I'm surprised that it does not say, "Hello, please have a seat while I fetch you a newspaper." Then, as you rise from the completion of your reading, leaving the porcelain throne, it automatically engages its Power Catalytic Air Purifier function. Six seconds after you're out of range of the toilet's sensor zone, it will automatically flush and close both the lid and the seat. There is no need to look back or feel guilty. You may simply proceed with your day as if nothing has happened.

Miriam and I have been renovating our bathrooms. We have been to Lowe's and Home Depot and most smaller stores that sell toilets. We have performed extensive research on and off the 'Net. We have concluded that the American Standard Champion toilet is our choice. After all, Americans know a lot about...well, you know. The Champion – now how can you go wrong with a name like that? It's so American like the name of one of its many world conflicts, "Operation Freedom Flow." Anyway, this device is simply a marvel to watch in action. You can rerun YouTube videos for hours viewing the Champion digest golf balls,



sponges, small dogs and most cats...I jest about the cats, but indeed, it is powerful! The Champion will set you back \$298, but believe me; it is well worth the price. Miriam and I have entertained guests for hours watching the Champion do its work. We start on the main floor. After about five or six flushes, we say with enthusiasm, "Want to see how the one upstairs works?" and most people nod with glee. We have two more upstairs, so we can even split up groups into smaller sizes. We might post a schedule for neighbours like they do with the illumination of Niagara Falls.

Miriam and I tend to be busy, so interested service clubs should act on this offer soon!