

The Rotary Club of Toronto is donating in excess of \$1,000,000 to local and international agencies during our Centennial Year

Today: Centennial Luncheon Program

Ontario Room, The Fairmont Royal York

Guest Speaker

**Megan Campbell, Consultant,
Aid Advocacy & Sustainable Strategies**



“The End of Water Projects: A Vision for Sustainable Water Services”

Ms. Campbell is a freelance consultant to social initiatives in Canada, helping them create powerful strategies that lead to transformative change. Megan holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in System Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo. She is passionate about changing the way innovation is implemented and supported in international development and has a decade of experience influencing policy and practice in Africa, Asia and Canada.

Megan’s fascination with international affairs was sparked by a year living in Germany as a Rotary youth exchange student. As a student, Megan was heavily involved in public outreach on international issues. She created “Trick-or-Trade,” a Fair Trade outreach event that is still run annually across Canada.

Upon graduation, Megan joined Engineers Without Borders Water and Sanitation team in Malawi, first as a staff member and then as Co-Director. Under her leadership, the team pioneered new ways of helping policy makers, funders, and local government work together on solutions to the fundamental problems surrounding sustainable water and sanitation services in Malawi. From scaling a country-wide water point monitoring tool to piloting more effective ways for field workers to discuss and responsibilities for water point repairs with rural villagers, her team created practical appropriate approaches that continue to build government capacity to sustain water and sanitation services across Malawi.

Megan now shares her experience creating high-leverage solutions in complex systems as an advisor to the Canadian Fair Trade Network and Admitting Failure, and as a Trade School Toronto lecturer.



Building under Construction

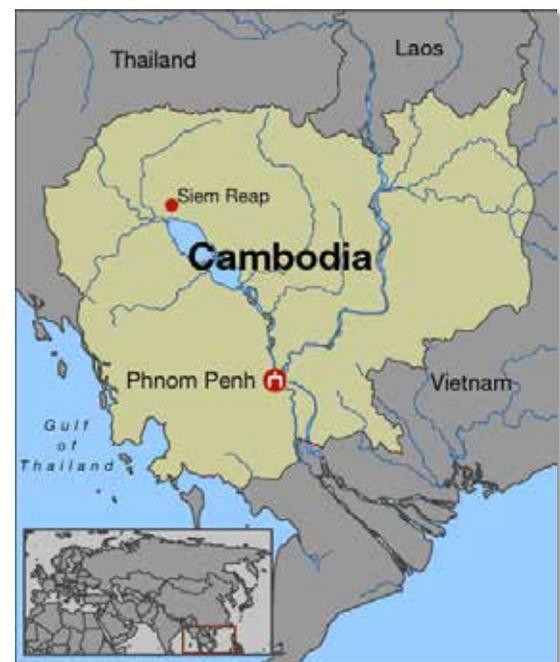
Highlighting:

The Rotary Club of Toronto Centennial Award of \$100,000 granted to Bakong Technical College, Siem Reap, Cambodia

The Centennial Award of The Rotary Club of Toronto will make vocational training accessible to Cambodians, rural and landmine survivors who would not otherwise have the opportunity to learn a skill. It is said that education is the key to a country’s future. Nowhere is that more important than in countries devastated by tragedy, whether natural or man-made.

Following the civil war of the early 1970s, the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 during which, it is estimated, about a quarter of the country’s population died – about 2 million people – from execution, disease and starvation, and forced labour. This genocide’s victims included 98% of the Buddhist monks and almost 100% of the educated. All cities were emptied. Almost no one with skills survived. Very high rates of disability particularly in males due to landmines and other weapons and low levels of education due to a total collapse of the education system caused recovery to be a slow process.

The Bakong Technical College will make a difference as Cambodians continue to struggle with the legacy of the Khmer Rouge. The Rotary Club of Toronto is proud to be involved in this project.



Approximate location of Bakong Technical College

International Service: 100 Years of International Partnerships

– by Chris Snyder and Maureen Bird, Chair, International Service Committee



International Service has a long history in our Club. In 1916 the Club raised over \$700,000 in Victory Bonds to support the war effort. With much assistance from the ladies of the Inner Wheel, our Club sent tons of clothing to Britain, and this was done again during WWII. Greece had also suffered severely in the war and was devastated by earthquakes in the years after the war; besides sending clothing to Thessalonica on several occasions, the Club raised funds for The Crippled Children's Hospital in Athens and paid for a nurse from Greece to receive special training here in Toronto in 1952.

In 1963 our Club raised funds for the International Centre at the University of Toronto, in Cumberland House, which is still providing services to students new to Canada. That same year, to honour the 50th Anniversary of our Club, we funded 5,000 doses of vaccine for the Rotary Club of Nithapur, India – an early initiative in the fight against polio. In 1986, with the founding of PolioPlus, our Club was proud to raise \$160,000.

In 1980 a project was launched with CIDA and Rotary International (RI) for a Technical Training Project in the Island of St. Vincent. And in 1990 our Club funded a major water project in Sulawesi (Indonesia) in partnership with CARE Canada (CARE Canada grew out of our Club) with member Vlad Kavan becoming Chair of Care International.



Proud to be a partner

Project Mainstream

In 1994, The Rotary Club of Toronto, Street Kids International and the Rotary Club of Bombay partnered in an ambitious street children's project in Bombay (now Mumbai) called Project Mainstream. This project provided street children in Bombay, of which there are about 100,000, vocational training and small business skills. Training has ranged from tailoring to tea vending to driving to domestic training to establishing their privately-owned businesses.

The project initiated by The Rotary Club of Toronto under the direction of Toronto members Chris Snyder and Keshav Chandaria, and Mahendra Mehta from the Bombay Club was highlighted at the Singapore Convention. It was greatly



Rotarian Mahendra with his charges

assisted by a grant of \$125,000 from Rotary International. The project continues to this day and has trained over 50,000 children.

Landmines

In 2001, the Club and district became involved in landmines. This was a natural extension of our activities with the Jaipur Limb, an artificial prosthesis that is developed in Jaipur, India.

We participated in artificial limb camps in the Dominican Republic, India, Afghanistan and the Sudan. Our Club has been a key partner with the Canadian Landmine Foundation in initiating and leading



Improving independence

District 7070 and other Rotary involvement across the country in landmine projects. Chris Snyder, the initial co-ordinator is now the Chair of The Canadian Landmine Foundation. Among other things, the Club sponsored a mine-detecting dog called Sapper. The Canadian Landmine Foundation's purpose is to assist in the elimination of landmines, assistance for its victims and creating awareness of landmine issues. Sandy Boucher became the head of Rotarians For Mine Action – worldwide association of Rotary Clubs interested in landmines.

Other Projects

Over the years, the committee has funded and participated in a number of other projects, many in partnership with other Rotary clubs. These include:

- Funding AIDS related projects in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania
- Funding water and sanitation programs in Malawi, Honduras and Kenya
- Raising money for orphans in Sri Lanka, lead by member Errol Paulicpullii
- Providing vehicles to NGOs in Kenya and Malawi
- Supporting relief efforts after Hurricane Mitch, Honduras

Sweat Equity Trips

The Club has been a significant initiator and participant in sweat equity trips for Rotarians and Friends. Approximately 175 people have gone on these district-led trips to the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Malawi and Cambodia. Our club members and their friends are generally the largest group of participants. Chris Snyder has worked as team leader or coordinator on most trips.

The Rotary Club of Toronto was instrumental in starting and overseeing the Children's Hospital of Hope in the Dominican Republic. The end result was the creation of a surgical wing for a children's hospital in Los Accorios. The project done in partnership with Careforce was spread over four years and made possible by four sweat equity teams resulting in about \$1.75 million in building and equipment. This included matching grants from RI

continued on p.3



International Service (continued from page 2)

and Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development. As a result of this success, 25 sweat equity projects have followed, to Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Malawi and Cambodia.

The trip to Burkina Faso was also done in partnership with Careforce. Our work helped build a village for marginalized children. We also provided five wells. In Tanzania a large part of the sweat equity work has been the building and renovating of nine schools. Additional projects that have grown out of these trips. It has resulted in ongoing sponsorship of 110 children in a bursary program for AIDS orphans, significant contributions of equipment to the local hospitals and a number of AIDS-related projects. It also led to the creation of a Rotary Club in Kilema. The Tanzania trips have been in partnership with Canada Africa Community Health Alliance (CACHA), an NGO based in Ottawa and Canadian Support of Rural African Initiatives (CSRAI).

a significant water project sponsored by our Club which resulted in 150 new or refurbished wells in the Zomba area.

In Cambodia, teams have worked with funding and helping to build the Bakong Technical College (BTC). It has also lead to funding a local orphanage for 25 children and supporting a village with cows and bikes.



Drilling one of the deep wells



Working on site

In Malawi, our five sweat equity teams have helped build and fund three schools, refurbished eight teachers' houses, built two early years' children's centres and provided latrines. This has been in partnership with Emmanuel International and Dignitas International. With Dignitas, we have raised approximately \$1.5 million towards its AIDS work, including its mother-to-child transmission prevention program. Our partnership with Emmanuel International led to



Jack Robertson with members of Teen Club – infected with HIV at childbirth



A group of AIDS-positive women in their new child care centre in Kachere, Malawi

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 — 1912

Officers:

President: Neil Phillips
 President-Elect: Richard White
 Vice President: Steven Smith
 Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director:

Carol Bieser

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation:

Bob Smith, President

Editor of the Week:

Maureen Bird

Editor April 19th:

Alex Austin

What You Missed Reporter for April 19th:

Maureen Bird

The Four-way test of the things we think, say, or do

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

Submit an Article to the Voice Newsletter:

voice@AbacusConsultingServices.ca

Upcoming Speakers & Events

April 2013

- 19 David Rayment, President, York Pioneer and Historical Society
- 26 David Naylor, President, University of Toronto
- 27 Trump AIDS Poker Walk, Toronto Beach Parks

May 2013

- 3 Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- 10 Centennial Award Luncheon, Steve Paikin, TVO Producer, Rotaractors' Arts For Children & Youth (AFCY) Project
- 17 Victoria Day weekend, No Meeting
- 23 Club Centennial Gala
- 31-Jun2 Camp Lake Scugog

Propose a Speaker

Peter Simmie, Chair

Program Committee

peter.simmie@bristolgate.com



The Bakong Technical College: How It All Began

– by Maureen Bird

Every dream has a beginning. As a 15-year old boy, Ronnie Yimsut was the sole survivor of a Killing Fields Massacre that wiped out virtually all of his family. In a series of harrowing experiences, he escaped through jungles to Thailand where he was first put in jail because he had no papers, then transferred to a refugee camp. He was discovered by CBS predecessor program to “60 Minutes” and eventually made it to the USA where he studied to become a landscape architect.

Ronnie suffers from post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD); one of his ways to deal with it is to give back to the community. He has been recognized in Milwaukee by being named “Citizen of the Year” and recently received the 2012 Ellis F. Lawrence Medal at the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts. The medal is presented each spring and is the school’s highest alumni honor. His battle against the Khmer Rouge has been life long. This

is well documented in one of his several books called “Facing the Khmer Rouge – A Cambodian Journey.” He recently spoke at the war crimes trial in Phnom Penh held for the four surviving senior Khmer Rouge officials.

Ronnie’s passion was always to go back to Cambodia to make a difference. Returning in 1996, he started a Cow Bank program and micro-credit program, but his dreams were bigger. As a result, he founded Bakong Technical College (BTC) located outside Siem Reap in Cambodia. The Rotary Club of Toronto as well as other Rotarians and Friends of Rotary on sweat equity trips have been working to assist him with fundraising and with on-site building assistance. As



Ronnie Yimsut and friend with plans

a vocational school, BTC’s objective will be to provide skill training focused on the environment and tourism, with special emphasis on training landmine victims and their survivors. Construction started in 2009 and the grand opening will be in November 2013.

What You Missed April 5th, 2013

– by Rick Goldsmith



It was another fine Friday lunch meeting at Rotary with Rotary business, good fellowship and a great speaker. At our table, I was joined by Barbara Thomson and Sylvia Geist, among others. There was animated discussion regarding the possibility of a Fall forum with community agencies that provide services to seniors. So much so, that Bill Morari called across the table to say that it sounded like a committee meeting. Valerie Clarke would of course, typically respond by, “All for the Good of Rotary”.

President Neil made the mistake of letting

his boss and former Rotary president Gerry Nudds introduce guests and visiting members. Of course, before doing that Gerry had us in stitches with an impromptu mini-roast of President Neil! Serves Neil right. What was he thinking giving the podium to an ex-president!! I would like to say it is a rookie mistake, but really Neil, your term is almost up!!

The Guest Speaker was Professor Pia Søltøft, the President of the International Kierkegaard society and she spoke on the works of Søren Kierkegaard, the 19th century philosopher. It took many back to our higher education days when we sat enraptured and occasionally mystified by

our professors as they tried to explain the philosophical theories of such luminaries. The essence of it, to this scribe, is that while you have a self, you must be proactive to become your self. In other words, your self is the combination of what you are (your history) and your pro-active choice as to what you wish to become. Well, I hope you get the drift!

All for the good of Rotary, indeed!

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