



CENTENNIAL BEAT

February 2013

Service Above Self

The Rotary Club of Toronto \$100,000 Centennial Award

Dear Readers,

This is the twelfth issue of the Centennial Beat, a publication recounting themes and achievements as our Club celebrates its Centennial Year beginning July 1, 2012. During our Centennial Year the Club will be donating in excess of \$1,000,000 to local and international agencies.

In this issue and the accompanying issue of the Voice, we highlight the origins and great work of our Community Service Committee. The ribbon-cutting of their Centennial project, Lazarus House, occurred just last week. We have some great photos and articles for you.

Enjoy.

Jeff Dobson

Creating A More Caring City

– by Kimberley Curry, Executive Director, Seeds of Hope Foundation



Lazarus House “First Step” is a community support model that has evolved from our experience over the past 10 years in supporting individuals who have transitioned from homelessness to become contributing members of our community. This new initiative of Seeds of Hope is a pilot project to demonstrate how the benefits of a community model inter-relate with traditional ‘medical & institutional models’ in supporting chronically homeless individuals suffering social isolation due to mental health and/or addiction challenges.

Seeds of Hope creates places of belonging that serve as safe places to help individuals living on the streets of Toronto or living in other vulnerable situations. The Rotary Club of Toronto Centennial grant has funded a complete renovation of two floors of a building directly beside our 6 St. Joseph resource centre (a central location near Yonge & Wellesley). The renovated space now includes space for community activities and hospitality, two kitchen spaces, a social enterprise and media room, an art and sculpture work and display room as well as a quiet sanctuary space for reflection and meditation.



Third floor kitchen



Arts and Sustainable Enterprise Room



Grade 7 girls help paint the roof-top deck.



Third floor bedroom

Lazarus house has private accommodation for four women on the 2nd floor and semi-private accommodation for local and international interns studying social work and psychology on the 3rd floor. This space also hosts a large rooftop garden where vegetables and herbs will be grown and cultivated by the women residing in the house.

Seeds of Hope has a unique role in its partnerships with agencies that offer medical & health services, such as Margaret’s Place and M-Dot (funded by CAMH and the City). Our goal is to support individuals to a point where they are well or are willing to accept professional support. Residents have the opportunity to connect with a wider community of people and participate in meals, life-skills programs and creative arts activities.

Homelessness has been extremely damaging to many individuals and their families, and also to society itself due to the high cost of repetitive health problems, court and police services, and hospital care. Our experience has shown us that every situation is unique and each person brings different challenges and requires specific approaches and responses. The one constant in all cases is the need for care, friendship and compassion. This is the essential role our volunteers offer - giving individuals the dignity and self-respect required to encourage them to get the support they need to move forward with their lives.

We recognize that the hospitality and friendship provided by our volunteers are keys to gaining trust and building relationships with individuals who have lost all hope. Our larger vision states that “everybody has a gift and a good community is a place where those gifts are given.” It is the idea of “social spaces in continuous creation.”



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The Rotary Club of Toronto, Community Service Committee and the Seeds of Hope Foundation Open New Doors in Toronto – by John Joseph Mastandrea, Community Service Committee Chair



Seeds of Hope Foundation 'Lazarus House – First Step' was selected to receive the \$100,000 donation from The Rotary Club of Toronto. The Centennial grant facilitated much needed renovation and restoration to the living and program space at Lazarus House to help up to ten chronically homeless women begin in a path to health. The space includes a rooftop garden. Seeds of Hope secured a long-term lease for the 2nd & 3rd floors of a building near Yonge & Wellesley, a few doors from the 6 St Joseph resource centre. Lazarus House "First Step" is a 'community support model' that has evolved from over ten years of experience of supporting individuals who have transitioned from homelessness to be contributing members of the community.

Dozens of invitations were sent to not-for-profit organization across the GTA. A short list of three was created inviting each group to make a formal presentation. Careful and decisive deliberation resulted in the selection of the Seeds of Hope Foundation. Their Mission is to provide places of hope and belonging for those at a crossroads in their lives; places where people find their

gifts and abilities through communities of compassion and caring. Seeds of Hope Foundation's transitional homes, safe places, and creative spaces enhance livelihood, learning, and social opportunities. Improve the urban community in powerful and meaningful ways in the new century ahead.

A Rendezvous with Destiny

– by Robert O'Brien



Twenty five years ago, April 15, 1988, was the last time a Rotary International President made Toronto an official destination during his term as worldwide President. That occasion was the Club's 75th Anniversary. That President was Charles Keller and he was introduced then by District Governor Dr. Bob Scott. The head table totalled a record size twenty-five and included Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander and another Club President Phillips (Roy), all of whom were dutifully located in a packed ballroom at the Royal York and lined up by then Sergeant-at-Arms Robert O'Brien. RI President Keller started his address with the words "It is so easy to begin" and spoke eloquently and forcefully for forty minutes about the ideals of Rotary, about Polio Plus, Women in Rotary and Peace. The meeting was capped by the induction of three Paul Harris fellows and the draw for the Decade in the Dome lottery. In terms of coincidence our Club that year also had a highly successful November event hosted by President Phillips and a major fundraiser the Subscription Dinner supported by all Club

members.

Since 1988 our Club has been graced by addresses by Cliff Dochterman years after his term as Rotary International President and by Wilf Wilkinson just after his nomination had been announced. So it is that our Club is honoured by first official visit of the Rotary International President in twenty-five years and this time it is for our 100th Anniversary. Dr. Bob Scott, the Sergeant at Arms and forty of us who were members of the Club in 1988 will recall that official Presidential visit and can attest to how significant it was to the Club in that anniversary year. The stars are aligning again with our Club's Centennial and the End Polio campaign. Polio is closer to final eradication than it was when Charles Keller spoke those many years ago at the launch of the Polio Plus campaign. Each and every Rotarian has a rendezvous with destiny on March 1, 2013 for an event that you too will be remembering in the many years ahead: the first visit of an RI President in a quarter century and the end of Polio. Please sign up today, spread the word and share this not-to-be-missed historic event with friends and colleagues.

MOVING FORWARD

Follow the example of our Past-Presidents!

Develop your leadership skills while serving others!

Join one of our Club's many Philanthropic Committees!

Contact Ex. Dir. Carol Beiser
office@rotarytoronto.on.ca or
Club President Neil Phillips
nphillips@dgn-marketing.com

Raise your profile! Get to know fellow members!

Take a turn as Sergeant-at-Arms at a meeting.

Volunteer to lead a Club event or fundraiser.

Make your committee's announcements from the podium.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



All You Have To Do Is Ask – by Bill Morari

Membership is the lifeblood of our Club; without a healthy membership we cannot carry out all the great work that we do in our community. Please ask your friends, colleagues, your banker, accountant, dentist, and lawyer, to attend one of our lunches. They won't be disappointed and neither will you. Remember, all you have to do is ask!

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