



Today's Program

Youth Day

Topic

Youth Civic Leadership Awards

Host

Prince Kumar

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street



Pan Vibrations entertained participants at the Youth Expo on May 17, and will join us today as well!

Today we celebrate youth and their achievements, as well as the Youth Expo we held on May 17. The theme for the Youth Expo was "Today's Youth; Tomorrow's Leaders" and today watch for some of its highlights! Jesse Ketchum Public School's "Pan Vibrations" will provide the music. Maria Shibaeva will serve as Master of Ceremonies. We will watch the Youth Expo 2013 video and receive a video message from the Minister of Children and Youth Services, Teresa Piruzza. We will award five deserving youth with civic leadership awards (see page 3), and hear from former recipient Gerald Mak.

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Richard White to Make Opening Kick-Off for New Rotary Club of Toronto-Argos Scholarship Winner

– by Nancy Schaefer, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Our Centennial Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the year-two winner of The Rotary Club of Toronto and the Toronto Argonauts' Community Champion Scholarship. Our unique scholarship is designed to send a deserving high school student to a local university with a four-year tuition scholarship. The student must demonstrate academic achievement, community volunteerism and financial need. This year's winner is Naresh Sritharan. Naresh writes, "My community has been very supportive throughout my upbringing in Canada, providing resources and opportunities which have inspired me to give back. I believe that to volunteer is to . . . undertake service. I have contributed to my school, Toronto Parks, as well as Forestry and Recreation. I have also used my musical talents to fundraise for a number of hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area. Our fundraising efforts have totaled approximately \$100,000 for Princess Margaret, Rouge Valley and Markham Stouffville Hospitals . . . I will continue to develop my community activity while pursuing my education at the University of Toronto and look forward to the many opportunities to come. Thank you very much to the Rotary Club of Toronto."



*Naresh Sritharan,
2013 RCT-Toronto
Argos Scholarship
winner*

**Join Naresh and other Rotarians on July 11, 2013
for a fun filled Argonauts game.
President Richard White will make the opening kick-off.
Tickets are only \$27.00.**

CANADA DAY WEEKEND
June 28 to July 1, 2013
Centennial Park, Toronto
See You This Summer!

TORONTO RIBFEST

Etobicoke

Volunteers Sign Up for the Annual Toronto Rotary Ribfest on June 28, 29, 30, July 1st!

The Rotary Club of Toronto's Fundraising Committee is very excited to announce that we have been asked to participate in the Etobicoke Rotary Club's Annual Ribfest. We have been asked to staff the admission gates, where we will collect a two-dollar admission donation from every adult. Children are free. This is an unbelievable opportunity for us, an absolute windfall! We need volunteers for shifts of four hours. Double shifts are also available! It is easy and fun and you will be part of the action. You will see some great entertainment. Bring your family, friends and make it a day!! Imagine the scent of those ribs cooking . . . yum, yum!

Sign up for shifts by contacting the office, Jai Persaud <mailto:jaik.persaud@cibc.ca> or Pat Neuman pneuman@welcomewagon.ca We also welcome family and friends as volunteers. www.torontoribfest.com

Olympic Gold Medalist Rosie MacLennan Attends Inaugural Rotary Youth Expo 2013

— by John Suk

So, what does President Neil Phillips have in common with Canadian Olympic gold medal winner Rosie MacLennan? Not much, perhaps, but both attended The Rotary Club of Toronto's Youth Expo 2013 on Friday, May 17.



Neil Phillips and Rosie MacLennan spoke together after she made her presentation to the students.

donation from Rotary, brought along an interactive photo-booth to help unleash kid creativity. Other groups played steel drums and acted skits about prejudice. Diana McIntyre of George Brown College explained to students how they could lead with their strengths, whatever they were. In all more than ten non-profit groups focused on working with youth were represented.

Rotary challenged all the youth who attended the Expo to become the change they want to see in the world by dreaming up a service project that would improve their communities. Students, under the guidance of teachers, will identify problems, dream up solutions as a team, write up business plans and propose their solutions to Rotary. The group with the best idea will receive 2,000 dollars to launch a local Interact Club to fund their service project.

As exciting as the Rotary challenge was, however, the highlight of the day was clearly Rosie MacLennan. She spoke about her inspiring win in the Women's Trampoline competition at the Olympics as a battle to get rid of all the white noise in her head that said she couldn't do it, and to continually focus on doing her best and having fun at it too. "It was awesome," said student participant Sadia, "I met someone famous!" "Right," said her friend Nazha. "And she told us never to put ourselves down."

The Youth Expo was a gathering of more than 200 Grade 7 through 10 students to encourage all of them to overcome the challenges in their lives and make a difference in others' lives. A number of special guests approached this theme from different angles. Besides Rosie MacLennan, Rotary's own Binoy Luckoo, along with members of the Terrequity Children's Foundation of which he is a board member, spoke about the personal transformations we can engage in to build a better life not just for ourselves, but others. Arts for Children, recipient of a 50,000-dollar 100th anniversary



Rosie MacLennan swamped by young autograph seekers after her speech.



Jules Compton (l) and Caitlin Jordan (r), from Rotary Centennial Grant recipient: Arts for Children and Youth (www.AFCY.ca) watch as a young guest tries on a hat for their art camera.

"Be the Change Maker" Competition Will Launch an Interact Club

— by Kelly Ku, Vice President, Rotaract Club of Toronto



At the first ever Rotary Youth Expo on Friday, May 17th, 2013, we launched a classroom competition called "Be the Change Maker" for Youth Expo attendees from Grades 7-10. The inspiration for this contest was to launch an Interact club in downtown Toronto by creating a competition that encourages youth to work with their classmates to identify and organize a community service project. Currently, The Rotary Club of Toronto sponsors two Rotaract Clubs: The Rotaract Club of the University of Toronto and the Rotaract Club of Toronto. However, we do not currently sponsor any Interact clubs.

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Each year, Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects. Through these efforts, Interactors develop a network of friendships and learn the importance of developing leadership skills and personal integrity, demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others, understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work, and finally, advancing international understanding and goodwill. Not to mention they are our future Rotarians!

"Be the Change Maker" competition challenges students to identify an issue in their community, recruit their classmates to help, and create a business plan that describes the issue at hand and their solution. The grand prize for the winning team is \$2000.00 in seed funding to launch an Interact Club in Toronto and fund their winning service project. This is an exciting opportunity to engage youth in Toronto in community service work and help develop their leadership skills. If you are interested in judging the competition and/or launching an Interact Club, please e-mail us at rotaryto.classroomcompetition@gmail.com. Thank you to the Youth and Children Services Committee and The Rotary Club of Toronto for supporting the Rotary Youth Expo and our "Be the Change Maker" competition.



Youth Civic Leadership Award Recipients

– by Neisely Eugene, Rotaract Club of Toronto, Youth Expo Core Team, Youth Day Lunch Lead

\$2000 Rotary Club of Toronto Youth Civic Leadership Award Winner: Jason Xie

Jason likes to create things. As a volunteer at a retirement home, Jason created partnerships between the home and local high schools and a program that allows residents to talk with their loved ones through the Internet.

\$1000 Rotaract Club Gold Youth Civic Leadership Award Winner: Sharia Wignarajah

Shaira is an optimist who believes that each individual has the capability to reach his or her goals despite hardships. Along with her friend, she started her school's Best Buddies chapter with the goal of having each individual feel welcomed at their school, allowing them to realize their interests and capabilities.

\$500 Rotaract Club Silver Youth Civic Leadership Award Winner: Sophia Glisch

Sophia is a first-year student at the University of Toronto who spends her time with scientific research, education-related entrepreneurship, and polyglotism. Though she hopes to pursue a professorship and research career in physics, biology, or comparative literature, she wants to continue contributing to her community through her academic interests and multicultural focus. As founder of Top Tutors, a sixty-tutor nonprofit serving about 400 students, Sophia knows the validity of open-source, accessible education.

\$500 Rotaract Club Bronze Youth Civic Leadership Award Winner: Kamika Peters

Kamika is a young philanthropist currently living in Toronto. She is helping at-risk youth get a hearing in Ontario by collaborating with youth organizations like Mind Your Mind and Delisle Youth Services.

\$500 Toronto Community Housing Leadership Award Winner: Nafisa Mohamed

Nafisa attends Westview Centennial Secondary School and lives in the Jane and Driftwood community. As the president of Students in Action at her school, she promotes conversation in her community about social issues by hosting and organizing events to spread awareness.

Showcasing Past Youth Leadership Award Winners

– by Chialing Ku, Rotaract Club of Toronto and Youth Expo Core Team

Being on The Rotary Club of Toronto's Youth Day Committee for the last two years, I've definitely gained a great appreciation and interest in what youth can accomplish. Besides organizing the events for Youth Day, the most rewarding part serving on this committee is the face-to-face interviews that give a real insight into what youth can achieve. Rewarding recipients is only the start of their "Service above Self" journey and for the Centennial year, the Youth Day Committee decided to look back at our past Civic Leadership Award recipients. Here is what two past recipients have to say about the Rotary Youth Leadership Award:

"The leadership awards are an excellent way to draw in dynamic youth to the organization and help them learn about its purpose. It is a great way for Rotary to build a stronger generation of future leaders not just for the organization but also for the world. The awards allow the recipient to explore a world of humanitarian projects and connect with leaders who can act as potential mentors. These incentives will drive potential future applicants to examine more closely how they can better contribute to their community." – Araf Khaled

"The Youth Leadership Award does not only help someone financially, but it rewards a hard working person for all that they have done in their community. It shows that there are people out there who believe in us and proud of us for the work we do. I think of it as a motivator for young people to keep impacting and changing the lives of many people." – Patricia Kousoulas

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

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 President-Elect: Richard White
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Robert Smith, President

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John Suk

Editor for June 14:

Maureen Bird

What You Missed Reporter for June 14:

Prince Kumar

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@rotarytoronto.on.ca

Upcoming Speakers & Events

June 2013

- 14 Douglas Sanderson, Asst Professor, University of Toronto Law School
- 21 Rocco Rossi, CEO, Prostate Cancer Canada; Centennial Awards Luncheon, Past President's Award to SKETCH
- 28 No Meeting, Canada Day Weekend

July 2013

- 5 Changeover Day
- 12 New President Richard White's "Throne Speech"
- 19 Andrée Cazabon, Gemini nominee and filmmaker
- 26 Michael Shapcott, Director of Housing and Innovation, Wellesley Institute

Propose a Speaker

Peter Simmie, Chair

Program Committee

peter.simmie@bristolgate.com



Next Week! Rotary to Make Grant to Club Amick on June 14th

Club Amick (Southern Ontario Library Service) will receive a \$25,000 Foundation grant next week. Join us to learn more about this great organization and the work they do!

What You Missed May 31, 2013

– by Jim Hilborn



Last week we enjoyed our annual Fellowship Luncheon, a bit of a non sequitur in reference to a club as bursting with fellowship every single week as the Downtown Toronto Rotary. Our numbers were heavily depleted because many members were on their way to Camp Scugog for our annual work-and-fun weekend. Nonetheless, we plucky left-behinds gathered in the Upper Canada Room at the Royal York. Fellowship certainly ensued! The lovely buffet luncheon forced us to get up into the serving line where chatting and conversation got under way. The noise rose to a nice crescendo, and with no speaker on the “menu,” it stayed there. What with table-hopping, storytelling, second trips to the buffet, and little bits of business-talk here and there, it was a fine fellowship gathering.

President Neil was already up at Scugog preparing the usual gourmet opening feast, so president-elect Richard White presided. However, with one visiting Rotarian, one guest, minimal announcements and no speaker, his workload was not onerous. We even skipped the 50-50-lottery draw! We weren't completely without entertainment, however. Lorna Robertson brought home a club flag from her visit with husband Cliff to the Paris Rotary Club, which has about 300 members. Based on Lorna's description, that club dines in the high Parisian (and far from inexpensive) style you would expect. She had forgotten to take one of our own flags and so, ever resourceful, she gave them our 100th Rotary Anniversary pin. We may not have been part of the heavyweight fellowship at Scugog, but we gave them a run for their money!

A Camp Scugog Thank You!

– by Neil Phillips

On a day all about Youth & Children's Service, it is fitting to thank those who participated in one of our major annual service projects. I offer a heartfelt thank you to all those members of RCT and our two Rotaract Clubs who gave up last weekend to come up to Camp Scugog. You scraped, painted, hammered, drilled, swept, cleaned, cooked, grilled and baked. Even torrential rains could not stop you! In one short weekend, our members put in over 500 hours of hard community service. And we had fun doing it. On behalf of the children and families that come up to camp this summer, thank you!

A Special Thank You to Youth Expo Participants and Supporters

– by Melanie Watts, Rotaract Club of Toronto and Youth Expo Core Team

A special thank you goes out to all the following individuals and organizations:

- The students, teachers and staff of the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.
- Our sponsors: Daniels Spectrum, Toronto Argonauts, Terrequity Children's Foundation, The Rotary Philanthropic Fund, Albourne Partners Limited, StraNexus Inc, Youth and Children's Service Committee of The Rotary Club of Toronto, Rotaract Clubs of Toronto, Artscape, and Toronto Community Housing.
- Organizations leading the interactive, dynamic workshops including Children's Peace Theatre, Arts For Children and Youth, Kids Now, Pathways to Education, Broadreach Foundation, Story Planet and the George Brown College.
- Motivational speaker, Canadian Olympian and gold medalist, Rosie MacLennan.
- The Jesse Ketchum Public School's Pan Vibration.

The RCT Youth Expo Core Team and the Rotaract Club of Toronto have already begun planning next year's Expo to ensure it's even bigger and more impactful than it was this year. Should you be interested in joining these efforts please contact Prince Kumar.

Youth Expo Participants and Supporters



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