

### Today's Program

Lt. General Yvan Blondin, Commanding Officer, Royal Canadian Air Force

### Topic

Canada's Air Force Today & In The Future

### Location

The Fairmont Royal York, The Imperial Room



Lieutenant-General Yvan Blondin grew up in Aylmer, Quebec, and enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1980. Upon completion of pilot training in 1982, he was assigned to VU32 Squadron in Shearwater, NS, to fly T33 aircraft. In 1986,

following the Canadian acquisition of the CF18 fighter aircraft, he was selected for conversion and posted to the newly formed 433 Tactical Fighter Squadron in Bagotville. Lieutenant-General Blondin would eventually serve with the two fighter squadrons in Bagotville, accumulating more than 3,000 flying hours in North America and Europe on various Canadian Forces aircraft.

As a staff officer, Lieutenant-General Blondin has served in various personnel related positions in NDHQ from 1993 to 2000. From 2002 to 2004, he was part of the Canadian staff in NORAD Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 2006-2007, he deployed to Afghanistan, as Director of Staff in NATO ISAF Headquarters. Following his tour in Kabul, he was assigned as Deputy Commander Force Generation at 1 Canadian Air Division in Winnipeg.

Lieutenant-General Blondin has held many commands throughout his career including Commanding Officer of 425 Tactical Fighter Squadron in Bagotville from 2000 to 2002; Commander of the Canadian CF18 Operational Force in Aviano, Italy, supporting NATO forces in the former Yugoslavia in 2000-2001; Commander of 3 Wing Bagotville from 2004 to 2006; and Commander of 1 Canadian Air Division / Commander Canadian NORAD Region from 2009 to 2011. Prior to his appointment as Commander Royal Canadian Air Force, he served as the Deputy Commander RCAF.

Lieutenant-General Blondin holds a BA Degree from the University of Manitoba and an MBA from the University of Phoenix in Arizona. He is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College and of the United States Air Force Air War College.

### 'David Wilson Memorial Garden' Opening, September 21, 12:00pm

David Lockett (PACT - Volunteer President and Co-founder) has announced that PACT (Participation, Acknowledgement, Commitment, and Transformation) will be opening the 'David Wilson Memorial Garden' on Saturday September 21st at 12 noon.

The PACT garden is located behind the John Polanyi Collegiate @ 640 Lawrence Ave West - which is just east of the Allen Expressway. This is the Garden that our Environmental Committee contributed to on an ongoing basis and David Wilson took an exceptional lead in it.

This garden is a beautiful example of diverse components of society coming together to create community, grow food and provide an example of urban-sustainability. Here is a note from PACT's web site.

Rotarians and friends are welcome to join in this celebration and achievement.



PACT Urban Peace bracelets



Sign at "David Wilson Memorial Garden"

### Rotarians Respond to Aboriginal School Appeal – by Carolyn Purden



On Tuesday, September 3 the first day of school, Carolyn Purden received an urgent e-mail from Toronto's First Nations School. Not one of their 100 aboriginal students, some just arrived from the reserve, had a backpack for books and papers. Could the Rotary Club of Toronto help?

For the past three years, the Aboriginal Service Committee has been building a partnership with First Nations School, located at Broadview and Dundas in the east end. We've helped fund their lunch program, provided some toys, books and winter clothing. We've also held two Careers Days at the school, in which a number of Rotarians have participated.

Carolyn's contacts couldn't help so she forwarded the message to John Andras, chair of the Aboriginal Service Committee, and he e-mailed all committee members as well as his own contacts. By the end of Wednesday, Steve Smith had alerted Neil Phillips, who offered 60 "sling back" bags, and Jackie Davies also offered cooler bags from the golf tournament.

The next problem was to get the 60 bags from Neil's Mississauga office to the school. Again, committee members were asked if they could help and John Carr volunteered. On Thursday, he picked up the bags and delivered them to the school, so the kids would have them for the weekend.

The school's child and youth counsellor was delighted. "I cannot thank you enough for advocating for our students to have bags and then taking your time to deliver them," she wrote. "It will make our children's lives a little easier."

"The Rotary Club members have been an incredible support to the students at First Nations School."

The power of Rotary, folks!





## What You Missed September 13 2013

– by Rohit Tamhane



If the Imperial Room had a disco ball, it would have been twinkling with all our goodwill, laughter and fellowship. Our President took Queen and Country (in that order) to heart; his invocation was an elegant recovery. And our past president was the monitor – a fact I only bring up as he was challenged with names that none could mispronounce; one does not applaud a tenor for clearing his throat. Club business?! Indeed – committee chairs for 2012/13, the auditors are in the house and your year-end reports are, ahem, ‘requested’.

And we had the great pleasure of welcoming a new member, Mr. Andy McMullan. That we have a bright young gentleman joining us

is great, but what fabulous coincidence that he has expertise dealing with children who are behaviourally challenged as well as non-violent crisis intervention. This writer (and a few other “youngsters”) just might get the help we need.

If there was a lunch to invite guests or potential members, this one was definitely one of them! The program committee deserves accolades. Mr. Eugene Jones, Jr. CEO of the Toronto Community Housing made me proud to be a Torontonian and honoured to be a Rotarian in the Toronto Club, where we have the privilege of such a speaker during lunch. “Gene”, as his 149,000 tenants call him, is the first American to head a Canadian social housing program. It stunned this writer to learn that Toronto is second to New York City in its size of social housing. With 80,000 on the wait list, Gene caught our attention that this is due to the honour system (R.I.P.); the Toronto Community Housing (TCH) is handcuffed with inane rules preventing income (or lack thereof) being a criteria for applying. To add insult to injury, the TCH cannot evict a tenant who is a recidivist. But what really concerned this writer/taxpayer was when Gene shared that he is pushing for change at all levels, because by 2030, it is estimated that the TCH will have nearly a billion dollar budget shortfall as each level of government has off loaded the financial burden.



Source: Toronto Community Housing Website

## Upcoming Speakers & Events

### September 2013

27 Olivia Chow, Member of Parliament

### October 2013

- 4 Nicholas Gunz, Military Historian, *The Battle that Nobody Won: Intelligence Failure at Jutland 1916*
- 11 Thanksgiving
- 18 TBA
- 25 Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, President, University of Winnipeg

### November 2013

- 08 Remembrance Day
- 15 Corey Keeble, Retired Curator

**Propose a Speaker**  
Peter Simmie, Chair

**Program Committee**  
peter.simmie@bristolgate.com

**Editor of the Week**  
Massood Mashadi

**Editor for September 27th**  
John Suk

**What You Missed Reporter for September 20**  
Geoffrey Cobham

Ironically, this fiery CEO has (informally) decreed accountability as the TCH’s moto. Gene’s cell and home number are on the website. He’s personally visited half of the 2000+ buildings that TCH owns and operates. He has published his goals, a landmark for the TCH. The reason is the condition that some tenants live in are deplorable; roaches, mice and bed bugs require Gene to keep a change of clothes with him at all times. We learnt that contractors and bureaucrats who have been taking advantage of the past inefficiencies of the TCH are being cleaned up.

Gene unveiled what we know is hiding in plain sight, that Toronto ‘fees’ everything. The CEO pointed out that Toronto’s urban redevelopment mixed-use models create opportunity for the city to generate revenues from multiple channels, such as parking and commercial and residential taxes. What is noteworthy is that our cousins down south have not yet caught up on this strategy. Nor have they created partnerships with the private sector to encourage and empower the youth with opportunity at jobs, access to technology and education. This charismatic leader of the TCH was skilled at making us laugh while sharing the painful reality of running the TCH. In fact, we were still laughing when Gene thanked the ‘Rotisserie Club’ for inviting him to speak. Some truths are funnier than others.



**The Rotary Club of Toronto**  
The Fairmont Royal York  
100 Front Street West, Level H, Toronto, ON M5J 1E3  
Tel: 416-363-0604 Fax: 416-363-0686  
office@rotarytoronto.on.ca www.rotarytoronto.com

