

Today's Programme

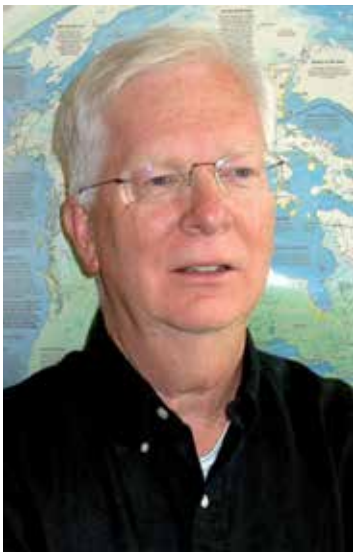
David Phillips, Senior Climatologist, Environment Canada

Topic

What's Up with the Weather?

Location

The Albany Club



David has been employed with Environment Canada's weather service for over 40 years. His work activities include the study of Canada's climate and promoting awareness and understanding of weather and climate in Canada. He has published several books, papers and reports, including several essays in *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, the book *The Climates of Canada*, and two bestsellers: *The Day Niagara Falls Ran Dry* and

Blame It On The Weather. He is the originator and author of *Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar*, the most popular calendar sold in Canada, and now in its 27th year. For nearly ten years he wrote the Weather-wise column in *Canadian Geographic Magazine*. David frequently appears on national radio and television as a commentator on weather and climate matters. David is a fellow of both the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society. He has been awarded the Patterson Medal for Distinguished Service to Meteorology in Canada, the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal and has twice received the Public Service Merit Award. David is the recipient of honorary doctorates from the University of Waterloo and Nipissing University. In 2001, David was named to the Order of Canada.

Earth Day – April 22nd

- by Kevin Power

Earth Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the environmental issues facing our community and the world today, and what we can do to address those issues.

Our club created an environmental sub-committee under the Community Services Committee with a mandate to seek out and support initiatives that restore and improve our environment in the Toronto area.

For over 20 years the Rotary Club of Toronto, along with five other local Rotary Clubs have been involved in the Rotary Ecosystem Project. Each year around Earth Day school students take a few hours out of the classroom to plant native trees and plants in the Don River Valley and to learn about their environment. This year the Program was successful in receiving a government grant from the Great Lakes Community Guardian Fund in excess of \$20,000 which will allow the program to plant 450 native trees and 450 native plants at five planting sites in the Don River Valley.

The G. Garfield Weston Foundation recently initiated the Toronto Parks Challenge to enhance Toronto's green spaces. As part of the Toronto Parks Challenge, the G. Garfield Weston Foundation provided a grant for \$25,000 to the Rotary Club of Toronto and Friends of the Ritchie Parkette to rehabilitate the Ritchie Parkette's natural environment and to introduce wildlife programming and education in the parkette. The parkette will also be enhanced for four season use by the local community.

What else can we do as individuals and as a club to benefit our environment? The Environmental Sub-committee is always looking for new ideas and members.



A Gaggle of members from Toronto-area Rotary Clubs celebrate another Earth Day Ecosystem Project.

Rotary Club of Toronto \$100,000 Centennial Grant to Bakong Technical College

– by Chris Snyder, Project Ieason: Bakong Technical College

The Rotary Club of Toronto as part of their Centennial celebration made a donation of a \$100,000 to Bakong Technical College. 2013 marked our third sweat equity trip to Cambodia with major support being provided by The Rotary Club of Toronto (RCT), Canadian Landmine Foundation (CLMF), and other generous supporters, including the 33 volunteers who participated this year. The participants from the RCT were Maureen & Gerry Bird, Brian & Joyce Westlake, Jack Robertson and daughter Debbie, Paul Truelove, Susan Hunter, Headley Hunter and Pat and Chris Snyder. Our central project in Cambodia has been the construction of Bakong Technical College (BTC). Most of the building is complete.

We had access to review the progress of the construction and were pleased to see that Buildings 1 and 2 (the general pavilion and dining area and the library and administration centre) are substantially complete. Building 3, the washroom facility, is ready for installation of plumbing fixtures. Building 4, consisting of five classrooms funded by RCT, and Building 5, a bicycle repair and small motors teaching facility for landmine victims funded by the CLMF, are both progressing well. The contractor is committed to finishing them within the existing budgets.



Flags including Rotary



Classroom 5



The IT Building

The Rotary Club of Toronto, as part of their Centennial celebration, made a donation of \$100,000 (Cdn) to the project.

This was to be used to:

- 1) Finish off the administration building and the washrooms
- 2) Build 4-5 classrooms, with other funding for the rest of the classrooms.

As indicated, the administration building and washrooms are substantially complete. The contractor has said that the small amount left to be done will be finished within the terms of the contract. The classrooms should also be finished within budget.

Besides the Rotary donation, a further \$75,000-\$80,000 raised by the volunteers is sitting in an account with CLMF. This money has been earmarked to finish off the classrooms, provide funding for desks, computers, and other classroom supplies, and fund some of the start-up costs of the school. At this stage, no date has been established for the start of the classes.

Financial records have been obtained covering the club's \$100,000 contribution and the work is being done close to budget. The actual buildings themselves are beautifully built and anyone associated with the project will be proud of what it looks like.

During the sweat equity visit we directed our efforts to several ancillary school and orphanage projects that we have been supporting through connections coordinated with BTC in prior visits. We were amazed to see the progress made at BCI (Bridges Cambodia International), where we completely refurbished the children's dormitories, working with skilled local contractors. Two years ago BCI was at the point of financial collapse, despite the efforts of the fine husband and wife team that cares for 26 orphaned or very poor children. There are now 32 children. Two years ago, a group of our volunteers provided enough funding to keep them afloat for 10 months and now this school has been adopted by an enthusiastic group of Australian volunteers, some associated with Rotary, who have provided ongoing funding for BCI's operations. Our capital improvements over the past two years show what a difference our relatively modest contributions can make when supporting able Cambodians who are making progress in the recovery of their country. This orphanage would have closed were it not for our work and support.

Various groups of our volunteers helped out at the landmine victims orphanage that is run in connection with the Landmine Museum under the auspices of a dedicated American couple, Bill and Jill Morse, who have made this their life mission. Others participated at the school that services dozens of children whose families, if they have any, work and live at the nearby garbage dump, reclaiming plastic bottles and metal scraps. They work in deplorable conditions for \$3 or \$4 a day – more than they could make elsewhere. Another of our groups worked at the Enrichment School that we have



continued from pg 2



Landmines



The Dump

been helping over the years by building a modest new classroom. We also were able to help with some English language practice for the kids who choose to come here for extra after school tuition.

We prepared and handed out more than 700 “care packages” of basic school supplies and soccer uniforms at the local school adjacent to BTC, the school in the floating village in the middle of the nearby Tonle Sap Lake and Mr. Togh’s school at the dump. Mr. Togh, a former Buddhist Monk, is another remarkable example of the progress that can be achieved by a single dedicated and visionary leader. His school educates approximately 700 hundred children who are thriving under his leadership.

Progress is moving slowly but we are confident that the monies that have been invested in this project have been properly spent. When complete, this school will be in a leadership position in providing vocational teaching and substantial local employment. An advisory team of some of our volunteers with an educational background has been assisting in curriculum development for BTC.

We are grateful to the many that have supported our efforts including the outstanding support from RCT and the people of Cambodia in these many beneficial projects.

For more information, check our website www.makeanimpact.ca.



Jack Robertson and friend

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: Richard White
 President-Elect: Steven Smith
 Vice President: David Hetherington
 Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director:

Carol Bieser

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation:
 Robert Smith, President

Editor of the Week:

Brian Porter

Editor May 4:

Joe Pochodyniak

What You Missed Reporter for April 25:

Peter Simmie

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

May 2014

- 2 Major General Richard Rohmer
- 9 Bob Howard, CEO St. Michael's Hospital
- 16 No Meeting
- 23 Camp Scugog Fellowship Lunch

June 2014

- 6 J. P. Gladu, CEO, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
- 13 John Tory, Candidate for Mayor
- 20 Youth Day

Events

- April 26 - Trump AIDS Poker Walk
- May 13 - Youth Expo
- June 28 - July 1 RibFest

Propose a Speaker

Peter Simmie, Chair

Program Committee

peter.simmie@bristolgate.com



April 26, 2014

We have three teams! Check them out on the website www.trumpaidstoronto.ca Go to the Teams tab on the left. We are Newbies, Happy Feet and High Flyers, led by Lorna Pitcher, Susan Hunter and Maureen Bird. Donate to a walker. Or join a team. We can make a difference!





Report from Camp Visit

On Thursday April 10 a group of us went up to Lake Scugog Camp to brave the snow and ice--yes, there is still ice on the lake. The purpose of the visit was to determine what projects, if any, we should consider. Despite popular belief, we are still not done with the painting and fixing!

There are steps and doors to be repaired, a bike shed to be finished, and the usual run of screens to be replaced. Carpentry skills will be in great demand this year. If you are hesitating about coming and have the ability to hold a hammer, don't hesitate any longer - the Camp needs you.

Painters, there is still more to paint, too! It is amazing how many spots we have missed and, of course, it rained last year so we were not able to finish some projects. If we can rent a gas power washer, washing will also be added to your list.

Members of the Kitchen Crew will scrub pots and pans but also have a great opportunity to learn some cooking skills, by observation. Of course, they get to taste things first, too! The camaraderie of a kitchen is unique and can only be truly experienced if you are part of it.

Often mothers and children arrive at camp with nothing but the clothes on their back. The Camp receives clothes donations that need to be sorted. Supplies must be organized. Many and varied skills are needed to get various projects completed and we could use you to assist us.

Not sure you have the skills we need? Do not worry. Someone will be willing and able to teach you how to hold a paintbrush or a hammer or a drill or a dish cloth.

By signing up now you will help me determine what we can accomplish at Camp this year. Do it now at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/l44ovom>



One of many carpentering and painting projects at Camp Scugog

What You Missed April 11, 2014

— by Garrick Ngai



Important announcements:

- Don't miss Camp Scugog! Don't miss the early-bird special (\$100). It ends on April 30.
- Jack Robertson is looking for people to help drive and deliver dinner for seniors. Contact him to sign up and for more information.

We welcomed three Rotarians (including one visiting from the Netherlands) and 13 guests to the luncheon at the National Club.

Robert O'Brien introduced Cardinal Tom Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, as the day's guest speaker. In this Lenten season, Cardinal Collins reminded us of the need

to engage the life around us. The pace of life today has led to the "Globalization of Indifference," where many of us are glued to our computers, smartphones, social media, but rarely "see" the really important things. We should notice things that really matter in our society, such as our neighbours and those in need. According to the Cardinal, many of us are leading "a way to death in spirit," because we "use people and love things" instead of the way to life, where we love people and use things.

Cardinal Collins then touched on the Catholic concept of "Subsidiarity", where "matters ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest, or least centralised authority capable of addressing that matter

effectively." The Diocese of Toronto works closely with other local faith groups to help the city's refugees and the vulnerable. We should do our utmost to help at the grassroots level. Problems become more abstract the higher and the more removed we are from them.

In observance of this Lenten season, there won't be a meeting on Good Friday (April 18). We meet again at the Albany Club on April 25 for Dave Phillips, Senior Climatologist of Environment Canada. Save your questions about this wacky weather for him.

The Ace of Clubs draw had \$3278 in the pot. Chris Snyder drew a three of hearts and walked away with a bottle of wine.

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com



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

[in](#) The Rotary Club of Toronto

[f](#) Toronto Rotary

[t](#) @TorontoRotary

