



Today's Program

Seniors Christmas Party

Host

Senior Citizens Committee

Location

Fairmont Royal York, Concert Hall



For over 75 years our Rotary Club has been the host for a very special Christmas Lunch for seniors from the inner-city area. Our Rotary Club has worked closely with the Second Mile Club which was founded in 1937 to assist seniors with their needs in the city. They provide the names of about half of our guests. Others come from Kensington Nursing Home, Yonge Street Mission, The Sunshine Centre, Salvation Army and churches including Little Trinity Church.

For many Seniors this is their prime Christmas Celebration out of their apartments and we know it is greatly appreciated. They enjoy the singing and the full turkey dinner (with cranberries!) and dessert. Music is provided by the Salvation Army Band, the Rotary Singers and a special program of the Boys Choir from Crescent School.

This program could not happen without the team from the Senior Citizens Committee, Police Services who provide a bus, Wheel-Trans who bring in so many of the more vulnerable and of course the team of Rotarian Drivers who pick up large numbers of our guests. Rotarians join the seniors at the table and all go home with a lovely bag of goodies. Good memories.

Children's Christmas Party

– by Pat Neuman

HO, HO, HO!! Do I hear Christmas Bells????

The “bestest” and longest serving Christmas party in Toronto celebrated its 86th year on Saturday...and it was magical!!! Special needs children from Easter Seals, Gilda’s Club, Starlight Foundation, CNIB, Bob Rumball School for the Deaf, and Holland Bloorview, along with their families, enjoyed our special Christmas treat. Volunteers from Rotaract Club of Toronto and the U of T Rotaract Club painted the tiny faces. June Brown and her team of Storytellers wound a tale or two for them. Mary brought her scrapbooking goodies and VIBE led the kids in creative arts and crafts, making necklaces, bracelets, hats and cards. Everyone danced up a storm to the music of Sgt. Kevin Grant, Toronto Police. The clowns, aka YEP students, entertained the children! The Police dog was happy to be fawned over, and the “snowball fight” with the police was a big hit!



Carol Hutchison with Frozen's Princess Anna and David Hetherington



Our exchange students as clowns and super heroes

MC John Fortney kept the fast moving agenda on time... Santa’s Room beautifully decorated by the Rotaractors with twinkling lights and snowflakes artfully created by Lackner Woods Public School Kitchener (thanks to Casey) was a hub of activity, with visits to Santa being coordinated by Shannon Lundquist and her team of elves, and take home digital photos thanks to Jeff Dobson and his photo team.



Even the police enjoy a snowball fight

250 Gift bags were deftly assembled by Susan Howson and her crew with Don Bell, Master of Donations, watching that each child got just the “right” number of toys. Each gift bag was adorned with a gaily decorated balloon.

City News, CTV, Global News and CP24 covered the event by interviewing President David. Over 100 volunteers including Toronto City Police and Police Auxiliary, worked to their heart’s content. The many Rotarians recruited by Lorraine have much to be proud of. Thanks so much to the wonderful committee of Don Bell, Jeff Dobson, Lorraine Lloyd, Bill Empey, Barbara Thomson and Trevor Lenders entertaining the crowd of over 700 people went off without a hitch. It was a great day and so rewarding for all of us...Warm Thanks to everyone who helped!!!



And of Course we have Santa

Club Christmas Lunch – December 18



Join us in the Ballroom for our delightful celebration and feast. Come early and bid on items for the silent auction. Kitchen appliances, special dinners, toys and gift bags will be available. And there will be many more items available for The Big Raffle including special wines chosen by our club experts. Eardley will lead our Rotary singers. Bring friends and co-workers as your guests. It is a great start to the season.



DONATING A WIN-WIN SITUATION

Considering a donation to the Rotary Club of Toronto now or in your will? Thanks to changes in Canada's tax laws, you now get maximum bang for your donation buck when you donate stock or other valuable securities.

What's the change and how does it work for you? Simple- now you can donate any publicly traded stock to Rotary. The value to the Club is the same, but the value to you can be significant, because you get to skip right over the issue of capital gain.

Following is an example of how this benefits you. Assume you have stock that cost you \$1,000, now valued at \$2,000 and you'd like to give that value to us. Under the old rules, you'd have had to sell the stock first, incurring a capital gains tax liability. Under the new rules, you can simply give Rotary the stock - and there's no tax obligation!

By KPMG's reckoning the value of the new rules looks like this:

	Old Rules	New Rules
Donation	\$2000 realized from stock sale	Stock valued at \$2000
Original cost	\$1000	\$1000
Tax on capital gain	\$230	n/a
Donation tax credit	\$920	\$920
Net tax saving	\$690	\$920
Net cost of donation after tax	\$1310	\$1080 (a \$230 improvement)

Your donation can be directed to the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation or Philanthropic Fund (for committees). It's a win for you, a win for the Rotary Club and a win for the initiatives we're all trying to support. It is recommended that you speak to your accountant or financial advisor before taking any action. To proceed contact Carol Hutchinson at the Rotary office at 416-363-0604

Upcoming Speakers & Events

December 2015

- 18 Club Christmas Lunch
- 25 No Meeting due to the Holiday Season

January 2016

- 1 No Meeting due to the Holiday Season
- 8 Alan Budson, Canon-The Anglican Church of Canada

Events

Dec 21 FnE Carolling

Editor of the Week
Shelley McIntyre

Editor December 18, 2015
Brian Porter

What You Missed Reporter for December 11, 2015
Lorna Johnson

Propose a Speaker - Contact
Alex Brown, Chair
jandabrown@rogers.com
416.799.5827

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter
voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca

What You Missed December 4, 2015

- by John Farrell



It may have been a dull and dreary day outside, but there was a lot of warmth and fellowship in the Tudor Rooms of the Royal York. A good sized group of Rotarians, 3 visiting Rotarians and 11 guests enjoyed a great lunch hosted by President-Elect Susan Hunter. On behalf of President David, Susan expressed a special thanks to Aboriginal Committee Chair, John Andras, for the remarkable work he did in organizing last week's successful lunch with National Chief, Perry Bellegarde.

Mary Lach and the Seniors Committee are still looking for your lunch tickets to provide an inner city Senior a taste of Christmas at next week's lunch. If you can help, please contact Mary. Ross Amos took to the podium to present the financial statements and to elect an Auditor as part of the Club's Annual General Meeting. Both motions passed in favour. If you are interested, the Audited Financial Statements can be picked up at the Office.

While introducing our guest speaker, Maureen Bird reminded us that our Club is the first in the district to sponsor a Syrian Refugee Family. She further mentioned that there are many among us who are sponsoring a family either with a group of friends or as part of their church. Ian McBride, our guest speaker from AURA, was equally impassioned. He delivered a powerful speech, saying that there are currently more refugees around the world now than there were at the end of World War II. Current estimates peg the number of refugees worldwide at more than 60 million. 4 million of which are externally displaced Syrians. This is no doubt a huge humanitarian crisis.

Ian also commented that Canada is the only country in the world where private groups can directly sponsor refugees. If you were to account for where refugees were accepted worldwide, the United States would be number one, by virtue of their size and wealth, Canada and Australia would jockey for 2nd and 3rd, and remarkably the people of Canada would rank number 4 through our private sponsorships. Ian's plea of us all was that assisting and resettling refugees from around the world makes Canada a much richer place, not from the monetary sense, but from the increased development of our cultural fabric.

The Ace of Clubs pot continues to grow with \$4,680 available to be won. Perpetual Guest and friend of our Club, Stephen Wilkinson, won the draw and took home a lovely bottle of wine

JOIN THE ROTARY CAROLERS

The Fellowship and Entertainment Committee welcomes one and all to meet at Café de Melbourne, 193 Church Street on Monday December 21st. We will start with warm libations at 6:00 p.m. before carolling across to Dundas Square. There will be further libations available at The Imperial Pub. All are welcome - anyone with Victorian outfits to wear!

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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