

Speaker

Ian McBride, Director of AURA

Host

Maureen Bird

She joined the club in 1996 and brings energy and passion to all the work

Topic

Refugee Sponsorship

Location

Fairmont Royal York Tudor Room 7 & 8



Ian McBride has been the Executive Director of AURA, the Anglican United Refugee Alliance for over 15 years. Born in Coburg, Ontario, Ian is one of those people who has seen it all...Who would have thought that one of Toronto's busiest refugee advocates and facilitators used to be a corporate manager? For a long time Ian was a sales and marketing executive, working in the world of international trade. His long business career was replaced by Ministry Service with a focus on the elderly, children and youth.

He has served the Church in many capacities, including as an assistant chaplain.

For a number of years he served on the Board of Directors of AURA, before becoming the Executive Director and is by far an expert in his field. He now dedicates almost all of his time to facilitating the private sponsorship of refugees and supporting their resettlement in Toronto. While many are eager to learn and have recently become interested in refugee issues in the face of the current crisis, this has been Ian's day to day work for a long time. He is based in Toronto but travels throughout southern Ontario to meet, inform and support the Constituent Groups that AURA represents. He is a dedicated advocate for refugees, and has made this his life work.

Rosedale United Church – Our Partners in Refugee Sponsorship

– by Maureen Bird



Rosedale has been sponsoring refugee families for over 15 years with all the community work being done by members of the church's settlement group, one family at a time. Claude Hoult has been the Refugee Committee chair for more than 10 years.

But with the picture of Alan Kurdi lying face down on the beach there was a huge awakening in the community. A group from outside the church asked Claude if he could help them organize. He said, yes, the news spread, and now Claude is shepherding 15 groups through the process of sponsorship. It is a huge task but from the number of meetings so far, it has created a fabulous group of dedicated people who are learning together and wonderfully sharing resources.

Each group will have a separate bank account and will have a member on the church refugee committee. Not only will the 15 refugee families benefit but all the teams themselves will find themselves taking on tasks they never thought possible and will be helping families find new welcoming communities in Canada. Please welcome Claude and his wife and chief support, Linda Hutson.



Good News Continues for Refugees

Our Syrian Refugee Sponsorship team is hard at work, taking training, attending information meetings and seeking resources. We currently have more than \$30,000 of the \$40,000 needed to support a family for a year. Please continue to help with cheques payable to Rosedale United Church or donations on line. Please follow this link:

[CLICK HERE and designate Syrian Refugees](#)

Three of our Ministers were in Jordan on Sunday to start the government assessment program. Immigration Minister John McCallum was accompanied by Health Minister Jane Philpott and Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan. They met candidates at the new processing centre and in Camp Zaatari which has 80,000 refugees. They were well received by King Abdullah II who has been most generous in accepting refugees into his country.

Club Christmas Lunch, December 18

This is the day the staff of the Fairmont Royal York goes all out to provide a wonderful Christmas buffet for all of us. Come and enjoy turkey and all the trimmings including the traditional pudding. Bring friends and staff for a special celebration. This is organized by the International Service Committee.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! We need items for the raffle and silent auction. Proceeds will go to the Children's Party fund and the Foundation's Charity of Choice. What do you want to win? That's what you can donate. Wine, gift baskets, event tickets, gift cards. Art work, that item in the garage that is still in its carton. Please work your contacts and bring items to the Rotary office.

Meet Our New Member Annie Chu



New Member Annie Chu

Annie Chu was born in Taipei, Taiwan and moved to Vancouver, BC at the ripe age of four. She eventually moved away from the mild-weathered West Coast to shockingly frosty Ottawa to work as a Page in the House of Commons, while completing

her degree in International Studies and Modern Languages as a member of the Rotaract Club of Ottawa.

During an exchange year abroad, she briefly represented the Rotaract Club of Lyon, France while also taking advantage of her new geographical location to visit as many Rotaract clubs around the rest of the world as she could. She attended both the RI Convention in Los Angeles and Birmingham, UK before returning to serve concurrently as Rotaract Club of Ottawa President and Montreal 2010 RI Convention Rotaract Host Committee Chair. Annie was honoured with a Paul Harris Fellowship from District 7040 in

the same year. She attended one more convention in New Orleans as District Rotaract Representative before moving to Toronto to attend Osgoode Hall Law School and joining the Rotaract Club of Toronto, of which she was a member until very recently.

Currently, Annie splits her professional time running a food-focused legal practice alongside the culinary travel website chuonthis.ca (Chu spelt like her last name) as a food writer and photographer. She is also an editorial board member of the Ontario Bar Association's JUST. Magazine.

Ric Williams – Our Latest Paul Harris Award / William Peace Award Winner

As you perhaps know, every so often our Club decides to award a Paul Harris Fellow to a club member who has shown extraordinary commitment and dedication. We congratulate Ric our newest Paul Harris Fellow and William Peace winner.

Ric joined the club on November 28, 2003. He has served on a number of committees including Women's Initiatives Committee 2005-2012 Chair 2007-08, Fellowship and Entertainment 2005, International Service 2008-10, Aboriginal Service 2012-13, and Strategic Planning 2012-2015. Ric has also served on the Club Board – 2007-08 – 2009-10 and been Liaison director to Communications & Public Relations (2009-12) and Foundation Board 2008/-9. He has also won two awards: Club Builder 2010 and Paul Harris Fellowship from District 7070 for design and delivery of RYLA.

Ric has also been involved in many other Rotary activities;

- Rotary Leadership International – leadership and team building skills for District and Club Executives including president elect training
- Design and delivery of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program in District 7070
- Design and Delivery of several Rotary Club of Toronto Club Assemblies
- Strong professional and leadership role in the design and implementation of The Rotary Club of Toronto Strategic plan approved August 2013



Congratulations to Ric Williams on receiving the Paul Harris Award.

Disabled Children's Christmas Party

– by Pat Neuman, Chair

Sleigh bells ring.... are you listening?

It's that time of the year...

Saturday, December 5 in the early morning, our elves will be finalizing and putting into motion the Children's Christmas party. We've invited 250 disabled/challenged children ages 5 to 10 from Easter Seals, Bob Rumball School for the Deaf, CNIB, Gilda's Club, Starlight Foundation and Holland Bloorview Children's Rehab as our special guests. With their families they will enjoy nonstop entertainment from 11 to 2 pm – clowns, singing, music, face painting, storytelling, scrapbooking and art, Toronto Fire Dept. pumper truck, the Police dog, a snowball fight with the Toronto Police and of course Santa himself comes from the North Pole especially to see these little ones. Such excitement all generously donated by corporations and individuals...if you would like to make a donation, please call the office or give Don Bell the cash at lunch tomorrow. If you would like to volunteer, please contact lorrainenelson5@gmail.com ASAP. For all the volunteers, this is the beginning of our Holiday Season!!! See you there!

Seniors Christmas Party

– by Mary Lach, Chair

We look forward to entertaining over 200 inner city Seniors next week. They come from some of our service agencies, nursing homes and local churches. The thank you notes we receive are so heartening.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for various duties. Drivers can also be Table Hosts. Please contact DON BROOKS at 416-704-7049, don.brooks@rogers.com.

DONATION of a lunch ticket or cheque to TAKE A SENIOR TO LUNCH would be greatly appreciated.



Ed Note: John Andras was to have introduced the National Chief. Due to circumstances beyond his control, he was unable to do so. His introduction follows below.

Introduction of National Chief Perry Bellegarde – by John Andras



Before I introduce the National Chief, I would like to congratulate Lynn McCurdy and the Rotary Club of Guelph. Their “Better Hearing in Education for Northern Youth” initiative is one of three finalists for the \$1 million dollar Arctic Inspiration Prize.

I would also like to recognize several important people who are with us today. I would like to thank Phil Davis from Six Nations for introducing me to the Drum and opening my mind to new possibilities. I would like to thank Jean Koning; she has been walking the path of reconciliation for over 50 years. I consider Jean to be my Elder, guide and friend. I would also like to thank David Sharpe from Tyendenaga First Nation. David is the CEO of Bridging Finance, the Chair of First Nations University and a member of our club’s Aboriginal Service Committee. His guidance and support is invaluable.

5 years ago we were ignorant, blissfully unaware that Canada was broken. However we are learning. From Andrée Cazabon and 3rd World Canada, from Idle No More, from Chris Snyder and HIP, from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission we learned about intolerable conditions in fly-in communities, we learned about children set up to fail due to chronic and growing school funding gaps, we learned about addiction, despair and hopelessness. We learned about the missing aboriginal women. We learned that we have been lied to by generations of governments.

We realized a fundamental change in the relationship between indigenous peoples and non-indigenous peoples is required. Changes are afoot.

- A new government in Ottawa,
- a new Justice Minister who is the past Regional Chief of British Columbia,
- a new Prime Minister who promised to reset the relationship,
- a new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs who has long been an advocate for the rights of the first peoples and who now needs to put her words into actions.

We also have a new National Chief, a former Rotarian, who was named Assembly of First Nations Chief less than a year ago. Perry Bellegarde is a passionate advocate for the implementation of the inherent and aboriginal treaty rights. He has the opportunity unique in our history to seize this moment and to create a lasting and fundamental change. His biography is in the Voice on your table and I urge you to take a minute to read it.

National Chief Bellegarde, we are honoured to have the opportunity to hear your words. It is appropriate that we are together- indigenous leaders, business leaders, leaders from all backgrounds and faith traditions. We, in this room, represent what change might look like. If so, our future together is bright.

Your Honour, Regional Chief Day, Minister Zimmer, Rotarians and guests, National Chief Perry Bellegarde.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club’s Annual General Meeting for the purpose of electing a Vice President and four Directors for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2016; a Treasurer for the year 2016-2017 year; the approval of the audited Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2015; and the election of Auditors; will be held during the regular lunch meeting on Friday, December 4, 2015.

The Club’s Financial Statements will be available for pick up at the attendance desk on Friday, December 4, 2015

“The Club would like to thank Host to the Speaker and Chair of the Aboriginal Service Committee, John Andras, for last’s Friday’s terrific lunch.

The Rotary Club of Toronto was honoured to host the Assembly of First Nations - National Chief Perry Bellegarde, our guest speaker for the day.

Events like this do not happen by themselves. . . .Congratulations to John and his Aboriginal Service Committee. President David Hetherington”

RI President
Ravi Ravindran

District Governor
Michael Bell

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: David Hetherington
President-Elect: Susan Hunter
Vice President: Pat Neuman
Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director:
Carol Hutchinson

**Rotary Club of Toronto
Charitable Foundation:**
Bob Smith, President

Editor of the Week:
Karen Scott

Editor December 11, 2015 Voice:
Shelley McIntyre

What You Missed Reporter for December 4th:
John Joseph Mastandrea

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?

Upcoming Speakers & Events

December

- 11 Seniors Christmas Party
- 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 5 Children’s Christmas Party, Fairmont

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair
jandabrown@rogers.com
416.799.5827

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

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What You Missed November 27, 2015

– by Karen Scott



There was a palpable buzz in that magnificent and full to capacity ballroom. Rotarians and guests knew they were about to bear witness to something very special as our most distinguished guests Her Honour Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David Zimmer Minister of Aboriginal Affairs-Ontario, Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, Chief Bryan LaForme and Elder Gary Sault of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, Bishop Mark MacDonald (Indigenous Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada) entered. With everyone standing in solitude and unity, following the traditional exchange of tobacco, the Drum Smoke Trail provided a spiritual welcome. Elder Sault led us in a prayer with the central message to “remember the corn” and all of its different colours. Bishop MacDonald provided the moving invocation, followed by a passionate speech by Regional Chief Day.

Her Honour opened her speech on the theme of Mother Earth on the eve of the Canadian delegation’s trip to Paris to focus on climate change. She recognized the territories on which we were standing and paid thanks to Rotarians and the National Chief, viewing this event as one of the steps toward reconciliation. She has visited KI and the residential schools. Both impacted her profoundly. On her travels, Her Honour has heard a recurring theme; that of the importance of building relationships, of networking, strengthening, and reawakening.

Following Head Table introductions by President David, Richard White came to the podium to introduce Ric Williams, our latest Paul Harris Award winner. President David presented the award to Ric.

Chief LaForme introduced our very special guest speaker, National Chief Perry Bellegarde.

National Chief Bellegarde opened his speech in Saulteaux and in English, giving thanks to our Creator, this day, the prayers, Drum and Chiefs. He acknowledged all other distinguished guests and also the Rotary commitment to bridging the gap. His said his advice to us is simple: “Don’t stop!”

We need to provide awareness, build trust, alleviate fears, to bridge the gap. We must all recognize the importance of coming together. We are all related. He talked about our election. Indigenous peoples did not get the right to vote until 1961 and he had never voted. He was taught the treaties are with the Crown and not with the government. The importance of impacting elections did not align with these teachings. After much consideration, he embraced dual citizenship and recognized the time is now. The rest is history already. There was a huge turnout and are now 10 indigenous MPs. Many new thoughts and ideas will be brought to the table.

There needs to be renewed Nation-to-Nation recognition of rites; respect, co-operation and partnership. We need to recognize our 500 years of shared history, learn from residential schools, and move beyond the Indian Act. Canada is ranked 6th overall in the world by the UN, but when only indigenous peoples are considered, this drops to 63rd. This gap holds everyone back. Some sobering statistics:

- Youth suicide rate: 5-7 times higher
- Life expectancy: 5-7 years less
- Infant mortality: 1.5 times higher
- 40,000 indigenous children are in foster care
- 132 communities are on boiled water alerts
- 4.5 per cent of the population, but 25% of the jail population

There is hope. The National Chief outlined the pathway:

- 1) Strengthen families and communities.
- 2) Provide resources.
- 3) Uphold rights. Policy and law reviews need to be undertaken with removal of those that don’t respect the UN and our own Constitution.
- 4) Respect our environment. There is the duty to consult the Crown.
- 5) Revitalize 58 remaining indigenous languages. There were many more, but with the generations of genocide through the residential schools, only 58 remain. These languages should be considered our national treasures. They are spoken nowhere else in the world.
- 6) Implement 94 calls to action in the TRC: We’ve heard the truth; it’s now time for action. Indigenous peoples must be provided with the same health care, education and jobs. Making these investments will have a huge impact. \$1.5 Billion dollars in social spending will be saved. \$400 Billion will be injected into the economy for all.

National Chief Bellegarde concluded by reflecting on Canada’s upcoming 150th birthday. What would a Canada that has closed the gap look like? From an indigenous point of view, our creator is acknowledged and everything created – earth, moon, stars, 2-legged creatures, 4-legged creatures that walk, fly and swim, and the four grandmothers being salt, rain, fresh air and birth. We’re all

connected. This world view is the one that he will be taking to Paris.

A group of Rotarians led by Chris Snyder, Chair of HIP, gathered following the meeting with National Chief Bellegarde, Regional Chief Day and Elder Sault to continue the discussion. Many connections were made that can only further the spirit of cooperation between Rotary and the First Nations.



President David with our esteemed guests Her Honour Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell and AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde.



Our hearts beat to the beat of Drum Smoke Trail.



National Chief Bellegarde said we must “bridge the gap” and outlined the six-step pathway to a better future.



Elder Sault, Bishop MacDonald, and Chief Day share fellowship.

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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