

ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

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Today's Program

Mark Lukowski, Christian Children's Fund of Canada

Host

Richard White

Topic

The Voices of Children: Ending Violence and Exploitation Against Children

Location

Fairmont Royal York, Upper Canada Room



Passionate about protecting the rights of children around the world, Mark Lukowski has been Chief Executive Officer of Christian Children's Fund of Canada since April 2009. In this role, Mark has helped to amplify the voices of vulnerable children and promoted global change on children's rights issues in national and international forums, including at the United Nations.

With a strong background of over 25 years of executive business leadership, Mark has led Christian Children's Fund of Canada's efforts to develop unique global alliances, and has advanced the organization's vision of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve his or her full potential. Through his travels in

Africa, Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas, Mark has built the profile of the organization, encouraged a greater focus on child protection by national governments and pursued opportunities to increase the global impact of Christian Children's Fund of Canada programs.

Mark is the former co-chair of the CEO Forum of ChildFund Alliance, a global network of 12 child development organizations that advocates governments around the world to prevent and respond to all forms of violence and exploitation against children.

Mark is the father of two adult children, and currently lives in Oakville with his wife.

Enjoy the Fellowship of Singing

Have you noticed something different before our luncheon meeting starts?

Group singing has been scientifically proven to lower stress, relieve anxiety, and make you feel happier. Group singing is a wonderful release, and an opportunity to express your thoughts and feelings through music. Whether you can carry a tune or not, a group always sounds wonderful.

Joining Brigitte for a Rotary sing-along will give you an opportunity to enjoy singing. You don't need to practice or be a singer to join – everyone is welcome. The joy of singing in a group may be just the lift you need at the end of a long week of work.

Brigitte will be at the piano with song sheets to welcome you at or around 11.45 AM before most of our Club Luncheons. We hope you will join us in the fellowship of song!

Rotary Voice Committee – Fellowship without Singing a Note

The Rotary Voice Committee is charged with putting out an informative and attractive newsletter for club membership, each week. We did so and we have won awards for our product!

We have an accomplished team of ten to twelve editors who take turns compiling each issue's articles. Jeff Dobson, our Vice-Chair, edits the articles and they are then reviewed by our Chair, John Suk. This past year we've focused not only on the week-to-week goings on at Rotary, but also on the outcomes of the many grants we've made during the past year.

We are always on the lookout for new committee members! You don't need to be Hemingway – articles are submitted by members. We will provide you with a mentor, and the committee members use email and Dropbox to stay in touch. That means you can make your contribution while keeping a flexible schedule. It's a great way to learn about all the activities of the club too.

If you are interested in checking us out, join us for one of our meetings. We meet the first Friday of the month, right after our lunch, in the Rotary offices. Join us today if you're interested in finding out more! Or, if you would like more information, contact John Suk at johndsuk@mac.com.



JOIN ROTARY NOW!
www.rotarytoronto.com



Women's Initiative Committee Collaborates to Found Covenant House

Four years in the making, the launch of the city's first specialized, longer-term housing program for young, female victims of sex trafficking was launched in January. A partnership among Covenant House, The Rotary Club of Toronto's Women's Initiative Committee, Toronto Community Housing and the City of Toronto, the new facility will be operated by Covenant House. This community-based residential program is the first step in the agency's plan to combat sex trafficking with initiatives. Wrap-around services will include crisis intervention and prevention through public awareness. As the country's largest agency for homeless youth, Covenant House has offered help to victims for more than 30 years and this is an important extension of their program.

"We estimate that as many as 1,000 of our youth are involved in some form of the sex trade annually, mostly trading sex for survival," Bruce Rivers, Covenant House Executive Director, said. "Their desperation makes them highly vulnerable to sexual exploitation for profit. We know that homeless youth are targeted by predators and we also know that unsuspecting young girls in schools, malls and online are also lured into this kind of sex slavery. We are launching our housing program as the first step in a concerted effort to do more to tackle this vicious and unacceptable crime."

The program will house up to seven residents, aged 16 to 24, at a time. Program residents, who can stay for up to two years, will receive transformational support, including trauma and addiction counselling, life skills training and educational and vocational support. Free legal assistance will also be available from the firm of Baker & McKenzie and legal aid through Justice for Children and Youth for those who choose to seek justice through the courts. Under the agreement, Toronto Community Housing will lease a property to Covenant House for 15 years at a nominal rent, while Covenant House will fund all ongoing operating and maintenance costs. The city has agreed to provide capital funding for repairs and renovations to the location to be completed in the coming months. To ensure the privacy of residents, the location will remain confidential.

Through the leadership of the Women's Initiative Committee, and relying on the extensive expertise of Wendy Leaver, a former Toronto Police Sex Crimes Unit detective, community consultations were held to help develop the plan, including the assessment of programs in other Canadian cities. "This is a very proud day for The Rotary Club of Toronto's Women's Initiative Committee," says Marg Stanowski, who provided early leadership on the Committee in prioritizing this complex and often-neglected community issue. "Over the past four years, we remained steadfast in our commitment to help build the awareness, support and partnerships to establish this facility for sexually exploited, young female victims."

News from The Fellowship and Entertainment Committee

Now that Spring is no longer such a forlorn hope, our hearts and minds can turn to Fellowship and the events that make our Rotary Club one of the best in the world. The events are getting bigger and bolder!

Here are just a few of the events that we have coming up in the next few months:

1. April 16 – Another Oenophile's Delight organized by Master Oenologist Neil Phillips. Whilst we don't yet have a theme for the night you can rest assured that between Neil and The National Club it will be a fabulous event. These always sell out so mark your calendars to reserve your spot as well as to attend.
2. April 23 - The Rotary Club of Toronto has had a long term relationship with Sketch, which provides working arts for homeless, street involved and marginalized youth. They have invited us to a gala dinner to showcase their work and to thank us for our support. Under the spotlight will be the Geoffrey Johnson designed kitchen that will be used to prepare our meal. Watch for announcements about this event – there will be a special guest of honor...
3. May 7 – We will all be gathering at Geoffrey Johnson's catering company to celebrate that Ambrosia that is Spring Harvested Asparagus! This will be a fantastic night of culinary delights and an opportunity for a lucky few to learn some culinary skills from the master himself.
4. May 22 – CAMP SCUGOG!!! Every year about one-third of the club membership makes the short drive to Camp Scugog where we spend the weekend sprucing up the camp for the upcoming summer. Without Scugog and without us many children of homes facing poverty and other barriers would not get to experience the wonder and pleasure of summer camp. Along the way we drink and dine to the delights of the Haute Cuisine prepared by our team of five-star chefs. If you could only attend one event per year – this would be the one.





Wendy Leaver Newest Paul Harris Fellow for Launch of Covenant House

On January 30, 2015, Marg Stanowski presented Detective Wendy Leaver with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award for her tremendous role in bringing to reality the new Covenant House housing program for victims of the sex trade, the first of its kind in Canada. Who is our newest Paul Harris Fellow?

Wendy Leaver is a retired Detective with the Toronto Police Service, where she has worked as its Sexual Assault Coordinator since 2004. She has been a Toronto Police Service officer since 1975 and a Detective with the Sex Crimes Unit since 1991. She is responsible for the implementation of the services provided to victims of sexual assault and to liaising with approximately 100 agencies in the City of Toronto. She also provided training to agencies on sexual assault investigations and victim issues.

In the course of her career with the Toronto Police Service she has been assigned to the Toronto Police Service Youth Bureau and the Ontario Provincial Police Joint Forces Pornography Unit. From 1981 to 1985, Ms. Leaver was seconded

to the Department of Justice where she worked on the Badgley Study as a Senior Research Associate to the Committee on Sexual Offences Against Children and Youth. This study led to amendments to the sexual offences against young persons provisions in the Criminal Code.

Ms. Leaver was appointed an Honorary Lecturer by the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine. She has developed courses for medical students, the RCMP, and other police forces in Canada, England and Jordan. Ms. Leaver also represented the Canadian government at the International Seminar on Women and Human Rights and Police and Judicial Systems in Quito, Ecuador.

Ms. Leaver has a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from Marianopolis College and a Certificate in Social Work from the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. She has served on the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Toronto YMCA, the Mennonite Central Committee Circle of Support and the Variety Club of Ontario.



Covenant House Executive Director Bruce Rivers, Marg Stanowski, President Steve Smith, newest Paul Harris Citizen Award winner Wendy Leaver, Women's Initiative Committee chair Sylvie Leger

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: Steven Smith
 President-Elect: David Hetherington
 Vice President: Susan Hunter
 Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director:

Carol Hutchinson

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation:

Robert Smith, President

Editor of the Week:

Lorna Johnson

Editor February 20, 2015:

Luba Rascheff

What You Missed Reporter for February 6th:

Karen Scott

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

February

- 6 Mark Lukowski, Christian Children's Fund of Canada
- 13 No Meeting due to the Family Day Holiday
- 20 New Member's Program – At The National Club
- 27 Dr. Danielle Martin, Women's College Hospital, State of the Canadian Health Care System

March

- 6 Chief Bill Blair, Metropolitan Toronto Police Chief
- 13 Stephen Levy, President & CEO, Ryerson University
- 26 RCT Poker Night Fundraiser – Steam Whistle Brewery

April

- 16 Wine Night!

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair

Program Committee

alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca



What You Missed, January 30, 2015

– by Khrystina McMillan



How unfortunate if you missed this lunch! The Upper Canada Room was full of energy and emotion brought by our amazing guests. In addition to our guest speaker Jasmine Herlt, Canada Director for Human Rights Watch, the head table was honoured to host Detective Wendy Leaver of the Toronto Police Services' Sex Crimes Unit and Bruce Rivers, Executive Director of Covenant House.

Monitor Bill Morari kicked off the meeting by introducing our guests and visiting Rotarians and the meeting began with a few announcements. Pat Neuman pitched our club's fundraiser at the Steam Whistle Brewery on March 26. Tickets are \$125 and Pat expects a donation from everyone in that amount regardless of whether or not you attend. Marg Stanowski then presented Detective Wendy Leaver with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

We were then fortunate to hear from Jasmine Herlt, hosted by Sylvia Milne. After showing a powerful video on some of Human Rights Watch's work around the world, Jasmine described how, on February 13, 2013 Human Rights Watch released a report in Parliament documenting the murder and disappearance of indigenous women and girls in northern British Columbia. It is estimated that 1,181 aboriginal girls have been murdered or gone missing since the 1960s. Compounding the problem is a wide-spread fear of RCMP officers in the region. The report calls for a national inquiry into the murders

and disappearances of indigenous women and girls, including the impact of abusive policing in communities along Highway 16 – a call the Government has yet to answer. Human Rights Watch was also involved in exposing the startling backlog of roughly 12,500 untested rape kits in LA County after it investigated the abysmally low rate of arrests for sexual assaults despite increased reporting of these crimes. For more information on these and other projects, or for information on its upcoming film festival at TIFF Bell Lightbox, check out Human Rights Watch's website: www.hrw.org.

It was strangely quiet as President Steven Smith read out the winners of the meeting's two draws – which he attributed to John Andras' absence from the meeting. Carolyn Purden won two tickets to the upcoming Rotaract Vodka Tasting event. Former Rotarian Don MacDonald was the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw, walking away with a bottle of wine after not pulling the elusive Ace of Clubs.

As a final thought, President Steven Smith reminded us that we as Rotarians share the values enshrined in the Human Rights Watch's Mission Statement, in working to “uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all.”

Creating More Effective Committees

At the Club Assembly in October 2014, nearly 70 members gathered to talk about Effective Committees and how we can make things better. Many ideas were suggested and a taskforce

was established to look at ways to make our Philanthropic and Service Committees operate more effectively.

The Taskforce includes Ross Amos, James Hunter, Susan Hunter, Dina Rashid and Peter Simmie. As the Taskforce begins its work, it is welcoming input from Club members who want to share their experiences and ideas. Feel free to contact any of the following individuals:

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