



Today's Program

Mark McLean, Toronto Real Estate

Host

John Fortney

John joined our club in 1999 and will be joining our board for a third term

Topic

The State of the Market in Toronto

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay St



Mark McLean considers himself a veteran of Toronto real estate. When he was 16, his grandfather left for Florida and put him in charge of a small rental property in the Annex. He collected and deposited the rents, kept the books, shoveled the snow and salted the walks. A year later he sold his first house. Mark never looked back. He successfully sold homes and condos in the downtown core for over 20 years. In 2010, Mark decided to take a different road to success choosing to focus on the management and organizational side of the real estate industry. He is the manager, broker and creative director of a local real estate company and currently holds the position as president of the Toronto Real Estate Board, the largest association of Realtors in the world with nearly 44,000 members.

While a business and sales background has served him well, Mark has leveraged his position at TREB to travel North America and talk to many real estate experts. These interactions have helped him spot some important emerging

trends in the real estate world. These changes are not just related to the function of buying and selling property, they are more focused around changing lifestyles, technology and social interaction.

Mark gives the message that Toronto has the capacity to change its core branding from that of a "Mega City" to that of an "Alpha City". We are, after all, the financial capital of Canada, a significant centre for the arts, education, and design. In fact, Toronto holds a number of first place rankings on the world stage. The Economist Magazine ranks us high on such metrics as the Safe City Index, livability, cost of living, business environment, democracy, and for our youth economic strategy. But we also face some challenges that will need to be addressed in the foreseeable future. The fact remains that Toronto's real estate market has fared remarkably well over the last decade. In 2015 the Toronto Real Estate Board recorded approximately 100,000 real estate transactions, shattering the old record by 7,000. In addition, prices have continued to increase. We continue to experience tremendous growth in new condominium and rental building construction adding thousands of new homes to our existing stock every year. Our growth is fueled by immigration but it's the price appreciation that has garnered global attention and caused many experts, to declare that we are living in a bubble just waiting to pop. If you believe that real estate is cyclical then the question to ask is; are we at the top of our cycle or are we just getting started?

Mark looks forward to sharing his ideas on the future prosperity of Toronto and prove that there's no place to go but up.

Toronto Hosts Rotary International Convention June 2018 Guest Speaker Friday February 5th, Ian Riseley, Rotary International



We were also host to conventions in 1924, 1942, 1964 and 1983. As president nominee for 2017-18, Ian Riseley will be here in February to meet with our convention team led by Michele Guy and Michael Cooksey. We are fortunate to have Mr. Riseley at our club lunch on the 5th. We will be at the National Club and it is a great opportunity to bring potential Rotarians.

PLEASE NOTE: The lunch is limited to the first 150, including members, who notify the office accounts@rotarytoronto.on.ca or 416-363-0604. For our members the cost is a lunch ticket. For guests and other Rotarians the cost is \$50.

Ian H.S. Riseley, of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia became the president-nominee on 1 October 2015. Riseley says that meaningful partnerships with corporations and other organizations are crucial to Rotary's future.

A member of since 1978, Riseley has served Rotary as treasurer, director, trustee, RI Board Executive Committee member, task force member, committee member and chair, and district governor.

He is also a former member of the Australian Polio Eradication Private Sector Campaign and a recipient of The Rotary Foundation's Service Award for a Polio-Free World. He and his wife, Juliet, are Multiple Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, and Bequest Society members.

Metropolitan United Church – Our Refugee Sponsorship Journey so far

– by Karen Scott

The Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu said “the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”. This is indeed true of our Syrian refugee sponsorship journey. In the spring of 2015, our church’s Peace and Social Justice Committee organized a “Lunch and Learn” session focusing on the topic of refugees and refugee sponsorship. The plight of refugees was already on the minds of several who were in attendance. Interest was heightened based on information provided by the speakers. Several participants wanted to do more, much more. They collaborated to generate the momentum to form a new committee. The Metropolitan United Refugee Sponsorship Committee was born.

During the next six months, our committee was very active. We educated ourselves about sponsorship. Donations for furniture, household goods, clothing and toys were solicited, received, and inventoried. We raised money through foundation and individual donations, and various events.

After what seemed like an endless wait, during the last week of September, we were given the opportunity to sponsor a family of seven with five young children 10 and under. We learned on December 1st that our family would be arriving on December 7th. We moved into overdrive. We had a “cleaning day” and two “work parties”. Furniture was delivered and assembled, household goods unpacked and put away, beds made, clothes sorted and put in drawers and cupboards, the basement play area set up, and the pantry and fridge stocked with food.

Everyone asks: “What was it like to meet your family at the airport?” I respond: “It was one of the most incredible days of my life”. Our family greeted us with their precious smiles, hearts, and souls, and just two medium suitcases. That was all, but that was everything. We greeted them with our right-hands to our hearts and with hugs and huge smiles that desperately tried to hide our tears of joy.

Our family has settled in extremely well. All of the necessary administrative items have been taken care of. The four older children are in school, and Mom and Dad are taking ESL lessons while the youngest is in the nursery provided by the



Photo by Scott Ramsay

school. They are so warm, loving, gracious, polite, hospitable, and curious. We have engaged in many deep discussions, shared meals, snacks, and countless cups of tea together, explored a bit of Toronto, and played with the kids. They are most grateful and thankful for everything. But, it is not them who should be grateful, it is us. They have given us much more than we have given them. They are family now. We love them and they love us. We belong together.

Ed. Note: Member Karen Scott is on both the Metropolitan Church team and our Rotary Toronto team.

Intercultural Dialogue Institute Awards - by Maureen Bird

Tuesday evening six of us attended this awards evening at the Fairmont with 200 others. We were there to support our filmmaker Andrée Cazabon as she was awarded the “Peace and Dialogue Distinguished Leadership Award”.

The Imperial Room was filled with dignitaries including two mayors, several MPs and MPPs, priests, rabbis and imams and school board trustees. Dr. Stephen Toope, Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs at U of T was the main speaker and was inspirational.

Andrée was introduced by Brian Desbiens from IDI and we were delighted to see the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, our Lieutenant Governor, come to the stage to congratulate her on her continuing work at KI (Her Honour has been there with Andrée). John Andras was there to watch himself talk on screen about Andrée’s 10-year commitment to the reserve. At my table there were three Syrian sponsor groups represented and we were pleased that the “Community Service Award” went to Lifeline Syria.



Brian Destines with Andrée Cazabon and the Hon Elizabeth Dowdeswell

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com





New Executive Members



Jeff Dobson

Vice-President as of July 1, 2016 - President July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Jeff joined our club in 2001, sponsored by his twin sister Alison Truelove. He has been involved with Youth and Children's Service Committee in many ways including Committee Chair, Youth Day, Youth Expo and our Children's Christmas Party. He is a long-term Member of our International Service Committee including past chair, is currently chair of the Voice Committee and is on the Research and Appeals Committee. He is an active volunteer at Argos games, Camp Scugog, Steam Whistle fundraiser and has been to Malawi on Sweat Equity. He has been a member of our Club Board and was awarded a Club Builder Award.

Directors July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019



Glenn Davis

Glenn joined the club in 1990 as an estate planner in the trust and insurance industry. He was a board member and an honorary Director of the Foundation Board for several years. He is best known as a "Master Carpenter Chief" at Camp Scugog and a supplier of largely unusable jokes to the President and anyone else. For many years he has been at our keyboard to entertain and lead us. Most recently he has submitted to an intensive music rehabilitation program under the tutelage of our divine Diva, Brigitte Bogar, who is valiantly trying to teach him how to be an Accompanist.



Bill Empey

Bill joined the club in 1991. He has been a member of International Service and Youth and Children's Service Committees. He is currently on the New Members Committee and has provided valuable "special duties" at so many Christmas parties. In addition he is co-chair of the Foundation Investment Committee. He has received a Club Builder Award and Paul Harris Fellow/William Peace Award.



John Fortney

John joined the club in 1999 and proved his abilities and commitment quickly, receiving a Club Builder award in 2002. He is also a Paul Harris Fellow/William Peace Award recipient. He continues to be on the Youth and Children's Service Committee with past involvement in Youth Day and the Scholarship Committee. He has been a master fundraiser and event organizer including Ice Breaker and the Centennial Gala. Other involvements have been Media and Communication and New Members Committees. This will be his third time with our Board.



Prince Kumar

Prince joined the club in 2010 but immediately went to work with Youth and Children's Service Committee which he chairs this year. He has planned Youth Day and the inaugural Youth Expo. He has been on the International Service Committee and also Sweat Equity to Malawi. He is a Scugog volunteer and is currently on the Strategic Planning Committee.

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:**
Peter Love, President

Editor of the Week:
Maureen Bird

Editor January 29th, Voice:
Lorna Johnson

What You Missed Reporter for January 22th:
Annie Chu

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

January 2016

29 Alex McKee- Getting the Millennials to Leave Home

February 2016

5 Ian Riseley - R.I. President Nominee 2017-18
9 Tuesday Cocktails at the National Club
12 No Meeting-Family Day
19 Shelley Martin, CEO Nestlé Canada

Events

April 19 – Macaron vs Macaroon at Aphrodite Cooks

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair
jandabrown@rogers.com
416.799.5827

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



Our Club reached 702 people on Facebook this week.



R2R – by Rohit Tamhane



The first R2R for 2016 was a great success and thanks to all those who came out. We had approximately 30 attendees, including the Toronto Sunrise Club and Rotaract Club of Toronto. Special thanks to the president and president-elect for coming out to show their support. Though PM Justin Trudeau was at the National Club, he could not show up due to all the selfies he was posing for. We look forward to seeing you in February. Please note, the event is now \$10/pp.

What You Missed January 15, 2016 – by John Andras



Escaping the turbulence of the equity markets this writer found the Upper Canada Room of the Royal York Hotel a welcome haven. Michele Guy our monitor graciously introduced 2 visiting Rotarians a Rotaractor and 6 guests. David Hetherington, back at the helm had several messages from the office.

- We need help with Sgt. at Arms and Ace of Clubs draw ticket sellers on Fridays. (A great way for newer members to be involved!)
- Committee Chairs-Please clean out your mail boxes. (I did and found out what my committee had done in 2014!)
- Carol will be out of the office from Jan 26-Feb 8th. Please offer Belli and Harvey help to organize the meetings.

R2R has been reinvigorated by (Mr. R2R) Rohit Tamhane. The first of the new R2R sessions took place on Thursday and by all reports, it was a wonderful time full of fellowship, cocktails and canapés. The next two will take place on February 11 and March 10th at the National Club and the cost is only \$10.00. Remember, Tuesday February 9th is the popular President's Cocktail Party. Tickets are \$25.00 and free for potential new members (Carol says-serious prospects only-please). Friday February 12 is the Family Day Holiday and there will be no regular lunch.

We announced our new appointments to the Board and president. Treasurer for 2016-17 will be James McAuley. New Directors are Glenn Davis, Bill Empey, John Fortney and Prince Kumar for 2016-19. And most importantly, the President for 2018-2019 will be Jeff Dobson. Congratulations to a great group of dedicated Rotarians.

Shelley McIntyre introduced our Guest

speaker, Dr Jerry Cuttler. He began his remarks by quoting Marie Currie who stated "Nothing in life is to be feared, only understood". Having spent over 50 years studying the impact of ionizing radiation, he is well positioned to debunk the common wisdom that all radiation is harmful and is carcinogenic.

Dr Cuttler explained that the current misunderstanding was promoted in the 1950's on bad research intended to bolster the anti-nuclear lobby during the cold war. The industry by burying radioactive waste 600 meters underground in sealed sarcophaguses is continuing to fuel this misguided fear. Herman Mullar's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on mutations induced by high doses of x-rays on fruit flies led to a belief that all radiation levels are harmful. Dr Cuttler's research indicates that low level dosages of radiation are in fact beneficial as it stimulates protection systems in the body. Radiation, it seems, is only harmful when levels rise past a threshold that is far beyond levels currently deemed dangerous.

When the 3 Fukushima reactors melted down not one of the 70,000 and subsequent 100,000's subsequently evacuated suffered a high level dose of radiation. However 1,600 people died as a result of the evacuation. There was no basis for the evacuation other than irrational fear.

In fact Japanese scientists repeated Mullar's experiment and discovered that low dose radiation actually decreased the incidence of mutations and only very high doses of radiation were damaging.

Dr Cuttler pointed to studies of nuclear workers who tend to live longer lives and suffer fewer illnesses. He pointed to animal studies exposing dogs to low level radiation that showed life spans were increased 10-30% over a control group. He indicated that dogs exposed to Cobalt 60 at 300x standard exposure showed no long-term ill effects. There are studies showing lung cancer rates go down in areas that have high rates of naturally occurring radon. There appears to be benefits of low level radiation that promote longevity. There are indications that low level radiation treatment might be more effective than chemo-therapy for the treatment of some cancers. He even claimed that radiation may help prevent and reverse Alzheimer's.

Dr Cuttler stated that it is policy not science, driven by the 1950's bomb scare, that has created a collective wisdom that should be challenged.

The Ace of Clubs following last week's win now has \$500 in the pot which went unclaimed. John Fortney will enjoy the wine.



Dr. Jerry Cuttler with President David

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

