

## Today's Program

Major General Richard Rohmer

## Topic

Canada's D-Day June 6, 1944:  
A Perspective 70 Years later

## Location

Imperial Room, The Fairmont Royal  
York



Richard Rohmer enjoyed careers in the military and the legal profession, as well as literary, academic and corporate activities. Born in 1924 in Hamilton, Ontario, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) when he was eighteen, during World War II. He became a top RCAF fighter and reconnaissance pilot for the Army with 430 Squadron on D-Day and at the Battles of Normandy, Belgium and Holland. On July 17, 1944, while flying a Mustang low reconnaissance mission near Caen he caught Field Marshall Erwin Rommel in his staff car. On Rohmer's intelligence the Group Control Centre sent in a Spitfire that attacked Rommel's car and severely wounded him, eliminating him from the war.

Major General Rohmer completed 135 operational mission tours and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He returned to the Air Force during the Cold War and commanded the 400 and 411 Vampire Jet fighter squadrons. In 1970 he returned to 411 Squadron as

the first Honorary Lieutenant Colonel appointed to the Air Force. In the summer of 1972, he led the first arctic operation as captain of his unit's single engine Otter aircraft. In 1975 Rohmer was promoted to Brigadier-General and appointed Senior Air Reserve Advisor. In 1980, he was appointed Commander of the Order of Military Merit. He left the military in February 1981.

Major General Rohmer also served as Chair of the 60th Anniversary of D-Day commemoration and was recently named by the Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs as special advisor for the upcoming 70th anniversary commemoration of D-Day on June 6, 2014.

Outside his military service, Rohmer was called to the Bar in 1951. He is a specialist in land use and transportation law. He was counsel for the development, rezoning and official plan cases involving Flemingdon Park, Toronto; Bramalea; the Ontario Science Centre; and for the high-density residential redevelopment of CN and CP land, and the building of the CN Tower, near Union Station.

Rohmer continues to practice law with his Toronto area firm of Rohmer and Fenn. He served as Chancellor of the University of Windsor from 1978 to 1996 and chaired the Royal Commission on Book Publishing between 1970 and 1972. He is the author of 28 fiction and non-fiction books including the bestselling *Ultimatum*, *Exoneration* and *Separation*. He is the Honorary Deputy Commissioner of the OPP, Honorary Chief of Toronto Emergency Medical Services, Honorary Chief of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs, Honorary Vice President of the Royal Canadian Military Institute and Honorary Chief of the Collingwood Fire Service in the town where he and his wife of 64 years, Ann, reside. He has two daughters, Ann Rohmer a TV personality and Catherine, a lawyer.

## Welcome New Member Anny-Sandra Hamel



Anny-Sandra was born and raised in Quebec City along with her younger brother. She completed her Bachelor Degree in Business Administration at Laval University. She then worked

as a consultant for small to medium manufacturing companies. During her university years, she spent a summer studying in Manchester, England and worked another in Vaasa, Finland. She also backpacked extensively throughout Europe where she eventually met her husband-to-be David Wilson.

In 1993, Anny-Sandra relocated to Toronto where she worked for nine years at Eli Lilly Canada and two years in the travel business. For the past 10 years, she has been working in the horticulture industry developing the Ontario market for a Quebec based company.

Anny-Sandra became part of the Toronto Rotary Club family during the time her late husband David Wilson was a member of the club. David was a visionary leader of our environmental outreach and was especially close to our work at Camp Scugog. Their two daughters are Marissa and Arianne. Anny-Sandra is passionate about theatre, reading, travel, and making a difference in her community. For many years, she was actively involved in French education in Ontario. She is an avid skier but she now spends more time in arenas than on ski slopes.

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The Rotary Club of Toronto

## RCT Youth Expo 2014 – Call for Volunteers

“The Leader in You!” is our 2nd annual RCT Youth Expo taking place on **Tuesday May 13, 2014**. The Expo features keynotes by Canadian role models, workshops, plenary sessions and information booths that feature non-profit organizations with a mandate to engage and inspire GTA youth. Over 200 grade 7 to 10 students are expected to be in attendance.

**Volunteers Needed!** Contact [Prince.Kumar@stranexus.com](mailto:Prince.Kumar@stranexus.com)/ [Nikitaw0156@gmail.com](mailto:Nikitaw0156@gmail.com)

**Shift 1: 9 am to 12 noon (Grade 7 & 8 students)**

**Shift 2: 12:15 to 3:15 pm (Grade 9 & 10 students)**

Instructions and roles will be provided the day of

**Venue: OISE Building, University of Toronto (252 Bloor St. W. Toronto)**

Please support us at the Youth Expo with your time and/or donate lunch tickets to sponsor a youth/guest for lunch on June 20th. Lunch ticket donations can go to Prince Kumar, Jeff Dobson, Binoy Luckoo, Don Brooks or Pat Neuman. Thank You from the Rotaract Club of the University of Toronto, Rotaract Club of Toronto and The Rotary Club of Toronto - Youth and Children Services Committee.

## Upcoming Speakers & Events

### May 2014

- 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 of Toronto
- 20 Youth Day

### Events

- April 6 Trump Aids Poker Walk
- May 23-25 Camp Scugog
- Jun 28-Jul 1 Rib-Fest

### Propose a Speaker

Peter Simmie, Chair

### Program Committee

[peter.simmie@bristolgate.com](mailto:peter.simmie@bristolgate.com)

### Editor of the Week

Joe Pochodyniak

### Editor May 9th, 2014

Massood Mashadi

## What You Missed, April 25th, 2014

– by Peter Simmie



Earth Day was recognized last Friday at our meeting at the Albany Club. Alana Scott introduced representatives of the Galen Weston Foundation and James Barnett introduced representatives of Toronto Parks. Both organizations contributed significant financial support to projects put forward by the Environmental Affairs committee.

The guest speaker was David Phillips, Environment Canada's very well-known climatologist. He was ably introduced by Alex Brown. Mr. Phillips explained the increasing frequency of major weather events, from the Alberta floods to the Ontario ice storm. He argued that weather patterns are now much more variable. Storm patterns cover much larger areas and the jet stream is much more “loopy” than it used to be. Weather also has more extremes; it is warmer, wetter and wilder. Our job is to factor in climate variability into public policy, and into design and construction planning.

A pleasant surprise at the meeting occurred when Vice President Steven Smith announced that Barbara Thomson was the club's newest recipient of a Club Builder award. Along with serving as the day's Sergeant-at-Arms, she has many accomplishments on the seniors' committee and with other activities. Very well deserved! Suzanne Seaquist won the wine prize in the 50/50 draw, rather than the \$3,390 pot. Lastly, and very importantly, new member Anny-Sandra Hamel was welcomed as the Club's newest member.



Members and friends of the Environmental Affairs Committee handed out cedar seedlings to all Rotary members in attendance on April 25.

### 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](mailto:office@rotarytoronto.on.ca) [www.rotarytoronto.com](http://www.rotarytoronto.com)

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