



## Today's Program

K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, Rotary International, President-elect 2014-2015

## Topic

Welcome Zone Institute Delegates and Other District Guests

## Location

Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Concert Hall

## Zone Institute in Toronto!

– by Past District Governor John Stairs, Zone 24 & 32 Institute Chair

This week over 400 Rotarians from all across Canada, Bermuda, France, Russia and the United States have been at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel as part of the Zone 24 & 32 Institute.

**Rotary**  
Zones 24 & 32



K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran last spoke to our Club on March 18, 2011. He inspired us all back then; we are delighted to welcome him back.

Ravi is CEO and founder of a publicly listed company with a worldwide clientele in the tea packaging industry.

His company, Printcare PLC, is the winner of national and international awards of excellence. He also serves on the board of several other companies and charitable trusts. He is the founding president of the Sri Lanka Anti-Narcotics Association.

A Rotarian since 1974, hailing from the Colombo, Sri Lanka club, Ravindran has served RI as treasurer, director, Foundation trustee, committee member, vice chair and chair, task force member, RI training leader, and district governor.

As his country's national PolioPlus chair, Ravindran headed a task force consisting of the government, UNICEF, and Rotary and worked closely with UNICEF to successfully negotiate a cease fire with the northern militants during National Immunization Days. He also chaired the Schools Reawakening project, sponsored by Rotary clubs and districts in Sri Lanka, to rebuild 25 tsunami-devastated schools to benefit 15,000 children.

The official purpose of Institutes is to provide current, incoming, and past RI officers with updates on RI and Rotary Foundation policies and programs. This year's theme, "Reflections on Rotary," encourages recognition and celebration of the past, present and future leadership that allows us to aspire to higher levels of service. The program is full of fellowship and participative learning that will inspire current, incoming, and past governors to continuing leadership.

From Monday October 13th to Wednesday October 15th, Incoming District Governors, District Governor Elects and District Governor Nominees, as well as District Chairs and Future Leaders of Rotary from 37 districts, representing this wide geographical area, were part of training where they had the opportunity to share best practices and prepare for their upcoming leadership terms. Past Leaders of Rotary as well as Greg Krauska, President of Change Agent Group, and Rotary International President Elect Ravi were all a part of the program sharing messages on innovation within Rotary.

On Thursday October 16th incoming leaders were joined by Past District Governors from the Zone. Over the course of the next few days, they will spend time discussing and learning more about youth engagement, membership attraction and retention, The Rotary Foundation, public relations and peace. As we continue our Institute through to Sunday October 19, we are fortunate to be joined by The Rotary Foundation Trustee Young Suk Yoon, Dr. Robert Thirsk, Kristi Govertson and Paul Rand—all who carry a message of inspiration on leadership within Rotary.

Joining The Rotary Club of Toronto in this special event today is an honour for our delegates and another exciting opportunity to celebrate leadership within our organization.

**JOIN ROTARY NOW!**

[www.rotarytoronto.com](http://www.rotarytoronto.com)



# The Rotary Club of Toronto Says YES to Supporting Hundreds of Youth through Job Camp

– by Nancy Schaefer, President of Youth Employment Services YES

We thank The Rotary Club of Toronto, (RCT) and all its members for the generous Centennial grant of \$100,000. These funds have made a huge impact on the lives of disadvantaged youth in our community by supporting them to participate in our Job Camp program. This program is housed in The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment at 511 Richmond Street West.

YES and the RCT have a long history. The RCT started YES in 1968 and since that time we are proud to say that we have supported more than 110,000 at-risk youth in Toronto. The RCT has been a constant champion throughout our 46 years and is largely responsible for helping thousands of youth who could not receive support elsewhere.

In 2011, the RCT once again demonstrated its commitment to YES and to supporting Toronto's youth. When the Government cut back on our crucial Job Camp program, The RCT stepped in and made a very generous gift of \$100,000 over three years towards the program. This donation was provided as part of the Rotary's Centennial Project and it has helped YES to leverage other donations.

In the last three years, Job Camp assisted 325 disadvantaged youth to develop solid job seeking and life skills. Many of the youth in this program faced enormous barriers to finding employment: 17% were homeless, living in a shelter, or a foster home; 14% had a criminal record; 7% had reading and/or writing difficulties; 16% had a disability; and 84.9% had Grade 12 or less education.

The funding had an enormous impact on the lives of our youth and on the economy;

- 150 youth were able to maintain employment for three months resulting in estimated earnings of over \$700,000 – this amount contributes to the tax base
- We helped 97 youth from designated Neighbourhood Improvement Areas with low incomes and incomes below the poverty line earn a more sustainable wage

**We are pleased to report that 81% of our youth successfully went on to find employment, enrolled in training, or went back to school to improve their job prospects.**

One of our participants, Brittany, told us the following:

*“I was very depressed, struggling with bi-polar disorder and didn't feel any purpose in life or that life was worth living. I found out about Job Camp and wanted to come so I could get a sense of purpose in my life. The program made me realize that I do have potential and value, not only as an employee but also as a person. Thank you for allowing me into the program and for creating such a fun, positive and upbeat environment!”*

**We cannot say “thank you” enough to the Rotary Club of Toronto for helping us to empower youth like Brittany. We could not have helped to make such a positive impact on their lives without your support. Thank you!**



A Job Camp participant receives her program completion certificate from a YES career counselor.



A handful of the hundred plus youth who participate annually in Job Camp.



YES supports youth from a wide range of backgrounds across the Toronto region.

## Club Assembly Notice

Mark your calendars for this year's Club Assembly. The date is **Wednesday, October 29th** at the National Club. We will meet in the evening starting at 5:30 pm.

As many of you know, we hold a Club Assembly every year to talk about important issues affecting our club and we discuss ideas and solutions that can help us continuously improve how our club operates.

For that reason, all Club Directors and Committee Chairs are asked to be in attendance.

The cost for this great event is one lunch ticket. Please let the office know that you will be attending. And I look forward to seeing you all there.



## New member Khrystina McMillan



Khrystina was born in London, Ontario where she lived until moving to Toronto in 2010 to attend law school at the University of Toronto. Prior to obtaining her juris doctorate in law, Khrystina obtained an Honours Specialization in Spanish Literature from the University of Western Ontario, graduating with high distinction and the Dr. R. N. Sherville gold medal.

Khrystina was called to the Ontario Bar earlier this year and has just started as a litigation associate with Stikeman Elliott. She had been with the firm as a summer intern and articling student prior.

Khrystina first became involved in Rotary as a youth exchange student in Venezuela. She remembers a Rotary event held for the impoverished residents in the colder mountainous region without running water or electricity. While the adults were occupied with the many services Rotarians provided (including vaccinations and a book and clothing exchange) Khrystina helped teach the children dental hygiene in a setting without running water. Upon her return, Khrystina kept in touch with Rotary through UWO's Rotaract Club.

Apart from her past experiences with Rotary, volunteering and community service have always been a passion of Khrystina's. Khrystina worked closely with the United Way as a campaign organiser both at work and in their London office. Khrystina has also worked with the YMCA to coordinate a program that placed youth exchange students from Quebec in local charity and not-for-profit organisations to provide subsidized summer work.

Khrystina also has a passion for human rights and access to justice. Khrystina currently volunteers with Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry. While in law school, Khrystina volunteered at a legal aid clinic providing legal services to those who otherwise can't afford them. Also while in law school, she completed a field course in Costa Rica with the United Nations School for Peace studying the relationship between indigenous rights and financial autonomy of indigenous communities.

In her spare time, Khrystina loves to run long distances — she completed her first half marathon this year and hopes to run again next year. She would love to run a full marathon but years of competitive soccer in her younger years have wrecked her knees. Khrystina also loves to sing and is a member of Cherubium/Seraphim Choir. She lives downtown with Nate, her significant other, who, regrettably, is also a lawyer, and their three (yes, three) cats.

## Susan Howson Honored! – by Maureen Bird



Our club "adopted" Lake Scugog Camp in 2007 with a goal to assist them in providing a safe summer place for disadvantaged children and mothers. This camp was a greater challenge for our club than previous camps because there was so much more than painting to be done. Carpentry repair tasks have been extensive.

Susan Howson has been our Camp Team Leader for many years, visiting the camp to determine tasks, ordering supplies, assigning teams and keeping us all in line. This year, at the camp's third Annual Gala Fundraiser, held September 30th, we were proud to see Susan honoured for her fabulous contribution to the camp improvements.

Lake Scugog Camp is a special experience for us as Rotarians. Join us next May 22-24, 2015.



Award winner Susan Howson with camp director Dana Leahey

## 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:

Luba Rascheff

### Editor October 24, 2014:

Massood Mashadi

### What You Missed Reporter for October 17th:

John Andras

## 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

### October 2014

- 24 Christopher Ruddy, Health Heritage Research  
*The Middle Class Plague: Ontario and the Polio Years*
- 31 Lynn Posluns, Founder and President,  
Women's Brain Health Initiative

### November 2014

- 7 Brigadier-General Julian Chapman,  
Remembrance Day Speaker at the National Club
- 14 Ray Argyle  
*The Paris Game: The Seventieth Anniversary of the Liberation of Paris*
- 21 John Parker
- 28 R.H. Thompson, *The World Remembers*

## Events

### October 2014

- 24 World Polio Day
- 24-26 District 7070 Conference, Toronto

### November 2014

- 12 QUE SYRAH SHIRAZ wine tasting
- 29 Rotary Toronto Annual Children's Christmas Party

### Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair

### Program Committee

alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca



## Pizza Fellowship

– by Neil Phillips



On the perfect private party and patio floor of Defina Pizzeria, Rotarians, Rotaractors and the unofficial meeting of ShelterBox joined in fun & fellowship over simply sumptuous and creative cuisine – my mouth waters still over the abundant choices and flavors. The happy energy of Rotaractors enlivened the atmosphere, Bert Steenburgh relaxed surrounded by the Roncesvalles restaurant’s fine art, and Peter Simmie recovered with wine in hand from the International Service Meeting earlier that day. Thank you, committee, for this just wonderful Fellowship Dinner. As a newer member, it was a great way to meet some people in a casual setting – and I’m looking forward to the next!



From Left to right:  
Lori Brazier, Tess Widdifield & Stephanie Christensen (from ShelterBox Canada), Neil Phillips, Bert Steenburgh, Weiting Xu (District Rotaract Rep, York U Rotaract Club) and Jamie Chubb.

## The Wine Series: **QUE SYRAH SHIRAZ**

What you’ve all been waiting for . . . details on the next installment in our Wine Series, to be held November 12th at The National Club.

**QUE SYRAH SHIRAZ** - the exploration of a grape. Be sure to join us for this bold and spicy evening. Registration is only via the online link below, and spaces are limited, so don’t delay:

<http://tinyurl.com/n975svj>

## What You Missed October 3 2014

– by Geoffrey R. Cobham



Last week we were back in our regular stomping grounds, the Upper Canada Room, to hear David Soknacki speak about what “might have been” in the upcoming election.

Prior to Mr. Soknacki getting started, several important announcements were made about some key dates to remember. In particular, all members are encouraged to participate at the following events: the Club Assembly on October 29, 2014 (the focus of this year’s Assembly will be on the effectiveness of committees); R-2-Rs on October 9th and November 6th (at the National Club); and the District Conference between October 24 and October 26 (all are welcome to attend one, more or all of the sessions of the Conference, and there will be several noteworthy speakers, including none other than Paul Henderson - yes, the Paul Henderson).

We were fortunate to have Khrystina McMillan introduced as a new member. Khrystina is a litigation lawyer practicing at Stikeman Elliott LLP. Please welcome Khrystina.

Alex Brown introduced Mr. Soknacki, who explained why he joined and left the mayoral race. Initially, his strategy was to present a new, edgy approach which would garner enough support to quietly edge between the John Tory and Olivia Chow camps, which were expected to rely heavily on their existing brands, and Ford Nation, which was obviously running on its own infamous record.

Although a lot of headway was made with the “under 35” crowd in downtown Toronto, it became apparent to Mr. Soknacki and his team that their campaign would not work, for three primary reasons:

1. Two million dollars is typically needed to run a mayoral campaign, and the financial support just wasn’t available to sustain his team, which might have led to inadequate cash flow being available to pay for staff;
2. “Ford Nation” had more support than was expected;
3. Given the resiliency of the Ford team, the people of Toronto were responding by choosing a “safe bet” in the polls (i.e., John Tory).

Mr. Soknacki concluded his remarks with a brief question and answer session. A number of difficult questions were fielded, as well as one comment from a current mayoral candidate who was visiting our club as a guest.

Susan Hunter was the lucky winner of the Ace of Clubs Draw...and she drew the seven of diamonds and took home a lovely bottle of wine.

**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

[in](#) The Rotary Club of Toronto [f](#) Toronto Rotary [t](#) @TorontoRotary

