

Today's Program

David Soknacki, former Toronto Mayoral Candidate

Topic

My Experience as a Toronto Mayoral Candidate

Location

The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Tudor 7 & 8

streetcar purchase and successfully enacted reforms to make Toronto business taxes more competitive and rental apartment tax rates fairer for tenants.

Outside of his budget duties, he pushed for an end to nepotistic hiring at City Hall, and moved the motion to create the honorary position of Poet Laureate of Toronto. At City Hall, Soknacki was widely respected for working constructively with councillors of all political stripes.

When he announced his retirement from Council in August of 2006, progressive councillors praised David for "great leadership," while *Sun* columnist Sue-Ann Levy wrote that "someone like Soknacki is desperately needed on Council." The *Globe and Mail's* John Barber wrote that "he took on one of the toughest jobs in city hall, which he professionalized to the point where it almost seemed easy ... he's not really a politician at all." The *Toronto Sun* called David "one of the good guys," writing that his departure was "a blow to the disorganized and foundering right wing of Council, where Soknacki was a sane and reasoned voice."

David later served as chair of the Board for Canada's Downsview Park Corporation. Since he retired from Council in 2006, David has also been a candid critic of City Hall as a columnist for Metroland newspapers, where he promoted a balanced approach to urban development, pushed for evidence-based transit planning, sought greater civility at City Council and called for a strategic review of Toronto's public safety services. David earned his Bachelor's degree in Commerce from the University of Toronto, and an MBA from the University of Western Ontario. He lives with his wife in Scarborough, where he was also born and raised.

Zone Institute Meeting in Toronto!



How often do you get to have lunch with a President or future President of Rotary International? Not very often! But your chance is here. At our

Friday, October 17, 2014 meeting Rotary International President-Elect K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, of Sri Lanka will join us! The President-Elect is in Toronto for the Zone Institute meeting that will be taking place from October 16-19. Pre-institute training takes place Oct. 13-15.

This promises to be an event to remember and you can be there. And why not bring a potential Rotarian to this event? What a way to impress!

Wondering what a Zone Institute is? There are 34 Zones in the world including ours. Our zone comprises: the Russian Federation, Northeast USA, the Bahamas, and Canada. The purpose of institutes is to provide current, incoming, and past RI officers with updates on RI and Rotary Foundation policies and programs; a forum for Rotary leaders to make comments and recommendations to the Board of Directors; fellowship and a participative learning experience that will help inspire current, incoming, and past governors to continuing leadership and service. This year, they are expecting over 350 participants in the Institute – and they'll all be joining us for our Friday lunch.

Ask Neil Phillips if you have any questions about the Institute itself, or click here: <http://zoneinstitute.net/> But be sure to join us for lunch on that date!



David Soknacki is a successful entrepreneur and a former city councillor. He withdrew as a mayoralty candidate last month. In 1986, he founded Ecom Food Industries, which imports, manufactures and exports herb and spice ingredients for commercial use. Ecom now has clients in over 30 countries.

David was first elected to office as a councillor in the former City of Scarborough in 1994. He then served as a councillor in Toronto after amalgamation, winning a by-election and two general elections to represent Ward 43 (Scarborough East). David led Toronto's budget process as Council's budget chief from late 2003 until 2006. In that role, he voted against the decision to sole-source the TTC's



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>

Upcoming Speakers & Events

October 2014

- 10 No Friday Lunch due to Thanksgiving holiday weekend
- 17 Ravi Ravindran – Rotary International President-Elect Welcomes Zone Institute Delegates and other District Guests – Concert Hall
- 24 Christopher Ruddy, Health Heritage Research. The Middle Class Plague: Ontario and the Polio Years
- 31 Jasmine Herlt, Human Rights Watch

November 2014

- 7 Reembrance Day Lunch, National Club
- 12 The Wine Series: *Que Syrah Shiraz*. National Club
- 14 Ray Argyll, The Paris Game - 70th Anniversary Liberation of Paris

Events

- October 9 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution
- October 16-19 Zone Institute Meeting, Toronto
- October 24 World Polio Day
- October 24-26 District 7070 Conference, Toronto

Editor of the Week

Brian Porter

Editor October 17, 2014

John Suk

What You Missed Reporter, October 3

Geoff Cobham

Today's Host

Alex Brown

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair
alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca

Submit an article to the *Voice* Newsletter

voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca

What You Missed September 26, 2014

– by Sandy Boucher



Our meeting took place in the less than popular Tudor rooms of the Royal York but it was a great lunch despite a few hiccups. Our guest speaker, Alison Wallace, the CEO of Shelterbox, was caught up in the shutdown of Chicago airport caused by a fire, and was unable to make the meeting in time for lunch. I later learned that she and a colleague eventually had to drive, arriving in the early hours of Saturday morning for other Shelterbox business. President-Elect David Hetherington was standing in for the elusive President Steve who was also on the road. Luckily for us, the Chair of Shelterbox Canada, Ron Noseworthy stood in and did a magnificent job.

With visiting Rotarians from Charlottetown, Nigeria and Uganda not to mention former member Kim Hunter all the way from Milton, PE David thanked Susan Hunter and Knud Westergaard for their work organizing last week's extravaganza lunch with the Danish Royal couple. Over 400 people were in attendance! Other announcements included a reminder about the club assembly on October 29th at the National Club and the delivery of Senior's lunches on October 9. Call the office if you wish to volunteer.

Speaker Ron Noseworthy is a member of the Rotary Club of Kenora and in addition to being the Chair of Shelterbox Canada has also been an "SRT" (Shelterbox Response Team) member and leader since 2007. Ron has done eight deployments to disaster stricken countries including Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Turkey, China, the Philippines and Bangladesh. Ron recognized our club as the largest Rotary donor to Shelterbox in the world. He also outlined the growing reputation for specialist disaster relief that the organization is earning. With SRT members on the ground at most disasters within 24 – 48 hours and boxes delivered within 72 hours you can see why. Shelterbox is the first and only Rotary Project Partner and with 18 affiliates around the world raising funds and awareness, has already helped over 1 million people in over 240 disasters.

Ron gave us a report on his recent deployment to the Philippines for typhoon Haiyan, the largest storm ever to make landfall. His slides and stories showed how important this work is and how it brings shelter but also hope and dignity to people who have lost everything. Shelterbox continues to grow and is attractive to donors as a very high percentage of the funds raised go to the boxes themselves. The organization is largely volunteer run and that includes those brave SRTs who go to aid others using their vacation time from their day jobs – truly heroes in my eyes. The best part of the presentation was when Ron took questions from the audience for nearly 15 minutes providing details about the tents, the training, the volunteers and a host of other things.

After PE David had thanked Ron, Jackie Davis took the wine in the 50/50 leaving \$1078 in the pot for next time and we all headed off to enjoy a sunny weekend at last.

Thanksgiving Meal Delivery!

The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is fast approaching. Again this year the Senior Citizens Committee will provide a Thanksgiving dinner to a few disadvantaged seniors and we need help to deliver these hot meals. The delivery this year will be on Thursday, October 9. We meet at Kensington Gardens, 45 Brunswick Ave. at 11:45 am and delivery takes approx. 1 ½ hours.

This is one of the Senior Citizens Committee projects and your help would be greatly appreciated. The smiles and thanks you receive from the seniors as you present the dinner is a great reward. Please contact Krystyna Benyak at rbenyak@sympatico.ca or telephone 905-473-5616 to confirm you will be pleased to help.

**Ravi Ravindran will be visiting us October 10! Tweet it!
Use Facebook and LinkedIn to get the word out!**

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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