



Service Above Self

Rotary Club of Regina Eastview

The ROTOR

Thursday July 30, 2015

 [Club Web Site](#)

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If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

August 6, 2015, "RotaryHIP" with Ann Grahame

August 13, 2015, TBA.

August 20, 2015, Mental Health Care in Saskatchewan with Byrna Barclay.

NEXT WEEK

August 6, 2015

"Rotary HIP"
with
Ann Grahame

August 6,

2015

DUTY ROSTER

Registration: Barry Strohan
50/50: Alda Bouvier
Greeter: Wanita Johnson

Registration: John Van Koll was in charge of the Registration



Desk so all ran smoothly. Mounir Bouchaibi sat next to him and did a great job selling 50/50 tickets...more about this later!

Greeter; Don Shindelka, one of our newer members was the Greeter today. It

was so nice to be welcomed by a happy face.

President Ron Okumura was multi-tasking today, as not only was he conducting the meeting, but he was also to be the speaker. He invited Jeanne Martinson to come to the podium to lead us in singing "O!Canada!"

Philosopher: Mounir Bouchaibi was also multi-tasking today, and came to the podium to offer the following words of wisdom: "When a woman says "What?" it's not because she didn't hear you, she's giving you a chance to change what you said!" This was immediately followed by a more serious quotation from Confucius: "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."



Seated at the **Lead Table** were President Ron Okumura, who is also our speaker today, Doug Archer, Gary Carlson, Leif Riesach, Pat Richards and Alda Bouvier.

John Van Koll then came to the podium and introduced a **Visiting Rotarian:** Doug Keam of the Rotary Club of Regina was the sole visiting Rotarian today. John then went on to introduce three **Guests:** Glenna Vigrass, Graham Vigrass and his partner Kylie Weber, all guests of Laurence Vigrass. We were delighted to see that Glenna has made an excellent recovery following orthopedic surgery, and was walking with just one cane.



More about Graham Vigrass later....The guests were greeted in true Eastview fashion, with Jeanne Martinson leading us in a rousing version of the Welcome Song.



50/50 Draw: Mounir Bouchaibi announced that \$ 72 had been collected, so the winner would receive \$36. A ticket was selected and a number was called, followed by...silence! Mounir then checked his own tickets, (note - plural), and he was the lucky winner.



Birthdays: President Ron Okumura then called Pat Richards and Nicholas Robinson forward to receive their scan-proof credit card holders and Jeanne again led us in singing "Happy Birthday to You".

Sergeant-at-Arms: Alda Bouvier was the Sergeant-at-Arms today, and started by asking for Happy Bucks:

- Pat Dell had Happy Bucks as she and Glen had celebrated their 20th Wedding Anniversary on July 25, 2015.
- Peter Neufeldt had Happy Bucks as the Rotary Riders had had a good turnout and raised over \$9,000 for the Ripple Effect, Building Schools in Guatemala, (and his motor bike hadn't run out of gas this year).

- Doug Morton had Happy Bucks as his large motor cycle has extras on it!
- Pat Richards had Happy Bucks as she is leaving to visit her daughter and family in Texas tomorrow.
- Greg McNamara had Happy Bucks as he had helped to set up the ShelterBox tent at the Rotary Club of Industrial Parks' Annual Pancake Breakfast yesterday and because they had so many guests that he was able to sell lots of tickets for their Raffle in aid of ShelterBox.
- Ann Grahame had Happy Bucks because Greg had helped to set up the ShelterBox tent, and sold the Raffle tickets, and Gary and Jessie Carlson, with Zacharias, had manned the ShelterBox tent when she had to leave for a while.
- Doug Archer had Happy Bucks, "Because I'm here!"
- Laurence Vigrass had Happy Bucks for several reasons:
 - i). Because Glenna is doing so well and can be here today.
 - ii) Because his daughter is visiting Regina
 - iii). Because they have 2 house guests, Graham and Kylie,
 - iv). Because Graham had recently returned from the PanAm Games in Toronto where he played on the Canadian Volleyball Team which won the Bronze medal, which he had brought to show us!

Those who had not paid Happy Bucks were then fined for various infractions, including not wearing a name-badge, not reading the most recent copy of The Rotarian magazine, and/or not knowing that they had received it! Mounir was fined \$2. for making each table send up one person to try to spell his name correctly last week.

Family of Rotary: Art Foster had contacted Doug Mortin to inform us that his wife, Beth, is in Regina General Hospital following hip surgery. She would welcome visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Doug Archer was then called forward to introduce today's speaker, Ron Okumura., who was born and grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He loves sports and played football, baseball, hockey, volleyball, curling and golf as a youth and still enjoys curling and golfing.

Ron attended the University of Manitoba and graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1970. After graduating, Ron worked in Winnipeg and later in Calgary.

In 1983, Ron moved to Regina where he worked with several firms as a partner and later started his own firm. Ron has worked on many projects in Saskatchewan such as the Wolseley Nursing Home, Providence Place in Moose Jaw, and Transition House in Regina.

Ron is a member of the City of Regina Planning Commission, a member of RAIC, a member and former councillor of the SAA and former chair of the Regina Chapter of CSC. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church and has been married to his wife, Mary, for 32 years.

PROGRAM

Ron started his program by thanking the members of the Rotary Club of Regina Eastview for giving him and Mary the opportunity to attend the Rotary International Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was a wonderful experience.

The flight from Toronto to Sao Paulo took 10 hours. Ron and Mary arrived at Guarulhos International Airport, Sao Paulo on June 4, 2015. We were shown photographs of the Airport building which is very modern and very large, so that people movers were necessary to get the passengers from the Gates to the Baggage areas. After a taxi ride which took about 45 minutes they arrived at the Mercure Sao Paulo Principe Hotel in the upscale Moema District. Although the hotel was surrounded by high-rise buildings, Ron was impressed by the amount of greenery to be seen, with trees and lush vegetation between the buildings. All the condos. and apartment blocks were surrounded by high iron-paling fences and gates. There were a few smaller buildings, like corner-stores, interspersed between the tall ones! The population of Sao Paulo is 12 million; although it was winter there the temperature was very pleasant, in the mid-20s. The hotel was a 30-minute shuttle-bus ride from the Anhembi Convention Centre. Rotary had laid on shuttle buses from all 10 hotel zones in the city. When the buses arrived at the Convention Centre drop-off the attendees were greeted by Rotarian Sergeants-at-Arms, and more were spread out along the 10-minute walk to the Centre itself. This was a huge building, 4 million square feet indoors and another million square feet of landscaped area, including a water-feature, outside. The centre itself was divided into three main areas, the Entrance Hall, the Registration area and the House of Friendship. There were over 14,000 attendees; the area where the plenary sessions were held holds 15,000!

The House of Friendship was huge! There were celebrations of Brazilian culture, with dancing, other entertainment, and food. There was a Rotary Marketplace, a Resource Centre, booths for the Rotary Action Groups, and 4 ShelterBox tents had been erected!

Attendees could send packaged foods out to the poor living in the city; over 100,000 were sent out during the course of the Convention! There was an area where one could obtain information about the 2016 RI Convention, to be held in Seoul, S. Korea, and pre-register for that!

There was also an enormous area where one could purchase snacks and light meals, which became very crowded! Plenary sessions and Rotary luncheons, and Breakout sessions, which included presentations, small-group sessions, workshops and discussions were held. There were also Host Events and a Carnival Parade.

There were 14,500 attendees from over 200 countries at the opening Plenary session, where the R.I. President made a presentation. In addition to Speakers of International renown, major project updates, and personal Rotary stories, there was also entertainment. It was emphasized that there are currently 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide, (which shows a slight increase), and 34,000 Rotary Clubs. Rotary International is ranked as one of the top 3 charitable organizations in the USA.

The speeches are all online through Rotary Club Central, and Ron really recommends that we should visit this site. Past Rotarians include President J. F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Sir Winston Churchill.

Ron and Mary attended the President's Recognition Luncheon, and although they were in an overflow room, there was a huge screen on which they could watch the presentations from those at the Head Table. They really enjoyed meeting other Rotarians from all over the world, who were seated with them.

The quality of the Breakout sessions was outstanding, and Ron attended those on Youth and Young Leaders. The Rotaractors emphasized that they didn't just want to be parking valets and coat-check people at Rotary functions, but want to be part of Rotary and involved in shaping policy. Ron also attended sessions on Strong Clubs and Districts, and on the Rotary Foundation.

There was a special Rotary Carnival Parade, which was a duplicate of the Carnival Parade held in March, put on just for the Rotary Convention! The city is dotted with special stadia and stands just for Carnival!

Ron and Mary spent a few days exploring the city of Sao Paulo after the convention, and saw the business Centre, City Centre Square, the Cathedral, the Market, the Metro Station, (which the photo showed to be most impressive), and Japan Town. Although the population of Sao Paulo is 12 million, there are 15 million in the greater Sao Paulo area, of whom 800,000 are Japanese. There were extensive slum areas, visible on the drive from and to the Airport.

Ron and Mary then visited Rio de Janeiro where there were historic buildings and beautiful beaches right in the city.

Presentation: President Ron then called Lyle Gollnick to the podium and presented him with his Director's badge. Lyle has graciously consented to be the Director of Community Service, 2015 - 2017.

Banner Exchange: Gary and Jessie Carlson had recently visited Ireland, and had attended a meeting of the Rotary Club of Dublin Central. This is quite a new, small club; of the 15 members present, 10 were women, compared to 5 men.

COMMENTARY

Rotary Riders Raise Funds for the Ripple Effect Schools in Guatemala: Starting at 8:30 am. on Saturday, July 25, 2015, Peter Neufeldt and Doug Mortin led 11 motorcycles and 13 riders, plus a '41 Plymouth, on a very successful 386 kilometre ride via Moose Jaw, Sukanen Museum, Assiniboia, (Shurniak Gallery, plus some members of the Rotary Club of Assiniboia came out to meet them), Pangman and home on a sunny 34-plus degree Celsius day. It wrapped up with a BBQ at the home of Peter Neufeldt, where the participants, (who included PDG Pat Chernesky and her partner, Fred Olfert from Nipawin, two Rotarians from Sioux Lookout, ON. one from Dryden, ON, one from Grand Cayman and eight locals), for attending and donating in excess of \$9,000 in sponsor funds to our District's Ripple Effect program.



Treasurer Wally Dressler reminded members that their Annual Club dues are due NOW.

The meeting closed with the members present reciting the Rotary 4-Way Test.

For the Regina Eastview ROTOR, I am Ann Grahame, filling in for Peter Peters.

