



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President **Gary C.K. Huang**

Week **October 22, 2014**

Board 2014-2015

President: Mark Winson, Past President Michael Bell, President Elect: Jack Fleming, Secretary: Ron Miller,

Treasurer: Don Edwards

Directors: Donna Cansfield, Gregory Dobson, Gillian Dugas, Ingrid McGaughey, Frederik Martin, Kester Trim, Hugh Williams

October 29, 2014 Speaker" Shabana Prshad – REXDALE WOMEN

Reporting: **Ron Miller**

Pictures: **Ron Miller & Peter Dusek**

Today's Speaker Steve Rutledge – Adopt a Village in Laos



Jack Fleming introduced Steve.

Steve grew up in Georgetown Ontario and spent his career as co-owner of a mid-sized computer company in Toronto. Since retirement he has narrowed his focus on community support locally and internationally. Steve has served on several boards and committees in Port Hope including the Municipal Culture Committee, Parks, Rec and Culture Committee, Skatepark committee, Capitol Theatre Board of Directors and others. He has received two civic awards, the latest for philanthropy and is a multiple Paul Harris award recipient for his efforts (2 clubs). Recently, Steve was nominated for the Order of Ontario. Steve is a

member of the Rotary Club of Whitby Sunrise. With his partner they have created a number of large events including one they held in their home netting \$61,000 for the Capitol theatre and another town event for 6000 people. For the last few years Steve has ventured into unknown territory serving the rural villagers of Laos with the most basic of needs including water for villages without, schools, toilets along with student and teacher support.

Steve began by giving some background about Laos. During the 1960's Laos lost 1/3 of its population during the 'Secret' war and became the most heavily bombed country per capita in the world. Over a nine year period (1964-1973), a bomb was dropped every 8 minutes, 24 hours a day. It is estimated that 30% of the 260 million bombs dropped, or 78 million, never exploded and remain scattered throughout the countryside, leaving a deadly legacy.

- Population – 6.9 million (73% rural)
- Geography – 236,800 sq. km. (83rd largest country in the world) – 85% mountainous with some plains and plateaus – Capital: Vientiane
- Infant Mortality rate – 81 deaths per 1000
- Life Expectancy – Male = 54 years, Female = 56 years
- Average age – 20.8 years caused by poor quality water, poor hygiene and general poverty.
- Average income - \$970 (although in rural villages, \$30 per annum).

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- Education – Less than 15% of students attend secondary school (grades 6-9) and less than 1% of students attend university
- It is one of the most impoverished countries in the world that suffers from lack of clean water, hygiene and education.

Steve noted that a simple \$75 water filter can make “a positive difference in the lives of thousands of villagers. The Adopt a Village program has successfully completed over a dozen school projects, 5 water source projects bringing water to four villages and a hospital (imagine a hospital with no water!) and have completed 14 toilet banks for schools and a village. They have also provided over 1377 water filter systems (8-11,000 people!), along with critical hygiene training for families, schools and hospitals to promote a longer, healthier and happier life. Steve mentioned one project where they installed 9.2 km of piping, 2 dams from 2 water sources, storage tanks, and 50 taps.

Steve went on to describe the water filters they install. The economical \$75 filters are durable gravity-fed purification filters and are highly effective at removing bacteria, protozoa, parasitic worms, turbidity and other suspended solids. All of which contribute to major health issues such as liver and kidney failure. Additionally, the pores of the ceramic filter are “infused with anti-bacterial silver to provide a permanent, secondary defense”. Steve says the manufacturer says the ceramic filter will last 20 years, but he thinks realistically it would probably need replacing in 12 years at a cost of \$9 each.

That’s not all! They are also sponsoring 18 school kids, 1 university student and a teacher in addition to the 3 university students sponsored previously plus they have installed numerous solar panels to bring light to the poorest of villages. Lots of bicycles were distributed to get even more kids to and from school and there were a number of smaller projects completed too.

Steve showed a picture of desk being delivered to a school that they helped build. He noted that the Fred Mandryk’s Bowmanville Rotary Club was responsible for supplying many of the desks. They

have “sponsoring” a desk for every speaker they have at their Club.

Gill Dugas was asked to thank Steve, but first she wanted Steve to talk about the “District Grant” project they are working on. The project entails putting in dam, water tank and 11 taps. It is an 11 km trek through the mountainous terrain. They are applying for a District Grant that hopefully will match 75 cents to every dollar.

Gill wanted to thank Steve for letting us know about what Adopt a Village in Laos was all about and presented him with a cheque from the Club for \$2,500.

Bill Sinclair – Rotary Club of Playa del Carmen – Banner Exchange:



Bill Sinclair is a founding member of the Rotary Club of Playa del Carmen in Mexico (D4200). Playa del Carmen is a city of 150,000 people on the Caribbean coast 60 km south of Cancun. The club was founded 2 years ago and has 42 members of which Bill says are 2/3 Americans who are either retired or working there. As well, 1/3 of the club is female. Their fundraising efforts still needs a little work but he is hoping they will get things organized shortly. He added that “this is the first Rotary meeting he has been to that everyone is wearing pants not

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shorts". The dress code is a little "loose" there. When the DG paid a visit to their club, the only proviso was to "wear a clean t-shirt". Bill and Jack exchanged club banners.

Secretary's Announcements



Tuesday, November 4th – Vocational Services meeting – 6:30 pm – Rotary Clubhouse

Wednesday, November 5th – Community Service meeting – 5:00 pm – Rotary Clubhouse

Monday, November 10th – Board Meeting – 6:00 pm for food, meeting at 6:30 pm. – Rotary Clubhouse

Birthdays This Week



Alex Woda – October 21

Sue Foley – October 26

Happy Birthday to on your happy day... ..

Thank You Note – Lakeshore Arts:



A heartfelt thank you again to the Rotary Club of Etobicoke for supporting our youth program. Through your donation we have purchased two iMac computers which are being put to amazing use. The youth are learning Photoshop skills and most recently been introduced to a program called Garage Band, where they can create, edit and produce music. I wanted to share with you a few pictures taken recently at one of our youth drop-ins. Please share widely with your group. All the youth have photo release approvals.

Susan Nagy
Executive Director
Lakeshore Arts

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0/50 Draw

Don Edwards – 4 of Hearts ..., so the pot continues to grow.



Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarian

- Steve Rutledge – Whitby Sunrise – speaker (Adopt a Village in Laos)
- Fred Mandryk – Bowmanville
- Bill Sinclair – Playa del Carmen Seaside, Mexico (D4200)

Visitors and Guests:

- Gord Duncan – to become a new member on October 27th

Attendance:

Members 15
Visitors & Guests -04
Total - 19



HAPPY BUCKS

Doug Hartry – Doug was happy to be here today as he hadn't been at a meeting for awhile. He also was happy to say to members living in Justin DiCiano's riding should "get out and vote for him". He also wanted to mention "how modern" everything has gotten. He asked his grandson Cameron to go hit "some balls (golf) and have a

few beers) but he said he couldn't because he was flying to London to see Manchester United play. Doug wasn't going with him.

Cecilia Luu – Cecilia was happy to present a cheque to Michael Bell for PolioPlus in honour of her sister who is a polio survivor. She wanted to go to London to visit her sister but her travel plans got changed. She was also happy to say that Bill Gates was matching donations to PolioPlus 2 to 1.

Steve Rutledge – Steve was happy to say that he has an annual fundraiser in his "tiny" town of Port Hope (pop. 16,000) selling \$1 and \$2 books. Last year they collected \$4,600. This year they collected \$6,400 plus an additional \$1,650 donation. However, they still have a lot of books left over and more to pick up. They are planning a 2nd sale this year on November 8th and 9th. Michael Bell suggested to Steve that if they have any "appropriate" books left over they might think of donating them to Inuit and Aboriginal communities.

Michael Bell – Michael was "delighted" to be back again to a meeting as he has been busy in his preparations to become District Governor next year. He said he looked at his schedule today and realized that he could attend today's meeting. His DG training is going well. All last week he was at the Zone Institute where Lynda Ryder was one of the trainers for all of the incoming DG's from Zones 24 and 32. Michael says they do a "wonderful job" training DG's. Michael is also hoping to see many of us at the District Conference this weekend.

Diane Irvine – Diane was happy to say that her son Austin was just back from South Carolina where he was playing baseball with the Ontario Blue Jays over the weekend. She was also happy to say they won the tournament.
