



# THE BULLETIN



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week October 08, 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 15, 2014 7.00 PM Crooked Cue: - Big Ideas Forum: The Vocation of Hospice Care  
Todd Fraleigh**

**Executive Director Dorothy Lay Hospice**

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

### Timely Comments from President Mark:

President Mark wanted to mention the "unfortunate" events that took place on Monday when "two young men died in our community" due to senseless violence. He wondered if there was "something we could do in the community to show our commitment". He noted we are actually doing that now with the \$300,000 that our Club, along with the Toronto West club, are committing to a project that is "within a block of where this took place on Monday". Sometimes we never know what the money we raise goes into. However, Mark feels that in this case we are "putting the money into the right community" with the MicroSkills Community Centre project. At MicroSkills, youths are becoming "engaged" in the community and trying to deal with the "systemic issues" that cause things like this.

### Alicia Vianga Founder/President After Breast Cancer - Topic: "Breast Cancer & Bras for Congo"

President Mark introduced Alicia who is the founder of "After Breast Cancer. She is an advocate for women who have battled breast cancer and helps

them after they have gone through the surgical procedures/chemotherapy or radiation treatments to try and regain their "quality of life". Mark added that his sister-in-law had recently just gone through 9 months of chemotherapy and he saw the impact that it had on her life. She had to give up her work to do this and now it is like "letting the air out of the balloon".



Alicia wanted to thank Lynn Manwar for inviting her to speak today. She said that it also timely to be here since October is "Breast Cancer Awareness" month. She wanted everyone to know that she lives in Etobicoke (in the Royal York/Queensway area). Her business is on St. Clair between Lansdowne and Dufferin. She is a wife and a "mother" to her dog that goes everywhere with her. Her mission is "to make women feel good about themselves".

Alicia has been named the Small business woman of the month September 2013. She is the host of "The Special Edition" on WhiStle Radio102.7fm and an Absolutely Fabulous Woman "Excellent" 2014 Award winner. She is a "big-hearted entrepreneur" who

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combines her expertise in trend forecasting, bra and breast prosthesis fitting, and fashion knowledge to give women in Toronto an authentic and educational shopping experience. Before starting her journey into entrepreneurship and advocating for women who have battled breast cancer, Alicia spent over 19 years in hospitality. As a catering and sales specialist in the industry she had the opportunity to work for esteemed organizations such as the University of Toronto, Hotel Plaza II, and the Marriott Hotel Bloor Yorkville. While she attributes her business savvy to her experiences in the hospitality industry, Alicia knew she was meant to start her own business and fill a niche many women didn't know existed. This led Alicia to found Premier Jour Lingerie and Swimwear, a boutique that provides its customers with unique lingerie and swimwear as well as certified bra and breast prosthesis fittings. Alicia strongly believes in giving back to the community. She is an active board member of the Corso Italia BIA, whose goal is to preserve and promote the beautiful neighbourhood of St. Clair West in Toronto. Alicia also supports non-profit events such as The Jeanne Lottie Pink Bedroom Party, and Covenant House-Celebrate Mom.

In conjunction with Premier Jour, she was asked to review the official Bra and Breast Prosthesis Fitting Guide for a major hospital chain in Toronto. Through this affiliation with the Hospital, Alicia identified a major gap in the health care system; there is no program that provides necessities for women who have battled breast cancer who are financially strained. It was this realization that encouraged Alicia to found After Breast Cancer, a charity that provide resources that contribute to a woman's Quality of Life (QOL) after breast cancer with the aimed at ensuring survivors of breast cancer lacking financial means have access to necessities such as bras and/or prosthesis. Alicia understands that when women move from breast cancer patient to breast cancer survivor, the world is a different place for them. Obtaining properly fitted prosthesis and bras enables survivors to begin their journey to regain their self confidence and restore their feeling of being whole again. Alicia is a socially responsible, passionate, and determined business woman and she lives her life trying to make a difference...one BRA/ one WOMAN/ one SURVIVOR at a time.

"After Breast Cancer" was launched on October 14, 2012 during Breast Cancer Awareness Month at a Toronto Argos Game. The charity has been featured in Toronto Is Awesome, OMNI Television's Culture Avenue, Samaritan Magazine, Girls of T.O, Urban Moms, CP24 Breakfast, and Global News' Susan Hay "Making a Difference" segment. Her current focus is on the Toronto area but thinks it will go worldwide. She has had inquiries from the Ambassador from Trinidad & Tobago to bring her program there and she also had an inquiry from Italy.

Along with founding After Breast Cancer, Alicia is also the creator of Bras for Congo, a charitable organization that accepts donated bras which are then given to women in the Congo. Each year, Alicia accepts hundreds of bra donations from the public to distribute to hospitals in the Congo (one of the poorest countries in Africa).

Alicia said that her main funding comes from her annual Fund Raising Gala every October 14th with over 400 people attending.

Lynn Manwar commented on the impact someone diagnosed with breast cancer goes through. In her case, she had just moved into a new condo and then couldn't work. It cost her \$25,000 in "out of pocket" expenses from her savings. She spent another \$7000 "freezing her eggs" in case she might want to be a mother some day. This costs can be devastating to many women.



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President Mark thanked Alicia for her demonstrating "her passion" for helping cancer survivors regain their quality of life.

## Secretary's Announcements



***Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Board of Directors meeting – 6:00 pm for food with meeting start 6:30 pm – Rotary Clubhouse***

**Rotary District 7070 Conference – October 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – Weston Prince Toronto:**

**President Mark wanted to remind everyone about the District 7070 Conference to be held at the Weston Prince Toronto Hotel, October 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. For those who have not attended a District Conference, this is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow Rotarians from the District and get a better understanding about Rotary. It is always a fun event and with the conference here in Toronto this year, it will make it much easier for members to attend the event. As well, since our Club will be hosting the District Conference next year, it will be also an opportunity to see what needs to be done to run a successful conference. For further information please contact President Mark or Secretary Ron.**

## Birthdays This Week



***Exilus Previlon – October 09  
Happy Birthday to on your happy day... ....***

## Thank You Notes

**St. James Food Basket** – Barbara Hayworth sent a note to thank the Club for the "wonderful backpacks Rotary Etobicoke gave to school age children at the St. James Food Basket. She remarked that she "didn't know who had the bigger smiles – the children or the parents". She added that when the children saw the contents of the bags, "the smiles were even bigger!" She wanted to thank Rotary for our "generosity and especially for caring and making a difference".

**CAFA** – Gill Dugas received a note from Juanita Marianela Azabache Castro, one of CAFA's scholarship students that our Club supported (the note was in Spanish and Gill had it translated). The scholarships aid young people in Peru that have suffered severe burns. Juanita (who calls herself Marianela) is 19 and is in her third year of Industrial Engineering at the Universidad Catolica de Trujillo. She writes, "I know you are people with big hearts, and i want to thank you very much for helping CAFA and permitting me to reach my dream goal by studying at university. For me the donation you made is marvelous and very important, as i could not study without this scholarship. You and other donors are changing our lives (13 students in the program by opening up new possibilities for us. Thank you and God bless".

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**The Pinehurst Club** – A thank you note was received from the Pinehurst Club for our donation to “Sleeping Children Around the World”.

**ALMA** - Gill Dugas received a progress report from ALMA. The Club provided \$1,750 to fit a Gross Motor Room for children in Manos Unidas, Peru last spring. The Alma Foundation partners with Manos Unidas to serve children with developmental disabilities in Cusco, Peru. The mission of Manos Unidas is to maximize the abilities and potential of individuals with developmental disabilities through a humanistic, personalized education with clear attainable goals and strict follow up, honoring such principals as respect, justice and tolerance for all community members. Manos Unidas runs a non-profit, private school recognized by the Peruvian Ministry of Education for children and young adults with special needs. It is the first, and only, of its kind in Cusco. The school serves approximately 50 children, aged 3 to 24. With help from Alma, Manos Unidas also runs an Inclusive Education Program, preparing students to be included in mainstream “regular education” classes according to their age. Last year 23 students across four schools were successfully included in regular education classes. When asked how the students are benefitting from the new equipment, Celeste had this to say: “The new Manos Unidas Gross Motor room is a perfect space for students to practice gross motor skills such as climbing, balancing, swinging, crawling, jumping, etc. We have also turned the space into a sensory room where children can experience different sensory stimulating activities working with sound and music, different tactile and visual toys, playing with lights and colors, smells and vestibular stimulation with the hammocks, swings and hanging bars. The space is a perfect recreational area for approximately 4-5 students at a time, allowing for teachers to program activities within their day, using

the space for a variety of different functions. Thank you Rotary Club for supporting this room!”



## 50/50 Draw

**Don Edwards – 2 of Hearts ...**, so the pot continues to grow. President Mark presented Don with a “consolation prize” – a tin of Quality Street chocolates which he shared with the others at lunch today



## Visitors & Guests

### Visiting Rotarian

- Rosinnah (Rose) Dlamini – Rotary Club of Greenwich (England) (D1130)

### Visitors and Guests:

- Alicia Vianga – Speaker

### Attendance:

Members 10  
Visitors & Guests -02  
Total - 12



*Wish All The Members and their Families Happy Thanksgiving*



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## HAPPY BUCKS



**Mark Winson** – Mark was happy to say that he attended the York Rotaract meeting last night

**Lynn Manwar** – Lynn was happy to say that she had received a book and a painting in the mail, and is receiving a “top” from a fashion designer and a necklace from a jewellery designer later this week.

**Jack Fleming** – Jack was happy to say that he has had meeting with some “senior officials” at Humber College and that they are quite interested in getting a Rotaract Club going there. Jack also mentioned that the Toronto West Rotary Club is interested in a partnership to get the club going. Jack was also happy to say that he talked with Weiting Xu, the President of the York University Rotaract Club about their involvement in Ribfest. Weiting thinks they can become much more involved if we “connect with the early”. Jack thinks this is “a positive development”.

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## York Rotaract:

President Mark noted that he attended the Rotaract Club of York University's general meeting last evening. He said the coincidentally their guest speaker last night was Dave Dryden, whose father was the founder of the Pinehurst Club and “Sleeping Children Around the World”. Mark added that if any of members get the chance they should attend one of the Rotaract meetings. He is “amazed” at the energy they display.

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## Lunch with the Rotary International President Elect – Friday, October 17th:

How often do you get to have lunch with a President or future President of Rotary International? Not very often. Your chance is here Friday, October 17, 2014 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. That is the week of the Zone Institute, an event held annually to train District leaders and future leaders. Join us Friday, October 17th for lunch with Rotary International President Elect K.R. “Ravi” Ravindran, of Sri Lanka. The lunch will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Toronto as their regular weekly meeting. We hope that you will join us and take the opportunity to shake hands of our next R.I. President. It promises to be an event to remember and you can be there. Idea: why not bring a potential Rotarian to this event? What a way to impress!

If you are interested in attending please register for this lunch at [www.zoneinstitute.net/fun-stuff/meet-the-ri-pe/lunch/](http://www.zoneinstitute.net/fun-stuff/meet-the-ri-pe/lunch/).

Rotarians would like to attend? Tickets are \$10.00 each. Contact Kester Trim Kester\_Trim@salvationarmy.org for tickets. If any Rotarians would like to attend, Kester can set aside tickets for them. Any donations to the cause are also welcome!.

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