



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week September 10, 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

September 17, 2014 – Big Ideas Forum. 7.00 PM Crooked Cue: Speaker David Allen

Volunteer Toronto - Volunteerism

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speakers – Hazel Webb/Michelle Tinker: How Rotarians Might Find Ways to be Volunteer Supporters of MicroSkills



President Mark noted that last week Jack Fleming from our Club and Patti Wright from the Toronto West Rotary Club made a presentation to MicroSkills of two \$50,000 cheques (one from each Club) as the first instalment of the 3-year two Clubs joint "Legacy Project" to expand and renovate their facilities. However, today Hazel Webb and Michelle Tinker

from MicroSkills were here today to give our members some ideas on how Rotarians can get "involved in their programs" as volunteers and to help "make their programs better". First, he had Theresa Sherwood introduce Hazel and Michelle.

Michelle Tinker is Associate Director for Community Programs and Services at MicroSkills. She has led the Youth Services Programming since 2006. She is passionate about providing opportunities for "at risk youth" to become empowered and reach their full Potential. Hazel Webb is Director of Community Programs and Services at MicroSkills. She is one of the founding members of MicroSkills and the Youth Centre. Hazel is committed to supporting community development and empowering residents in becoming self advocates. Theresa added that she has seen "first hand" the "passion" that Hazel and Michelle have for what they do at MicroSkills.

Hazel began by saying that she is "excited" to have Rotarians work with the youth at MicroSkills because we are "good role models" and make "good mentors". MicroSkills is a "not for profit" organization that began in 1984. Last year they had a staff of 100 and 300 volunteers. The volunteers "help develop our clients". Their programs are not only for youth but for adults as well (unemployed, women, people new to Canada, etc). The Youth Centre has been in operation for 11 years and was "proud" that on their 10th Anniversary last year they were named as the joint "legacy project" for the Rotary Clubs of Etobicoke and Toronto West. The Youth Centre serves people from 13 to 29 in the North Etobicoke Community. The community is a multi-culture, low income area with many new to

THE BULLETIN

Canada with different cultures and languages. Many suffer from depression which is fueled by the impression the community has of them and their low expectations of themselves. There are many “negative Influences” present. Hazel added that many of the youth in the MicroSkills “after school” programs are there because they do not want to be on the streets or part of the gangs.

Hazel wanted to touch on some of their programs;

- Youth Employment/Career Support – The program helps youth receive training in basic skills that will lead to entry level employment. Many youth are being placed in employment within 3 months of registering with MicroSkills. They also receive academic support through after school programs (Homework Club), in school, tutors, group support and “peer” support.

- Volunteer and Leadership Development – Provides youth with training and experience to develop their capacity to be “role models and leaders” in their peer group and contribute volunteer hours to the community good. Hazel noted that they take groups to volunteer opportunities such as Lakeshore Lodge where they “read to seniors or did their hair, etc.

- Health and Wellness – Youth participated in and gained knowledge and skills related to healthy living. A girl-based program was designed to increase interest and participation in physical activities.

- Newcomer Service – Help newcomers to Canada gain a sense of belonging and becoming fully engaged in all aspects of Canadian life (social, economic, political and cultural). Gives the help needed to find the services they require, how to get there, information on schools, etc.

Michelle presented some ideas on “what Rotary can do”.

- Be guest Speakers – Rotarians could be “special speakers” who can talk about their “areas of expertise” or share their “success” with people who “do not have anyone to look up to”.

- Mentorship – Rotarians could volunteer to mentor youth in various capacities.

- Leadership –Rotarian will be seen as “positive role models” that can inspire youth to become leaders themselves. Rotarians can demonstrate the “quality of leadership”.

- Networking Sessions – Rotarians could be “entrepreneur-mentors” that participate in interactive workshops for in-school and out-of-school youth to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career option.

- Job Shadowing – Much like “take your child to work” day, take a youth to your job so they can get to “understand the workplace” so they can get meaningful employment. Things like; being on time; how do I dress; how do I talk to the boss; how do you interact with others. These are “real life” experiences they can learn.

- Workplace Opportunities – unpaid experience in an employment training program

- Help youth write effective resumes.

- Provide company tours to youth.

- Tutor – Michelle is encouraging Rotarians to become tutors. Tutors in English, Math and Science are always needed. This also helps show youth the importance of education

- Special Events – Volunteers to help with graduation and field trips

- Homework Programs – Snacks are provided for their homework programs. Volunteers could help set up the snacks. They could also help with some of the cooking classes.

- Michelle added that “there are many more opportunities for Rotarians to volunteer with MicroSkills.

President Mark thanked Hazel and Michelle. He said that when the two Rotary Clubs decided to take on this “big” legacy project, it was felt that MicroSkills was having a “big impact” on North Etobicoke..

THE BULLETIN

Birthdays This Week



Paul Roeser – Sept 09

Jay Douglas – Sept 10

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

Rotary District 7070 Foundation Walk – September 21, 2014

The Walk is on Sunday morning, September 21st starting from the George Brown Lakefront Campus.

http://www.georgebrown.ca/maps_and_directions.aspx#waterfront - link to driving directions & parking

PLEASE LET PRESIDENT MARK mwinson@wiseriddell.ca or RON MILLER rjm-woxof@sympatico.ca KNOW BY MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 15th) IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING. They need good numbers to plan for the food for breakfast and lunch.

This will be a walk to remember with lots of fun planned for people of all ages! The South Sherbourne Common Park has been booked for a Rotary Days component. There will be activities for kids, Rotary displays, and a Recycle Your Electronics collection. Dogs are welcome in the park and in the public areas of the waterfront adjacent to George Brown. Have your club's photo taken by Rotarian Walter Psotka - come dressed in lots of Rotary gear & bring a banner!

What to Bring:

- yourself, your family, potential Rotarians

- a water bottle - we'll be selling some special Rotary water bottles on site for \$5 if you forget

- unwanted electronics for collection - \$ raised will support the Rotary Foundation - click here for a complete list of accepted items

- good walking shoes & a perhaps jacket (it's cooler by the lake)

The fabulous 5km walk route (with shortcut options) has been developed by the Rotary Club of Toronto Skyline and will feature the Distillery District, the Berkley Street Theatre, Toronto's First Post Office and much more. There will be live guides at each location and also descriptions available to download to phones!

This is also an opportunity to support our Rotary Foundation by making a donation. Our goal of the 2014 Walk is to exceed the amount of money raised last year. We are hoping that you will help us reach this goal. Please forward your donations (cash or cheque to the Rotary Club of Etobicoke) to Mark Winson, Michael Bell or Ron Miller). As well...If you have any electronics that you wish to dispose of, there will be money raised for Foundation if you recycle anything with a plug...bring it with you for disposal.

We are one of the host clubs of this event...the long range forecast is favourable, and it is in our backyard, and a great opportunity to meet other Rotarians.

Breakfast is at 8:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:30 a.m. Hope to hear from you and see you on the 21st

Rotary District 7070 Conference – October 24th – 26th – Weston Prince Toronto:

President Mark wanted to remind members that the District 7070 Conference will be held this year at the Weston Prince Toronto Hotel, October 24th to 26th. 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

THE BULLETIN

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

Visitors and Guests:

- **Hazel Webb** – MicroSkills – **Speaker**
- **Michelle Tinker** – MicroSkills – **speaker**

Attendance:

Members 16
Visitors & Guests -02
Total - 18

Secretary's Announcements



Monday, October 20th – Board of Directors meeting – Rotary Clubhouse – 6 pm for food with meeting start 6:30 pm



50/50 Draw

Brock Buchanan – King of Diamonds ..., so the pot continues to grow.



Visitors & Guests



HAPPY BUCKS

Diane Irvine – Diane was happy to say that her son Austin was a “happy 15 year old” as he had just returned from a trip to Luxembourg, France, Germany and Belgium and that he was also trying out with the Ontario Blue Jays and is hoping to make their “under 16 team”.

Judy Burnell – Judy was happy to say that she is “working” for Justin DiCiano for the upcoming City Council elections in October. Judy added that anyone wishing to help in any way with his campaign would be greatly appreciated by Justin.

Lynda Ryder – Lynda was happy to hear President Mark mention the upcoming District Conference in October, but she also wanted everyone to know that Toronto is hosting a Zone Conference in a few weeks (October 7-14) for Zone 24 (E & W) and Zone 32. Lynda said it will be at the Royal York Hotel and that she will be staying there for the week. Lynda will be doing District Governor Elects training which she is “really looking forward to”.

Mark Winson – Mark said that this wasn't really a “happy buck” as last Monday was a very “sad day” as his 12 year old dog suddenly passed away. While he was sad about what happened, he said he had “good memories to hang on to”