



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week September 17, 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 24, 2014 – Ribfest Sponsors lunch

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

**Today's Speaker – Big Ideas
forum – David Allen Volunteer
Toronto - Volunteerism**



David Allen is the Executive Director of Volunteer Toronto, a charitable organization that provides training in volunteer engagement to non-profit organizations and helps link Torontonians to volunteer opportunities in those organizations. David joined Volunteer Toronto on January 6, 2014. He has over 20 years of experience in the not-for-profit sector at the executive level. Previous

positions include the chief executive officer of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, Variety – The Children's Charity and the Canadian Hearing Society. He has been a committed volunteer for his entire adult life, having served on the boards of directors of many not-for-profits, currently with the Applewood Centre for Adult Learning. He is also a professional engineer (P. Eng) and a certified healthcare executive (CHE).

David began by saying he was "thrilled to be part of this Volunteer Appreciation Celebration". It is a "wonderful way for the Rotary Etobicoke organization to give heartfelt thanks to many dedicated and valued volunteers, particularly those in involved in Ribfest". The Rotary Etobicoke volunteers represent "all age groups and backgrounds, and fulfill a wide variety of roles". They also "all have something very important in common – it's passion for Rotary's mission". He says based on his experience as Executive Director of Volunteer Toronto, the largest of 200 Volunteer Centres across Canada.

Volunteer Toronto provides volunteer recruitment support and training for 400 non-profit member agencies and the estimated 1 million individuals involved in acts of volunteerism throughout Toronto. Volunteer Toronto is a registered charity in existence for over 40 years and is funded largely by the City of Toronto, the United Way of Greater Toronto, and the Ontario Ministry of health. Their mission is to "help create the best possible volunteer experience that will, in turn help create engaged communities. They serve the entire City of Toronto through the efforts of a small staff of 8 employees. They maintain a database of thousands o volunteer opportunities

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that the public can browse through their website, and apply for, if desired. Various filters can refine the search by activity; organization; location; clients served; or even language. They also teach best practices in volunteer engagement to leaders of volunteers (including recruitment, selection and retention, managing teams, performance management, obligations for police checks, and other related legislation). In addition, every year, they hold dozens of public meeting, workshops, conferences and outreach activities to increase the awareness of engagement of potential volunteers in worthy causes in their communities.

Volunteering in Canada is currently undergoing a dramatic transformation. Although close to half of all Canadians volunteer to some extent, their reasons are much different than in previous decades. Today's volunteers are no longer driven by "sense of duty, obligation or religious commitment", nor are they as willing as they once were "to serve in whatever capacity they are directed". Today's volunteers have "a broader mix of altruistic and expressive demands". While they still "possess a strong desire to contribute to the community", they also seek "stimulating experiences where they will be able to lead and direct projects that really make a difference". Essential to volunteer engagement is "ensuring volunteers have a personal connection to and passion for the cause of the organization". "when this connection and passion is strong, volunteers will demonstrate tremendous flexibility and go the extra mile to meet expectations". Finding a meaningful volunteer experience in which all parties benefit starts with the volunteer finding "causes which they are passionate about", and organizations they have a "personal connection to".

Volunteer Toronto has three "innovative programs" that they have recently undertaken;

- Youth Leadership program in which they coached young people in discussing various social issues such as mental health, hunger, and substance abuse. The process involved researching the "urgency and scope of the issues, identifying the organizations that are addressing these issues and how, and brainstorming alternate approaches".

- Youth Auditors in which youth offer to "assess the youth-friendliness of volunteer programs in non-profits". Each year they train dozens of youth to conduct "operational audits" and then link those youth with non-profits trying to attract more youth volunteers.
- High-Skilled Volunteer program which is geared to young professional who are not interested in making a long term commitment. They are seeking project work in non-profits where they can "utilize their specialized skills" and "make a meaningful contribution". They have begun a series of events to bring together young professionals and non-profits to "match skill sets being offered with the organizational priorities needing attention".

Davis noted that every one of the volunteers being recognized at tonight's ceremony is "passionate about what Rotary Etobicoke stands for. You share a deep personal connection to the mission being pursued". He added that they are "probably among the 10% of Ontarians who work 75% of all volunteer hours". "Although your initial motivation for volunteering might have been to expand your employment prospects, to showcase your talents, or to cultivate your business contacts, those motivations are probably not what has kept you engaged with Rotary Etobicoke year after year after year. You are driven by the positive impact that Rotary Etobicoke is having on the lives of others in the local community. We need more volunteers like you. Rotary Etobicoke has come to rely on you to faithfully fulfill the responsibilities you have been given. You are role models of civic engagement. Thank you for making a difference in the quality of life in Etobicoke."

David closed by quoting the great author, Dr. Seuss: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

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Ribfest Volunteer Recognition – Liz Read:



President Mark noted that over the 5 days of Ribfest we had to man nearly 1500 volunteer shifts. With a Club of around 80 members this meant that we had to get other volunteers to fill these shifts. Tonight we are here to honour some of the volunteers that “stood out” by their exemplary dedication (passion) and hard work they displayed through Ribfest.

First he wanted to introduce Hugh Williams who was the co-chair of this year’s Ribfest. At last month’s BIF, the membership got to voice their opinions on how we can continue to make Ribfest a viable and successful event. One of the results has been that the Board has approved the formation of an Executive Committee for the 2015 Ribfest and has named Hugh the Festival Director to oversee the event. Mark also wanted to recognize the job Liz Read did as Volunteer Co-ordinator. Mark says Liz was new to the Club and “didn’t know what she was getting in to” but did a “great job”.

Hugh also wanted to say a few words before we honoured the volunteers. Hugh noted that David Allen in his talk tonight talked about “passion”. “Passion is what we see in Rotary and in our Club”. It is this passion our members show in our Club activities such as our “Hands on Etobicoke (HOE)” group who do numerous projects in the community. This is just one example of the many projects that the Club does, and these are all funded by our major fundraiser, Ribfest. Hugh also wanted to mention

about being named Festival Director. It is not about “who is in charge, it is about the team”. We have a “strong core group” in place already to keep things moving in the right direction. Hugh asked Liz read to begin the Volunteer Recognition ceremony.

Liz began by saying that a “lot of people didn’t know that Ribfest was a fundraiser”. She made sure that she told each and every one of the volunteers. She thinks that this gave the volunteers “built in energy”. Ribfest is a “volunteer run event”. It cannot run without volunteers. She said the volunteers showed “unwavering dedication” and a willingness “to do what they were asked”. They showed commitment by “arriving early, staying late and working extra shifts”. They were “reliable, responsible and showed their initiative”. These are “the future leaders” and possibly “future Rotarians”. “These are the qualities we saw”.

Liz noted that our volunteers at Ribfest come from many sources. Some are students from high school that are trying to work off their 40 hours of community service. Some come from Volunteer Toronto. Others come from the organizations that we support and others come through our Rotary members. Those recognized at tonight’s ceremony were presented with certificates. They included; Amira McLeod, Amit Marocha, Becka Dolbear, Erykah Hughes-Leacock, Julian Giannone, Kristen Balawejder, Linda Ren, Melissa Tac, Ming Lu (son of Michael Lu), Theddy Arisu, Timothy Gumayan, Tony Pan, Michele Franco and from MicroSkills Michelle, Amanda and Julian. Liz wanted to mention a few make special mention of a couple of the volunteers. Theddy Arisu volunteered through Volunteer Toronto. He worked the parking lot for 4 days straight in less than favourable conditions. Theddy was always on time and left late even though he came by TTC all the way from Scarborough. Liz also wanted to recognize the volunteers who worked “stores”. It is the most important part of Ribfest. It is where all of the pop, beer, ice, etc is distributed and delivered throughout the Ribfest site. It is hard work. The volunteers under the great supervision of Michael Lu performed “magnificently” and operated with the “passion” that has been well described this evening.

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Liz also wanted to recognize two "Rotary" families who volunteered together. Dr. Joe Bulger and his wife Denise along with sons Joe, Keith Michael and Will have been volunteering at Ribfest for many years. Linda Schneider is one of our newer members; however she along with her husband Mario and her sons Evan and Andrew were all volunteers at Ribfest this year.

Volunteer of the Year – Kristen Balawejder:



Liz was happy to announce the winner of the Volunteer of the Year award to Kristen Balawejder. She said it was not a hard decision. Liz said she first became interested in Kristen right from the time she received her application that said she wanted to work at Ribfest for "7 days (3 shifts each day)". She was willing to do anything that was asked of her. Liz had her doing a few different things at the start of Ribfest, but when she was asked to help out at "stores" while someone was on a break, she ended up staying there for the rest of Ribfest and becoming Michael Lu's trusted assistant. She had the respect of everyone working in stores and was able to help Michael improve the efficient delivery of supplies. She did an absolutely fantastic job. Michael Lu presented Kristen with the Volunteer of the Year plaque. He mentioned that when Kristen first came to stores he was surprised to see that she "outworked" the boys on the crew. When the boys

saw this, it made them work even harder. This resulted in a genuine enthusiasm being displayed by everyone at stores through all of Ribfest.

Kristen responded by saying, "On behalf of all of the student volunteers, when I say thank you for the awesome opportunity. Volunteering to me is an important part of growing up, and it is chances like this that make it even better. In high school you come across so many kids who cannot get their hours. It is more than about getting a 40 hour minimum to graduate or a couple extra. To me it is about giving back to a community that raised you and there is no better way to do that than applying your interests. It was fun, exciting and pleasing. That is what Ribfest gave me".

New Member Induction – Mary Grogan and Mark Vytryskyy:



President Mark presided over the induction of our two new members, Mary Grogan and Mark Vytryskyy. Secretary Ron presented them with their New Member Information binders, the Club ID badge, and their Membership cards. Membership Chair Diane Irvine "pinned" them with their Rotary pins.

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Secretary's Announcements



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

Cheque Presentation – FEAT:



President Mark presented a cheque to Derek and Jessica Reid from FEAT for \$10,000. FEAT is an organization that the Club has supported in the past, and both Derek and Jessica have been big supporters of our Club. They have both been long-time volunteers at Ribfest.. The money is to offset the price of their new bus. FEAT is the only organization in Canada dedicated to the support of children with parents who are incarcerated. They use the bus to take kids every weekend to visit those parents that are in prison. They also run after school and mentorship programs for the kids with the help of Ryerson and Humber College. Jessica thanked the Club for our help. Their old bus had over 400,000 km on it when it broke down a couple weeks ago. This left them without transportation for their programs. They have purchased a new bus and our donation is a major help in the cost. Jessica added that she is “amazed at how quickly the Rotary Club of Etobicoke was able to come to their aid”.

Visitors & Guests



Visitors and Guests:

- **David Allen (Volunteer Toronto)** - Speaker
- **Rhena Fleming** (guest of Jack Fleming)
- **Jessica Reid** – FEAT
- **Derek Reid** – FEAT
- **Pamela Gough** – TDSB Trustee
- **Cheryl Stoneburgh**
- **Ribfest Volunteers and families 40+**

Attendance:

Members 16
Visitors & Guests -45+
Total 61+