



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Michael Bell**

RI President: K.R "Ravi" Ravindran

Week Aug 05, 2015

Board 2014-2015

President: Jack Fleming Past President Mark Winson, President Elect: Gregg Dobson, Secretary: Ron Miller,

Treasurer: Don Edwards

Directors: Donna Cansfield, Andre Dugas, Gillian Dugas, Gerald Lue, Kester Trim, Lynda Ryder, Hugh Williams.

August 12, 2015 – SPEAKER: District Governor Michael BELL – Official Club Visit

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker: Mary GROGAN – Classification Talk

In the absence of President Jack, President Elect Greg Dobson chaired the meeting.



Mary is a person who came from a "meager" background, but who is proud to say that she rose through many hardships to become a "consummate and dedicated" educator. She noted that "education is about owning one's own story; i.e. discovering our own history, culture, abilities, gifts, dreams, etc., and learning how to take responsibility for becoming all that we can be and contribute to the world...a powerful process to learn how to think critically, imagine and connect with others to make a difference". Mary personifies this in every way. By

"owning our own storey and loving ourselves through the process is the bravest thing that we ever do".

Even though her childhood was somewhat chaotic, she was always looking to "make things better". She said she grew up with "a sense of humour" and was always "trying to learn". Childhood has unique opportunities for; learning; curiosity, questions, reflection; acceptance; service; self-awareness & power of choice (will); self-responsibility; sense of humour; culture and ethnic diversity; communication; imagination; dreams; etc.

She became a teacher with the hopes of "opening doors". She feels that the "power of Education" is; the joy of discovery; curiosity in a global world; the importance of risk taking; reflection & critical thought; engagement & collaboration; creativity & imagination; peace - conflict resolution skills; hope; social and systemic change; social justice- human rights. She also feels Teaching is a "Privileged Profession".

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." (Einstein)

"Education lights the fire not fills the pail." (Keats)

Learning begins when our comfortable ideas turn out to be inadequate." (Dewey)

"Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world." (Mandela)

"Without reflection, we go blindly on our way, creating more unintended consequences, and failing to achieve anything useful." (Wheatley)

As a teacher she also coached girls Physical Education and "challenges stereotypes". Research

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shows that; physical education impacts physical health (obesity, diabetes, etc.), mental health anxiety and depression, self-esteem, stress), community building and social change; and educated girls improve the quality of life for families & communities (creates life-long interests and habits, and impacts individuals, families, and nations).

As an Itinerant Guidance Counsellor she was involved in the Sex Ed. Program. Mary said that the "need then was the same as the need now". Being a teacher in the Catholic Board there were "clear rules" of what you could teach but she was proud of what she was "able to get away with". She gave counseling, individual and in small groups, to girls suffering from trauma (neglect, abuse, domestic violence, immigration and war, etc.). This encouraged Mary to get a Master's Degree which specialized in trauma and set up her own counselling practice where she worked with adoptions, family care, and custody issues, as well as sitting with families as a mediator.

Mary became a Principal at Regent Park and Black Creek. She says the Principal, among other things, "models the education standards" and "sets the tone for a respectful, inclusive learning climate".



After 34 years of teaching, she decided to "take a risk" and take a position at the Ross School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies which she says was "an incredible experience". The school had "expats and multi-cultural students and staff from all over the world". She became the Principal of the Ross Preparatory School. While in Dominica she helped start a Rotary Club there. She decided to extend her time there by 4 years as she took her

Doctorate Degree in Education Leadership. While there she collaborated on 3 research projects.



After graduation she moved back to Canada to see her grandchildren. In short order she sold her house, moved into a condo, joined the Rotary Club of Etobicoke, an "took a risk" and married a man. Mary has 3 children and he has 7. Between them they have 12 grandchildren. She has her own consulting practice (MG Educational Consulting Services – Leadership, Facilitation, Coaching) and has recently joined John Hopkins University in trying to get more teachers in "hard to serve" locations like New York City and New Orleans.

In closing Mary said she wanted to share the following;

Dance as though no one is watching
Love as though you never have been hurt
Sing as though no one can hear you
Live as though heaven is on earth

Lynda Ryder remarked that "the best meetings we have in Rotary are our classification talks" and that Mary's was "terrific" and that she is "so proud to know you".

Assistant District Governor Melissa Unidad – 2015-16 Rotary Theme and DG Michael's Message

Our Clubs ADG for this year is Melissa Unidad from the York Rotary Club. She was here today to present as 5 minute video about this year's Rotary Theme with RI President K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran along with a

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message from DG Michael Bell. Unfortunately, there was a problem with the audio and we couldn't get it loud enough for anyone to hear. Secretary Ron said that he would forward the video to all members prior to DG Michael's visit next Wednesday.

Birthdays



No Birthday's This Week

However, Greg wanted to mention that if someone did have a birthday today, then;

"As a Leo born on August 5th, your personality is dominated by your humorous and optimistic nature. While others choose to stay on the sidelines, you gravitate to the spotlight. You love to make people laugh and always try to impress your peers with quick wit and clever observations. While this attribute is enough to gain you many friends, people also appreciate your positive outlook. Your close friends and family never seem to get over your ability to make the best out of a bad situation". (We have a few people like that in the Club, but they weren't born on August 5th)

August 5th was also the day that Marilyn Monroe died in 1962

Club Administration

Monday, August 10th – Board of Directors meeting – 6:00 pm (for food) 6:30 pm (meeting start) – Rotary Clubhouse,

Saturday, August 15th – District Conference meeting – 9:30 AM – Rotary Clubhouse

Wednesday, August 19th - BIF – Big Ideas Forum on "Fundraising" – 7 PM – The Crooked Cue (newly renovated), 3056 Bloor St. W, Etobicoke.

50/50 Draw



Liz READ – 7 of Hearts. The Pot keeps growing !

Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians

✚ Melissa Unidad – Assistant District Governor (D7070) – Rotary Club of York

Visitors & Guests

❖ Christine Ashaolu – Guest of Lynda Ryder

Attendance

Members 07
Visitors & Guests - 02
Total – 09

HAPPY BUCKS



Ron Miller – Ron was happy (maybe) to say that his 17 year old "globetrotting" daughter was leaving tomorrow morning to go to New York City with his next door neighbour and her daughter. His neighbour is paying for the flight with "points", however they will be staying at the Plaza Hotel (\$\$\$) in NYC. Hopefully she is using points there as well. Ron says he was jealous as he hasn't been to NYC in many, many years.

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Lynda Ryder – Lynda was happy to introduce her guest Christine Ashaolu, a scientist from Nigeria. Lynda said that this is a coincidence that Christine is from Nigeria in light of the announcement this week that Nigeria has been “Polio free” for 1 year. This is “great news” and only just leaves Pakistan and Afghanistan as the last 2 countries with endemic Polio. Christine is a Chemist and is the winner of a “prestigious” prize in her country. She is visiting National Silicates for a month learning about “safety, security and environmental” issues, etc. She will then be going to Belgium to learn more about these issues as they apply to the food industry and pharmaceuticals.

Greg Dobson – Greg was happy to say that he brought with him today the last case of “Sweet Baby Rays” BBQ sauce. He original had 12 cases which he gave out to sponsors and at the Ribfest Wedding. He was “tired” of handing them out. Everyone in attendance today received a bottle of sauce.

Barry Friesen – Barry was happy to say that he had received the “final report” on the Ribfest garbage “recycling”. 59% “by weight” was recycled. The other 41% had “a lot of organic”. Probably ½ could have been recycled. Barry is looking at improvements for next year. The beer can recycling was also a success as almost all were returned. We returned 24,000 (beer, cooler, etc.) cans and received a rebate of \$2,400. Barry has also applied for “Waste Minimization Award” from the Recycle Council of Ontario. He thinks we will win since “we were the only entrant”. Barry added that the Burlington Ribfest recycles 80% of their garbage, so this is a goal for us to strive for.

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