



# THE BULLETIN



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week February 04, 2015

**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**

**February 11, 2015 – SPEAKER: Michael LU – Classification Talk**

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

### Today's Speaker Carol CHABOT - LOFT



President Mark introduced Carole Chabot. Carole has just stepped down from the Board of LOFT Community Services after nine years, including three as Chair. LOFT's work has been part of Carole's life for nearly 20 years as prior to her Board service; she was Director of Development at Anglican Houses (later LOFT) and a long-time supporter. Carole has 25 years' experience as a fund development professional. Former positions include Vice President, Advancement of the Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation, Vice President, Development at Rouge Valley Health System Foundation, and Director of Annual Giving at the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation. She is now transitioning into retirement working from home on freelance contracts that advance social profit. Carole is a Certified Fund Raising Executive, the foremost

international professional accreditation for fundraisers. She holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts (Musicology) degrees from Queen's and the University of Western Ontario and is an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music. In her musical life, Carole is a professional chorister at St. James's Cathedral, where she is also a member of the Guild of Change Ringers, and she also sings with Toronto's Bel Canto Singers.

Carole began by saying that LOFT provides housing and support services for the "most vulnerable people in our community". Its "complex, multi-faceted work" as they meet the needs of people who have "fallen through the cracks of society" such as those with; mental and physical health challenges; substance abuse issues; and those with no resources, no family, no money. One its own, each of those is a major life challenge. Together (and most of their clients do face multiple challenges) they prevent people from leading lives "like the ones you and I have". Their issues marginalize them and they are often rejected by service providers because their illnesses and other issues make them difficult to care for and work with. Carole told a story about "Bert, an older man, set in his ways with all the habits of many years of homelessness". He resisted any efforts to help for a long time, but the LOFT outreach workers connected with Bert and "inch by inch" he allowed them into his life. He got off the street and into LOFT's housing. Carole said that is just "one person's story" as there are "many, many more Berts". "They are dying in bus shelters and abandoned cars on the streets of Toronto during this cold winter". Each year LOFT helps thousands of people like them, of all ages.

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At LOFT they have a “consistent set of principals”; everyone is welcome (no one’s challenges are ever too complex); they accept people “without judgement” (it is “come as you are”); they embrace individuality (free to set their own goals and make choices); and they believe in “resilience” (everyone has the ability to grow, change, and get back on their feet).

“Sometimes they just need help”. With these principals in place, they offer the people they serve “the safety and stability of long-term housing and the practical support they need to regain dignity and take back control of their lives”.

LOFT works in Toronto, York region and South Simcoe. Every day in these communities they serve; young people on the street with mental health issues, substance abuse, those who have dropped out of school who don’t have basic life skills; poor, frail seniors with mental health and addiction challenges who don’t have family to help them (and can’t get into a nursing home because of their behaviours); and people who are homeless and have multiple especially severe challenges (serious mental illness PLUS serious physical health problems PLUS severe addictions to numerous substances). There is no single solution that works for all these folks, so their programs are “flexible and responsive, and continually adapting” to ensure each person gets the help they need. There are more than 70 programs in 1000 supportive housing units in all. As well, there are a whole range of services in the community at large that give practical support and encouragement. LOFT serves about 4,000 people each year.

They do this by “creating conditions for recovery”. The first thing people recover is “hope”. For the first time, or the first time in a long time, they realize that “someone truly cares”. This shifts everything. They begin to “rediscover themselves and what they are capable of”. The results; people get off the streets; people live with dignity (often for the first time in their lives); hope blooms; they connect (with LOFT support workers and with one another); they grow and change (and become independent).

LOFT was founded in 1953 and has responded, in a “non-judgemental way”, the most desperate issues

of the day. When the mental health institutions decreased the number of beds or closed back in the 70’s and 80’s, they were there to offer supportive housing that “allowed people to continue their healing and take their place in the community safely and productively”. When the number of streetkids involved in prostitution escalated as teens ran away to Toronto, they set up Street Outreach Services. When AIDS emerged as a major issue, they set up McKewan House to care for those who were HIV positive or living with AIDS and who had addiction issues. Throughout their history, they have often been “the first, and sometimes the only, organization to answer the needs of many of the most under-served and vulnerable members of our community”. LOFT is now the “largest charitable organization in the Ontario housing market, and the most diverse supportive housing provider. They are going to still be around in the foreseeable future “as the needs won’t go away, they will just keep changing”.

One of LOFT’s “major thrust” at the moment is “getting seniors out of hospital beds” where they are “trapped” because they have nowhere else to go. On any given day in Toronto, it is estimated that there are 560 hospital beds occupied by patients who don’t need to be there. They are working closely with Humber River Regional in York-Finch to accommodate their older patients who no longer need acute care, but who have been in hospital for so long that they have lost everything (their shelter, what possessions they may have had, access to disability or pension income because they have no address). They are finding discharged patients either a “transitional safe place” in their re-integration program (a stepping stone to a return to independent living), or to try and find a “more permanent home” in one of their seniors supportive housing programs.

LOFT’s name spells out what “makes this work possible”: L – O – F – T (Leap of Faith Together). LOFT’s founders took a “leap of faith together”, and everyone involved “continues to do so each and every day”. Loft is having “real impact”. “Hundreds of thousands of people have been helped since they first began to provide housing and support services for “the most vulnerable” back in the 1950’s. LOFT is

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a model that works “on every level”. Carole closed by saying “Leap of Faith Together” includes the people they serve and the people, businesses, organizations, corporations and foundations that support them.

President Mark thanked Carole by saying that he is “amazed at what LOFT is doing in the community” and “surprised that we haven’t made a connection with LOFT prior to this”.

## Paul Harris Recognition Gerald LUE



DGE Michael Bell said that he was once again “pleased” to be able present another one of our members with a Paul Harris Fellow Recognition. The Paul Harris Fellow Recognition is given in appreciation for a substantial gift to TRF’s humanitarian, educational and immunization programs. These programs include an array of projects that save and invigorate the lives of people around the world and enhance international friendship and understanding. Michael added that TRF is the “life blood” of Rotary and defines “who we are today” and allows us to “do the work we do”. The fellowship was established in 1957 in honour of Paul Harris, a Chicago business lawyer who founded Rotary with three business associates in 1905. Today, Michael wanted to congratulate Gerald Lue for his contribution to the Rotary Foundation. On behalf of the Rotary Foundation, Michael wanted to sincerely thank Gerald for his commitment to Rotary’s goals for world understanding and peace.

## New Member Induction – Karen Royal



President Mark formally inducted our newest member Karen Royal into the Rotary Club of Etobicoke. Secretary Ron presented Karen with her Rotary membership card, her Club ID badge, and her New Member information binder. Membership Chair Diane Irvine presented Karen with her Rotary pin. The members present then welcomed Karen into the Club.



## 50/50 Draw

**Theresa SHERWOOD – 8 of Diamonds.** As a consolation prize President Mark gave Theresa a box of “Pot of Gold” chocolates. The pot **\$600+** continues to grow.



## Visitors & Guests

### Visitors and Guests:

Carole Chabot – LOFT – Speaker

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- ✚ Claude Dagenais – Guest of John Campbell
- ✚ Dylan Lyall – Potential New member – Guest of Gerald Lue
- ✚ J.D. Hill – Guest of Karen Royal

## Attendance:

Members 15  
Visitors & Guests - 04  
Total – 19

## Birthdays This Week



Ken COATES – Feb 02  
Theresa SHERWOOD – Feb 03  
Lyn MANWAR – Feb 08

## Secretary's Announcements



**Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Directors meeting – 6 PM (\Food), 6:30 PM (Meeting start) – Rotary Clubhouse.

**Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** – Rotary “Pot Luck Dinner” – Rotary Clubhouse - All members are invited – Please let Ron Miller know if you are attending.

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Rotary Club of Toronto Networking Evening – 6 PM – The National Club (\$5/person) – Contact Ron Miller or Mark Winson

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** – “Community and Government Services” Fair – Cloverdale Mall – 11 AM – 4 PM – Volunteers are needed to help at the Club’s display – Please contact Ron Miller.

## HAPPY BUCKS



**Ralph Chiodo** – Ralph was happy to say that the Trillium Hospital Health Centre (which now incorporates 3 hospitals) is holding “Laugh Out Loud” event, with all proceeds going in support of their Mental Health Unit. Ralph and his family have donated a Jeep that will be raffled off at the event. Ralph is hoping to “convince” the Club to participate in the event by making a donation of \$5000 to purchase a table (of 10).

**Theresa Sherwood** – Theresa was happy to say that our Club was participating in the “Tokens for Change” event at the Islington Subway station this Friday (February 6th). This is in support of Youth Without Shelter’s “Stay in School” program and their “emergency shelter” program. She noted that 6 Rotarians will “be there for the early shift (7 – 11 AM)” to supervise students from Father Redmond who will be doing the canvassing. Gill, Andre and a few others will be supervising the afternoon shift (3



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– 7 PM) along with students from Etobicoke Collegiate. The Toronto West Rotary Club will also have a couple members there as they are helping to start an INTERACT club at ECI.

**Judy Burnell** – Judy was happy to say that she met our newest member Karen Royal “at the corner of Prince Edward & Bloor Street” and convinced her to join Rotary.

**Mark Winson** – Mark said that he had a “thousand and one” reasons to be happy today. He and his business partner look at a “number of charities” that that they might donate to at Christmas time. One of these is The Rotary Foundation/PolioPlus. Mark thinks that this is one of the great things we do at Rotary. Mark did however apologize for not bringing the cheque to give to Don today, as he “left it on the kitchen table”. He will bring it next week.

**Diane Irvine** – Diane was happy to give a “belated thank you” to her late Father who introduced Michael Bell to our Club. Diane says Michael will be a great District Governor. She also wanted to thank everyone for their cards and sentiments she received regarding her Mom’s passing.

**Gerald Lue** – Gerald was happy for the recognition he was given by the Club today.

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Date: Saturday, February 21

Location: Queensway Church's Gym, 1536 The Queensway, opposite Haven

Parking: In Church lot

Time: 4 p.m. for Registration

5 p.m. Open Ceremonies

5:15 p.m. Walk Begins

6 p.m. Registration Closes

8 p.m. Route closes

Registration: Sign waiver - Registration fee \$25 per walker

Bring: good walking shoes/boots, hat or toque, gloves, maybe a scarf; and a warm jacket

Rest Stops: provided at the 2 and 5 km marks; some shelter, some heat, a bathroom and some snacks and hot drinks

Routes: 2 km, 5km and 10 km - route maps provided

Support: Volunteers and Division 22

Finish Ceremony: Queensway Church's Gym, 1536 The Queensway, opposite Haven

Finish get together: Between 6 and 9 p.m. a warm, light meal will be served to all walkers and volunteers

Contact: Gill Dugas

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## Saturday, February 21st - Rotary Etobicoke's Team for Haven on the Queensway's "Coldest Night of the Year" Fundraiser

Please sign up for RCE's team. We will request the \$25 be covered by Community Services Committee's budget. Individual pledges are welcome and forms are available. Family and friends are very welcome