



# THE BULLETIN



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week January 21, 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**

**January 28, 2015 – SPEAKER: Chris Snyder – The New HIP, Honouring Indigenous People**

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

### Big Ideas Forum (BIF) Alister Mathieson Education Youth About Canada – It's Identity Home and Abroad



Jack Fleming introduced Alister Mathieson. When Jack first heard what Alister is doing, he thought it would be a "very interesting" topic for our Big Ideas Forum as his focus is on Youth in our Community. He also wanted to acknowledge Pat Cuda who is Alister's assistant at Humber and his "cashier". Alister is an author and VP of Advancement & External Relations at Humber College. Jack added that Maati Lahroussi had met Alister at Humber College and Maati said that "he liked him and thought he looked like someone who gets things done".

Alister was born and raised in New Zealand. His impressive resume includes;

- BA (Honours) in Geography, University of Otago, New Zealand
- MA (Geography), University of Waterloo, Ontario
- Over 20 years of senior executive experience in the tourism industry in Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada
- Held senior vice president positions with international tourism companies such as Traveland World of Vacations and Thomas Cook
- Co-author of two tourism related books
- Former chair of the board of the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC)
- Senior advisor to the Canadian Tourism Resource Council (CTHRC)
- Architect of the tourism strategic plan for the province of New Brunswick
- Eleven years as the dean of the School of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism, the largest hospitality-tourism school in Canada
- Recipient of the Humber College Robert A. Gordon Leadership Award (2009)
- Co-author of two children's book – Canada: Our Road to Democracy and Grandma and Grandpa's Toronto Adventure
- Founder of the Blossoms Fund at Humber College, an award and scholarship fund for students with disabilities and mental illness challenges

Alister began by saying that he was pleased to be here tonight to talk about his books that he says are an "innovated idea". In turn, they will help to

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support his Blossom Foundation Project at Humber. He co-authored two children's books. The Canada: Our Road to Democracy book is aimed at children in Grades 5-6. Grandma and Grandpa's Toronto Adventure is aimed at Grandparents and children of a younger age. Alister wanted to mention his assistant Pat Cuda who he says is his "right and left hand, right and left feet". She has been his assistant for 30 years and is involved in the production of the books.

Alister said that as a "human geographer" one relishes "understanding the world and the community you live in". He remarked that he wrote Canada: Our Road to Democracy as "an immigrant" (he came to Canada in 1984). The book is designed as an easy way for young students to "learn about the birth of Canada and how it evolved into one of the world's greatest democracies. It is also a book for immigrants wanting to discover more about the rights and freedoms offered in their newly chosen country. Alister added that the book asks us to "think about Canada every day and accept and embrace the responsibilities of being an active citizen". It could help alleviate the "apathy" that many young people have about government, especially during elections. Alister says he is encouraging all young Canadians to be active citizens, participate in your community, and be involved in determining your country's future. The book is an alphabetic (A-Z) "journey through the past and present that highlights the characteristics that define Canada's democracy and its relationship with the rest of the world". Each letter begins a topic; A for Aboriginal; B for Bilingualism; C for Confederation, etc. Each letter is introduced by 4 animal characters; Bo Buffalo, Gabrielle the Canada goose, Miki Moose, and Bernie Beaver which bring some "fun" to the process. Alister wanted to acknowledge his co-author Marianne Ilass, who he says is the "master of rhyme" and helped create the animal characters. Over the years she has had her stories and poems published in various newspapers and magazines, but her first love is writing for children. This book is a culmination of her dreams and Alister hopes it will lead to more opportunities for her. He also wanted to acknowledge Derek Douglas who did a "marvelous" job illustrating the

book. This is also an opportunity for him to expand on a new career.

The book has received enthusiastic endorsements from the Governor General, The Prime Minister, Peter Mansbridge, "Pinball" Clemons; Rick Hansen, to name a few. The Governor General's comments are typical of the praise for the book. "My Children call me 'Grandpa Book' because I read books to them. I can't wait to read Canada: Our Road to Democracy with them. First, the system of government and rule of law we have inherited and delivered is the envy of the world. We have learned how to make diversity and inclusiveness work for us. Second, it is the young who will be the stewards to make democracy work even better for the next generation and we should all start this journey as early as possible".

Alister noted that this is the first book in a planned series of books. The next planned books are; "Canada: Our Home and Native Land" (how history has shaped Canada); "Canada: Healthy Nation"; "Canada: Sporting Nation". These will also be of an alphabetic format.

One of Alister's motivations for the book is to have it added to the Grade 5-6 curriculum as a classroom text book. They are currently in negotiations with the Ontario Ministry of Education for approval. They can then deal with the individual school boards, though some are already purchasing some books on their own. Alister added that once the Ontario Ministry approves that the book be added to school curriculum, his hope is that it will spread across the country.

Alister's second book, "Grandma and Grandpa's Toronto Adventure" was inspired by a trip back to New Zealand. While in the airport at Auckland, he was trying to find a gift to bring back to Canada. He found a book "Grandma and Grandpa's New Zealand Adventure". He liked what he saw and wrote the publishers in New Zealand to ask permission to do a similar book in Canada. Humber negotiated with them and the book was published. He said this book is something someone visiting Canada can take back home to show people there what it is like here.

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All proceeds from Alister's books go to his Blossom Fund at Humber, an award and scholarship fund for students with disabilities and mental illness challenges. He is hoping to expand the program to fund students with financial difficulties. He is hoping to raise \$100,000 over three years from the sale of the books. As the fund grows, the number of scholarships at Humber will grow and they can better determine that they go to where there is the "greatest need". The number of students with disabilities at Humber continues to grow, and many require special funding for accommodation. There has also been a 10-15% increase in students with mental health issues (mainly due to more people are reporting they have mental health issues).



Jack thanked Alister and noted that there may be some opportunities for the Club to help support Alister's program.

## Thank You Letter - Anduhyan Shelter

The following letter was received from the Anduhyan Shelter;

Dear Rotary Club of Etobicoke:

Anduhyaun Inc. would like to thank you for the very generous gifts that you donated last month for the families we serve. We were deeply touched by your generosity and kindness, especially at this time of year which can be a difficult one for many families.

Your contribution helped deliver the magic of Christmas to many families here at Anduhyaun, not only by giving the little boys and girls who live here some new things to play with, but also by allowing their moms the chance to see the looks on their children's faces as they opened their gifts.

Please accept this let as an expression of our gratitude for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Charles  
(For Blanche Meawassige  
Executive Director  
Anduhyaun Inc.)

Father Henry Carr Catholic  
Secondary School



Mario Pietrangelo, Athletic Director at Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School, accepts our cheque from Kester and the Community Services Committee. The \$1500 will buy sports shoes for students who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford them. Coach Miller gave us a tour and information about how successful the sports program, particularly Track and Field, has been at their school. Very inspirational that we are providing help in Rexdale to keep students engaged in sports. A number of graduates have even received sports scholarships both in Canada and in the U.S.

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## Anduhyaun and Nekenaa First Nations Women's Shelters



Rotary Club of Etobicoke has just purchased 180 towels, 80 face cloths, 19 bed in a bags, 9 blankets, mattress toppers, 13 pairs of pyjamas, 8 bathrobes and dozens of bras and panties for Anduhyaun and Nekenaa First Nations Women's Shelters continuing our partnership of over two years. Anduhyaun provides 18 women and children with temporary shelter and Nekenaa provides 24 furnished units for women and children escaping violence. We have recently provided filled student backpacks, Halloween goodie bags and children's Christmas gifts. Thanks to Gill and Andre shoppers extraordinaire!.

## Birthdays This Week



*Judy BURNELL - Jan 20<sup>th</sup>*

*Best Wishes on your Birthday....*

## Secretary's Announcements



### Pot Luck Dinner – Monday, February 16th – Rotary Clubhouse

The Club is planning a Pot Luck Dinner on Monday, February 16th (Family Day) at the Rotary Clubhouse. All members are invited to attend and share their "favorite recipes" at, what should prove to be, a fun social event. Please plan to attend if able. More information will be available closer to the date.

## Visitors & Guests



### Visiting Rotarians

- Brian Spencer – Toronto West
- J.R. Blot – Toronto Twilight
- Mary Lou Harrison – Toronto Sunrise
- Scott Bartle – Parkdale-High Park
- Norma Smith – Toronto Eglinton
- Ian Lancaster – Northumberland Sunrise

### Visitors and Guests:

- ✚ Alister Mathieson – Speaker
- ✚ Pat Cuda – Guest of Alister Mathieson
- ✚ Ryan Manwar – Guest of Lynn Manwar
- ✚ Rhena Fleming – Guest of Jack Fleming
- ✚ Marjorie Friesen – Guest of Barry Friesen

### Attendance:

Members 16  
Visitors & Guests -11  
Total - 27