

THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week January 07, 2015

Board 2014-2015

President: Mark Winson, Past President Michael Bell, President Elect: Jack Fleming, Secretary: Ron Miller,

Treasurer: Don Edwards

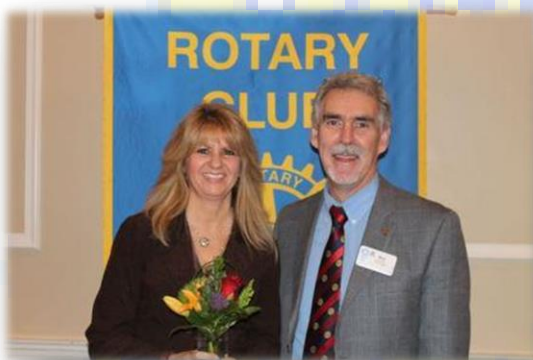
Directors: Donna Cansfield, Gregory Dobson, Gillian Dugas, Ingrid McGaughey, Frederik Martin, Kester Trim, Hugh Williams

January 14, 2015 – SPEAKER: Toyin Dada Classification Talk

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker Lisa Kostakis – Albion Neighbourhood Services



Lisa carries a degree in Psychology from York University and a degree in Social Work from Ryerson University. She has been working over 27 years in the social service sector beginning in Regent Park working with 6 to 24 year old high risk (gangs and guns) children and youth and their families. She was the Executive Director of the Greek Community of Toronto for over 8 years and to date was the Director of Programs & Services for the past 7 years with Albion Neighbourhood Services. Lisa represents the organization on various community committees; 23 Division Community Police Liaison Committee; LIP; NAP; Focus Rexdale; and various committees within the Rexdale Community HUB, amongst others.

As the Director of Programs & Services with Albion Neighbourhood Services for the last 7 years, and as the Acting Executive Director since May 2014 and now the permanent appointed Executive Director, Lisa has demonstrated leadership and commitment in carrying out the Mission and Vision of the agency and the clients that it serves. Key to her concern is ensuring that the agency provides effective support systems, programs, services, strong role models for children, youth and families, as well as, community capacity building. Furthermore, Lisa is pivotal in developing and sustaining strong partnerships with other community service organizations, and becoming a strong leader in many initiatives such as community safety, accessible services and new partnerships. Lisa's professional relationships and communication with staff, volunteers, the Board of Directors, community residents and other stakeholders, contributes to the overall growth and delivery of programs and services throughout the communities she serves. Lisa is a very proud mother of one son (16yrs old). Lisa is held with the utmost respect as she has for many years displayed a level of professionalism, leadership, dedication, compassion, enthusiasm and extreme heartfelt passion for the individuals and communities that she serves.

Lisa began by saying that the Albion Neighbourhood Services is a 43 year old organization. Back in the 1960s, northern Etobicoke was rapidly changing from a rural area to a suburb. In the space of just a few years thousands of new inexpensive houses became home to young working class families. A number of subsidized housing developments were also constructed in the area during the same period.

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However, planning officials did not consider the social support services that these new families would need. Today, our nursery schools, social clubs, public transportation and voluntary helping agencies are taken for granted. Thirty years ago services like these were almost non-existent.

Recognizing they could not do everything all at once, a group of concerned residents decided to start a Community Information Directory. They envisioned this service as a central point of access for families and individuals in need of help. They also planned to track caller's requests and develop services in response to community needs. In April 1971, ANS formally called Rexdale Information Directory office opened in donated space at Albion Mall, with trained volunteers answering inquiries from the public. The services provided included; Legal Aid; Crisis Intervention; Pension Advocacy; Settlement Assistance; Income Tax Form Filling; Housing Help; Children and Youth Programs; and Summer Day Camp. ANS has a budget of \$3 million/year and its largest financial supporters are the United Way and the City of Toronto among others.

In 1998, the agency began to build a Boys & Girls Club, with the assistance of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, to meet the needs of the large number of children living in the area. The Albion Boys & Girls Club offers programs and services for children and youth ages 6 to 21. They have 1500 "members" and 80 to 100 volunteers. Many of the members come back as "mentors" and some become staff. Their mission is to provide a safe and supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life. The Albion BCG has a positive life-changing influence on children and youth. The programs nurture confidence in youth, provide opportunities to develop and practice leadership skills, participate in civil society, and empower them to support and influence the community. Lisa added that "there are many talented and viable people out there" that need to be given the opportunity and the capacity to move forward.

Because of the great diversity in the population of Rexdale (a wide range of multi-cultural individuals, families, groups of all ages), their settlement services

provide assistance with filling out forms, document replacement, preparing affidavits, commissioning oaths, citizenship documents, etc.

ANS's largest department is housing with a budget of \$1.3 million. Their "street to Home" project an outreach and follow-up program designed to "bring the homeless indoors". They also offer counseling; information and referrals; matching tenants with landlords; eviction prevention; Rent Bank; landlord outreach and recruitment; Housing Connections; and Winter Warmth Fund (sponsored by Enbridge Gas Distribution and the United Way).

ANS also has a "Voluntary Trustee" Service that; guarantees rent & bills are paid on time; creates personalized budget plans; ensures financial & housing stability; offers community resource connections; and advocacy and support for landlord and tenant issues.

Currently their head office is at 21 Panorama Court (the old Father Henry Carr Secondary School). They share the facility with 8 other agencies that they "partner" with to better serve the community. Lisa oversees the staffing; HR; and the program service delivery. There are 36 full time staff (mostly involved in housing) and 80 to 100 seasonal staff (mainly for the Boys and Girls Club). They also try to hire from within the community. They also operate out of the LAMP Community Health centre in South Etobicoke and still have an office at the Albion Centre.

President Mark thanked Lisa.

Jottings from the Board

By: Jack Fleming

President Mark noted that at the last Past Presidents Meeting it was suggested that the practice of providing "Jottings from the Board" to the membership had been lacking over the past while. He wanted to restart this, and asked President Elect Jack Fleming to present the "jottings" from the latest Board of Directors meeting so that the Club members become more aware of what the Board is working on.

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- President's Report – President Mark mentioned that the Toronto West Rotary Club is sponsoring their annual Youth Impact Awards dinner on January 30th and he is suggesting the Club support the event by having members purchase tickets to fill a table (or more) for the event @ \$175/person. He also mentioned that PDG Bob Wallace is looking for candidates for RYLA (May 3-8). Candidates between the ages of 19 & 25 are eligible. If anyone has the name of a possible candidate please let President Mark know
- Past President's Report - PE Jack gave an update on a proposed Town Hall meeting on "Violence in our schools and the community". Greg Dobson is contacting local high school guidance Counselors and SEYA for their "thoughts and ideas" about "what kind of meeting this should be"
- Community Service Committee – Gill Dugas outlined the activities the HOE (Hands on Etobicoke) Committee had done over the past year. This is the same list that was presented at the December 3rd AGM
- International Committee – The following recommendations from the ISC were approved by the Board; \$1,000.00 to the Rotary Club of Belleville's Global Grant Project with AMOROK (Introducing Digital Skills in the Mothers of Intention Literacy Program in the Urban Slums of Bangladesh); \$3,000.00 the Children's Art Foundation in Mexico; \$500.00 to continue our sponsorship of Mother/Teacher Josna Begum Srabani in the AMOROK program in Bangladesh; and \$2,000.00 to A Mine Free World for "pit toilets" for Cambodian landmine survivors and their families.
- Membership Report – Chair Diane Irvine had coffee with potential new member Karen Royal who has submitted her membership application. The Membership Committee is currently working to "upgrade" our membership application to make it more relevant. As well, A "Club Resources Report" is being done that will list our members "strengths and areas of

expertise" so that the Club can make better use of their "talents."

- Vocational Services – Jack Fleming reported that he has 2 candidates for the Entrepreneur Advisory program; and that the mentoring program at S.H.E.A. (Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy) had been revamped and the Board has approved a \$500.00 donation to the school's scholarship fund.
- PR and Fundraising Report – Hugh Williams noted that they are looking to put together a banner for CAFA to take down to Peru for their school for burn victims.
- Foundation Report – With the passing of long time member Stan Long, the Board approved a \$500.00 donation be made in his name to Foundation and to consider a "posthumous" Paul Harris Award to be presented at the upcoming "Celebration of Life" for Stan (date to be determined).

Paul Harris Fellow Recognition

DGE Michael Bell noted that it was "one of the great things we do it Rotary" to recognize members who contribute to The Rotary Foundation (TRF).



Paul Harris Fellow recognition is named after Paul Harris, who founded Rotary with 3 business associates in 1905. The Paul Harris Fellow presentation was established in his honour in

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1957 to express appreciation for a contribution of US\$1,000.00 to the humanitarian and educational programs of TRF, which include an array of programs that save lives and invigorate the lives of people around the world and enhance international friendship and understanding. TRF programs provide educational opportunities, food, potable water, health care, immunizations, and shelter for millions of people. At today's meeting, Michael was pleased to present Paul Harris Fellow recognitions to Hugh Williams, Frederik Martin and Ron Miller. President Mark presented a Paul Harris + 1 pin to Frederik, a PH +2 pin to Hugh, and a PH +4 pin to Ron.

Thank You - St Margaret's "Out of the Cold"

Rotary Etobicoke received a thank you from Cara Wigle, Coordinator of LOOTC, for our funding of a new washing machine for their Lakeshore Out of the Cold Program at St. Margaret's Church. We were happy to be able to respond to their urgent request as the older washer had broken down and the night shift volunteers who wash all the homeless men's clothing, towels and bed linen (20 to 25 loads every night) were putting in long hours with the one working machine. The volunteers are also very pleased that the two washers will now drain at predictable cycles and avoid an overflow in the basement sink. St. Margaret's OOTC program provides overnight accommodation, dinner, breakfast and a lunch bag to 25 homeless men every Monday from November to April. Additional support is provided with new underwear, t-shirts, shoes, coats and other winter items when available.



Birthdays This Week



Greg DOBSON - Jan 6th
Lynda RYDER - Jan 8th
Doug HARTRY - Jan 11th

Secretary's Announcements



Monday, January 12th – Board Meeting – 6:00 pm (food), 6:30 pm (meeting) – Rotary Clubhouse



50/50 Draw

HUGH WILLIAMS – Jack of Diamonds. The pot \$600+ continues to grow.

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Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians

- Merle Taylor – Edmonton-Glenora Rotary Club (D5370)

Visitors and Guests

- ✦ Lisa Kostakis – Albion Neighbourhood Services – Speaker
- ✦ Karen Royal – Potential new member
- ✦ Jiang Li – Guest of Judy Burnell

Attendance:

Members 16
Visitors & Guests -03
Total - 20



HAPPY BUCKS

Theresa Sherwood – Theresa was happy to mention a few more activities the HOE committee had been involved with. They participated in the “Lights on for Seniors” program where they visited 27 seniors along with Michael Lu and his “Nurse next Door” volunteers. They gave each senior a “huge” gift bag filled with items that Gill & Andre Dugas had been “working hard” to purchase. Also her brother-in-law, who works at Hallmark, was able to donate more things for the seniors to help “brighten up their day” during the holidays. She added that they also delivered flowers and toys to people in several hospitals, to some shelters, etc. She had more “good news” as her brother-in-law has more “stuff” that they can use to put “smiles” on more seniors possibly around Easter.

Hugh Williams – Hugh was happy that this was “Lynda Ryder Awareness Week” and wondered if there should be a “banner made”. He was also happy that Liz Read brought the calendars with her today from the Loyan Foundation that our Club helped finance with a donation to help with the printing costs. The Loyan Foundation helps immigrants in North Etobicoke. Hugh says the calendars are “terrific” and if anyone wants to buy one from Liz they are \$20.

Michael Bell – Michael noted that with the cold weather of today, he is happy to be “going south” shortly. Michael is heading to Sarasota, Florida. For the past 30 years, the Sarasota Bay Rotary Club has invited 15 incoming District Governors to their club prior to them attending the DGE training in San Diego the following week. In San Diego, Mike and 531 other DGE’s from around the world will train for a week for their upcoming year as District Governors. Michael was also happy to mention that our own Jay Douglas was doing a tribute to “Old Blue Eyes” Frank Sinatra at Hugh’s Room on Thursday, January 22nd. He will be appearing with Tommy Ambrose.

Lynda Ryder – Lynda was happy to say that she is Jay Douglas’ “biggest fan”. She was “sad” that she missed seeing him perform at our Christmas Party. She was also happy to say that she thought Michael’s Rotary tie that he was wearing today was “fantastic”.

Barry Friesen – Barry was happy (or not) to say he had to leave early today as he was submitting our “first permit application for Ribfest”.

Mark Winson – Mark was happy to say that “Canada apparently won a hockey game” last Monday.