



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week Jun 17, 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,

Next Meeting: July 08, 2015 – Presidential and District Governor Handover

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

President Mark's Last Official Meeting

Tonight's BIF is officially the "last meeting" that President Mark will chair. President Elect Jack Fleming will "take over the gavel" on July 1st (though the official "hand-over" will be at our next meeting on July 8th. Mark wanted to thank everyone for making it a "great year". He didn't want to say as Lynda Ryder had told him that this "would be the best year of his life". He did say though that is was in the "top 58". He was thankful for "all of the support" he had received from both the Club and our "great" Board of Directors. He said that we have a "wonderful Club" that we all should be proud of. Great job Mark!!

Big Ideas for Etobicoke

Hugh Williams presided over a panel consisting of three City Councillors; John Campbell, Steven Holiday and Justin DiCiano; and acknowledged MPP Yvan Baker and asked him to join the panel. Hugh was pleased to get the 3 Councillors and an MPP to be here tonight knowing how busy they all are. Hugh asked each of them to present what they felt was their "Big Idea for Etobicoke". He first asked John Campbell what his "big idea" was.

John began by saying that his big idea is building a recreation centre. There are "lots of kids out there

but there is no recreation centre in North and central Etobicoke for them to use. He had a friend Roger Dale, who was a phys ed teacher who became a Principal at ECI. John thinks that "phys ed teachers make the best Principals because they "connect with the kids" (Roger was selected as one of the 20 best Principals). He installed the idea of the value of a recreation centre to John. There currently no facilities that serve the Dixon, Willowridge and other neighbourhoods that have many "at risk youth" especially in North Etobicoke. There a no "drop in centre" for youth. His idea is to build a centre at Martin Grove and The Westway and is discussion with City staff. The recreation centre would not only be for youth. There are a lot of seniors as well. John said that Etobicoke has the "most mature" population in the Province and there is no centre in Central and Northern Etobicoke for physical activity. The closest is Memorial in South Etobicoke. A new centre would serve both seniors and youth. The only obstacle is the centre would cost \$15-\$25 million to build. That is John's "big idea".



Steven Holiday's "big idea" is to "connect the community". He grew up in Etobicoke Central and is

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rediscovering the East to west divide that exists. He said that the 427 highway is the great divide. He wants to "someway bridge the gap between the neighbourhoods". He grew up in the Kipling/Rathburn area and remembers that kids did not mix with kids from the other side of the highway. He learned from a social worker working on a shooting in the West Mall area that not only is there the "concrete divide" but there is also a cultural divide". The West Mall and East Mall have a "sub-culture conflict". They need to find ways to bridge the east and west. Some programs were instituted at Burnhamthorpe Collegiate but the students from the other side didn't mix in. There needs to be a way to connect with each other. The "concrete wasteland" continues to be a barrier with an "ugly bridge" between. An art project is a "work in progress" to brighten up the "ugly bridge" with paint. This would be a co-operative project with both sides contributing. It is a chance to create something and in the meantime foster a mutual understanding between the two factions. Hugh noted that our Club does work with RAP and George Hull in those areas so "don't forget about us, we may be able to assist".

Note: Ralph Chiodo wanted to mention our Club's association with Steven's father, Doug. The Kiwanis Club and Doug Holiday invited our Rotary Club to be partners at the first Ribfest 16 years ago. Our Club took over the event for year two and we haven't look back yet. Ralph was "blessed" to become the chair of Ribfest that year and he continued in that position for 10 years.

Yvan Baker remarked that he had come tonight just to hear the Councillors speak and hadn't expected to be part of the discussion. However, he did have a "big idea" to pass on. He said that his predecessor as MPP, Donna Cansfield, had pointed out on many occasions that Etobicoke Centre has the largest population of seniors in the country. It also has the largest number of 20 something youth still living at home. He receives many requests for information on how to get their son/daughter/grandchild a job. He said there are many young people out there that do the "right thing" and graduate from College/University but still "struggle" to get a job.

Youth unemployment in Ontario is among the highest in Canada and 30% of those employed are "not in their chosen field". The problems is that these are "our leaders of tomorrow" and effects "their quality of life". Yvan feels that Universities/Colleges should be giving a "little more priority to get students into the work force". He thinks that money the Government spends on Colleges and universities should be tied to more performance in things such as mentoring, internships, career counselling, etc.

Justin DiCiano noted that he joined our Club 5 years ago. At that time he was single and "working hard on his social life". Now he has a "wife and kid and a 20 hour a day job". Through his new job as Councillor he is getting to meet the public. Ward 5 has been identified as one of Toronto's "poor growth areas" that is being over-developed by condos. His focus is on the community while others are more interested in "development at all costs". For example, the plans for the old Westwood Theatre lands. This is one of the last city owned lands in Toronto (15 acres). The plan was for 5000 condo units to be built. Justin has been in discussions with Build Toronto were the focus now may to make this are the "downtown core or hub" for Etobicoke. However, there are "competing interests" fighting hard". They are now calling for an International Design Competition for the land. There are already plans from a lot more condos between Kipling and the 427 so it is hoped that the Westwood lands can be used for something more conducive to the neighbourhood. The YMCA has expressed an interest for some time to build a new facility there. He is looking to have more park land or greenspace included in the new design. This is an opportunity to create "something special" that can be extended to the YMCA and make it into a "great place for people to come". As well, Justin wanted to mention that with all the Condos in development west of Kipling to the 427, they are looking to ensure that there are rental and affordable housing is included in the parameters.

The panel was then put open to a few questions from the floor.

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Paul Harris Fellow Presentation - Lynn Manwar

President Mark said he wanted to take his last opportunity as President to acknowledge "someone in our Club that has been a great help to him this year" and thinks this person "exemplifies" the Rotary motto of "Service above Self". He added that there are "few people in similar situations that would be doing as much as this person has done". He asked Lynda Ryder to introduce Lynn Manwar.

Lynda said it was "an honour" to introduce Lynn and present her with a Paul Harris Fellowship. The Paul Harris Fellowship is the "highest honour Rotary can bestow on a person". Lynda said that she first met her some time ago when Lynn was a Rotaractor. She met her again a few years ago and found that Lynn was interested in joining Rotary. Even with "everything that has happen to Lynn in the past, she has become a "top notch Rotarian".

Lynda addressed Lynn by saying;

"Lynn Manwar you were selected today to receive this recognition because the Rotary Club of Etobicoke believes your life exemplifies the humanitarian and educational objectives of the Rotary Foundation. We thank you for demonstrating in your life and vocation a commitment to helping persons in need here and around the world. You have worked tirelessly on many, many Rotary projects. Nothing seems to slow you down. I have a vision of you at our food packing (at Kester Trim's Salvation Army Temple) sitting in your walker weighing pouches; gathering bras for Africa; selecting speakers for our luncheon meetings; and on and on. You exemplify what a true Rotarian looks like and I am honoured to bestow this honour upon you tonight. Thank you for making a difference in our Club and community and in the lives of less fortunate people in the world. By accepting this pin you will join a family of well over 950,000 PH Fellows around the world".

Lynda asked Lynn if she would like to say a few words. Lynn said that she joined Rotary in 2013 and six months later was diagnosed with "stage 4 cancer". However, she said that "Rotary has kept me going" It is the "best medicine" and has made a difference in her life. She had previously attended a Camp Enterprise which she says "changed her life".

Lynda presented Lynn with her Paul Harris Fellow pin and medallion. As is tradition, all of the Paul Harris Fellows in attendance at tonight's meeting now came up to personally greet and congratulate Lynn.

Toronto Ribfest

Ribfest Is Holding a Wedding



Toronto Ribfest Festival Director Hugh Williams wanted to mention the wedding that is happening at Ribfest. The wedding is being arranged by Mary Bratko and her staff from Wedding Girl and should be "amazing". Hugh said that we "needed something big" to kick off this year's Ribfest and the "Ribfest is holding a Wedding" idea was born. A contest was held to select the "bride and groom" for the event. Hugh said that the couple has been selected and were in attendance this evening. He was happy to introduce Francis and Pamela as the contest winners and everyone is invited (Toronto is invited) to attend their wedding which will take place on the main stage at Ribfest on Saturday, June 27th.

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Birthdays



Kester TRIM – June 16
Karen MCMILLAN – June 17
Ralph CHIODO – June 17
Rita CHIODO-DIAMANTAKOS – June 18

Best wishes on your Happy Day ...

Club Administration

June 24th – Luncheon Meeting Cancelled due Ribfest set-up

July 1st – Meeting Cancelled – Canada Day/Ribfest

Wednesday, July 8th – Presidential Handover

Our next regularly scheduled luncheon meeting will be on July 8th. This will be Jack Fleming's first meeting as President and then Past President Mark Winson will be there to "hand over the reins". As well our current District 7070 Governor Brian Thompson (who will be the PDG at that time) will present our new District Governor Michael Bell with the "Governor's Home Club" banner which we will display throughout Michael's year as DG.

Visitors & Guests

Visitors & Guests:

- Francis & Pamela – Winners of the "Ribfest is holding a Wedding" contest.
- Mary Bratko – Wedding Girl
- Carly Whiteman – Wedding Girl
- Laura Arbelaez – Wedding Girl
- Mark Wilson – Photographer (Wedding Girl)

- Ali Raza – Etobicoke Guardian
- Rick Koroli – SNAP'd
- Barbara Smith
- Ben Mendoza
- David Dipaul – Councillor Rob Ford's Office
- David Lombardo – Kingsway BIA
- Rick Davis
- Murray Milthorpe
- Snezana Boskovic
- Marcus Dedomenico

Attendance:

Members 23
Visitors & Guests - 20
Total – 43

Rotary International

Training nurses to save mothers and babies in East Africa

Josephine Awor doesn't need statistics to know Uganda struggles to provide adequate health care to expectant mothers and babies. As a nurse who has worked with vulnerable populations in areas affected by conflict in South Sudan, she's seen firsthand what happens when mothers are forced to deliver and care for newborns without medical assistance.

Still, the numbers don't lie.

According to the World Bank, 310 women die in Uganda for every 100,000 live births, compared with just 21 in the United States and 12 in the United Kingdom. Infants fare even worse. In Uganda, 45 out of 1,000 infants never reach the age of one, compared with six in the U.S. and just four in the U.K.

Kenya and Tanzania's infant and maternal mortality rates are as disturbing as those found in neighboring Uganda. Add in the HIV/AIDS crisis, poverty, and inadequate -- or nonexistent -- clinics and it's clear that programs like these are needed more than ever in East Africa.

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Improving maternal health is one of the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals, which seeks to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters and achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015. To address this challenge, The Rotary Foundation and Aga Khan University (AKU) are working together to provide nursing professionals, like Awor, the skills and education they need to improve the lives of mothers and their children in East Africa.

"I need to be empowered to serve the poor and contribute to the government's efforts," says Awor.

She is one of 24 students who received Rotary scholarships to advance their nursing education at one of AKU's three East Africa campuses: Nairobi, Kenya; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and Kampala, Uganda. In February, the first class of students in the scholarship program graduated with either a Registered Nurse or Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Through a packaged grant, Rotary provided financial support -- about \$14,000 per student -- to cover tuition, books, and room and board, among other things. To be eligible for the program, applicants had to live where AKU's East African campuses are located, and their career goals had to focus on improving child and maternal health issues -- an area of focus for Rotary.

During the two-year nursing program the students worked, participated in community outreach activities, and received mentoring from Rotary leaders in their community. Yet despite their hectic schedules, many of the nurses graduated at the top of their classes. Awor beat out students on all three campuses to graduate with the highest honors in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Sam Farouk Mukasa-Kajubi, an AKU Rotary coordinator, says mentoring was a key component of the program, which sought to instill confidence and improve communication skills in the students as well as educate them.

"It was about turning the nursing students into professionals," he adds.

Part of his role as an area coordinator was to work with local Rotary clubs to identify community leaders who could mentor the students. Mentors not only encouraged students to perform well in school, they also taught them financial management and personal safety. The mentor program also introduced the students to the values and humanitarian goals of Rotary.

"The students are now on committees in their hospitals. They are carrying out programs to teach health care to men and women in their communities. And they are taking part in outreach programs," says Mukasa-Kajubi, a member of the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala in Uganda.

Because the program met just two days a week, the students -- many with families and careers -- were able to return to their jobs and community each week and put their knowledge to practical use.

"The experience has made me realize that we need to be mindful of those who may not be able to take care of themselves," says Awor. "There is always someone out there who is willing and compassionate to help them."

This Weeks Calendar



Wednesday, July 08 - Presidential Handover- 12.15 pm - Old Mill Inn and Spa.