

THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week Jun 03, 2015

Board 2014-2015

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June 10, 2015 – SPEAKER: Dan KERSHAW The Furniture Bank

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker: Sister Anne Schenck – Human Trafficking



President Mark asked Gill Dugas to introduce Sister Anne.

Sister Anne was born on a farm in the Niagara Peninsula (just west of St. Catharines), the 3rd of 7 siblings. She graduated from St. Michael's College and the Ontario College of Education. She then entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Anne taught for 16 years in High Schools in Ontario and Vancouver, followed by 17 years as a Principal in Toronto and Oshawa. She was the Director of "Herron Place Refugee Centre" in Scarborough for 6 years, followed by establishing the Furniture Bank where she serves on the Board of Directors.

Sister Anne said she had "increased awareness" of human trafficking" after attending an event at York University 4 years ago. She noted that human trafficking is defined as a "form of modern-day slavery, in which human beings are controlled and exploited for profit". Perpetrators use force, fraud or coercion to control and profit from victims through sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, or the removal of organs. Although human trafficking violates international and national laws, it is a rapidly growing criminal industry. According to the International Labor Organization, human trafficking generates \$150 billion in illegal profits each year. Victims of human trafficking and modern-day slavery work in factories, fields, brothels, street corners, as child soldiers, in private homes, or in innumerable other settings, hidden behind walls or in plain view. The most common industries involved with human trafficking include agriculture, construction, garment and textile manufacturing, catering and restaurants, domestic work, entertainment and the sex industry. Human trafficking is generally divided into sex trafficking and forced labor. Sex trafficking includes the commercial sexual exploitation of children, as well as any instance in which, as a result of force, fraud, or coercion, an adult engages in a commercial sex act, such as prostitution. Sex trafficking occurs in street prostitution; online escort services; residential brothels; brothels disguised as other businesses, such as massage services; and in the broader sex industry. Forced labor can occur within any form of labor or services. Common places where forced labor has been found include factories, "sweatshops," small independent businesses, households, and farms. In all instances of forced labor, the individual works against his or her will, for little or no pay, under the threat of some sort of punishment.

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In Ontario, 551 cases of human trafficking were reported in 2011 through 2013 (though there were probably thousands more). There is no question that many more cases of human trafficking are happening, but it's a crime that is under-reported. Victims of that crime don't typically go to police and report what's happening to them. After nearly a decade, a law designed to catch human traffickers who exploit vulnerable people has netted few charges and even fewer convictions in Canada, anti-trafficking advocates complain. There have been 35 human trafficking convictions since new laws to combat the problem came into effect in 2005, according to Public Safety Canada's latest report. Among those cases, at least nine of the victims were under the age of 18 and two of those 35 cases involved trafficking for forced labour. When it comes to charges, Statistics Canada data shows that 125 people were charged in Canada between 2005 and 2012 in incidents in which trafficking in persons was the most serious offence. Under a Criminal Code provision established in November 2005, people can be charged with trafficking in persons if they recruit, conceal or otherwise exercise control over a person for the purpose of exploiting them. 41 people were "rescued" after 25 convictions. 136 people are involved in 56 cases currently before the courts.

Roughly 63 per cent of the victims were Canadian citizens. The same percentage were between the ages of 15 and 24, and 90 per cent were female. More than half are aboriginal. The victims were trafficked for the following reasons; Sexual exploitation (68.5 per cent); Forced labour (24.5 per cent); Forced marriage (7.7 per cent); Petty crime (6.3 per cent). These findings reveal that the province of Ontario urgently needs to invest in system changes. These changes include a province-wide plan to combat human trafficking, a long-term task force to act on that plan, and changes to Ontario's child welfare laws.

While Toronto might be a "hub" for human trafficking, this problem is occurring right across Canada. The city is working with "all stakeholders" to look for solutions and to "increase public awareness" of the problem. They are giving formal training to 300 staff members. Public awareness is

also increasing due all the news media. Human trafficking is now "making the front pages". Sister Anne once asked an RCMP officer "what can we do to help". He simply told her to "build awareness". She said it amazing what has been done to raise awareness in just the past 4 years. Police are receiving better training and city bylaws are being enforced.

Where is this exploitation taking place? In apartments above your local convenience store, in hotels and motels, condos, etc. Over 96% of the victims experience some or multiple forms of violence. Almost 85% were recruited through personal contact. Many are made to "feel special and given gifts" then must "payback" and become "trapped". Girls may be "targeted" at malls, food courts, school, etc. In the case of poor people around the world they are offered the prospect of "good salaries and a better life" to leave their homes then are exploited once they arrive. Why don't they seek help? They may not; speak English or French; have been on their own before; not recognize their surroundings (they are often moved around so that they become confused about where they are). They have no freedom, are abused and are often malnourished.

Human trafficking is the 2nd biggest money maker for organized crime next to drugs. In many cases, organized crime is using teenage boys to "pimp out" girls.

Sister Anne stressed again that one of the best ways to help solve this problem is to "raise awareness". The Alliance Against Modern Slavery is holding an "information day" at the YMCA (20 Grosvenor Street) on June 13th. There is also a "Gift Box" Project that is ongoing and will continue through the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games to take advantage of the high profile and well attended event which attracts international visitors. The "Gift Box" concept was developed by STOP THE TRAFFIK and the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (both organizations support the Toronto project). The Gift Box will provide a "snapshot of the lives of real people who have been trafficked in the Toronto area". It will also show what you can do to help end

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the trafficking. Sister Anne mentioned that “volunteers are needed to help out with the Gift Box” and added that “men need to become involved as well”. She finished by saying that “she hoped her presentation made us more aware”.

President Mark thanked Sister Anne and assured her that she had definitely raised our awareness about very important issue that needs to be addressed.

Ribfest Update

Liz READ – Toronto Ribfest Volunteer Sign-up

Liz wanted to mention a “new” opportunity for volunteers that she hopes our members will spread this message “far and wide”. One of the big tasks at Ribfest is “garbage”. Barry Friesen is a “site manager” this year and is hoping to compete with the Burlington Ribfest in how we recycle our garbage this year. Burlington has won awards for their recycling program and Barry thinks we can beat them if we try hard and we are creating our own “green team”. To this end we are opening volunteer opportunities for this program to youths 12 to 13 and to families that want to “introduce their children into the world of volunteerism”. This could also world for grandparents who want do the same for their grandkids. Liz thinks this is a “wonderful opportunity” to become volunteers. While the work is “labour intensive” they will be in “shaded” tents, separated from the crowds, and able to listen to the music”.

ROTARIANS

She also wanted to remind our members that **All Members** who will be volunteering at Ribfest **MUST register online** for the shifts they plan to work. Go to www.torontoribfest.com/volunteer and under “Volunteer Opportunities” click on “Opportunities for Rotarians”.

Hugh Williams – “Ribfest is Having A Wedding”

Hugh wanted to mention that “Ribfest is having a Wedding and Toronto is invited” on Saturday, June 27th. The contest to choose the bride and groom for the wedding “ends in a couple days”. “See you at the Wedding”.

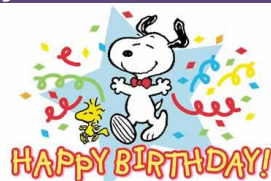
Community Services

Cheque Presentation



Kester Trim and Mary Grogan presented a cheque to Kids Now at their Lakeshore afterschool programme, in collaboration with Christ the King Catholic School.

Birthdays



Carlos PETOSA – June 01
Jay CAREY – June 04
Erlene BROWN – June 06

Best wishes on your Happy Day ...

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50/50 Draw



Gill DUGAS – 9 of Clubs. As a consolation prize President Mark presented Gill with a Lotto Max ticket for Friday's \$50 million draw (plus the 51 \$1 million extra prize draws) with the proviso if he wins she splits it 50/50 with the Club. **NOTE:**

There are now only 13 cards left and the pot (as of today) is \$825+.

Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians:

- District Governor Brian Thompson – Whitby Sunrise
- Virginia O'Reilly – Toronto East

Visitors & Guests:

- ✚ Sister Anne Schenck – Speaker
- ✚ Janet Marechaux – Guest of Donna Cansfield

Attendance:

Members 23
Visitors & Guests - 04
Total – 27

HAPPY BUCKS



Jack Fleming – Jack was happy to be back as he has missed a few luncheon meetings over the past few weeks. He was also happy that Virginia O'Reilly was here today. Virginia's organization, Burak Jacobson, compiled the Club Assessment survey for our Club. Jack noted that we actually

“jumped the queue”. He had first become aware of the idea of doing Club surveys from Jim Louttit (who will become our District Governor after Michael Bell) at a District Conference meeting. Jack was interested in getting more information and wondered if we could get the survey done for our Club. He got in touch with Virginia O'Reilly and it was decided that our Club should do the survey. Jack wanted to thank her for this. After today's luncheon, Jack, Mark, Virginia and DG Brian met to discuss some of the findings in the survey. Virginia has been invited to host a formal meeting with all of our members to discuss the results of the survey on July 22nd.

Ralph Chiodo – Ralph was happy to President Mark had done a “great job as President this year and he wishes him well”. As well, Ralph was happy to say that he will be leaving for Italy in a couple weeks where he participating in several events including an event that will celebrate “Canada Day” in Rome. Ralph was also happy to say that he will be bringing the 14 metre “End Polio Now” sail that he sponsored for District 2100 in Italy back with him so that it can be displayed at our District 7070 Conference in October (at the request of DGE Michael Bell). The sail had been displayed on a boat that had participated in regattas on the Bay of Naples last summer. A discussion was held on how best to display to sail at the Conference. One suggestion was to have a “sail past” at the Harbour Castle with a boat displaying the sail. However, Ralph says he has “information on a crane” that may be donated for a day to hoist the sail for “not only the people attending the conference to see but also those driving by”. The sail had also been displayed on the back of a crane in Italy on an occasion.

Mark Winton – Since this was Mark's last luncheon meeting he said that he is happy to see a full room for today's luncheon and that he will take it as “a positive”. He will be away next week and PE Jack will chair the meeting in his place. Mark will still preside over the BIF on June 17th which will be his last official meeting as President. In addition, Mark was happy to say that on Monday, Hugh and Ruth Williams and he attended the Canadian Landmines Foundation's “The Damage Done” event. Mark said it was a “great film and a great event” and included a talk by Chris Snyder. Mark was also happy to say that as of yesterday we have another 10 people SmartServe trained bringing the total to 45 now

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trained. He added that "the beer tent is not an issue now".

This Weeks Calendar



Monday, June 8th - Final Meeting of the 2014-15 Board of Directors - Donna Cansfield's residence, 12 Chestnut Hills Pkwy. - Further details when available

Wednesday, June 17th - Etobicoke Big Ideas Forum (BIF) with Local City Councillors - 7:00 pm - Crooked Cue (3056 Bloor St. W.) - President Mark reports that 3 to 4 of the City Councillors from Etobicoke will be there to give their "Big Ideas" for Etobicoke.

News from The Rotary World

Trying a different type of district conference

For the past four years, I have conducted evaluations of the district conference we hold in District 7620 using surveys administered through the web. This year our conference was different, and some of the things we learned I thought could be valuable to share with Rotary members everywhere.

This year our conference was shorter and cheaper to attend. On the first day, attendees had several opportunities to participate in community service projects with local NGOs. We achieved substantially higher attendance (425 registrations) than previous conferences.

Our conference focused largely on fun and fellowship, with only a few sessions on Rotary matters. And it involved multiple locations with transportation provided from one location to the other. Because the conference was located in an area with several Rotary clubs nearby, many participants were also able to attend without having to book a hotel night.

Did the new format of the conference work? A total of 155 participants responded to the evaluation survey. Almost half of participants rated the conference as better than previous conferences. This is slightly below the results for last year's conference, where 60 percent of the responses rated it higher than the previous year. But those results are still impressive given that for the two years before that, most respondents rated the conferences about the same as previous experiences.

The survey rated some 25 different sessions, with a criteria of having at least nine respondents per session to pull reliable conclusions. Six of the 25 sessions got 75 percent or more "very good" ratings, and these were two of the service project sessions, the high school Four Way Test speech contest, the Interact session, a Saturday evening dinner with Dean Rohrs our guest speaker, and the subsequent Rock Tenor music performance. So service projects, interactions with youth, and the Saturday capstone events stole the show!

The survey revealed there is still room for improvement. When asked what types of sessions they would like to see more of, respondents said they would want sessions discussing successful projects, and debates/discussions on Rotary and its future. More information on our conference evaluations is available on my blog, Rotarian Economist.