



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week March 25, 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

April 01, 2015 – SPEAKER: Karen ROYAL – Classification Talk

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker: Brad HUTCHINSON – The Gateway



Brad is the Executive Director of The Gateway, which provides support, resources and advocacy on behalf of those impacted by childhood sexual abuse. Brad is an author, black sash martial artist, and business partner of Beyond Kung Fu Inc. Brad especially enjoys inspiring children and presents exhilarating, self-esteem building programs for schools across Ontario. He has authored 3 books and published 4. His chapter book "The Eye of the Storm" is being used in schools within the Ontario school system. Brad is active in his community: He Chairs the Mississauga Library Board of Directors; volunteers for Peel Children's Aid, Elizabeth Fry, and Dog Guides Canada. He also advises on various education, community, and business initiatives.

Brad began by saying that when a child is "offended" by sexual abuse "they lose their voice". They can be

coerced and threatened. The "lose their path in life". He noted that we all have "this path in us". This is the "longing" to help others. Some of those who come to Gatehouse have lost this path. Many that "climb the steps and open the door for the first time" at Gatehouse have found this "too heavy"

Many children find it hard to talk about what is happening to them. They feel scared, confused, worried about what will happen if they do tell someone. This also applies to teens and young adults. If this "energy is not expressed in some way, it will still move on its own". This can lead to anger issues, alcohol and drug abuse, etc. in later life. At Gatehouse they create an atmosphere which can allow the "story to come out".

Being abused is one of the most painful and traumatic experiences anyone can go through. Boys are abused just as much as girls and adolescents just as much as younger children (1 in 4 girls are sexually assaulted before the age of 18, and 1 in 7 boys). Abuse is often kept as a 'secret' leaving them feeling alone, frightened, scared, isolated and confused. Most cases of abuse are carried out by someone they know, love and trust which makes it even harder to disclose what is happening. They must never forget that "this is not your fault". Abusers make their victims keep the 'secret' because they, as adults or older youths, know this is wrong.

Brad added "It is hard to convey what the Gatehouse is and what happens there. It's a place where everyone's voice can be heard. It sounds so simple, and maybe that's the beauty of the programs and people at the Gatehouse; when your voice gets heard, you can begin to heal". They allow the story

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to come forward with “empathy and no judgement”. It is a “safe place” for the “voice to come up” which allows the “healing transition to begin”. There is also “peer to peer” support”. It provides a child-friendly environment, resources and support enabling Police and Child Welfare Workers to interview families when child abuse is suspected. It is the site of many programs that help them to “heal and move on”. Besides their Children’s programs they have support group programs for youth 18-24 and Adults over 24 who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse through social reconnection, education and information on the effects that sexual abuse can have.

The Gatehouse receives no government funding. Organizations such as our Club have helped over the years. It thrives on volunteers. They have 4 staff and 80 volunteers. Brad estimates that 10 to 15 thousand people have been served by the Gatehouse. One of the programs at the Gatehouse that our Club was able to help with is their Student Employment Opportunities. Our Club made a donation to buy some computers for the program.

President Mark thanked Brad for his presentation saying that he “touched on a subject that many people don’t want to talk about but is a very serious matter and needs to be addressed”. He thinks facilities like the Gatehouse are doing “very important work”.

Birthdays This Week



C.J. Augustine-Kanu - March 22nd

Best wishes on your Happy Day ...

Thank you Letters

AMOROK Society:

Dear Rotary Club of Etobicoke,

I am pleased to be sending you Josna’s most recent letter which is full of information about her life today. She is attending her Amarok’s Women School regularly and has done very well. She finds English challenging and benefits from her teacher’s creative methods. Josna also teaches five children in her own MOI school and is happy with how well they are coming along under her guidance. It is wonderful that the Amarok system enables women to be both students and teachers and supports and encourages them no matter where they are! Josna tells you that when she was married she was illiterate but now that she has changed that state she receives respect from her husband and enjoys a much more satisfying relationship. Sadly women in Bangladesh do not even expect that they will be able to achieve even one of those although it is becoming the norm for the students of the Amarok Schools to do so.

We cannot fully express our appreciation to your Club for its continued support of Josna. It means so much to Josna and to Amarok to have your support. Having had the benefit of going to Bangladesh with the trip organized by Nick Lawley of the East York Rotary Club I can assure you that the Amarok Schools are the most exciting development in Bangladesh today - we just need more so as to reach far more people.

Barbara Melara, Chairperson, ARAROK Society

Dear Members of Rotary club of Etobicoke,

Our school is running well and all mothers are well. How are you? I hope you all are also fine.

I am happy for my school life and I feel confident for my education as education has given me some honor. I know my education is still very small but with that I am teaching 5 little children and helping our slum mothers in their needs.

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For my learning I go to our Amarok Mother School every day. Here we spend our best time of the day. In our mother school we can share our ideas with other mothers and with our teacher. Now I can read fluently Bengali and some English. Still I am not very good in English but for my little MOI children I think I am a good mother-teacher. You will be happy to know that to improvement our reading skill our teacher has developed a new method. The method is to make study circle with 4 mothers in each group with a group leader who is advanced. For this month I am selected as a group leader of a group. I try to help other mothers in reading. When we go earlier before time then we practice by ourselves. Every two months our teacher rearrange the groups. You know that when I was married I was completely illiterate. But now I can read and write, for this my husband value me more than before and I feel proud for my education. You will be also happy to know about my teaching to children. I have developed many materials for counting numbers, adding and shapes which I've learnt from our mother school and also from Amarok office as they give us some sample materials and ideas. Now our slum mothers and community people recognize me for my works. When I get time then I try to teach younger children out of my five children. Among the five four can read their books and can do math well. You know we learn English through songs and storytelling. From these songs we learn different new words, its meaning and can make sentences with those words.

Thank you for your support to me and our little children's education.

With love and respect,
Josna Begum Srabani

Amarok Society, Khulna, Bangladesh. (March 2015)

Anduhyaun



Dear Rotary Club of Etobicoke:

On Friday, January 23rd, Gill Dugas and her family took the time to load up their cars and drop off very generous amounts of blankets, comforters, clothing, and towels from Rotary Etobicoke to our location at Nekenan Second Stage Housing.

The time and effort that Gill and her family took to purchase and deliver these items is well above what anyone would expect. We are truly grateful to them and to the Rotary Club of Etobicoke who made that possible.

This week, we had a new family move into one of our units at Nekenan. We took some blankets and towels for this mother and her child and set them up on a new bed in her new apartment. When she arrived in the room, we explained that all of these things were donated to her from Rotary Etobicoke and they were hers to keep. Enclosed you will find a photo I took of some of the items right before the move-in.

As our waiting list grows, we understand that our work will not be over for a very long time, if at all.

Thankfully, we have organizations like the Rotary Club of Etobicoke, who make sure that the women and children that we serve can enjoy the comfort of a warm bed once they come through our doors. We cannot thank you enough.

Amanda Charles, Fundraising Coordinator (March 16, 2015)

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Paul Harris Recognition – Mark Winson

Attendance:

Members 12
Visitors & Guests – 03
Total – 15



DGE Michael Bell thinks that “most people realize how passionate I am about The Rotary Foundation and those members who contribute to it”. With that said, he was pleased to present President Mark with a Paul Harris +2 pin for his contributions to TRF.



50/50 Draw

Michael BELL – 7 of HEARTS. The pot \$600+ continues to grow. As a consolation prize he received a box of Turtles chocolates.



Visitors & Guests

Visitors and Guests:

- ✚ Brad Hutchinson – The Gateway – Speaker
- ✚ Rick Davis – Guest of Hugh Williams

Secretary's Announcements



MabelleArts "Neighbourhood Meet Up – Saturday, April 11th:

Gill Dugas has advised that MabelleArts has invited Rotary Etobicoke to be their special guest "Community Partner" for Saturday, April 11th. They will be highlighting Rotary Etobicoke for their contribution to the community. Please drop by for an hour to join in with our local community ill

Venue: Montgomery's Inn

Time: 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*Lunch: Provided by Mabelle Ladies Cooking Circle
Entrance is free*

Everyone invited especially children

Activities: craft, dancing, art projects and making of pavers (designed by professional artists and sleeves provided by Mabelle's Sewing Group. These pavers will become part of the area around our sponsored BBQ/Fire Pit to be installed in May.

Rotary Trump AIDS Poker Walk – Saturday, April 25th:

Gill Dugas would like to remind all Club members that Rotary Etobicoke is looking for walkers to join our Rotary Etobicoke "Ribbers" Team at our annual District 7070 Rotary Trump HIV/AIDS Poker Fundraising Walk on Saturday, April 25th. Registration opens 9 a.m. and the Walks starts 10 a.m. The route is 5 km around Toronto Beach Parks and Queen Street followed by a light lunch

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with entertainment at 12:00. Prizes to be award for the best poker hand. Wind up at 1:30 p.m. Teams of 8 persons with family and friends invited to join our team(s).

If you cannot join our team, your support through a sponsorship to the team would be much appreciated. Rotary Etobicoke's International Committee will retain 80% of all the funds we raise for HIV/AIDS projects. To sponsor our team go to www.trumpaid.ca

Last year the funds our Club raised \$2,247 from the Rotary Trump HIV/AIDS Walk were sent to the Rotary Club of Knysna to be used for projects involved with individuals with HIV/AIDS; Masithandane in Sedgfield, MadAboutArt in Nekkies; and Mrs. Talamagies' soup kitchen in Hornlee.

HAPPY BUCKS



Michael Bell – Michael was happy to say that he, and other members of our Club, attended a dinner last evening that was held for Rotary International President Gary Huang in Richmond Hill. It was a “terrific” evening. Michael was also happy to report that at last evening’s event the first four “Charter Members” of the End Polio Now Club were inducted; RI President Gary Huang; Past RI President Wilf Wilkinson, Past Chair of The Rotary Foundation and former Chair of End Polio Now Dr. Bob Scott (who wasn’t able to attend) and District 7070 Foundation Chair and Zone 24 East End Polio Now Co-ordinator Bill Patchett. Our District has always been a strong supporter of the End Polio Now campaign since it began in 1985. In that context, anyone wishing to join the End Polio Now Club can do so by making an annual donation of \$US100 to PolioPlus until Polio is eradicated. There will be a lapel pin to identify members of this Club

plus members who join this year will get a special “Charter Members” pin. The pins are in production now and will be given out when they arrive. Anyone interested in joining can contact Michael.

Ron Miller – Ron was happy to say that his daughter had returned safely from her trip to Europe over the March break. She, along with 7 other girls from her school and one of her teachers went to Paris, Toulouse and to Barcelona. They had a “fabulous” time. Ron said he would have liked to stowaway as he has never been to Europe. He was also happy to report that our old “original” historic Club banner from 1930 has been repaired. It had a large hole in it and he found someone who could repair it. Ron unveiled the banner at today’s luncheon and it will now be hung on the wall of the Rotary Clubhouse.

Mark Winson – Mark was happy to say that he had received a thank you note from Yvan Baker thanking the Club, and to Michael, Ron and him, for our participation in the recent Community & Government Services Fair at Cloverdale Mall. Mark was also happy to echo Michael’s comments about last evening’s dinner for RI President Gary Huang. Mark was pleased that our Club was “well represented” with members with 3 tables at the dinner. As part of the ceremonies at the dinner there was an acknowledgement of all new members in the District. Mark also was happy to mention our BIF’s in April and May. Our next Big Ideas Forum (BIF) on Wednesday, April 15th (at the Crooked Cue) will be go back to our “old style” of having a panel. The subject will be “Seniors Care in the Community” with an expert panel that will moderated by Donna Cansfield. It will focus on seniors’ issues in Etobicoke. The BIF on May 20th will be at the Bier Markt (across from Sherway Gardens) and will be our “pre-launch” for Toronto Ribfest. Mark says they are hoping to have a ribber there cooking ribs and “craft” beers. The media will be invited and there will be a special appearance of the “End Polio” flame that is travelling to many parts of the world before heading to the RI Convention in Sao Paolo, Brazil in June.

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This Weeks Calendar



Monday, March 30th - Ribfest
Committee meeting - 6 pm - Rotary
Clubhouse

Tuesday, March 31st - Community
Service meeting - 5 pm - Rotary
Clubhouse

Saturday April 18th - RLI (Levels
1, 2 & 3) - 8:30 am to 4:00 pm -
Seneca College (1760 Finch Ave. E.)

Saturday, May 2nd - District
Assembly - 7:30 am to 2:00 pm -
BMO Institute for Learning (3550
Pharmacy Ave - Pharmacy/Steeles
Ave. E.)

Rotary Support for Sleeping Children Around the World



Rotary Etobicoke has just presented a \$1,500 cheque to The Pinehurst Club Fundraising Campaign to continue our support for Sleeping Children Around The World. This amazing Etobicoke organization provides bedkits to children who will benefit the most in underdeveloped and developing countries. The Pinehurst Club Fundraiser will allow 100% of each \$35 donation to be spent solely on the bedkits. In 2013-2014, 8 Rotary Clubs in India, Sri Lanka, Honduras and Nicaragua were Overseas Volunteer Partners for SCAW Bedkit Distributions. Rotary Clubs provided support to the distribution teams by selecting children, making purchases, packing bedkits, arranging travel and accompanying the teams. Upcoming SCAW distributions will be in The Philippines, Togo and Uganda.

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