



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week March 04, 2015

Board 2014-2015

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

Treasurer: Don Edwards

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March 01, 2015 – SPEAKERS: Krista O'SHAUGHNESSY and Sara DUNKLEY Founder A Beautiful World

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker: Allison
McDONALD Executive Director
Booth Packaging & Supportive
Services – Salvation Army Mental
Health



Mark introduced Allison as being "his neighbour" even though they live about 20 miles apart.

Allison began by saying that she would talk about Booth Packaging a little later, but wanted to first give some history about the Salvation Army in Canada.

The Salvation Army began its work in Canada in 1882. And quickly began "giving hope to those in need in this country and around the world". The 1st "open-air meetings" or worship services were held in

Toronto in January 1882 (5 months later in London, ON) and were led by British immigrants who had known the Army in their homeland. Official Salvation Army operations began in July, 1882 when Major Thomas Moore arrived from the U.S. Headquarters to take charge.

From the beginning, the Army in Canada adopted founder William Booth's philosophy that there is little point preaching "salvation" to hungry people. And so the concept of "soup and salvation" took hold. Later to be developed into the comprehensive social and service program. The Salvation Army operates today, many in partnership with government. Today, Booth Packaging and Supportive Services (BPSS) comes under the supervision of Area Commander Ray Moulton, who is responsible for 30 programs or ministry units within the Ontario Central East Division (mainly GTA and surrounding area). These social programs are made up of Shelters, Addiction services, Correctional and Justice services, Mental Health services, Developmental services, and Senior services.

While in the early days there was much early opposition from civic politician and others, there was eventual acceptance as it "demonstrated the social benefits from its activities;

- The men's social work began in 1890.
- A Children's Shelter opened the same year
- The 1st Maternity home opened in Saint John, N.B. in 1898 (precursor to the Salvation Army Grace Hospitals)

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- In 1901 the Salvation Army recommended to the federal government that a prison probation system be adopted (leading to Canada's 1st parole program)
- In 1908 salvage work (now called recycling) began in Toronto leading to the well-known Thrift Stores

The Salvation Army status in Canada was entrenched in law in 1909 when Parliament passed an Act giving the organization legal standing. By 1903 a consolidated Training College was opened in Toronto allowing Canadian Salvationists to take more leadership responsibilities. All this demonstrates the unique ability of The Salvation Army to respond to urgent needs – the Halifax explosion and the Winnipeg flood for example. It also reflects the “ingenuity, efficient use of resources, and a genius of improvisation” which the organization’s “quasi-military” structure fostered. It showed government that in most things “the Army could get the job done with greater efficiency and at less cost than almost any other agency” and “forged a bond of trust between the people of Canada and the ‘Sally Ann’ that continues to this day”. The

Salvation Army are now the largest non-government direct provider of social services in the country. “It strives to give hope and support to vulnerable people today and every day in 400 communities across Canada and more than 120 countries around the world.

Allison now wanted to talk about the history of Booth Packaging and Supportive Services. By the early 1960's significant breakthroughs in the development of psychiatric medications for the treatment of mental illness had been made. For the first time many of the symptoms which made life so difficult for people were now controllable allowing those who had previously been confined to hospitals to return to community life. Unfortunately this did not ensure the acceptance or the support required.

Salvation Army Officer, the late Lieut. Colonel Stanley Preece came up with “a unique idea”. Using the basement of an Army inner city Church he commenced a work “that grew into what today is

exciting and far reaching service to those with mental illness. A small workshop, known as Sheltered Workshop, was started where damaged wooden crates were repaired providing work and income, as well as friendship and support, for those attending. On November 24, 1971, The Salvation Army's New Sheltered Workshop officially opened its doors to adults who had a major psychiatric disorder as their primary disability in collaboration with The Ontario Queen Street Mental Health Centre. At the time “the purpose of the program was to demonstrate the possibility of QSMHC patients and others being re-integrated with the Community from outside the institution and through the experience of industrial, social and cultural activities, being maintained in health and well-being sufficient to preclude their necessary return to full hospital care”.

After a couple moves, the Sheltered Workshop was renamed Booth Industries in 1984. In July 2010, after deciding to stay in South Etobicoke, they moved to a newer, larger facility at 1020 Islington Avenue. In the spring of 2012, Booth Industries received approval to change its name to be “more synonymous in the community” as a custom packaging facility and supportive agency. Booth Industries became Booth Packaging and Supportive Services.

Allison wanted to mention the “leading causes of disability”, of which 5 of the 10 leading causes of disability worldwide are mental disorders; Major Depression; Schizophrenia; Bipolar Disorder; Substance Abuse; and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. It is estimated by the World Health Organization that by 2020 depressive illness or mood disorders will rank “only to heart disease as the leading cause of disability worldwide, and will be the leading cause in developed countries like Canada”.

The mission of BPSS is to “teach and maintain work skills for community inclusion while facilitating holistic support from a Christian perspective for adults with mental health needs and/or developmental disabilities”. Their vision is to “strive for participants to participate fully in healthy work and community life of their choice”. Most of the

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participants they serve have a serious mental illness, and may also have a developmental disability. Only 37% of those admitted last year had prior competitive work experience. Of those, the average time since work was 7 years. At Booth they work "to break through the barriers of hope and reignite the dream by walking alongside participants, at their pace, on the long road from CONCEIVING to BELIEVING and then ACHIEVING their life-changing goals". It is a "free service" that helps people with serious mental health needs and/or mild development disabilities learn work skills. A place where they try work for the very first time in many years, and it may become their vocation of choice for their foreseeable future. They have 11 full time staff, a full time Salvation Army chaplain, part-time students and occasional relief staff. Up to 160 participants from the GTA gain work experience in Booth's factory setting working side-by-side staff in the running of a large co-packaging facility that serves a variety of customers in the local business community. Individuals at Booth progress at "their own pace" and may train and progress through progressive levels of job assignments.

A variety of optional activities are also provided for added personal development and opportunities to build connections. These include Toronto Board of Education literacy and basic skills classes on site (self-care, budgeting, health and safety); weekly devotion and bible study; ESL classes; informational seminars; a variety of social activities; and peer support in activities in the community.

Booth's services are funded largely by The Ministry of Community and Social Services supplement by some funds from The Salvation Army's Red Shield campaign, along with approximately 25% that comes from contract packaging services.

President Mark thanked Allison for very informative presentation and asked if there were anything that our Club might be able to help with.

Birthdays This Week



Andy CHIODO - March 03rd

Best wishes on your Happy Day ...

Hands on Etobicoke - Rotary Etobicoke's visits to ESS and Dorothy Ley



The Rotary Club of Etobicoke's hands-on group delivered gifts for seniors in Etobicoke Service for Seniors' many wonderful programs. Here is a photo of ESS' team providing a warm welcome to Rotary Etobicoke in their administrative offices located in The Village of Humber Heights Residence Community. The gifts will be distributed to seniors in the 6 programs run each day with an average of 12 seniors attending each program and to the Health and Wellness programs run bi-monthly for up to 30 seniors.

Rotary Etobicoke were pleased to also provide boxes of cards to Dorothy Ley and our thanks to Melody Courtney for her kindness.

The gifts were donated by Hallmark.

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50/50 Draw

Michael BELL – 5 of Clubs. The pot \$600+ continues to grow. As a consolation prize Michael received a box of “Pot of Gold” chocolates.



Visitors & Guests

Visitors and Guests:

- ✦ Allison McDonald – Executive Director
– Booth Packaging and Supportive Services - Speaker

Attendance:

Members 13
Visitors & Guests - 02
Total – 15

Dinner with Rotary International President Gary Huang – Tuesday, March 24, 2015

President Mark wanted to remind everyone that all members are invited to attend a dinner with Rotary International President Gary Huang on Tuesday, March 24th at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel, 600 Hwy 7 East in Richmond Hill (6:00 PM – cocktails; 7:00 PM – dinner). This is an opportunity to meet the RI President and other Rotarians from across District 7070. Coincidentally it will coincide with the **85th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke** of which President Huang will make recognition of at the dinner. Tickets are \$55 (\$65 at the door if there is room). To get tickets go to the District 7070 website www.Rotary7070.org and click on the link. Also, if you are planning to attend could you please advise President Mark or Secretary Ron Miller.

Secretary's Announcements



*Monday, March 9th – Board meeting – 6:00 pm
(food) 6:30 pm (meeting start) – Rotary Clubhouse*

*Tuesday, March 10th – Ribfest Executive meeting –
6:00 pm – Rotary Clubhouse*

*Saturday, March 28th – District Conference meeting
– 9:30 am – Rotary Clubhouse*

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

*Tuesday, March 31st (tentative) – Community
Service meeting – 5 pm – Rotary Clubhouse*



HAPPY BUCKS

Mark Winson – Mark was happy to say that this has been a busy week for 2 of our members. Lynda Ryder was at the York Rotary's Chinese New Year Gala where she had the honour of “painting the eye on the dragon”. Michael Bell was at the Toronto Twilight Club's Gala on Friday and the Trillium

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Hospital's "Laugh Out Loud" Gala on Saturday.

Diane Irvine – Diane was happy (or not quite happy) to say that after attending the District Conference meeting Saturday morning, she went to Sherway Gardens and stopped by to see Ara Run. Ara is closing his store at Sherway, and Diane said "sadly, he will not be continuing his business in Toronto". He will be heading to Huatulco, Mexico to live (Ara already has a home there). Diane remembers going to Sherway 16-17 years ago and passing by Ara's store and looking at a diamond setting that she really liked in his display case. Later when Ara joined our Club she remembered his "diamond shaped" business card and went to Ara's and got that setting for a ring. She is "sad to see him go".

Michael Bell – Michael is happy to say that in addition to the "galas" he attended on Friday and Saturday, he also attended the St. George's On-The-Hill Gala on Thursday celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the Church (the oldest Anglican Church in Toronto. They were also celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Dorothy Ley Hospice. He was also happy to say that this weekend will be a "big weekend" for him as District Governor Elect. His President Elects from the District will be doing their President Elect Training (PETS) on Friday and Saturday at the BMO Institute for Learning. On Sunday, Michael and 24 of his PE's will fly to Chicago to visit Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. They will be meeting another of the PE's there. They will tour the RI HQ, as well as getting some further training, then return to Toronto on Monday evening. Michael said this is a good way for the incoming Presidents to get to know what happens at RI, as well as an opportunity for them to "bond" with their fellow PE's.

Toronto RIBFEST Receives Top 100 Festival and Event on Ontario Award



Last night we learned that for the fourth year in a row, Toronto Ribfest has received the Top 100 Festival and Event in Ontario award.

Also once again, our festival is the ONLY "Ribfest" to receive this award. (There are now 53 Ribfests in Ontario, 35 of which are Rotary-based).

Also, particularly special, was Gerry Lue was honored as the "Volunteer of the Year" at last night's ceremony. Tears were shed. It was beautiful.

Big pat on the back to all!
