



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Brian Thompson**

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Week May 27, 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,

June 03, 2015 – SPEAKER: Sister Anne SCHENCK – Human Trafficking in Toronto

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker: Ursula Krubnik – Women's Habitat



Ursula has been in this role as Community Relations for 7 years. In this role, she reaches out to community members, corporations and individuals and connect them to Women's Habitat through volunteering, advocacy work and third party events. She is also responsible for their annual fundraiser. She started as a volunteer ten years ago before accepting the role of Community Relations Co-Ordinator. Ursula is also a certified Counsellor and provides counselling and advocacy for women and children at the shelter a few times a month. Ursula has also been a volunteer at our Toronto Ribfest for the last 7 years and said she will be at this year's event as well.

Ursula began by giving a brief history of Women's Habitat. It began 37 years ago on November 3, 1978 as an emergency shelter. It has been at "full capacity" since 1978. It is a 25 bed facility (10

bedrooms) for 10 women and their children. The shelter is located on Stanley Avenue just off of Royal York. The Women's Habitat mission is "to provide a safe refuge, counselling, support and advocacy for women and their children who are fleeing violence, while also working towards a more equal society where the inherent value of all women is acknowledged and celebrated".

In 2007 they opened an Outreach Centre at 140 Islington Avenue, where women receive; counselling; parent support; abused women's groups; transition support service and housing support (affordable housing and support to help them live on their own); an after school program for girls ages 10 to 13; drop-in programs for women; young women's counselling; and more. Languages spoken at the Outreach Centre include English, Spanish, Portuguese, Farsi, Urdu, Hindi, Dari and Pashto.

The shelter has just finished a "major renovation". The building was "not up to code", had mold, and had suffered general "wear and tear" over the years. It need to be revamped. In addition to the 25 beds in 10 rooms, they have redeveloped the basement into a storage area which gives them much more room. They also now have a bathroom between every two rooms (they used to have only 2 bathrooms total). The renovations have taken a year and half and the facility will reopen on June 1st. During that year and a half arrangements had been made with other shelters for many of their residents. There were other residents that were "ready to move out on their own". The staff worked in the Outreach Centre or used their expertise to help at other facilities.

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The Shelter and Outreach Centre have 24 staff. They serve 400 women & children a year. The length of stay at the shelter can range from a couple weeks to a year. The main issue to the length of stay is "affordable housing". As well, they may not necessarily be from South Etobicoke.

Their funding comes from the Government, United Way and personal funding by individuals and organizations like Rotary. President Mark noted that our Club is usually looking at "funding capital assets" when we support organizations such as Women's Habitat and asked Ursula if there were anything that we might be able to help out with. Ursula mentioned things like clothing, entry items, diapers, TTC tokens, etc. There were some other suggestions made by our members.

President Mark thanked Ursula for her presentation as said that we will "be happy to see her again at Ribfest".

Club Administration

Toronto Ribfest – Volunteer Sign-up

President Mark and Theresa Sherwood want to remind All Members who will be volunteering at Ribfest **MUST** register online for the shifts they plan to work. Go to torontoribfest.com/volunteer and under "Volunteer Opportunities" click on "Opportunities for Rotarians".

Community Services

Thank You Letter – Anduhyaun

The following letter was received from the Anduhyaun (Aboriginal) Shelter

"Dear Rotary Club of Etobicoke:

Anduhyaun Inc. is a place for single women and mothers to feel safe, secure, and part of a community. We do our best to provide programming

that fosters relationships between residents as well as outside the community so that our clients know where to turn for support when they need it.

As a non-profit, we often find our resources go toward those programs and services and nothing is left over to go that extra mile on special occasions like Mothers' Day.

As single moms, a lot of our residents aren't expecting to receive gifts on Mothers' Day, but we try our best to show them some appreciation in whatever small way we can. This year, we didn't have to worry about our residents not feeling appreciated because the Rotary Club of Etobicoke took care of it! Our good friend Gill Dugas dropped off beautiful "Pop-Up Flowers" just in time for us to distribute them before Mothers' Day weekend.



On Friday, May 8th, we stacked up the boxes of "Pop-Up Flowers" in the office and invited the women to stop by and pick up a special gift. Each one had a huge smile on her face when she opened the little box and a flower popped out!

Thank you for putting a smile on the faces of some very deserving moms!

Sincerely,

Amanda Charles
Fundraising Coordinator"

Hands On Etobicoke

Gill Dugas reported that Rotary Etobicoke delivered 1000 newborn diapers and wipes. Mark at the Rexdale Health Centre helped unloaded diapers and

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wipes. These diapers/wipes will be distributed during pre and post-natal classes put on by RHC. Approximately 100 women are registered in the program as well as pre-natal clients seen by Nurse Practitioners at the all three RCHC clinic sites. The women attend programs across Etobicoke (Rexdale Community Hub, LAMP CHC, Stonegate CHC, George Hull centre for Children & Family).

Birthdays



*Mario GIRARDO – May 25th
Doug JARRETT – May 26th*

Best wishes on your Happy Day ...

50/50 Draw



Michael BELL – 3 of HEARTS. As a consolation prize President Mark presented Michael with an Ontario 49 lotto ticket (\$2 million jackpot) with the proviso if he wins he splits it 50/50 with the

Club. **NOTE:** There are now only 14 cards left and the pot (as of today) is \$800+.

Visitors & Guests

Visitors & Guests:

✚ Ursula Krubnik – Women's Habitat - Speaker

Attendance:

Members 08
Visitors & Guests - 01
Total – 09

HAPPY BUCKS



Ralph Chiodo – Ralph was happy to say that his son Tony was married last week and that he and his bride Patricia are happily spending time in Hawaii. Ralph was also happy to say that he had several visitors from Italy here for the wedding.

Theresa Sherwood – Theresa was happy to say that she had delivered 20 “puppies” from Hallmark to Etobicoke General Hospital. They will be distributed as part of a package given to kids going home from the hospital.



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Mark Winson – Mark noted that this is a “bitter-sweet” happy buck as he has only 2 more luncheon meetings and the BIF left to preside over before the end of his term as President on June 30th. He was happy though to say that last Wednesday’s “Ribfest Brew HaHa” at the Bier Markt to launch this year’s Toronto Ribfest appeared to be a success with a great turnout of both members and guests. Our member Yvan Baker brought greetings from the Ontario Legislature, and member Justin DiCiano brought greetings from Mayor John Tory. Todd Fraleigh, the Executive Director of the Dorothy Ley Hospice, spoke about how the relationship between money we raise at Ribfest and how it is used to benefit many sectors of the community. Bernie Gerl from Camp 31 supplied “free” ribs to everyone attending and the Bier Markt donated a keg of craft beer. It was a fun evening

This Weeks Calendar



Saturday, May 30th – District Conference Meeting – 9:30 am – Rotary Clubhouse

Thursday, June 4th – Preliminary Board Meeting for the 2015-16 Board of Directors – 5:30 to 6:45 pm – Rotary Clubhouse

Saturday, June 6th – District Conference Meeting – 9:30 am – Rotary Clubhouse

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.