



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Michael Bell**

RI President: K.R "Ravi" Ravindran

Week September 02, 2015

Board 2014-2015

President: Jack Fleming Past President Mark Winson, President Elect: Gregg Dobson, Secretary: Ron Miller,

Treasurer: Don Edwards

Directors: Donna Cansfield, Andre Dugas, Gillian Dugas, Gerald Lue, Kester Trim, Lynda Ryder, Hugh Williams.

September 09, 2015 – SPEAKER: Hugh WILLIAMS "Mare-see-dotes and Doh-see-dotes". Club

Communications for 2015-16

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker: Yesica Gil
Stay in School Program
Director – Youth Without
Shelter (YWS)



Yesica Gil is the "Stay in School" Director at Youth Without Shelter (YWS). She is the person who deals "day to day" with students at YWS to make school, and to try and help with anything they need. She also deals with their issues that arise at their schools and in the shelter. There are 20 beds at YWS for youths (18 to 24) in "permanent" residence" that are

attending school full time. In September 15 graduated from adult learning, high school (10 of which are going on to post-secondary education), and 2 from University. She is also proud of the 8 of the students who are receiving the Rotary Scholarships (3 are here today, 3 couldn't come today because of jobs, and 2 have left the shelter). She wanted to introduce the 3 students here today and have them tell what the scholarships meant to them.

Andrew – Andrew began by saying he has been in the shelter 3 years. When he first arrived he was "broken" with "no self-esteem". He was "scared about his future". He said he has now come to feel "super human". He said that YWS has "marvellous" people who "push us to do what we thought was impossible". It has lead him to try and "walk into his dream" of "protecting people" (his boyhood hero was Spiderman). Andrew is striving to become a Police Officer which will help him realize his dream.



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Nansha – Nansha was too overcome with emotion to talk much, but she wanted everyone to know that she is “very thankful to be here today”.

Jabon – Jabon is in his 3rd year of Journalism at Humber. When he first came to the shelter he was 17 with “a lot of issues”. YWS helped him “fix those issues”. He had only 2 of his 24 high school credits he needed so he worked hard getting them and going to Humber. He is “very thankful” for the scholarship, for being here today, and for the “great meal”.

Jacqueline Poorter, the Student Awards Officer at Humber College, prepared Certificates of Achievement to be given to the students who had won the scholarships. She added that along with the certificate, there is a letter to be returned to the donor “thanking them, in their own words, for their appreciation for the scholarship”. Yesica and DG Michael were asked to hand out the certificates. Before handing out the certificates Michael wanted to mention that “Each of us goes through life and all of us face adversity from time to time. It is what we do to handle adversity that makes the difference”. The students here today have “looked at adversity, met it head on, and have chosen a better path. We congratulate you”. Certificates were presented to Jabon, Andrew and Nansha.



Past President Mark thanked Yesica and Jacqueline for being here today and bringing the scholarship students for us to meet. Mark said that it is great to see how the funds we raise can be used in a collective effort to make a difference in the

community with such organizations as YWS and MicroSkills, etc. He added that it helps all of us in Rotary to appreciate how the money we raise is put to good use.

Thank You Letters

A Thank You letter was received from YWS:

Dear Members of Rotary Club of Etobicoke
Thank you for donating 10 backpacks filled with school supplies for the young residents of Youth Without Shelter's Stay in Scholl Program. Your support ensures that the educational needs of our young residents is met as they work towards a future life of independence. We are fortunate to have dedicated supporters like yours, who recognize the many barriers homeless youth face in completing their education. In the past 5 years 61 graduates have been celebrated. This past year, 15 graduations were celebrated and 896 school supplies were distributed to facilitate studies. We are deeply moved that you have committed your resources to assist these youth, and to the long-term pursuit of decreasing homelessness and poverty in Toronto. Thank you for being part of our youths' remarkable journey to self-sufficiency and empowerment.

Judy Leroux
Development Manager – YWS

A Thank You Letter was received from Anduhyaun

Dear Rotary Etobicoke
Anduhyaun Inc. would like to thank you for the 22 backpacks that we received on August 25th for the students of Nekenan and Anduhyaun Shelter. Back to school can be an exciting time for kids and parents alike, but you can imagine what that would be like if you were unsure of where your pens and paper would be coming from. Your contribution has helped 21 kids and one woman to be able to focus more on their studies as opposed to the lack of necessary supplies. We would also like to mention how wonderful it was to deliver a backpack to the Nekenan resident who is a university student. She was so grateful for the long list of items you gave

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and we know she will be putting them to good use this semester. In the 2014/2015 fiscal year, 272 women and 45 children received services at Anduhyaun Shelter. Your generous contributions help us to continue to provide housing, food, and counselling to women and children who have experienced violence. With the help of people like you, Aboriginal women and children will always have a safe space at Anduhyaun where they can build and maintain their cultural identity, self-esteem, and economic, physical, and spiritual well-being. Please accept this letter as an expression of our gratitude for your kindness and generosity.

Amanda Charles

Fundraising Coordinator – Anduhyaun

A Thank You from MicroSkills

On Wednesday August 26th MicroSkills supported the tenants of Islington Toronto Community Housing building with the Back to School BBQ event. MicroSkills Youth Services had two tables set up at the event with promotional material about the various programs at MicroSkills. Every year buying school supplies is a huge burden on parents in low income communities. MicroSkills would like to thank Rotary Club of Etobicoke, for making this event possible with their overwhelming support to MicroSkills and the general community. With the support of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke a total of 49 backpacks and 20 pencil pouches were secured. The event was a success as 124 children and parents attended. The back to school drive made a profound impact on the children and parents in the community. A child at the event expressed "I am so happy to be here and get supplies for school."

This Weeks Birthdays



Gerald LUE – September 06th

Good Wishes on your Happy Day ...

Club Administration

Tuesday, September 8th – Vocational Services meeting – 6:00 pm – Illumineer, 6503 Northam Drive, Mississauga

Wednesday, September 9th – Fundraising Committee meeting – 6:00 pm – Rotary Clubhouse

Saturday, September 12th – District Conference meeting – 9:30 am – Rotary Clubhouse

Monday, September 14th – Board Meeting – 6:00 pm (food), 6:30 pm (meeting start) – Rotary Clubhouse

Sunday, September 20th – District 7070 Foundation Walk - Toronto Pan Am Sport Centre, 875 Morningside Avenue, Toronto (more details will be coming by email!!!)

Saturday, September 26th – Club Visioning Session – 9:00 am – 12:30 pm – Venue TBA

October 23rd, 24th, & 25th – District 7070 Conference – Weston Harbour Castle – Register now.

50/50 Draw



Greg DOBSON – 6 of Diamonds. The Pot keeps growing!

Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians

- ✚ Melisa Okanovic – President – Rotaract Club of York University
- ✚ Rose Dlamini – Rotary Club of Greenwich, England (D1130)

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Visitors & Guests:

- ✦ Yesica Gil – Stay in School Program Director – Youth Without Shelter– Speaker
- ✦ Ben Omoregil - YWS
- ✦ Judy Leroux - YWS
- ✦ Wendy Horton – YWS
- ✦ Nansha – YWS (student)
- ✦ Andrew YWS (student)
- ✦ Jabon – YWS (student)
- ✦ Jacqueline Poorter – Student Awards Officer- Humber College
- ✦ Rhena Fleming – Guest of Jack Fleming
- ✦ Marg Pelletier - Guest of Liz Read

Attendance:

Members 20
Visitors & Guests - 12
Total – 32

HAPPY BUCKS



Mark Winson – Mark was happy to say that for those who didn't know, last Wednesday was his birthday. He was also happy that Jack was still President and that he was still Past President. He was unhappy that he had forgotten to bring "pledge sheets" for the upcoming Foundation Walk on September 20th. He wanted to remind members that Walk helps to raise funds for the fight to eradicate Polio (we are this close). He is hoping that members, even if they are unable to attend the Walk, will make a pledge to support the Walk.

Peter Dusek – Peter was happy to say that he was selected by the Ontario Society of Artists (OSA) as one of 10 "emerging artists" to be included in the OSA 29015 Members Exhibition of Selected Works, where he won 1st Prize at the opening on August 28th as the "best work by an emerging artist". He was really "excited" to win this honour and what made it even

better was that President Jack came to the show. He said it was a "special" moment to have Jack there to see him win.

Michael Bell – DG Michael was happy that today was one of "open slots" in his busy schedule to be able to visit his home Club. During his visits to other clubs in the District he was presented with a couple club banners which he wanted to present to President Jack. He received a banner from the Port Hope club, and when he recently visited the Cobourg club he was introduced to their exchange student from Japan who presented him with a banner from the Rotary Club of Kinmen, Japan.

Linda Ryder – Lynda was happy to say that she called the new Rotaractors from Humber College this week to see if they could help with the website, brochure and logo. She was even happier that the work was completed last night. She thinks they are "amazing".

Teresa Sherwood – Teresa was happy to say that she is feeling "much better" after her recent car accident (August 19th). Her neck is isn't as sore. She was also happy that no one else in the accident were hurt. She is happy to be back at our meeting.

Wendy Horton – Wendy was happy to be here today as she was a former Rotarian (in Massachusetts) and hadn't seen "happy bucks" in a while. She was also "really" happy that Rotary had provided the scholarships to the students here today from Youth Without Shelter (YWS).

Jack Fleming – President Jack was happy to thank Maati Lahroussi (who was unable to attend today) for all his "work he has done" and the "passion" he has displayed in helping to arrange the YWS/Humber scholarships."