



The Bulletin

Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Neil Phillips**

RI President: **Ian Riseley**

Week – August 16, 2017

Board 2017-2018

President: Donna Cansfield, Past President: Greg Dobson, President Elect: Gerald Lue, Secretary: Ron Miller, Treasurer: Don Edwards

Directors: Gord Duncan, Barry Friesen, Mary Grogan, Diane Irvine, Michael Lu, Liz Read

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 – SPEAKERS: Lynda Ryder & Michael Bell – Toronto 2018 Update - Old Mill – 12:15 PM

Reporting: **Ron Miller**

Club Social – The Bier Markt

A “fun & fellowship” Club Social event was held this evening at the Bier Markt by 22 Club members and 13 guests. There was good food and libations through the evening, along with the opportunity for plenty of conversations amongst those attending. It appeared as everyone had a good time.



This was also the opportunity for looking back on Ribfest 2017 and to look forward to Ribfest 2018. This was also the opportunity to honour 3 of our “outstanding” Ribfest volunteers. Liz Read, the Ribfest Volunteer Coordinator was asked to introduce them this evening. Liz noted that we had “many volunteers” at this year’s event, “400 of which came from the community”. The 3 volunteers honored tonight “worked hard and took on

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leadership roles” that made them stand out from the rest.



One of these was Mario Buzdon who has been a volunteer at Ribfest for several years. Unfortunately, Mario was unable to attend this evening. Mario is a teacher who was there this year from the “start to teardown”. He was “put in charge of parking” and did an amazing job. The one day, he let it be known that he had to go pick up his daughter at 4:30. He did “both things” and returned quickly. Liz added that Mario “made stuff happen”.

The second volunteer to be honoured is Emily Balawejder, who has been a volunteer for 3-4 years. She was there for the whole 4 days of Ribfest. Emily became the “supervisor” of the Stores operation, “seamlessly” replacing her sister Kristen this year. Kristen had also “worked her way up to supervisor” last year. Emily’s father, Michael, was in attendance this evening, and Liz commented that he “had raised 2 amazing daughters”. Emily was in charge of; the Stores; deliveries; inventory; as well as “controlling the band of young men” who worked Stores. Andre Dugas, Stores Manager, added that Emily is “intelligent, dependable, hardworking and is not afraid to problem solve or innovate”.

The third volunteer to be recognized was Min Lu. Min has also been volunteering for 3-4 years and “settled” into Stores. He didn’t go to Stores because he was Michael’s son, but because he wanted to. Liz says he is always “one of the first to sign up to be a volunteer every year”. He “loves” being there and has “worked his way up” to be the head of the Stores crew. Andre noted that Min was “extremely

experienced in Stores operations, responsible, intelligent, unflappable, hardworking and totally dependable, who spent additional long days at Set-ups (Wednesday & Thursday) and Take Down (Tuesday). Andre added that it was “easy to give both Emily and Min additional responsibilities and authority as they never disappointed”



In the absence of Ribfest 2017 Chair Jack Fleming, Michael Bell was asked to say a few word about Ribfest 2017. Michael noted that while the event is held over the Canada day weekend, the event is really “year-long”. The planning for next year’s event has already begun. He thinks that the Toronto Ribfest is “very special”, and that every year “magic happens”. The Ribfest chair and the members of the various committees set the groundwork for the event, but the Club membership always come through, and “always the pieces get filled”. Michael Lu is taking over as Ribfest Chair this year, and again “all the members need to fill all the pieces”. All the hard efforts by everyone involved is “truly magic”. As well, the commitment we get from the community in the way of volunteers, etc. is “a great thing”. Michael also wanted to extend a “special thanks” to the Toronto Rotary Club who once again took care of collecting money at the entrance gates. He says Toronto Ribfest is a “tribute to our Club” since we use money raised to “make a difference in the community and around the world”. Michael added that we haven’t got a final tally of the money raised this year yet. Greg Dobson was away on holiday in Europe for much of July, and we won’t probably have all the results until near the end of September.

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Michael now asked Michael Lu, Chair of Ribfest 2018, to talk about next year's event. Michael began by saying that there was "stuff that he did not know until he recently had his first Ribfest meeting". He said he is "learning fast". He also attended a meeting with the "City Team" with Jack Fleming, and a meeting with TPS 22 Division with Jack and Iosif Ciosa. Michael said that "he thought we had a problem with the City and the Police", but "no, it was all positive". They told him that compared to all the other events that are held at Centennial, "we rock". The City commented "how quickly we got the park back to normal after the event". Michael wanted to give Barry Friesen credit for "keeping the park clean". Michael thought we had a problem with the Police, but the 22 Division Superintendent was "very welcoming". "We know what we are doing and how to run an event". Jack had questions about a "police internal briefing" that had found some problems in the past. This year, "all was positive". They want us to "make sure we continue to do the same things". Iosif worked with "pay duty" officers, and there was good communication between security and Police. "Problems were solved before they happened". The Police feel that "Ribfest is well run". Michael wanted to credit Iosif for "working hard to foster a good relationship with the Police". Michael said that he visited Jerk Fest (the 2nd largest event in Centennial Park). There was "music and a lot of people". He asked security there "how many people attended". They had 7000 on the Saturday, with a total of around 20,000. This year our Ribfest had 90,000+ attendees. As you can see, "we are a much larger event". Michael added that what we have to do now is "find a way to make more money". We have to try and make our event "even

better". Even so, Michael says our event is a "well-oiled machine that still could use a few tweaks". To finish, Michael wanted to give a "shout out to everyone here tonight, and give a pat on the back for a great job done this year", and his is looking forward to "leading us all into Ribfest 2018". He would like to see things run "just a little more smoothly". He has already started the process with planning expected to be done by the end of August, and then moving on to work on sponsorship in September.

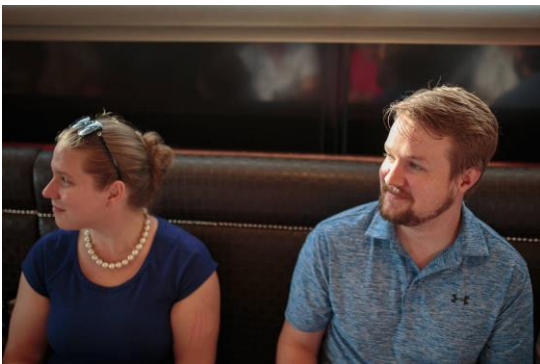


Michael Bell wanted to make a quick mention of the 2018 Rotary International Convention scheduled to be here in Toronto June 23rd to 27th. On Tuesday, June 26th, there will be a Ribfest at the CNE for Convention attendees. He has already been "voluntold" to organize the event, and the "pieces of the puzzle will begin to fall into place". Since our Club's Ribfest will begin on June 29th next year (only a few days after the CNE Ribfest), Michael is not looking for help from our Club members. He is looking for help from other Clubs that hold Ribfests. It will be held at the Band Shell at the CNE, plus they will have access to the Queen Elizabeth building (an outdoor/indoor event). It should be a "fun event". 30,000 to 40,000 Rotarians from all over the world are expected to come to the 2018 Convention. Michael thinks that up 9000 of the Rotarian could attend the Ribfest event at the CNE. It will be a "good show and a great time". Michael added that there will be 3 ribbers at the event.

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*Thanks to Peter Dusek for
the great pictures.*



Announcements

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 23rd –
SPEAKERS: Lynda Ryder & Michael Bell – Toronto
2018 Update – 12:15 PM – Old Mill**

**Monday, September 11th – Board of Directors
Meeting – 6:30 Meeting Start – Rotary Clubhouse**

**Wednesday, September 13th – Luncheon Meeting –
Speaker: Elaine Charal, K&M Productions, a
certified Graphologist, Entertainer and Speaker.**

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Birthdays (August 16th to August 22nd)



*Harry Waterman – August 17th
Gord Duncan – August 20th*



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

2017-2018

Visitors & Guests



Visitors & Guests:

- ✦ *Jo-Ann Bell*
- ✦ *Kathryn RaRa Asaro Myers*
- ✦ *David Myers*
- ✦ *Dede Alexakis*
- ✦ *Marjorie Friesen*
- ✦ *Emily Balawejder*
- ✦ *Michael Balawejder*
- ✦ *Min Lu*
- ✦ *Grace Lu*
- ✦ *Gu Shensheng*
- ✦ *Li Yizhong*
- ✦ *Steve Doherty*
- ✦ *Kevin Grant*

Attendance:

Members - 22

Visitors & Guests – 13

Total – 35