



# WEEKLY UPDATE



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke



District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week December 19, 2012

Board 2011 - 2012

*President: Hugh Williams, Secretary: Ron Miller, Treasurer: Don Edwards*

*January 09, 201: Speaker: Sandra Laurin - A Photographers Journey through Human Trafficking in Asia*



Big Ideas Forum

Rotary Etobicoke ended the "official" calendar year with a fabulous party on Wednesday evening as we gave and received in true Rotary style.

### PART 1. CHEQUE PRESENTATIONS

We started out celebrating the work of Community Services Committee and presented some significant cheques to key partners:



- a) Diane Irvine presented a cheque for \$10,000 to Cindy Yelle, the CEO of Toronto Rehab. Cindy spoke with gratitude about how she, as a life-long Etobicoke resident, loves the community and noted how important

Rotary is within it. The money will enable patients to receive dialysis at the local facility rather than having to travel downtown - saving both money and time and significant hardship for the patients.



- b) Paul Roeser presented a cheque for over \$25,000 to Catherine Parsonage, CEO of the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and to Pamela Gough a local school board trustee for Etobicoke (south). Both Catherine and Pamela spoke briefly about how important school nutrition programs have become, and how our gifts enable the purchase of equipment, which so many other donors and donations often do not address. It's a fabulous synergy that while we are looking after the equipment, others are addressing the food and staffing needs.
- c) Alex Woda presented a cheque for over \$3,500 to the Angel Foundation for Learning, the separate school board equivalent to the TFSS. Joanne Benvenuti, the Nutrition Program

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manager was here to receive the cheque and talk briefly about how the program at Don Bosco High School has grown from feeding 20 students to now feeding about 400. A real indication of the imperative need in that area of the city and how the nutrition programs are becoming so important in the life of so many students. Again, Rotary's donation is going to be making a continual and positive difference in the lives of these young people.

## PART 2. YOUR BIG IDEA ON A SOAPBOX

The next part of the agenda was a rapid fire "elevator pitch" from a number and range of community organizations. And what a great group was assembled! When the call went out to our friends in the community from Gary and me that we were having an open pitch night for them to tell us their "Big Idea", there was a good deal of interest. And so, stopwatch in hand and bell at the ready, one by one our guests were called up to take the microphone and tell us their Big Idea in 90 seconds or less. And a remarkable thing happened - everyone did it easily!

So, without official note-taking, here's my recollections..

**Derek Reid - FEAT.** The Big Idea = making it possible for kids of incarcerated fathers to see their dads.



**Dave Ursomarzo - West Park Healthcare.** The Big Idea = a multi-million dollar campaign for a new building, in which the federal government is matching 5 to 1.

**Helen Skippon and Thom Norris - Stonegate Ministries.** The Big Idea = a food kitchen to make it possible for those in need to get a meal.

**Joe Dasilva - Stonegate Community Health Centre.** The Big Idea = find a new home!

**Angela Carter - Frontlines.** The Big Idea = feed young people by teaching them to cook as well through their after school program in Weston.



**Marguerite Pyron - Broad Reach Sailing.** The Big Idea = giving young people an experience on the water that can transform their lives.

**Lorna Pitcher - Children of Hope, Uganda.** The Big Idea = enabling children to go to school in rural Uganda.

**Hugh Dimock - Ambassador for ShelterBox.** The Big Idea = being there with a home for those who lose theirs to disaster. We also acknowledged Cecilia Luu, one of our newest members and a Shelterbox Ambassador.

**John Knox - Manager, CameronHelps.** The Big Idea = borrowing another big idea. Leveraging the award winning teen running therapy program at Credit Valley Hospital and implementing at numerous others (including Brampton Civic, St. Joes Hamilton, various community centres, and now in the Peel Region high schools). I added a quick note too, that CameronHelps has recently been asked to bring its running program to help address the needs of youth in an aboriginal community in Thunder Bay.

**Ruth Cumberbatch - Manager, Arts Etobicoke.** The Big Idea = making a difference in the lives

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of people through art. Taking the successful art show at Sherway Gardens and bringing it to a local hospital.



**Neil Phillips - President, Toronto Rotary.** The Big Idea = bring Rotary clubs across the city together to implement a major program in time for the Rotary International Convention in 2018.

## PART 3. NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS



Two more of our new members - Jennifer Maron and John F Campbell - were inducted... Fellow Rotarians, it is my privilege and pleasure today to welcome into membership in our club, **Jennifer Maron**, and **John Campbell**. Jennifer, John, we now welcome you as members in the Rotary Club of Etobicoke and to the fellowship of Rotary.

The ideal of Rotary is service. Our principle motto is "Service Above Self". And the object of this and all Rotary clubs is to encourage and foster service as a basis of worthy enterprise.

You have been approved for membership in this club because you are interested in the ideals of Rotary and willing to do your share in translating these ideals into reality. You have agreed to help with the Toronto Ribfest - our principle fundraiser; attend meetings; and, share in our passion for community and international service.

I now ask **Ron Miller**, our Club Secretary, to present you with your name badge and a package of Rotary literature. Please take particular notice of the "Four Way Test" which provides a guideline for Rotarians in their daily lives.

I now ask **Michael Bell**, our Membership Chair and incoming President to present you with your Rotary pin. Wear your pin with pride. And now, as President of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke, I declare you to be an active member of this Rotary Club. Welcome to Rotary! (and there was much rejoicing).

## PART 4. THE MIXER.

The reason many of us love these evenings and this one in particular is to network, chat, discuss big ideas and share stories. The time available is never enough, but by the time Lillian and I got back to the house at just past 11PM we both acknowledged, it had been a great evening.

As everyone knows, it is a lot of work to put together an evening get-together, and we've been doing this every month now since July. My thanks in particular to Ingrid and Ron for their organizational and leadership skills - without which, it simply can't be done.

So, now - gotta get a goat ([www.gottagetagoat.com](http://www.gottagetagoat.com))! And Merry Christmas / best of the season to all. See you (Board Members and anyone else who's interested) on January 7 for the Board Meeting, and everyone else on January 9 for our first club meeting of 2013.



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## Visitors & Guests

### Visiting Rotarians:

**Neil Phillips** – Rotary Club of Toronto

### Guests:

**Catherine Parsonage** – CEO, Toronto Foundation for Student Success

**Cindy Yelle** – CEO, Toronto Rehab

**Arlene Boyce** – Toronto Rehab

**Joanne Benvenuti** – Nutrition Manager, Angel Foundation for Learning

**John Knox** – Board Member, CameronHelps

**Joe DaSilva** – Manager, Stonegate Community Health Centre

**Marguerite Pyron** – CEO, Broad Reach

**Ruth Cumberbatch** – Manager, Arts Etobicoke

**Helen Skippon** – Stonegate Ministry

**Tom Norris** – Stonegate Ministry

**Lorna Pitcher** – Executive Director, Children of Hope, Uganda

**Hugh Dimock** – Rotarian and Ambassador, Shelterbox Canada

**Angela Carter** – Executive Director, Frontlines

**Dave Ursomarzo** – Director, Donor Relations, West Park Healthcare Centre

**Mike Fenton** – Executive Director, West Park Healthcare Centre Foundation

**Derek Reid** – F.E.A.T.

**Pamela Gough** – Trustee, TDSB

**Debbie Wagdin** – Assistant to Pamela Gough

**Lilian Arrage** – Exchange Student

**Jo-Ann Bell** – Guest of Michael Bell

**Gina Valle** – Guest of Maureen Borghoff

Club members – we were **23** today

Guests **21**

Total attendees – **44**

## Birthdays This Week



**Frederik Martin** - December 26<sup>th</sup>

**Greg Dobson** - January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Lynda Ryder** - 8<sup>th</sup>

## Hands-On Etobicoke

### SALVATION ARMY

"Kester and his hard-working staff at the Etobicoke Salvation Army Temple thank those who kindly gave items to the food drive organised by Nigel, Andre & Gill. Maureen was a star of course and needs special thanks! Not to be forgotten either are those who gave of their time in packing food baskets, and collecting as part of the Kettle Appeal.

You have all helped to make Christmas a little better for some people who really needed a helping hand.

Thank you!"

## Secretary's Corner

*By Ron Miller*

Following announcements were made

- The December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> luncheon meetings have been cancelled over the Holidays. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** - Speaker - Sandra Laurin (A Photographer's Journey through Human Trafficking in Asia)
- **January 07, 2013 TBA** - Board Meeting

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- **January 19<sup>th</sup>** - "Big Ideas" Forum - Dr. Kirsty Duncan, MP (Big Ideas for North Etobicoke)
- **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Our annual "Robbie Burns Day" luncheon.

*Please put all these dates in your diaries and let Ron know any make-ups/meetings you have attended - THANK YOU!*



**Ralph Chiedo**— Ralph was happy to say that he will be leaving shortly for Italy and will be there until January 19<sup>th</sup>. While he is there our "twin Club" in Amantea will be presenting an "immigration play" which will be about Ralph.

## **First packaged grant with Oikocredit develops women's business skills**

Rotarians in Antipolo, Philippines, are teaching more than 2,000 women how to run businesses and balance family and work responsibilities, through an economic and community development project supported by a US\$50,000 Rotary Foundation packaged grant.

In packaged grants, the Foundation has already completed the initial tasks of finding a strategic partner and designing the project's framework, which lets participating Rotarians focus on assessing community needs, providing technical expertise, publicizing the project, and evaluating its progress.

The project, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Manila Circle, features the first packaged grant applied in collaboration with [Oikocredit](#), one of Rotary's strategic partners. The Rotarians work with microfinance institutions in their own communities to develop and run targeted training programs that increase the impact of microloans.

## **Assessing local needs**

In the spring of 2012, the Philippine Rotarians teamed up with [Ahon Sa Hiras, Inc.](#) (ASHI), a network of microlenders supported by Oikocredit, to survey ASHI borrowers living in and around Antipolo. The study revealed that most of the women who had failed to repay their loans on time did so because they lacked experience balancing work and family responsibilities.

The survey also discovered that almost all of the women were willing to learn new entrepreneurial skills to expand their income-earning opportunities.

## **Implementing the project**

After receiving approval for a packaged grant, Rotarians got together with ASHI to hire university-trained professionals to develop two training modules. The first explores the demands of family life and the demands of employment.

A second module helps the women identify and develop their business skills and also identify business opportunities, based on their resources and local market conditions.

Speakers and facilitators hired by the club have begun teaching weekly classes at 52 centers ASHI runs in the Antipolo area. Each class is 25 sessions. The staff at each center provides logistical support, such as transporting women to the sessions, preparing conference rooms, supporting the speakers and facilitators, and serving food as needed.

## **Ensuring sustainability**

The women will be able to use the business skills they learn to better provide for their families throughout their lives and the training is expected to make them less likely to default on their loans. This in turn will expand the capacity of the microlender to make new loans.

- Courtesy Rotary International-

*Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller & Hugh Williams*