



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week November 21, 2012

Board 2011 - 2012

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

November 28, 2012 Speaker: Rotarian Rob Leek - Flags

Big Ideas Forum Speaker - Dr Andrew Simone and Paul Harris Award



President Hugh's opening remarks Rotary is a secular organization. I just wanted to point that out, in case there is any confusion or question among our many new members or guests. In fact, at last week's meeting we heard a stirring talk from one of our new members - Major Kester Trim of the Salvation Army about how his faith and his soon-to-be-wife directed him into a life of service. And tonight we are going to hear from another incredible man of faith, Dr. Andrew Simone. So faith has been a theme recently.

But that's certainly o.k. (!). Many Rotarians are people of faith, perhaps because faith is grounded in service. I think we all share a belief that we are called to help others. It's

not about thinking good thoughts, it is about doing good works, and making a difference.

The Rotary motto is Service Above Self. It is both a call to action, and a very lofty goal for us as a club and as individuals.



None of us imagine that concept of "Service Above Self" quite so literally and dramatically as Dr. Simone has done - both in his chosen vocation as a doctor, and of course in his passion for and work with children around the world. And, for Dr. Simone, it is his faith that empowers and enables this great conviction.

It is an honour to welcome Dr. Simone to our Rotary Etobicoke Big Ideas Forum. A recipient of the Order of Canada; the Papal Cross; Doctorate of Sacred Letters; and many other awards and accolades. A true difference maker in the world, from here in Etobicoke.

Now, as I get to do every month in welcoming our guest speaker, I ask...

So, Dr. Simone, what's your big idea!?

I think that even the most seasoned charity supporter among us was blown away last night

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by the man who spoke to us at our Big Ideas Forum.



Dr. Andrew Simone, founder of [Canadian Food For Children](http://www.canadianfoodforchildren.org), is a soft-spoken man with an enormous presence. He has made the feeding of the world's children his life's work. On Wednesday evening he told us a bit about his journey. Everyone was riveted by his words. Born with a hearing problem that went undiagnosed until his med school years, and always one of the shortest kids in his class, Dr. Simone grew up with a bit of an "inferiority complex". When he was at university studying medicine, he finally received a diagnosis: his hearing was 90% gone. His teachers told him to quit medicine - after all, he couldn't use a stethoscope. One teacher believed in him and encouraged him to persevere. He did so, and chose dermatology, since it's visual. After graduating from Harvard, he returned to Canada and was the first dermatologist to establish a practice in Etobicoke. He has been practicing here ever since.

While at Montgomery pool many years ago, Dr Simone told another man swimming with him about a young girl he had met overseas named Jennifer, who was starving and the daughter of a single mom unable to feed herself or her other two children. The fellow at the pool criticized Dr Simone and said that feeding kids like Jennifer was perpetuating the problem and creating a world with more and more poor,

dependent children. Dr S took that as a challenge and it has become his life's calling. And, he doesn't just feed these kids. He visits them, diagnoses and helps get treatment for diseases like worms, leprosy, and the like, and follows their progress. Today, Jennifer is an active young woman making a real difference in her community. As Dr Simone said, "She's not a problem, she's the solution."



Another turning point for Dr Simone came when he was offered a container of beans to help feed the poor. But, the catch was that Dr Simone had to complete an Ironman triathlon. Not just a wimpy Olympic triathlon! Undaunted, Dr Simone threw himself into training for it and has completed not one, but four Ironman triathlons in his life. In addition, he has qualified for and run the Boston Marathon several times. Mother Teresa was a big influence. She encouraged him to use the riches we have in Canada to raise food for the poor around the world. This led him to establish Canadian Food For Children, and to speak to schools and businesses about what we can do to help. Mere pennies a day are all that's needed to feed a child, a mother, a family. Not only does Dr Simone help raise money, awareness and goods for these people, he lives a life of true service and is a living example to others. His children "never knew that chickens had legs and breasts", because they ate the least expensive parts of the birds. Christmases at the Simone house (with his 13 children) meant one gift for

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everyone, and its value needed to be no more than \$5. He gives his time to travel to areas of the world that need him at every opportunity. His charity does not pay for his travels or his work. In fact, no one in CFFC receives any compensation for their work.

So, what can we do to help? Dr Simone extended an invitation to everyone to come, alone or with family, children, colleagues to visit and / or help in the warehouse - any weekday from 7 am to 12 noon. Donations of small items such as pencils and note books are very much needed, as many children he's seen are trying to make do with tiny pencil stubs to do their work. Something as simple as bars of soap can give the gift of dignity to the poor. And of course, food and money are always welcome. For more information see: <http://www.canadianfoodforchildren.net/>

Many speeches close with a bang. Dr. Simone went one better, and closed with a song. He chose Frank Sinatra's "Too Marvelous For Words" - and delivered it in a beautiful, heartfelt way, dedicating it to the women in our group and women around the world.



Our club through the International Services Committee chose to honour Dr. Simone's work. First, Lynda Ryder presented Dr. Simone with a \$1,200 cheque for donation to Canadian Food For Children. Dr. Simone promptly calculated that the funds will be able to provide over 40,000 meals for children.

As well, Ron Miller presented Dr. Simone with a Paul Harris award. Dr. Simone's life exemplifies the life of "service above self" to which was all aspire.

Magoanine Projects gets More Funding

Nigel Brown with President Elaine deBlicquy of the Uxbridge Rotary Club. The Uxbridge Club made a \$3,000.00 donation to our Global Grant Project in Maputo, Mozambique. This project is well on its way to funded for all three phases. Way to Go Nigel



Foundation Month

November is Rotary Foundation Month, and with this in mind, any members who make donations to Foundation during the month will have their recognition points earned doubled by the Club. You earn 1 point for every US\$1 donated hence, for example, if you donate US\$100 you will be credited with 200 points. If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer, please give your cheques to Ron Miller before the end of the month.

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller & Hugh Williams

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Memorial Service for Betty Coates

A memorial service will be held for Betty Coates, wife of long time member Ken Coates, on December 19th, 2012 at the Village of Humber Heights (2245 Lawrence Avenue West, Etobicoke) at 2.00 PM.

Visitors & Guests



Visiting Rotarians

- **Neil Phillips** – Toronto
- **AG Viji Leger** - Woodbridge

Guest

- **Dr. Andrew Simone** - Speaker
- **Lilian Arrage** – Exchange Student - Guest of Hugh Williams
- **Kathleen Radecki-Miller** – Guest of Ron Miller
- **Paul McGaughey** – Guest of Ingrid McGaughey
- **Allison Williams** - Guest of Hugh Williams
- **Ruth Williams** - Guest of Hugh Williams
- **Jonathan Chevreau** - Guest of Hugh Williams
- **Mike Lecky** - Guest of Hugh Williams
- **Art Welter** - Guest of Hugh Williams
- **Sandra Laurin** - Guest of Ingrid McGaughey
- **Cory Silver** - Guest of Ingrid McGaughey
- **Sarah Martin** - Guest of Ingrid McGaughey

Club members – we were **15** today.
Total attendees - **29**

Secretary's Corner

By Ron Miller

Following announcements were made

- **November 26, 2012 6.00 PM** - Ribfest Committee Meeting. Venue Illumineer, 486 Evans Ave. Unit 8.
- **November 28, 2012 7.00 PM** - Membership Committee Meeting. Venue Michael Bell's Residence.
- **December 01, 2012** - Bag Packing at No Frills Rathburn & Renfrew 2.00 - 5.00 PM.
- **December 05, 2012 12.15 PM** - Club AGM Old Mill Inn & Spa.
- **December 12, 2012 6.00 PM** - Annual Christmas Dinner Lambton Golf Club.

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

Annual Christmas Party



The Annual Club Christmas Party will be held on **Wednesday, December 12th** at the **Lambton Golf and Country Club (6 PM for Cocktails - 7 PM for Dinner)**. The regular scheduled luncheon meeting that day will be cancelled. **Tickets are \$60/person**. As a special treat this year we will also be holding our "Secret Santa" event that evening.

Everyone is requested to bring a wrapped gift of \$10 or less. This has always proved to be a lot of fun for everyone. We need to know the number of members and guests, who will be attending, so if you are planning to be there, please let **Ron Miller Tel: (416) 763-0319** email: rjm-woxof@sympatico.ca. Know as soon as possible.