

# WEEKLY UPDATE



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week November 28, 2012

Board 2011 - 2012

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

**December 05, 2012: Club Annual General Meeting**

Today's Speaker Rob Leek  
(Rotary Club of Picton) - The  
Subject of Flags



Nigel Brown introduced Rob Leek.

Rob has been a Rotarian since 1979. He is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Hamilton and a Past District Governor (2007-08 in District 7090). This was the same year Lynda Ryder was our District Governor and they were classmates at DG training. In 2010, Rob opened a "bed and breakfast" (Loyalist Landing) in Prince Edward County and is now active with the Rotary Club of Picton.

Rob said he was happy to see Lynda here today. She was his first classmate at DG training. He said they "met in a pub" where they worked together on a project" which Rob said they "aced". He said Lynda was

"impressive" and great to work with. He added that Lynda became known as the "singing governor".



Rob also said that he knows Nigel and Bernadette very well and they have become friends. He says he can see what a "great impact" Nigel has on our Club and what a "passion" he has for his Mozambique project. On that note, Rob said he had a "gift for Nigel" in the form of a cheque from the Picton Rotary Club for the Magoanine project.

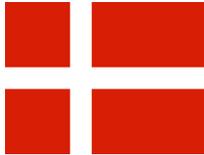
For Rob's Flag presentation, he requested that "the 4 best looking members of the Club" volunteer to assist him. Lynda Ryder, Michael Bell, Gerald Lue and Justin DiCiano volunteered.

Rob said that his interest in flags and their history began with the minister in his church, Ralph Spence, who became the Bishop of Niagara. He was known to fly a different flag every day. The study of flags is known as "vexillology". Rob has a collection of 250 flags. A flag is "a piece of fabric with a sign or symbol". Flags originally help countries organize on a battlefield and could be used either on land or sea. Flags can represent land

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or maritime boundaries and possessions. National flags can be “a potent emotional symbol”.

Some of the flags that Rob discussed;



Denmark - Is the oldest “flag of state” still in use (adopted in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century). The white cross represents “Christianity” and is thought to have been used to depict the “Christian Knights” from the Crusades who came to the aid of Denmark during a war with Estonia. The cross has been adapted into the flags of other Scandinavian countries.



Canada - Our Canadian flag was adopted in 1961 and was based on the regimental banner of the Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston. Lester Pearson was Prime Minister at the time and wanted the “Sea to Sea” flag (Blue on both end, White in the centre with 3 maple leaves). Since Pearson had a “minority government” he convened a multi-party council to choose the new flag. The style of the flag was different than other flags of the time with  $\frac{1}{2}$  the flag down the middle and  $\frac{1}{4}$  on each end. The middle portion of the flag is called the “pale” and since our flag was different this style is known as the “Canadian pale”.



The “Pearson” flag



The “old” Canadian Ensign - In 1921 the Government asked King George V for a new Canadian flag. The symbols on the shield represent the 4 founding nations (England, Scotland, Ireland and France). The maple leaves were green until 1957 then became red until the flag was replaced with the new Canadian flag in 1961



Ontario - Enacted in 1965 by Premier John Robarts



Franco-Ontario - First unveiled at Sudbury University in 1975 it represent the French-speaking population in Ontario



The “Union” flag - Flag of the United Kingdom or Great Britain (whichever you like). Rob noted that many people call it the “Union Jack” but was told by Nigel that it is only called that when it is on a flagpole. The flag is made up of the St. George’s Cross (England), the St. Andrews Cross (Scotland) and the St. Patrick’s Cross (Ireland). The current design dates from 1801.



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The "Old Union" Flag prior to the Irish being included in the Union and the cross of St. Patrick being added. This flag was also known as the "King's Colours" by the United Empire Loyalist who immigrated to "Upper Canada" from the U.S.



Newfoundland and Labrador - Introduced in 1980. The design was chosen due to its broad symbolism. The blue colour represents the sea, the white colour represents snow and ice of winter, the red colour represents the effort and struggle of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, and the gold colour symbolizes the confidence Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have in themselves and for the future. The blue triangles are meant as a tribute to the [Union Jack](#), and stand for the British heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. The two red triangles are meant to represent the two areas of the province - the mainland and the island. The gold arrow points towards a "brighter future"; the arrow becomes a sword, honouring the sacrifices of Newfoundlanders in military service when the flag is draped as a vertical banner. The red triangles and the gold arrow form a trident, symbolizing the province's dependence on its fisheries and the resources of the sea.



Republic of Newfoundland - This flag was never official but historical evidence indicates that the "Pink, White and Green" flag first appeared in the 1880s to 1890s and was based on the colours of the Roman Catholic fraternal group the Star of the Sea Association, which was formed in St. John's in 1871. As such, and given the political climate in Newfoundland at the time, the design of the "Pink, White and Green"

flag was likely based on the nearly identical [Irish flag](#) but with the Protestant representation of the orange panel of King [William of Orange](#) removed and replaced by a pink panel from the Star of the Sea Association's three official colours, which were themselves based on liturgical colours of the Catholic Church.



Netherlands - The flag has been in use since 1572 but was only formalized as the "official" national flag in 1937. It was designed by William I of Orange. The red band was originally orange but the dye was unstable and tended to turn red so it was eventually changed.



Russia - The flag was first used as an ensign by Russian merchant ships but became the official national flag in 1896. It was replaced after the revolution in 1917. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 the flag was brought back. It is said that the colours may have originated with the Dutch flag. Apparently Tsar Peter the Great had seen a Dutch ship flying their flag and liked the colours.

Rob wanted to mention how some flags change over the years



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Ethiopia (old & new) - The flag was first used in 1897 and contained “the Lion of Judah” symbol. After Haile Selassie’s overthrow in 1974 there have been various versions of the flag up to the current flag.



Laos (old & new) - The original flag expressed the ancient name of the kingdom “The Land of 10,000 Elephants). When the country became a people’s republic in 1975 the new flag was adopted and represents “a full moon over the Mekong River”.



South Africa (old & new) - The “hated” old flag which many consider the symbol of the “apartheid” was used from 1928 to 1991. Nelson Mandela brought in the new flag in 1994.

The red, white and blue are taken from the colours of the Boer Republics. The yellow, black and green are taken from the African National Congress (ANC) flag. Black symbolizes the people, green the fertility of the land, and gold the mineral wealth below the soil.



Mozambique - What Rob says is “Nigel’s favorite flag” - the only flag that has an AK-47 on it. Green stands for the riches of the land, the white signifies peace, black represents the African continent, yellow symbolizes the country’s minerals, and red represents the struggle for independence. The rifle stands for vigilance, the open book symbolizes the importance of education, the hoe represents the country’s agriculture, and the star symbolizes Marxism and internationalism.



Isle of Mann - The emblem depicts the “triskell” or “triskelion” from the Greek for “3-legged” and is one of the oldest symbols known to mankind. In the Celtic religion it represents 3 dynamic elements: water, air, fire. The representation must be “dextrogyrous” (turning to the right). “Sentrogyrous” (turning to the left) would have a hostile meaning.



Gibraltar - Castle depicts the strategic military importance and the golden key represents Gibraltar as the “gateway to the Mediterranean.

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Rob presented a Rotary flag to the Club

Lynda Ryder was asked to thank Rob. She noted that as DG's they had their own flags. In Lynda and Rob's year as DG their flags were their 'green' jackets. She had a great association with Rob and thinks he is a "special man". She then thanked Rob for his great presentation and said that his vast knowledge of the history of flags made it very interesting and informative.

## Cheque Presentations



ESS - Gerald Lue was asked to present a cheque for \$21,000 to Darlene Dubbin from Etobicoke Services for Seniors (ESS) for the purchase of a special equipped van (which will have the

Rotary logo on it). Gerald said we could not make donations like this without the amount of hard work that goes into Ribfest by our members, families and volunteers. It was a "great pleasure" for him to see how the money we raise goes back to help the community. Darlene, who has been the ESS Board Chair for 8 years, thanked Gerald for our generous donation and wanted everyone to know how important our donation was to them. She wanted to specifically thank Lynn Parker, the ESS Director of Business Planning who wrote the proposal and Gary Hepworth, who (with the help of Linda Robb and Sharon Lee who visited ESS) "shepherded" the proposal to the Club.



FEAT- Justin DiCiano was asked to present a cheque for \$2,500 to Derek Reid and Jessica Reid from FEAT. Justin said that while "ESS was doing a great job of supporting our senior members of the community; FEAT is supporting the younger members of the community". FEAT is helping youth whose parents are currently incarcerated.

Club Annual General Meeting.  
December 05, 2012 at 12.15 pm.  
Old Mill Inn & Spa.

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## Slate of Candidates for the 2013-2014 Board of Directors

The following Slate of Candidates for the 2013-2014 Board of Directors will be presented to the membership at the AGM on December 5, 2012 for approval;

President: Michael Bell  
Vice President: Mark Winson  
Secretary: Ron Miller  
Treasurer: Don Edwards  
President-Elect: TBA  
Senior Director: Paul Roeser  
Immediate Past President: Hugh Williams  
Directors: Opal Rowe; Lynda Ryder; Maureen Borghoff; Alex Woda; Carol Weber

## Michael Bell - Paul Harris "5 Sapphire" Pin Presentation



President Hugh presented Michael Bell with his "5 sapphire" Paul Harris pin for his donations made to Foundation. Michael noted that he is on the District Paul Harris Society Committee and they are planning to institute a program to educate members and make them more aware of what Foundation does and why it is important for members to donate to it. If it wasn't for Foundation, Rotary as we know it, would not exist. Our Club over the years has had a good reputation for supporting Foundation. However, Michael thinks that, in

general, the clubs, the districts, and even RI, have not done a great job of educating the members about Foundation but thinks that they can all help to get thing together.



### Visiting Rotarians:

- **Milo Vassallo** – Rotary Club of Forest Hill
- **Rob Leek** – Rotary Club Picton - Speaker

### Guests:

- **Paula Bauer** – Guest Milo
- **Lynn Parker** – Etobicoke Services for Seniors
- **Darlene Dubbin** – Etobicoke Services for Seniors
- **Derek Reid** – FEAT
- **Jessica Reid** - FEAT
- **Erlene Brown** – Guest of Michael Bell – Potential new member.

Club members – we were 13 today  
Total attendees - 20

## Birthdays This Week



*Cecilia Luu - November 25<sup>th</sup>*  
*Matti Lahroussi - November 26<sup>th</sup>*  
*Dr. Joe Bulger - November 27<sup>th</sup>*

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## Secretary's Corner

*By Ron Miller*

Following announcements were made

- **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!*



**Hugh Williams – Hugh Williams** – Hugh was happy to say he is now a grandfather. His daughter Bryn gave birth to Ethan Robert on Monday. Congratulations to Bryn and “Grandpa”.

**Nigel Brown** – Nigel was happy to say that he did a make-up last week at the Uxbridge Rotary Club. He left with a cheque for \$3000 for the Magoanine project in Mozambique. Nigel says he has also received a commitment of \$2500 from another club for the project. Nigel was pleased that Milo Vassallo was here again today. Nigel said that Milo has offered to supply the club with boxes of Ferrero Roche chocolates that he can supply to the Club for \$7 each. The Club can sell them for \$10 with \$3 going back to the Club. If anyone is interested please let Nigel know. On the subject of chocolate, Nigel said that he had an extra “advent calendar” from Lindt. He suggested that we hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> draw during the 50/50 draw for the calendar. Nigel was also happy to read the following “thank you” note from the Amarak Society sent to President Hugh for the International Services Committee;

*Dear Hugh,*

*We are very grateful to the Rotary Club of Etobicoke and its International Committee for its generous donation for the printing costs of the math booklets to be used over a period of 3 years as well as for the education of one mother for one year for*

*whom we will send you an introduction in the near future followed by quarterly updates.*

*Amarok Society relies heavily on the commitment and generosity of individual Canadian sponsors and Rotary in these strained economic times and we greatly appreciate the vision and enthusiasm that your club demonstrates for Amarak's work to improve the lives of the desperately poor through education in the slums of Bangladesh.*

*We deeply value our relationship with your club and its outstanding members.*

*With warm regards from us all, Angela*

*Angela Macri, Chairperson*

**Amarok Society** 416-543-3550

*Canadian Compassion Abroad*

**Teach a Mother, Change the World**

Nigel also wanted to remind everyone that Andre, Gillian and he will still be collecting food for the Salvation Army Food Bank

**Michael Bell** – Michael was happy to be back from his trip “visiting family in the States” and celebrating “Thanksgiving”, eating turkey, etc. He says he will now have to go back on his diet. Michael wanted to remind members that November is Foundation Month and that the Club will match the points/\$ donated for any donations made this month. Michael was also happy to remind everyone about the Club Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Lambton G&CC (the regular luncheon meeting that day has been cancelled). Tickets are \$60/person. Cocktails will be at 6 PM with dinner at 7 PM. Everyone is requested to bring a wrapped gift with a value of up to \$10 to play “Selfish Santa”. If you are planning to attend please contact Michael or Ron as we need to know how many will be attending shortly.

**Carol Weber** – Carol said “for those members who do not know her” she has been a member of our Club for sometime but has been unable to attend. She is “delighted to be back” and hopes to be here more frequently.

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## Annual Christmas Party



The Annual Club Christmas Party will be held on **Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:rjm-woxof@sympatico.ca). Know as soon as possible



## 50/50 Draw

Today's 50:50 Draw **Justin DiCiano** ticket was drawn out of the bag and he pulled the **Jack of Clubs**.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> draw was held for the Lindt Chocolate “Advent Calendar” donated by Nigel Brown and was won by Lynda Ryder.



Ralph Chiodo at the Etobicoke Santa Claus Parade. The Moose manufactured by late Past President Mark Selkirk.

*Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller*