



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week September 19, 2012

Board 2011 - 2012

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

Speaker: Wednesday September 26, 2012 - Opal Rowe - New Generations

Rotary Etobicoke Big Ideas Forum - September 19, 2012



Our club's Big Ideas Forum on Wednesday evening re-introduced the topic of Eradicating Child Hunger in Toronto. Our expert panel provided excellent ideas and comments and engaged everyone in a thoughtful discussion, both of the issue as well as ideas for its solution.

The first speaker was Daniel Liadsky, Sr. Mgr Community Engagement for North York Harvest Food Bank. Daniel first introduced himself and his organization, saying, for example that North York Harvest Food Bank helps address emergency / food bank needs and build communities across northern Toronto. (Of note, they have several projects in northern Etobicoke, one of our club's prime areas of focus).

Big Idea #1 focused on welfare and the need for reform. Welfare in Ontario (known as Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Supports Program) is for people with no other sources of income. Over 60% of people coming in to use food banks are on this type of social welfare. People can't cover their rent and food with the current levels of welfare. E.g. Single person gets \$599 per month, single parent gets \$1023 / month. This amount is regardless of where you live in the province.

Welfare rates are a political decision - i.e. they are not tied to any measurable indicator like inflation or cost of living or poverty line.

So, the big idea is to lobby for welfare rates to be taken away from political decision-making and made transparent.

Big Idea #2 was to better connect food security with health and health care funding and programs. For instance, why not, if you need emergency food, have it available at a health centre like a hospital. Or, why can't a doctor prescribe a diet, and have the food paid for like drugs are. Or, have a nutritional food supplement that can be prescribed and made available to people - based on their need and life stage (childhood, teenager, pregnancy, old age..)

Our second speaker was Jo-Anne Sobie, the CEO of Second Harvest. Jo-Anne knows food(!) and was educated as home economist and has spent her career in organizations focused on health care & disease and elsewhere in the food industry. Jo-Anne leads Second Harvest, the primary food rescue organization in the city. They are not a food bank, but they focus on providing food from many different locations (e.g. restaurants,

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conferences, grocery stores) that would otherwise have gone to garbage; and, then delivering that perishable food to 215 organizations that are providing food programs (cooked food) to people (e.g. breakfast programs, dinner programs). Second Harvest works symbiotically with food banks by focussing mostly on fresh, perishable food, while food banks focus mostly on shelf-stable food. They are a key part of food security system in the city.

Being in the food logistics business, Jo-Anne sees one of the key problems as being coordination. About 350 organizations NEED the food. However, the organizations aren't coordinated.

Big idea: Create a system that enables all the organizations to be better coordinated. We still have 40% of food produced in Canada going in the garbage. A coordinated system would help ensure more children received the food they need.

So, what can we do to encourage people to come together to create a food system? Use government and organizations like Rotary to help create something sustainable.

In the government context, there is Food Secure Canada, with policies that support this to a certain extent. And there are a couple of organizations like Food Banks of Canada, the Food Centres Association, the Food Rescue Association.

Some ideas in the discussion that followed...

The American model might provide some good ideas with their "Feeding America" program - funded by the USDA.

We also need a key funder or govt to provide money to support organizations working together in collaboration and partnership.

There's about 100,000 nurses in Ontario - could they advocate to have food added to health care system?

Rotary Etobicoke:

Hugh thanked the speakers and offered some insights and ideas moving forward from the

Toronto Ribfest. For the past two years the club has put an emphasis on child hunger and raising money for and awareness of this issue. The Toronto Ribfest entrance program- called the Rotary Food Initiative - that these organizations ran helped them raise some money for their organizations. Of note, two representatives from St. James Harvest Food Bank were particularly vocal in their thanks for our Rotary Food Initiative. Apparently, the money they raised at Toronto Ribfest will pay for three or four months worth of food!

The team is looking at new ideas for next year and one of these is to have a Benefit Concert for food awareness and fundraising. We will be talking with the various food organizations to determine if they are interested in being involved and how best they could support this.

Important web links for more information...

- www.northyorkharvest.com
- www.secondharvest.ca

Jottings from the Board

By: Bob Maxwell

At the meeting held in August, the Board discussed the low attendance at our weekly luncheon meetings. A proposal was drawn up, which will be given to the By-laws Committee for review and implementation by way of a vote by Club members at a meeting yet to be determined.

Final committee structures have been completed and approved by the Board. These will be given out shortly to all Club members.

The regular luncheon meeting of September 19, 2012 has been cancelled. There will be a evening meeting in September 19, 2012 to be held at the Crooked Cue located at Bloor Street West and Royal York Road (upstairs), at 7:00 p.m.

The Board is conducting a feasibility study on holding a Ribfest Benefit Concert on the

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opening night of Ribfest. The theme to be Child Hunger/Nutrition.

Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2012, tabled by Don Edwards, were approved. Cheques 1532 to 1534 were approved for payment.

Our Exchange student, Lillian Abon Arrage has settled in at Hugh/Ruth William's and is now attending Father Redmond High School. Apparently this school has a program designed for foreign students.

At writing, we have 13 attending the Foundation Walk to be held on September 13, 2012.

Total attendees - 23

Secretary's Corner

By Ron Miller

Birthdays This Week



Opal Rowe - September 23rd

Visitors & Guests



Visiting Rotarians

Don Sirko – Rotary Club of Parkdale High Park

Visitors

Jo-Anne Sobie – CEO of 2nd Harvest (Speaker)

Daniel Liadsky – Senior Manager, Community Engagement, North York Harvest Food Bank (Speaker)

Lillian Arrange – Club's Youth Exchange Student – Guest of Hugh Williams

Winnie Tsige – Guest of Hugh Williams

John Campbell – Guest of Ingrid McGaughey

Annalie Fajarczuk – Guest of Ingrid McGaughey

Magi Devane – Cruise Professional

Derek Reid – F.E.A.T.

Jessica Reid – F.E.A.T.

Lorraine Telford – LAMP

Joanne Guay – LAMP

Eugene Amoako – RAY

Ocean Grange – RAY

Judy Wallace – St. James Food Basket

Barbara Haywood – St. James Food Basket

Club members – we were 07 today

Following announcements were made

- **September 26, 2012** - Membership Committee Meeting, 7.00 PM at Michael Bell's Residence.
- **October 03, 2012** - Past President Meeting, 7.00 PM at Michael Bell's Residence.
- **10 October 2012** - International Services Committee Meeting, 7.00 PM at Bernadette & Nigel's Residence.
- **19 - 21 October 2012** - District Conference, Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel, Richmond Hill, check district website for more information.

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

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller & Hugh Williams