



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week September 05, 2012
Board 2011 - 2012

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

Speaker: Wednesday September 12, 2012 - Ribfest Sponsors Lunch

**Today's Speaker: Neil Phillips -
Rotary Club of Toronto @ 100**



President Hugh introduced Neil. Neil is the current President of the Toronto Rotary Club and Hugh met him during their PETS (President Elect) training. They got to know each other better during the PETS trip to RI HQ in Evanston.

Neil began by saying he wanted to comment about Alison's Youth Exchange trip. Neil's wife is a former Rotary Youth Exchange student.

Neil was happy to be here today and wanted to talk about the exciting things that are happening with the Toronto Club this year.

The Rotary Club of Toronto is celebrating its centennial (100 years) this year. It is the oldest Rotary Club in Ontario and the 2nd Club organized in Canada. Neil said the Club is reaching out to other Clubs (in and out District 7070) to "join the party".

Neil has been in Rotary for 15 years. His boss was a member and got him interested in Rotary. As a company they used to use Rotary as a "client event", but found he enjoyed the fellowship and the fun. He added that While the Toronto Club is "downtown" club, he is "an anomaly" since he doesn't live or work downtown. However it is where his clients are.

Neil wanted to congratulate our Club on our Ribfest. He says it is probably the largest fundraiser in District 7070. He says the Toronto Club does things a little different.

They don't do much in the way of fundraising since they have a "big foundation". They do a lot of good work but rely on "those who came before".

In celebration of 100 years of service, the Toronto Club plans to give away in excess of \$1 million to charitable projects. The Club felt that no one project would fully represent their philanthropic activities, so it was decided that each Club committee would provided with \$100,000 to fund their own project, as well as funding other charitable opportunities. The President and the Clubs 2 Rotaract Clubs were

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also challenged with \$100,000 to find their own projects. Every month they will launch an event and invite the people involved for a cheque presentation. They will also donate \$100,000 to Foundation through District 7070.

They will have their Centennial Gala Dinner at the Fairmont Royal York on May 23rd.

Neil said that Hugh and he had discussed ideas regarding launching a Toronto-wide (of GTA) signature project. He said he has heard several “cool” ideas. This would be something that would get other clubs involved. This could be something that might be in line with the upcoming Rotary International Convention here in Toronto in 2018.

There are 23 other Clubs around the world that are turning 100 this year. He has contacted all of these clubs with the hopes of possibly partnering with some of them on projects. He mentioned a possible water project in Thailand.

Neil closed by mentioning an interesting idea he heard from Bill Patchett while on his Presidents’ Training. Bill thinks that funding for PolioPlus is dropping since the Gates Challenge has ended, but the fight on eradicating Polio continues. Bill suggested that Clubs should look at getting members to donate \$20/year just for PolioPlus. Neil said that when he was in Evanston he saw the Arch Klumph wall in RI HQ where the pictures of RI members who donate US\$250,000 or more are displayed. Arch Klumph was the founder of the Rotary Foundation and made the 1st donation to it. On the wall is a plaque showing his initial donation of \$26.50. Neil is suggesting that his Club members donate \$26.50 which will strictly go to PolioPlus and is hoping that other Clubs might do the same.

Bernadette Hunkeler Brown thanked Neil and congratulated him on the programs they are

doing this year. She also wanted to thank him for his Club’s cooperation over the years.

Foundation Walk Presentation - Bowmanville Rotary Club

Don Glead, Past President of the Bowmanville Rotary Club and Mike Desrochers asked to make a short presentation on the upcoming Foundation walk in Bowmanville on Sunday, September 23rd. Don first mentioned that the Bowmanville Rotary Club met every Tuesday at 7:15 AM at the Trinity Church Hall and that they have a member that has 60 years of perfect attendance.

Don noted that the Foundation Walk will actually consist of 2 walks. There will be a 2 ½ km walk through Historic Downtown Bowmanville which will be a self guided tour (guide book provide) that will take you past hidden architectural treasures, historic turreted home and unique notable features. There are optional stops along the way including the Bowmanville Museum. As incentive, Don says the tour will also take you past Mike Desrochers’ home where he will be serving “Bloody Marys”. There will also be a 6 ½ km “wilderness” walk through the Bowmanville Valley. This walk will incorporate some of the Historic Town walk but will quickly take you into the Bowmanville creek Valley and Soper Creek Valley, where you can check out Rotary Park, the Rotary Butterfly Garden and Rotary Centennial Garden. Don noted that the Salmon are running in Bowmanville Creek and that the Club is helping to fund a “fish ladder”. Currently some of the Bowmanville Rotarians are actually “lifting” salmon in the creek.

The walk begins at 10 am. Lunch will be at 11:30 am and they will be serving “roast beef on a bun”. There will be a 50 foot tractor trailer BBQ on site. There will be lots of other food as well.

Don noted that 12 of our members attended last year’s walk and hopes we can get at least that number or more this year.

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Allison Williams - Youth Exchange Student Trip to Taiwan

President Hugh's daughter Alison was the Club's Outbound Youth Exchange student last year and returned home in June after spending the year in Taiwan. Alison wanted to give a brief presentation on her trip to Taiwan.

Allison lived in Taipei (the capital) during her stay in Taiwan. Taipei is the home of the 2nd highest building in the world, Taipei 101.

Taiwan is a "little island of the coast of China". Mountain run through the centre of the island and it is "very green" which she found "nice in the winter". The island is surrounded by oceans and there are lots of fish. Since there are many mountains, there are lots of waterfalls. The island is small and you can travel north to south in about 5 hours.

Taipei is a very modern city with a great subway system that she found "amazing". She said she was spoiled and that it wasn't like Toronto's. Taipei however, is very crowded. Since there is little place to expand, they build up. You don't see building less than 4 stories. The sidewalks are covered since they get monsoons there that bring a lot of rain. Her favorite spot was the big shopping district there. They had a great mall there where they had shops, movies, restaurants, etc. She said she bought a few things there (President Hugh interjected saying that "Alison left with 1 suitcase and returned with 5"). On New Year's Eve they set off fireworks from Taipei 101 which she thinks was amazing and suggests that the CN Tower should try this. Unfortunately she lost all of her pictures of it as her computer crashed. While the city is very modern, they are still very much in tune with their culture. It is a blend of the Eastern Asian and Western Cultures which Alison says "are blending in an interesting way".

The Rotary District hosting Alison in Taiwan was hosting a total of 33 Youth Exchange students. They would go on outings together a lot. They

would go to such places as the zoo, etc. Her classmates in the school she attended were "very nice" and "funny". She misses them. She added that when they first met her they were "a little bit disappointed that she wasn't too tall". However, they got over that quickly and became good friends.

President Hugh added that while she was in Taiwan, Alison learned Mandarin Chinese and could now interact with Chinese here.



Visiting Rotarians

Neil Phillips – Rotary Club of Toronto (Guest Speaker)

Milo Vassallo – Rotary Club of Toronto - Forest Hill

Don Gleed – Rotary Club of Bowmanville

Michael Desrochers - Rotary Club of Bowmanville

Visitors

Major Kester – Salvation Army

Gladys Lowe - Salvation Army

Cynthia Wood – Potential New Member

Layla Brittain – Guest of Milo Vassallo

Alison William – Guest of Hugh Williams

Lilian Abon Arrage - the Club's inbound Youth Exchange student

Rotarian – 9

Total Attendance - 19

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Secretary's Corner

By Ron Miller

Birthdays This Week



Gerald Lue - September 6th

Paul Roeser - September 9th

Following announcements were made

- September 12th - International Service Committee Meeting - Nigel & Bernadette's Residence 7.00 p.m.
- September 15th - "Bag Packing" - No Frills at Rathburn and Renforth - 2 to 5 PM - Contact Nigel Brown
- September 23 - District Foundation Walk - Bowmanville. Contact Carol Weber
- 19 - 21 October - 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!

Ron Miller – Ron was happy for a few reasons. First he was happy to say that his daughter Kathleen had started high school yesterday at Father John Redmond. She is entering Grade 9 and it was an exciting time for her. Secondly he was happy to report that his computer that had totally crashed last week was back up and running. His "computer guru" friend recovered about 99.9% of his data and had the machine running better than ever. The only problem was that he lives in Welland and Ron had to drive down yesterday to pick it up. It was also an eventful drive home. On the way back Ron decided to take a side trip into St. Catharines where he used to live. As he drove down the Glenridge hill by Brock University the car in front of him spun out on the wet pavement (it was raining steady at the time) and caught the curb and flipped over. The car was a small Ford SUV. Ron said he didn't think the guy was going fast but it was the way he hit the curb and the embankment behind it. The fellow driving wasn't hurt but it blocked road for about 45 minutes

Milo Vassallo – Milo was happy to say that this was, he thinks, his 7th, 8th or 9th visit to our Club and he always enjoys coming to our luncheons. He also wanted everyone to know that he was celebrating his birthday next Monday (September 10th) and that he has now lived to a "ripe old age". Milo was also happy to mention that this Saturday, September 8th, the Toronto - Forest Hill Rotary Club was holding a Rotary Charity Night Fundraiser in support of Scholarships for Tsunami Victims. This will help University students who lost their parents in the Tsunami to continue their education. The night is being sponsored by 2 of their members, James Matsumoto and Chako Setoyama and will be held at 15 Ridgewood Road in Toronto at 6 PM. There will be a buffet, open bar, entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets are \$70/person.

Major Kester – Major Kester from the Salvation Army said he was happy to be here because he was going to receive a cheque from our Club.

HAPPY BUCKS



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50/50 Draw

Today's 50:50 Draw **Don Edwards** ticket was drawn out of the bag but he pulled only the **4 of Clubs** Pot grows!! Deck of Cards gets smaller - It's a nice pot of over \$525.00.

THERE ARE ONLY 8 CARDS LEFT

Rotary District 7070 Foundation Walk

Rotary Walk for Polio-Plus.....COME & JOIN US

Sunday, September 23, 2012 -
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location:

Clarington Beech Centre
28 Beech Avenue
Bowmanville, ON, L1C 3A2

Registration is required by September 16th and sign up with either President Hugh, Michael Bell or Carol Weber.

A terrific way to join your fellow Rotarians and enjoy the pleasure of this annual event, support Polio-Plus and get your exercise!

This event is hosted by Rotary Club of Bowmanville. Approximately 500

Rotarians will be visiting this fair municipality. They will be participating in a short 3KM or long 7KM walk through the river valley and/or the river valley and town residential area touring the historical sites of the town. Afterwards a barbecue lunch will be provided.

See you there!

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller

