



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week April 10, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

Speaker: April 17, 2013 7.00 PM Crooked Cue - Big Ideas Forum Rev. Dr. Charles Catto OC, Sarah Thompson Topic: Aboriginal People

Today's Speakers: Madame Saveria Caruso - Directrice (Principal) - École élémentaire Félix-Leclerc and Serge Paul - Agent: de Liaison Communautaire (Community Liaison Officer) - Conseil scolaire Viamonde



President Hugh said that he, along with Gill and Andre Dugas, visited École élémentaire Félix-Leclerc (which is in the "heart of Etobicoke") to present a cheque for \$2,500 for books for the school's "Lire à communiquer (Read to Communicate) program. They got to meet with the teachers and Madame Curuso who made a presentation that highlighted the "unique

issues" the school faced. Hugh added that Maati Lahroussi has 2 children attending Félix-Leclerc and he is a member of the parent-teacher committee.

Serge Paul began by saying that one of the teachers at Félix-Leclerc is a former Rotarian from France and was pleased to have Rotary involved in the school here. Serge added that she was also a former Rotary youth exchange student.

Serge went on to say that the French Public School Board (Conseil scolaire Viamonde) is quite unique. While the English school boards are mainly in one city or district, there are only 4 French Public and 8 French Catholic boards across the entire Province. The local French Public District here spans from Windsor to Oshawa and down to Niagara. He said the French schools are not "French Emersion" schools; they are a totally French speaking curriculum for the Francophone population in Ontario. There are over 600,000 Francophones in Ontario which is 2nd only to Quebec across Canada. Each student entering the program is tested on French before they are accepted. Since French is their 1st language, and they are taught in French, it helps the child gain their "self-esteem". He the French schools "may not have a lot of resources, but have a lot of ideas".

Madame Curuso wanted to give an overview of what goes on at Félix-Leclerc. The "vision" the Francophone schools have is working together to make "equal schools" where they become "responsible citizens" and feel that they are equal part of "not only the Francophone community but the community at large as well". One such program they have started at

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Félix-Leclerc is to “protect the environment” and what their impact is on the environment. They are teaching how and what can be recycled (reduce, reuse, recycle). They learn to recycle metals and plastic along with having “meals without waste”. They are doing projects on “Global Warming” which is integrating different subjects such as Geography, Science, French, etc. With the help of a teacher at the school, they have created as song, “Réchauffement de la Planète (Global Warming)” which is a way of bringing some fun into the projects. They have contests and daily messages about protecting the environment. Madame Caruso also said that she is looking at having the students write poems about protecting the environment and then she would have the students with the “best” poems read them at a student assembly. The school also has a “green club” that helps plant flowers in the spring. The school observed the “earth hour” program with various events that demonstrated how to “economize energy”. Children are encouraged to bring reusable metal “water bottles” and not the plastic bottles. She considers these programs teach “life skills” to the students. It also promotes the “importance of leadership and belonging. This sense of identity helps students learn more.

One other aspect of the school that she wanted to mention was the library. They have a librarian who visits 3 days a week. She not only helps with the books the students read but is also helping students learn research skills. She was thankful to our Club for our donation to by books for their reading program. With limited resources they were planning to buy books for the library, but with our donation they were able to buy more books. They were interested in Francophone books since if the student identifies with the book, they learn more. She says the books both the students and the teachers are helped by the books. In the future, Madame Caruso is hoping that they can incorporate things such as iPads and other technology into their programs (currently they only have 1 iPad). They have WiFi in all the schools and Facebook available which they are teaching the students “the proper use of”. One

project she is working on is to have students create a French/English recipe book that will hopefully be published at the end of the year. Matti Lahroussi thanked Madame Caruso and Serge for their very informative and interesting presentation.

LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

If members have any suggestions for “interesting or dynamic” speakers for our luncheon meetings please forward any contact information to Ron Miller or Michael Bell.

Visitors & Guests

- **Madame Saveria Caruso** – Directrice (Principal) – École élémentaire Félix-Leclerc
- **Serge Paul** – Agent: de Liaison Communautaire (Community Liaison Officer) – Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- **Lynn Manwar** – Prospective new member

Club members – we were **13** today

Total attendees **-16**

Secretary's Corner

By Ron Miller

Following announcements were made

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill “60th Anniversary Celebration”

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill is holding its “60th Anniversary Celebration” on Friday, May 24th at Le Parc Dining and Banquet Hall, 8432 Leslie Street in Thornhill. This is a dinner/dance with a cocktail reception (cash

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bar with \$5 drinks) beginning at 5:30 Pm and dinner at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be a three course meal with choice of entrees (beef, halal chicken, fish, or vegetarian), desert and two bottles of wine per table. There will be a few brief speeches, door prizes, and then an evening of dancing to music provided by a DJ. Tickets are \$50/person and are available at pfvyrostko@rogers.com or sulker@rogers.com

Pre-Budget Consultation Invitation

MPP Donna Cansfield is inviting members to attend a "Pre-Budget Consultation" on Thursday, April 18th at Montgomery Inn, 4709 Dundas St. West in the community room from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. This is an opportunity to "share your views and ideas on the upcoming 2013 Ontario Budget". For further information, call the Constituency Office at 416-234-3800.

Saturday, April 27th - Trump Aids Poker Walk (Toronto Beach waterfront) - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Contact: Michael Bell

May 02-04, 2013 - Camp Enterprise, University of Toronto, Erindale Campus, Mississauga. Contact: Greg Dobson dobsog1@bell.net.

Saturday, May 4th - District Assembly - 8:45 AM - BMO Institute for Learning. This is an opportunity for all Rotarians (especially our newer members) to learn more about what Rotary is "all about" and what we do. For information please contact Ron Miller.

Rotary Club of Toronto - Centennial Gala

The Rotary Club of Toronto Centennial Gala will be held Thursday, May 23rd at the Fairmont Royal York. Tickets are \$225/person and are available online at www.torontorotary.com

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



50/50 Draw

Today's 50:50 Draw **Jay Carey** ticket was drawn out of the bag and he pulled the **8 of Clubs**.

Special Wine (and Chocolate) Draw

Florian Hammerbacher - wine compliments of Nigel and Reif Wineries and the chocolate compliments of Nigel and Lindt's.

HAPPY BUCKS



Jack Fleming – Jack was happy to give an update on the plans for the "Toronto Ribfest Corporate Family Day" that he has been working on. He wanted to thank Lynda Ryder and Theresa Sherwood for sending him some corporate referrals, and he has been in touch with them "personally". Jack reported that he has been "wandering around" office buildings trying to "drum up" interest and that he has been in contact with 35 companies and organizations. He added that he had a company that may be interested call him back this morning, though Jack said that this may have been more of a result of Bryn putting it on our Facebook page. The company is a construction company and Jack says that "Ribfest is at the top of their list" and they may be interested in having as many as 200 people attend. This would be part of their "customer appreciation day" and think bringing them to Ribfest would be a "great idea".

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Nigel Brown – Nigel was happy to say that following the success of the “Magoanine Cocktail” event and with “little bits of money” still coming, “we are basically there” with the what we need for the project. Nigel says that there is still some money promised from a few other Clubs and the DDF promised from District 9400 still to come, but Nigel is optimistic that everything is “coming together”. Nigel was also happy to say there was still wine left from the Magoanine gala and since they can't take it with them when they leave, they wanted to share it with the Club. After the 50/50 draw there will be 2nd draw for a bottle of wine from Reif Wineries in Niagara. Nigel also had some Lindt chocolate left over from another reception they had at their place last Friday. Today's winner of the wine will also receive a box of Lindt chocolates.

Florian Hammerbacher – Florian was happy to say that the fundraiser he helped organizes for the Consular Spouses Association of Toronto last Saturday “went off real well”. It was in aid of Joy Valley Children's Home in Nairobi, Kenya and Florian was pleased to say that they raised enough funds to carry the school through a “full term” this year. He said that it was a fun evening, though the “open bar” might have helped. He wanted to thank Nigel for his help and to Bernadette for helping to sell raffle tickets that evening which he says “she is very good at”.

Hugh Williams - Hugh was happy to say that the Club will be presenting Dan McGann with an Honorary Paul Harris Award. Dan has just retired from Credit Valley Hospital and is one of the more “renowned” social workers in the province. Years ago when battling his own demons of addiction to drugs and alcohol and the devastating effects his addictions were having on his professional and personal life, Dan re-discovered running. He used that passion for going for a run to turn his life around. And, he took that lesson and realization and translated it into a highly successful clinical therapy program for at-risk, suicidal youth diagnosed with anxiety and depression disorders. Over the years, Dan taught hundreds of young people how to run, and, more importantly how to find value in themselves. It's a program that CameronHelps, an organization that Hugh is involved with, has leveraged to support youth in other hospitals, health centres, high schools in Peel Region, and most recently, in aboriginal communities where the incidence of teen suicide is particularly prevalent. While Dan is not directly

involved with CameronHelps, he has been a mentor to our organization, and so it's terrific that we are able to present him with an honorary Paul Harris on May 11 – thanks in particular to Michael Bell.

Jane Goodall speaks at 2013 RI Convention in Lisbon

Jane Goodall, a renowned primatologist and conservationist, will be a keynote speaker at the 2013 RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal, 23-26 June. Goodall, PhD, founder of the [Jane Goodall Institute](#) and a UN Messenger of Peace, will join explorer and filmmaker Céline Cousteau, the daughter and granddaughter of ocean explorers, and Craig Kielburger, co-founder of Free The Children and Me to We, as speakers on Wednesday, 26 June, in a program that will focus on promoting peace by protecting the environment.

In January, Rotarians adopted a “[Green Path to Peace](#)” declaration during the Rotary Global Peace Forum in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. The declaration urges Rotarians to act as catalysts for peace through efforts to conserve and protect the planet, and to empower young people to perpetuate the values that will assure a peaceful future.

Goodall

Goodall, who was a speaker at the 2009 RI Convention, gained worldwide attention more than 50 years ago for her pioneering research on chimpanzee behavior -- research that transformed scientific perceptions of the relationship between humans and animals.

In 1977, she founded the Jane Goodall Institute to continue her research. Today, the institute is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. It also is widely recognized for establishing innovative community-centered conservation and development programs in Africa. Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, a global environmental and humanitarian youth program, has groups in more than 120 countries.

- Courtesy of Rotary International -

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller