



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week April 17, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

Speaker: April 24, 2013 Theresa Sherwood Classification Talk



Big Ideas Forum - Aboriginal Issues.

By: Ingrid Bjel McGaughey



This week's Big Ideas Forum focused on Aboriginal Issues. What a great session! Our special guests were the following:

- Rev. Dr. Charles Catto of Frontiers Foundation
- Philip Fernandez of Frontier College
- Blanche Meawassige
- Tracy Sauve of Anduhyaun Women's Shelter and Nekanaan Second Stage Housing

Blanche and Tracy thanked us (and Gill in particular for tracking them down!) for offering

materials for their women's shelter and second stage home. The basics - sheets, towels, socks and underwear - are very much in demand. Many of the women and children in their shelters are traumatized, arriving in the middle of the night, fleeing violence with little more than what they happen to be wearing.



They offered a little background on the people they serve. In the last year, Anduhyaun (Ojibway for "our home") offered shelter to 310 women and 63 children, both native and non-native, and offered services to more than 800. Nekanaan (Cree for "our home") sheltered 60 aboriginal women and 31 children, and supported another 412. Anduhyaun is used primarily for emergency shelter, while Nekanaan can house women and children for 6 months or longer until they find a permanent home elsewhere in the community.

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Rev. Dr Charles Catto is the founder of Frontiers Foundation, a non-profit organization that brings affordable housing projects to disadvantaged communities with the help of its network of volunteers. The Frontiers Foundation has a long history of improving housing and living conditions for Aboriginal groups across Canada. They also run the Operation Beaver program, which builds houses in Canada and around the world - Haiti and Bolivia - and provides social and educational programs within those countries. Dr. Catto touched on the projects that he has helped with.

After working in Haiti helping Rotary with immunizations, he realized that there was quite a bit of other work needed - help with improving their shelter, their schools, and even their roads to allow access to markets and needed services. With the help of the Emergency Architects of Canada, volunteer architects, Frontiers Foundation has helped families throughout Canada. In particular, many aboriginal communities in the north are without electricity, running water, or decent shelter. The focus of Frontiers Foundation is to help families that are enduring extreme poverty to be able to live with dignity and productivity. Dr. Catto noted that many northern aboriginal communities are not only poor, but stricken with many other social and human problems. Improving housing conditions

is the first step in allowing them to have access to education, job training and broadening their future options. As well, Dr. Catto noted the huge amount of volunteerism from First Nations communities. The largest source of volunteer help on their projects has been volunteers from other native communities. Not only is there a concrete benefit from the buildings being created, but also, the volunteers are able to acquire new, marketable skills and training.

Our last speaker, Philip Fernandez of Frontier College, built on the theme of offering options and opportunities - and as a result, dignity - to aboriginal children. A major Frontier College focus is offering summer school reading programs to kids in First Nations communities. Many of the counsellors are First Nations youth, and this is their first job. The kids are encouraged to see reading as fun and important. There is an emphasis on relationship building with the kids *early* - and therefore encourage them to stay in school, which in turn leads to greater options and a brighter future.



We look forward to deepening our relationships with these organizations.

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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.

Thank You from Michael Bell

Michael Bell sent the following “thank you note” to the Club

“To My Fellow Club members;

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Your beautiful flower arrangement and many messages of condolence were of great comfort and mean more to us than we can ever express.

With our heartfelt thanks, Michael, Jo-Ann and family”

Birthdays This Week



Diane Irvine - April 20

James Simon - April 20

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 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

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

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

Visitors & Guests



- **Dr. Charles Catto** – Frontier Foundation
- **Philip Fernandez** – Frontier College
- **Tracy Sauve** – Residential Support Manager, Nekenan (Anduhyau)
- **Blanche Meawassige** – Executive Director, Anduhyau
- **Barbara Hayworth** – St. James Foodbasket
- **Martha Ernst**
- **Ruth Williams** – Guest of Hugh Williams

Club members – we were **11** today

Total attendees -**18**

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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!

Historic Moments: The life of Rotary founder Paul Harris

Born in Racine, Wisconsin, USA, on 19 April 1868, Paul P. Harris was the second of six children of George N. and Cornelia Bryan Harris.

At age three, he moved to Wallingford, Vermont, where he grew up in the care of his paternal grandparents, Howard and Pamela Harris. He attended the University of Vermont and Princeton University and received his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1891.

While he was in school, both of Harris's grandparents died, and he spent the five years after graduation traveling around the country and working odd jobs. After arriving penniless in San Francisco in 1891, he worked as a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and then as a ranch hand, grape picker, actor, and cowboy. He was also a hotel night clerk in Jacksonville, Florida, and a traveling marble and granite salesman.

In 1896, he settled in Chicago and opened a law practice. Along with Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey, he founded the

Rotary Club of Chicago in 1905 and was elected its president in 1907.

Club membership grew rapidly. Many members were originally from small towns and found an opportunity for fellowship in the Chicago club. Harris was convinced that the club could be expanded into a service movement and strove to extend Rotary to other communities.

In 1910, he met Jean Thomson during an outing with the Prairie Club, a Chicago-based organization for wilderness enthusiasts. Harris and Thomson married three months later and settled on Chicago's South Side.

In the same year, the National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed, and Harris was elected its first president. He held the office for two years and afterward became president emeritus, serving as the public face of the organization and promoting membership extension and service around the world.

He wrote several books about Rotary and his life and travels, including *The Founder of Rotary* and *This Rotarian Age*.

In addition to his work with Rotary, Harris was involved in other civic organizations, including the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, City Club of Chicago, Chicago Bar Association, Prairie Club, and Easter Seals. He was also recognized by the Boy Scouts of America and honored by the governments of Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Peru.

Harris died on 27 January 1947, leaving a rich legacy of fellowship, professionalism, service, and friendship. His passing also sparked an outpouring of donations to The Rotary Foundation from all over the world, allowing the Foundation to greatly expand its programs and services.

- Courtesy of Rotary International -

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller