



# WEEKLY UPDATE



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week April 24, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

***Speaker: May 01, 2013 - TBA***

### Today's Speakers: Classification Talk Theresa Sherwood & Drew Claxton



President Hugh introduced Theresa saying that she has been "a great new member" who has displayed a "take charge" attitude. She, along with Gill and Andre Dugas, has designed and created the Club's new "Hands On Etobicoke" team that has already been involved in projects such as painting a room at Youths without Shelter and helping prepare and serve lunch at the Yonge Street Mission. Hugh says Theresa truly reflects the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self".

Theresa began by saying that she grew up in King Township where her parents had moved to raise and ride and eventually race horses. With her brother, she learned to sweep the barn, clean water buckets and shovel manure early.

The latter also proved to be the "punishment of choice" for wayward behaviour during their teens. This was quite effective, not to mention good preparation for working with "Hands On Etobicoke". Although she took a 30 year hiatus from riding for her career and family, she started back about 10 years ago and was "overjoyed" to find her passion alive and well. For elementary school in King, she attended a 2 room school called "Strange" and a 3 room school called "Kinghorn" for grades 1-6. Her children say things like..."really a school called 'Strange'?" "Did you know that Kinghorn is now a museum?" However, Theresa says there was "something interesting about that class", mostly due to the teacher and some "international mystique". One student was the son of an exiled Greek Prime Minister. She attended Havergal College for high school where she was a "weekly boarder" (she stayed overnight 5 days of the week, and went home on the weekend). As well as getting a good education, she made many friends for life. Boarders from further afield came to her home in King on the weekends. It became their home away from home and her parents their surrogate parents. Last January, Theresa and 3 of friends were reunited "down under". She traveled with one friend from Toronto to visit a friend in Australia and another in New Zealand. It was "a trip of a lifetime". They took in some of the Australian Open Tennis Tournament in the 40 degree heat with threats of fire, went to theatrical productions at the Sydney Festival, hiked, biked, had some "fantastic wine" in New Zealand; and experienced some minor flooding in Coffs Harbour on the northern coast of New South Wales. She graduated from Queen's in 1981 with a BA in Economics, which was a great experience being away from home and gaining independence. She says "she could have gotten better marks...but did enjoy herself".

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After working her last summer at her family's window business that same year, she applied to Hallmark Cards. She said she had always written "silly little poems" so this was a logical fit. She enjoyed working there for 15 years. She started estimating, helped move some graphics operations from the headquarters in Kansas City, and ended as Manager of the International Graphics Division.

She met her husband Steve while working at Hallmark "on the tennis court". He was her instructor. He graduated in Civil Engineering at U of T. After working at the University and Go Transit for awhile, he started a software development business with a partner in North York called "Trimap Communications" which he still operates. Theresa says life was "very hectic in the 90's when they had their family, but apparently they liked it that way. In 1996 following the birth of her 3<sup>rd</sup> child, and on maternity leave, she started working part time in the family window business, on her father's request to "gain some understanding of the situation. Sherwood Windows is a custom architectural aluminum window manufacturer who supplies and installs windows for the institutional market...schools, hospitals, churches and even prisons. There was restructuring happening at Hallmark at that time with the economic downturn and the move to electronic greetings. That and the fact that she was enjoying the flexibility of part time work with her children, led her to continue at the window business rather than returning to Hallmark after her maternity leave.

She joined an organization called Canadian Association of Family Enterprise (CAFE) based on recommendations of their company accountant. They had some typical "family business issues". Her brother had been there 25 years but didn't want to continue with the family business anymore and her father was worried about who would carry on. Advice from CAFE facilitators and her Personal Advisory Group of other family business owner helped her navigate the changes. Her brother left the business and her father retired. Theresa took over the Window business in 2000. She enjoyed it but it was a big change from the greeting card industry. The construction industry was

becoming more competitive. In 2004 she brought in a partner as GM on contract. In 2005 she sold him 49% and a year ago she sold him the balance of her shares. It was a difficult decision to sell the family business. However, the time had come to sell and her partner was "up to the challenge".

Years prior, her father had purchased industrial land for the window business with profits and had designed/built other industrial buildings. Currently they own 10 industrial buildings in the 30,000 sf. range manly in North Etobicoke. The real estate company is Philip Sherwood developments Limited and is owned by her brother Dan and her. She is currently in the process of buying Dan out of his shares as he is ready to fully retire.

Her daughter, "the princess" Ariana is 17 in grade 11; Andrew is 20 in 2<sup>nd</sup> year engineering at Western in London; and Alex is 22 in Engineering at Ryerson (between his 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years). She says that "supporting and directing them is a challenge, but very rewarding when they succeed, Right now it is nice to have more time to help them through difficulties, which is essential to their development". Theresa says "as parents we try to protect them from so much that they will not be prepared for life's certain curve balls".

Something else in the work for Theresa is to investigate what to do with her father's 70 acre property in King Township which they still own. He is 94 and still lives there but is talking about moving into retirement living space. The property is not on the Oakridges Moraine, but on the Greenbelt adjacent to it. Theresa says she has "some sort of Corporate Retreat" in mind to share their "little piece of paradise in King to promote teamwork". So far it is only a vision and she is doing some marketing research to check out other facilities and explore the possibilities.

She enjoys golfing with her husband and still plays some tennis. The whole family plays. Theresa says that he husband is "obsessed with marine life" and has had a variety of "salt water aquariums" in the last few years. He volunteers his time organizing Men's night at the golf club and is President of the MAST organization (Marine Aquarium Society of Toronto).

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Theresa's horse Strider is her therapy and says "there is nothing like a ride in the York Region forest to clear the head and regain perspective when you need to".

Teresa now wanted to say why she was here. When she was looking at joining a networking group in Etobicoke to help meet other business owners (aka potential tenants) she looked at the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade and BNI. She is not sure how she happened across Rotary but when she did "it struck a chord". Her father was a member of the Kleinburg Rotary Club who put on the Bindertwine Festival each year...an event that they used to be involved in each fall, including bringing ponies for the pony ride.

She realized that joining the Rotary Club of Etobicoke would offer not only potential to network, but also to help our North Etobicoke neighbourhood in the process...a real WIN WIN. One of the things she liked about the window business was offering employment to people who had grown up in difficult situations. It was rewarding to have them succeed working in the shop. She has put her name forward to participate in the Legacy Project which falls right into her desire to assist youth in North Etobicoke.

Theresa says she "has been blessed" with almost everything she could have asked for and now that she has more time, "it's time to give back". She used to write cheques for her charity contributions, which was fine, but she is "really enjoying seeing the smiling recipient of the Mr. Noodles flat, the 'its fly bro' thank you from the Youth Without Shelter, and receiving the card from the Aboriginal shelters calling us 'dreamcatchers'". She is "so impressed with every organization that stands up here telling us how they contribute to making this world a better place for others who can't go it alone". She looks forward to helping at Ribfest to "generate the funds to help next year's brood".

Theresa finished by saying that she is "really enjoying working with Gill and Andre, and everyone else who's be working with our Hands On Etobicoke group". She a "big thank you" to her mentor Gill for helping her feel "a part of the group so quickly". Gill's passion makes Theresa want to do as much as she can to help.

They have developed a "special bond in a short time". Theresa wanted everyone to know that the Hands on Etobicoke group are scheduled to make a "nacho dinner" on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and are looking for anyone who would like to help out.

## Classification Talk - Drew Claxton

President Hugh introduced Drew Claxton who came into the Club through Judy Burnell. Hugh noted that no sooner had Drew joined the Club that he was quickly "thrown into service". Because of his business background he was "volun-told" to manage the Merchandise Vendors at Ribfest. Drew accepted the challenge willingly. Hugh said that it has "been fun" getting to know Drew.

Drew is 33 years old and originally from Mississauga, the youngest of 4 boys. About a year and half ago he moved to "beautiful" Etobicoke and "never looked back". He loves it here, "the scenery, the parks, and easy access to downtown."

In 2008, Drew started his auto company that he says is "a little different than most" as it is a "personal automotive total management facility". Drew didn't want to dwell on his business. Instead he wanted to tell everyone "about how he got here".

Drew said his parents have been taking him to church since he was born 33 years ago, so he got to help out in many of the church functions. BBQ, car washes, bakes sales and plenty of other fundraisers were the norm growing up. So when he started his company, there was a part of him that always enjoyed giving back to the community. It was only natural for him to start his own "little fundraisers" because he wanted to do his part to help if he could. He started in 2009 with a fundraiser for The Canadian Cancer Society. 2010 - Sick Kids; 2011 - Habitat for Humanity; and last year -The heart and Stroke Foundation. He believes that even if he helped one person's life to become easier "then it was all worth it". "The months of planning and lack of sleep, long days acquiring sponsorships, music, etc, etc, all of it was worth it."

During last year's event planning He met a "kind lady" in his building when he was



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“lugging all this stuff” to his car. He told her about his event for Heart and Stroke at Richard’s Memorial Park in Port Credit and she was impressed at what he was trying to achieve on his own. Drew said that she put her faith in him and introduced him to the Rotary Club. He wanted everyone to give “a hand” to Judy Burnell for introducing him to Rotary. Drew says while his meeting with Judy was “pure accident, he was “thankful” that it did happen because he was “introduced to all you”, his fellow Rotarians.

Drew says that he has never before “seen such a collective consciousness or teamwork”. He is used to doing it himself with his small team of friends, family and volunteers”, but the achievements of Rotary are “mind boggling”. Drew says that “Service Above Self” is “such a simple yet powerful motto to live by”.

He feels honoured to be part of something that he could only dream of achieving on his own. Fundraisers, saving lives, ending polio, making our community a better and safer place to live are only a few things that Rotary is doing that he knows of. In the future, Drew says that he is “only overjoyed to learn more and help shape our tomorrow with Rotary”.

## Cheque Presentation to Margaret Williams - Etobicoke Youth Network



President Hugh presented Margaret Williams from the Etobicoke Youth Network with a cheque for \$975 to pay for 15 students for a Food Handling Course. Hugh also mentioned that another cheque for \$675 was “in the mail” to Margaret from the Ribfest Committee to pay for “Smart Serve” training for 15 youths. These students will be also volunteering at Ribfest. Margaret thanked the Club for our generous donations, and that these courses are available to “age appropriate” youths who register, but they are focusing on the neighbourhoods of The West Mall, The East Mall, and Capri, and secondarily on other parts of the identified catchment area including the Willowridge and Mabelle neighbourhoods, as resources and facilities allow. EYN operates programs out of Etobicoke Adult Learning Centre, on The East Mall.

## New Member Induction - Brock Buchanan



Brock Buchanan is a former member of our Club who left to move to Moshi, Tanzania several years ago. While there, he was a member of the Moshi Rotary Club. Brock has now returned to Etobicoke and has rejoined our Club. President Hugh formally inducted Brock back into the Club. Ron Miller gave him his membership card, the member ID badge, and his New Member Information Package. Michael Bell presented Brock with his Rotary pin.

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## New Club Banner



Our "old historic" Club banner has been becoming very "shoddy" of late and the Board of Directors decided that we should purchase a new banner for the Club. The new banner has arrived and Ron Miller unveiled it at today's luncheon. Ron noted that he will keep the old one for posterity since it is our "original banner" and will try to get it repaired.

## Next Bag Packing - Rotary Foundation & International Projects

The next Bag Packing will be held on **Saturday May 18, 2013** at Joes No Frills. If you would like to participate at this event please contact Florian Hammerbacher Tel (416) 979-1626

## Visitors & Guests



➔ **Margaret Williams** – Etobicoke Youth Network

Club members – we were **13** today

Total attendees **-14**

## Secretary's Corner

*By Ron Miller*

Following announcements were made:

### GTA Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians

The Greater Toronto Area Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians is announcing the opportunity for Rotarians to play "exceptional" golf courses in a series of Tournaments, starting in May. The 1<sup>st</sup> event will be at Piper's Heath Golf Club (5501 Trafalgar Road in Milton on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>). The tournaments will Use "full handicaps on the Stableford scoring system" with individual gross and net prizes awarded for each tournament and for the season. Plans are for 3 events this year. For Piper's Heath, tee time is 1:00 PM. The event will cost \$150/person (which includes golf plus shared cart, steak dinner and prizes. For more information and to register please contact Ken Lewis (lewis4972@rogers.com).

### The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill "60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration"

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill is holding its "60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration" on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pfvyrostko@rogers.com) or [sulker@rogers.com](mailto:sulker@rogers.com)

**May 02-04, 2013** - Camp Enterprise, University of Toronto, Erindale Campus, Mississauga. Contact: Greg Dobson [dobsog1@bell.net](mailto:dobsog1@bell.net).

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** - 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 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Fairmont Royal York. Tickets are \$225/person and are available online at [www.torontorotary.com](http://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**

No 50:50 Draw Today The Pack of Cards has gone missing !!!!!!!



**Michael Bell** – Michael was happy to say that he had a great trip to Cancun, but while it is "fun to go places and see new things" it is great to be back to the "wonderful Rotary Club that we have".

**Florian Hammerbacher** – Florian was happy to say that he has organized and will be leading a "Jane's Walk" on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> through downtown Toronto. Jane's Walk celebrates the ideas and legacy of urbanist Jane Jacobs by getting people out exploring their neighbourhoods and meeting their neighbours. Florian's "German Traces Toronto" walk will be a 2 hour walk highlighting the many places in the city with German connections - historical facts, modern presence, quirky connections and advice on where to find excellent German food and drink.

**Judy Burnell** – Judy said she is "not happy" but wanted everyone to know why "she looked so weird" today. She had been prescribed some cream for Rosecea and it appears as if she is allergic to it and has stopped using it.

**Doug Hartry** – Doug was happy to say that he had been visiting some of our older members who "for various reasons" are unable to come to our meetings. He visited with Bob Maxwell, who Doug says "is over his heart problems" and will likely be back. He visited with Ken Coates, and said he talked with Doug Jarrett who said was busy "rescuing his dock in Muskoka". Doug said he will continue to keep in touch with our older members and keep the Club informed.

**Hugh Williams** – Hugh was happy to say that his daughter Allison graduated from High School on Friday. She is now looking at going to either McGill or UBC next year. Hugh said that if anyone knows of a summer job opportunity for Allison to let him know so she can "afford to go".

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller