



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week April 03, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

Speaker: April 10, 2013 - Mme Caruso & Serge Paul - l'école elementaire Felix-Leclerc

Today's Speakers: Larry Thomas, Madeleine Arsenault, Ali Wright ECI RAIŞE-A-RUKUS



Lynda Ryder introduced today's speakers;

Ali Wright is a Grade 12 Student at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute (ECI) who has attended White Pine 3 times, once as a camper, once as a program leader, and once as a member of the executive. She has always been interested in becoming a teacher, and has recently been accepted to the Con-Current Education Program at Queen's University.

Larry Thomas is the ECI RAIŞE-A-RUKUS Chairman. He has a 30 year publishing career at Reader's Digest, including Publisher of Reader's Digest, Selection du Reader's Digest, Our Canada and Best Health magazines and

their respective digital properties. Most recently he was Chief Commercial Officer at Golf Canada. He is currently offering consulting services to the media and the not-for-profit marketplace. He was a member and Treasurer of the Group Committee of the 140th Toronto Scout Troop for 10 yrs. In addition to chairing the RAIŞE-A-RUCKUS Committee he has been an active member of the ECI School Council for the past three years. Larry and his wife Leslie are 25 year residents of Etobicoke.

Two of their children have graduated from ECI and their daughter is currently in grade 11 and will be a councilor at White Pine next year.

Madeleine Arsenault is an ECI RAIŞE-A-RUCKUS committee member, and also an ECI Parents for the Arts committee member. She is a "very-small" business owner designs and makes women's accessories, is a seamstress, and enjoys photography. Madeleine and her husband Rainer and their 3 children have been Etobicoke residents for 17 years. Their two youngest teenagers are at ECI - in grades 10 and 11. She is committed to help make Etobicoke Collegiate Institute a better place for the students of today and tomorrow.

Larry Thomas began by saying that (on behalf of Ali and Madeleine) he was happy to be here today and wanted to congratulate all of us to the "great work that Rotary does locally and around the world". Larry explained that RAIŞE-A-RUCKUS is a charitable campaign that the School Council at ECI has initiated to raise funds for their Arts, Athletics and Leadership Programs and to help "refurbish" the school. ECI is 85 years old and is one of the oldest schools in the TDSB. Since the TDSB is currently under financial hardship with a \$3 billion back-log in school repairs, ECI has seen a fair amount of "disrepair" of late. The goal of

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RAIŞE-A-RUCKUS was to raise \$1/2 million in 2 years. An ECI alumnus has agreed to match what they raise. So far they have raised \$70,000 and matched to a total of \$140,000. Some of the money is being used for the White Pines Leadership Camp to ensure that all students who want to attend the camp if so desired no matter of their financial situation. Larry invited Madeleine Arsenault to tell more about the program.



Madeleine began by saying that she had a Rotary connection as her Father was a member of the Montreal Lakeshore Rotary Club before moving to the Brockville club. She is very aware of the “wonderful work Rotary does worldwide” and wanted to thank us for being here in Etobicoke. The White Pines Leadership Camp began at ECI in the late 80’s and since the early 90’s the camp is run by the students. Grade 10 students apply to attend the camp and the Grade 11 and 12 students are the councilors, program directors, and the camp executive. This has give “ownership” of the camp to the students. Each session at the camp costs \$330/student, however a student can “confidentially” apply to attend if they need financial help. To become a councilor/program director/executive the Grade 11 & 12 students must apply, get references, and go through an extensive interview. Once accepted they must sign a contract that says they must be “on time”, maintain a specified academic average, follow a “behavioral code”, and know their responsibilities and requirements. This helps

students “to mature and become more responsible”. The RAIŞE-A-RUCKUS campaign has also done a lot for the community as well with such events as the “Halloween for Hunger” (food collected for the Food bank), “30 Hour Famine” (a campaign for World Vision), the CN tower climb, the “12 Hour Run” (where they got to choose a charity). Madeleine asked Ali Wright to talk about her experiences at the White Pines Leadership Camp.



Ali said that when she went to White Pines in Grade 10 “it was the best week of my life”. It was a great way to get to know everyone in your grade plus those in the other grades. She has been back twice as a Program Leader in Grade 11 and a Camp Executive in Grade 12. In Grade 11 she was the Program Leader for the “Waterfront” Program and then applied to be on the Executive for the next year. On the Executive they train the Leaders to be the “best leaders”. Each Executive was responsible for a separate program. She added that “it was a lot of work, but a lot of fun”. At the end of every camp they had a “debriefing” of the campers and the leaders to find out “what changes to make to the programs to make them more effective”, and “what did the campers learn”.

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NOTICE - NEXT WEEKS LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH

Helen Weech at The Old Mill has advised that our luncheon meeting on **Wednesday, April 10th**, will be in the **Garden Room** which is **upstairs next to the Old Mill offices and chapel**. The closest entrance would be the **circular driveway entrance on the west side of the building** beside the chapel. Helen suggests to members that they don't come in through the dining room entrance and then have to walk up 3 flights of stairs next week.

Cheque Presentation - Peter Leon - St. Mathews/Our Lady of Peace "Out of the Cold"



President Hugh presented Peter Leon a cheque for \$1,000.00 for the St Mathews and Our Lady of Peace "Out of the Cold" Programs.

Peter wanted to say a few words about the program but first wanted to thank the Club for our "kind financial assistance of their program over the years". Out of the Cold is a program that reaches out "in a meaningful way" to the less fortunate, poor and homeless people. It provides physical needs of shelter, food and warm clothing, as well as the necessary needs of self- dignity, compassion and self worth.

Their "guests" range in age from their "early 20's to mid 60's", many with emotional and physiological problems, or disabilities "which make it difficult for them to function in today's rapidly changing society". For the past 14 years the OOTC program has been jointly sponsored by St. Mathews Anglican and Our Lady of Peace Catholic churches (with the support of 30 or more other community churches and organizations). The program operates on Sunday evenings utilizing facilities at St. Mathews in Etobicoke. Each Sunday evening they offer a hot meal for 60 or more men and women. Overnight accommodations are available for up to 30 men. And ladies requiring a place to stay are provided with transportation to a special ladies hostel. In the morning each guest enjoys a hot breakfast, receives a bagged lunch, and is given a TTC token for transportation. They have the option of a hot shower and receive new winter socks and new underwear. The program runs from mid- November through Palm Sunday. Last year they served more than 800 Sunday dinners; 500 guests stayed overnight; they prepared 500 fresh breakfasts; 380 donated lunches were given out; and 800 TTC tokens were distributed. On a typical Sunday evening they utilize the services of 40 to 50 volunteers from the 2 parishes and other Etobicoke are churches and community groups. This year, 2550 volunteer hours made the program a success. It is strictly a "volunteer" operated program that receives "absolutely no government funding". Their annual budget is \$8,000-\$9,000/year, and is solely supported by donations they receive. These monies pay for new clothing items; food; utilities, and various other items that are not donated. Peter ended by saying that "all of our donors and volunteers can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that through their good efforts, they have made someone's hardships perhaps just a little easier to bear, and hopefully have brought a smile to someone's face".

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Cheque Presentation - Dale Shuttleworth - The Training Renewal Foundation



President Hugh presented Dale Shuttleworth from the Training Renewal Foundation for \$1,500 to support 5 students to receive their Grade 12 equivalency certificates.

Dale wanted to thank the Club for our “kind” donation and wanted to mention a little bit about the Training Renewal Foundation. Dale is a former School Superintendent with the former City of York School Board and was mainly involved in Adult Education. He took early retirement in 1994-95. Dale became the Executive Director of the Training Renewal Foundation (TRF) which he helped develop 18 years ago. TRF is a non-profit charitable organization, whose mandate is to serve disadvantaged youth and displaced workers seeking skills, qualifications and employment opportunities. TRF is a unique social enterprise which combines the resources of the commercial, governmental and voluntary sectors. Since 1995, the Training Renewal Foundation through its strategic partnerships with sectoral employers, government departments and community service organizations has mounted a series of innovative demonstration projects, which have addressed skill shortages and provided employment opportunities for more than 2,500 impoverished citizens.

Dale noted that many jobs now require a Secondary School Diploma (Grade 12 equivalent with 30 credits). However, the people living on minimum wages or on social assistance are on “the bottom rung” and in many cases haven’t the time or the money to pursue a diploma. Many work meagre jobs just to keep their families fed.

This TRF program was first developed by the U.S. Military after the war. The G.E.D - General Education Development Program was designed to help returning servicemen get jobs. It has since been modified to be a general education program. The program came to Ontario in 1994-95 and that is when Dale became involved. Since we are now into the “digital age” the program is available online in Etobicoke through the Burnhamthorpe Collegiate Adult Learning centre and Job Start - Lake Shore Blvd. New generations of computer software, and print-ware were developed to assist thousands of Ontarians to achieve their high school equivalency which leads to improved self esteem, post-secondary education and employment opportunities. Students have 1 year to develop their skills to take the Provincial Equivalency Exam.

Dale also wanted to thank the Club for our previous donation to TRF last year which provide funding for scholarships for 10+ people who are among the “working poor” to get their Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate.

Toronto Ribfest Corporate ‘Family’ Day

President Hugh asked Jack Fleming to say a few words about the “Toronto Ribfest Corporate ‘Family’ Day” he is helping to organize. The event will take place at Ribfest on Friday, June 28th (A notice was sent to all members last week). Jack said that he is personally canvassing companies and organizations “face to face” to encourage them to bring their employee (and their family members) to the event. Jack said he used to sell insurance and that he knows that “the best way to achieve this is through personal referrals”. Every

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member of our Club knows people who are in senior positions ("positions of influence") within different organizations; be it family members, friends, neighbours, business colleagues, etc. While companies from all parts of the GTA would be welcome, the focus would be those in "relatively close proximity to Centennial Park. Some suggested target areas are; the #427 corridor (East Mall/West Mall/Burnhamthorpe/Dundas); Eglinton Avenue (Renforth to Dixie); Dixon/Airport Roads. Jack says that so far four companies/ organizations of different sizes have expressed interest in attending. Jack is asking members to think about their contacts and send him an email with: Name; Company (and title if possible); and Contact info (phone & email, if possible). He will then "take it from there" and contact them personally. President Hugh added wanted to thank Jack for his efforts in organizing this event. Hugh added that the 1st day of Ribfest (Friday) is still a "work day" for many people and this is traditionally our lowest attendance. This event is designed to bring out more people by getting companies/organizations to bring their employees and families to enjoy the day at Ribfest.

Visitors & Guests

- **Brock Buchanan**
- **Madeleine Arsenault** – ECI RAI\$E-A-RUKUS – speaker
- **Larry Thomas** – Director - ECI RAI\$E-A-RUKUS – speaker
- **Ali Wright** – ECI – Student - speaker
- **Dale Shuttleworth** – Training Renewal Foundation
- **Peter Leon** – St Mathew's/Our Lady of Peace – Out of the Cold Program

Club members – we were **12** today
Total attendees **-18**

Secretary's Corner

By Ron Miller

Following announcements were made

Monday April 08, 2013 - 6.00 P.M. Board Meeting. Venue; Illumineer Office

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!

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.

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HAPPY BUCKS



Frederik Martin - Frederik was happy to say that at the end of February, it has been 2 years since he started his diet and exercise program where he shed 65 pounds, and he is also happy to say that he has kept the weight off.

Bernadette Hunkeler Brown - Bernadette was happy to thank the Club members who took part in the "Magoanine Fundraiser" last Wednesday. She said it was a "great evening".

Nigel Brown - Nigel was happy to echo the sentiments of Bernadette and said that while there is still a "few last cheques to come" that he was very pleased to say that the Magoanine Fundraiser made a profit of more than \$7,800. He also happy to say that there was some left over wine from Reif Wineries in Niagara who donated the wine for the evening, and that after the 50/50 draw there will be a 2nd draw for a bottle of the wine.

Florian Hammerbacher - Florian was happy to say that today was the first day that he could "officially" pick up his Club ID badge and wear it. He wanted to thank Bernadette and Nigel for hosting the Magoanine Fundraiser" which he says was a "fun evening". Florian was also happy to say that he is taking over the "bag-packing" program from Nigel. The next "bag-packing" event is scheduled for May 18th at the No Frills (Rathburn & Renforth). If you are available to help out that day, come out and lend a hand. Florian wanted also to mention that Nigel and he were helping to organize a "fundraising gala" for the Consular Spouses Association of Toronto to be held this coming Saturday (April 6th) at the Courtyard by Marriott. The gala is in support of the Joy Valley Children's Home in Nairobi, Kenya.

A Prescription for Healthy Kids in Guatemala

As John Petty arrived in Sarstun, Guatemala, he saw a young girl traveling alone in a dugout canoe.

"I was fascinated by her ability to navigate the river," says Petty, a member of the Rotary Club of Longview, Texas, USA. This remote part of northern Guatemala has no roads, so people get around by boat -- including when they need to visit the medical clinic in Sarstun.

The clinic served as Petty's home base when he and three other Rotarians came in March 2011 to help distribute albendazole, an antiworm medication. The \$45,000.00 Matching Grant project was sponsored by District 5830 (parts of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas), many of that district's clubs, and the Rotary Club of Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.

The money went toward three million doses of albendazole; Refuge International, a nonprofit focused on water, health, and education programs in Guatemala, was in charge of distribution.

"Refuge International had the contacts and experience in that country to make such an endeavor successful," Petty says, noting that "children in particular are affected by parasites due to walking barefoot and to unsanitary food and water. This stunts their growth and leads to reduced energy levels, which in turn affect their ability to learn in school."

- Courtesy of Rotary International -

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller