



# THE BULLETIN



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Valarie Wafer

RI President: Ron Burton

Week August 14, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

*President: Michael Bell, Secretary: Ron Miller, Treasurer: Don Edwards*

***Speaker: August 21, 2013 - Official Visit of District Governor Valarie Wafer***

*Reporting & Pictures: Ron Miller*

**Today's Speaker - Jonathan Millard - Outgoing District 7070 Global Grant Scholar (Former Ambassadorial Scholar)**



In the absence of the vacationing President Michael, Past President Hugh Williams presided over the meeting.

Past president Hugh asked Lynda Ryder introduce Jonathan.

Lynda said that she first met Jonathan when they arranged to meet at a coffee shop (Java Joe's) to talk about Global Grant Scholar program (the old Ambassadorial Scholar

program). Lynda said that she was "so impressed by him" that she "put his name forward for the next Global Grant Scholar

(Ambassadorial Scholar). Jonathan was duly selected as the District 7070 Global Grant Scholar and will be undertaking a Masters Degree in African Studies at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom in October 2013. Jonathan began by thanking the Club for sponsoring him for the GGS program and that it was "very significant" to receive the amount of money that allowed him to attend Oxford for his Masters Degree studies. He said that this will allow him "the freedom to do what he wants afterward and not have to worry about having to pay back a large student loan". He also said this has been an opportunity to "get to know Rotary" and wanted to thank Lynda for all of her help.

Jonathan was born and raised in Etobicoke and Grew up in a West Deane Park neighbourhood. He was "home schooled" from Grades 1 to 10, then went to a private school for a year, and finally to Martingrove Collegiate where he graduated. After high school, he attended Carlton University in Ottawa where he had the opportunity to spend his 3<sup>rd</sup> year on a study-abroad program at the University of Ghana in West Africa and first developed his passion for work in Africa. At the time he didn't know where Ghana was but spent 9 months exploring the country. He said it was 4 months of "hating" the place then he had an "ah-ha" moment and really began to "love" being there. He wrote an "honours" development paper on "Entrepreneur Opportunities in Ghana (50 pages) on how to help out entrepreneurs in Ghana benefit from foreign investments. Immediately after graduation, Jonathan received a federal government professional

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development grant and spent 6 months working with micro-finance organizations in Tanzania. He said it was great “being on the ground” in a small town in Tanzania. While in Tanzania he met our member Brock Buchanan (small world). After the completion of his internship, he began working for a Canadian consulting firm assisting the Lagos State government in Nigeria on a 27 km urban transit project (Jonathan was happy to say the last time he was there they had actually began building the project. He still not sure if and when the trains will ever run “but at least it is a start and they are moving forward with the project”). In late 2009 Jonathan changed jobs and started working for a boutique consulting firm that helps African entrepreneurs seek and attract foreign investment in the years going forward. While working in Africa he had had direct involvement with infrastructure development, telecommunications, ship building, real estate, etc. In January 2012, he thought “what degree to do next”. He wanted to continue his education while maintaining his focus on Africa. He applied and was accepted to the MSc in African studies in January 2013 on the basis that he will complete a research project that will focus on the role of local entrepreneurs in Africa, with a specific focus on Nigeria. Some thought that he should look at doing an MBA course but he felt that an MBA had “no value to doing business in Africa” and opted for the MSc.

He chose Oxford because “it is a really good University” and is “the best place to study Africa. It is better than any university in Africa”. He considered applying at Oxford for the “Eco/Social History Course” but decided the “African Studies was “more flexible” and more in line with his involvement in Africa. While he hasn’t decided yet on the focus of his research paper, he will “be going back to study anything that interests him” and will likely focus on “the role of local partners in facilitating foreign investment”.

After graduation Jonathan plans to continue work helping African entrepreneurs and in the long term would like to find ways to create investment partnerships between Canadian and African entrepreneurs and investment funds.

Ingrid thanked Jonathan for his presentation this afternoon.



## Birthdays This Week

Harry Waterman – August 17<sup>th</sup>

## Visitors & Guests

### Visitors:

➔ **Jonathan Millard**– Speaker

Members in Attendance - 9

Visitors & Guests –1

Total attendance – 10

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## Secretary's Corner

*By Ron Miller*

*The following announcements were made:*

**District Governors Official Club Visit - August 21, 2013.**

**Community Services Committee Meeting - September 04, 2013 - 5.30 PM. National Silicates.**

**Board meeting - September 09, 2013 - 6.00 PM - President Michael's Residence.**

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



### 50/50 Draw

**Earlene Brown**, this week's lucky ticket holder - **9 of Spades.**

### HAPPY BUCKS



**Jack Fleming** – Jack had an **“unhappy buck”** as there was “no red wine being served at lunch today”. However, Jack was happy to say that he spent “5 hours solid” digging out his daughter's garden at her new house. He said the previous owners had let the garden go for 2 to 3 years but

they now have it “looking lovely” and she found plants “that she didn't know she had”. Jack added that it was a good thing that he is “working out” since even though he has a “sore back but it could have been worse”.

## Surplus Equipment Saves Lives

There is something almost magical about loading an infant incubator, which has kept hundreds of newborn babies alive in Canada, on board a ship and knowing it will continue to help children in Chile.

I recently had the opportunity to load a 40-foot sea container with medical and dental supplies to be shipped to Iquique, Chile.

Members of my Rotary club joined other clubs in Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, in filling the container with 30 hospital beds, nine manual and two electric wheelchairs, a full dental office with instruments and chair, an infant incubator, two ultrasound machines, and numerous boxes of medical supplies and equipment.

Hospitals, medical centers, senior facilities, and dental offices in Vancouver donated the used equipment and surplus supplies. Rotary volunteers picked up the items, sorted them, and applied bar code labels.

We work Rotary club to Rotary club. The Rotary club in Iquique decides where the equipment is donated. They ensure it is not resold, but used by people who need it. The humanitarian aid will assist indigent and low-income people, equipping a primary care clinic and eight smaller clinics in and near Iquique, a coastal city in northern Chile with a population of about 200,000. The region includes many low paid miners

The cost of shipping the container was US\$8,000. The estimated replacement value of the 16,000 kilograms of aid is in excess of \$200,000. Funds for the shipping costs came from several Rotary clubs in Metro Vancouver and a grant from The Rotary Foundation. The container was shipped by Rotary World Help, a charity run by local Rotary clubs. This is one of many medical equipment shipping projects Rotary clubs are involved in around the world. Each is exceptional and each changes the lives of the recipients. The opportunity to load the container and have a personal connection makes these projects unique and memorable.

- Courtesy Rotary International -