



# THE BULLETIN



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Valarie Wafer**

RI President: **Ron D. Burton**

Week August 21, 2013

Board 2013-2014

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

**Speaker: August 28, 2013 – Emmanuel Lopez - Motivational Superhero, Author, and Movie Blogger**

*Reporting & Pictures; Ron Miller*

### Today's Speaker – District Governor Valarie Wafer



DG Valarie is a "proud member of the Whitby Rotary Club" since 2005. She was Club President in 2008-09. Since then she has held various positions within the club and District 7070 as an Assistant Governor, a member of the District Long-range planning and policy and procedures committee, District membership, RADAR, Club visioning and Rotary at Work District Committee Chair. She has participated in Polio Vaccination of children in India; led a team of mental health professionals to Sydney, Australia

as a Vocational Training Team leader; visited and orphanage in Kenya and helped establish a micro-credit project for woman to work. Her husband, Mark is also a Rotarian with the Whitby Club and is a Champion of the Rotary at Work Program whose goal is to "help Canadians who have a disability find meaningful work".. They have two daughters, Megan and Coleen. Valarie and Mark have been Tim Horton Franchisees since 1995 with seven locations in the Scarborough area. Their company has won numerous awards including the Canadian manufacturers Association Award for innovators of Year 2010 and both have been awarded a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in 2013 for "their hiring practices to employ individuals with disabilities".



President Michael asked Past President Hugh Williams to introduce DG Valarie. In a non-traditional introduction, Hugh pulled out his guitar and sang the following;  
"Our New DG

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(To the tune of Brown-Eyed Girl, and with apologies to Van Morrison)

Hey, where will we go, this year in Rotary  
District 7070, with District Governor Valarie  
Laughin' and a-singin' hey-hey, skippin' and a-jumpin'  
Engage Rotary, Change Lives, with our hearts  
thumpin' and you  
Our new DG, DG Valarie

Hey whatever happened, back in 2005  
Asked to join Rotary, things really came alive.  
Lead a VTT to Australia, went to India for polio,  
Helped women out in Kenya, just part of her folio,  
that's you  
Our new DG, DG Valarie  
Chorus:  
Engaging Rotary and changing lives

Sha-la-la la-la la-la la-la la-la de-da (x2)

La-de-da

So hard to fit it all, house league sports and girl guides  
Meghan and Coleen her girls, with husband Mark at her side  
There's RADAR and Rotary at Work, a Queen's Diamond Jubilee  
Supporting disabled Ontarians, as a Tim Horton's franchisee, that's you  
Our blue eyed-girl, DG Valarie"

Valarie began by saying that this year's Rotary theme of "Engage Rotary/Change Lives" is a "great theme" and the future of Rotary will be "with clubs that have strong engagement". "Engagement" is the new "social buzzword" used in the media, social networking, etc every day. But what does it mean and how does it relate to our Clubs? Is it like a marriage proposal? "if we do a bad job of our engagement, chances are there will be no marriage" Valarie stressed that from the time a prospective member walks through the door, to the time they are inducted, it is our job to make sure they are made to feel welcome and their engagement period

is meaningful". When asked to join Rotary, one common excuse not to join is "too busy". "We need to persuade them that although they are busy, are they engaged in an activity that will change their lives and that of their family"?

We all get asked "What is Rotary" and Rotarians have been all told to have a "30 second elevator speech" ready at all times. The "what is easy" (1.2 million Rotarians in over 200 countries, etc). The "why I joined Rotary" is much more important. Such things as; friendship; business development; personal growth; global citizenship; Community connection; absence of politics and religion; and the opportunity to serve. The last item "the opportunity to serve" has the "potential to change people's lives. Isn't this the perfect summary of our theme?

Valarie feels strongly that "young professionals are the future success of Rotary". She has created a new district chair position to assist clubs in this area. Liz Greenland, a past Rotaractor and charter president of the Toronto Skyline Club will be the Chair of Engaging Young Professionals. "Young people do not wake up at 35 and decide to give back; they want to be engaged today. They are not tomorrow's leaders; they are today's leaders waiting for a chance. It is our job to provide mentorship and support in order for them to succeed".

She added that RI President Ron Burton didn't choose this theme because engagement is the new buzzword...he chose this theme because it tells us that; "If we really want to take Rotary service forward, then we must make sure that every single Rotarian has the same feeling about Rotary that each one of us here has today".

We are all Rotary members, but are we Rotarians? Valarie asked "have you had that 'aha' moment? The moment you realize why you are a Rotarian? These are stories we need to share". Valarie asked Ron Miller to share his Rotary Moment.

Ron said that he joined Rotary in October 2005. He had just retired and was looking for an opportunity to do some volunteer work and "give back to the community". A friend in Kitchener, who is a Past President of the Waterloo Rotary Club, suggested he

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look into joining Rotary. Ron said he didn't know "anything about Rotary" but checked it out on internet and found a Club that was close to where he lived. He sent a note to the Club and was contacted by the late Craig Taylor. They talked and Craig then invited him to lunch. On arriving at his 1st meeting he was greeted by Bill Martin, Harvey Hogle and Bob Coulson who made him feel "very welcome." After a couple more visits, Ron said he found out a lot about what Rotary does and decided to send in a membership application which was accepted. As soon as he became a member, his mentor Klaus Adensamer put him immediately on the Membership Committee and introduced him to all of the other committees as well. From the very start, he was "engaged" by the club and made to feel that he was an "important part of club". He feels that joining Rotary was "one of the best things he has ever done" and that he "couldn't have joined a better club".

Paul Harris said "This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it" but this doesn't mean everything has to change. Valarie feels that "in order to engage or re-engage Rotarians we need to shake it up a bit". "We need to make it fun and meaningful to attend weekly meetings not only to attract new members but to re-engage the current ones". "Be creative".

Valarie closed by saying "I challenge each of you to be a visionary. Change Clubs from what they are today to what they will be tomorrow". She added that "I don't think I could pay back Rotary for what I have gained since I became a Rotarian...but I am engaged...and I hope that is infectious...!"



President Michael thanked DG Valarie.

## Birthdays This Week



*Russ Morreale - August 24<sup>th</sup>  
Mark Winson - August 26<sup>th</sup>*

*Happy Birthday to on your happy day... ....*

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**President Michael Presenting a  
Cheque to Assistant Governor & Past  
President Neil Phillips Rotary Club of  
Toronto - \$65,000.00**



Proceeds of the Toronto Clubs share from the Gate receipts at Ribfest.

- **Neil Phillips** Assistant Governor – Rotary Club of Toronto
- **Mark Wafer** - Rotary Club of Whitby
- **Milo Vassallo** Rotary Club of Toronto – Forest Hill
- **Alice Otupiri** - Rotary Club of Nepean-Kanata (Alice has recently moved to Etobicoke and is looking to join a new Rotary Club)

## **Attendance:**

Members – 18

Guests – 11

Total - 29



## **50/50 Draw**

Jay Carey - Jack of Spades.

## **Wine Draw:**

In honour of Dg Valarie's visit a 2nd draw was held for a bottle of wine. Erlene Brown was the lucky winner.



## **Visitors & Guests**

### **Guest**

- **Dishan** Ratnajothi – York University Rotaract
- **Tracy Ho** – York University Rotaract
- **Jo-Ann Bell** – Guest of Michael Bell
- Thomas Jasiolek – Guest of Judy Burnell
- **Jay Douglas** – Potential new member
- **Kathleen Radecki-Miller** – Guest of Ron Miller
- **Jocelynn Smith** (Guest Michael Bell)

### **Visiting Rotarian**

- **Valarie** Wafer District Governor – Rotary Club of Whitby

## **HAPPY BUCKS**



**Liz Reid** – Liz wanted everyone to “make her happy” today because this starts out as a “not so happy story”. Liz displayed a plastic bag containing \$15.25 that fell out of a “little girl’s pocket” at Ribfest. It was taken to Ribfest office but it was not retrieved. Liz said that “somewhere a little girl was sad”. Liz said she could have handed the money over to our Treasurer or given it to Kester’s flood relief effort, but wanted to do something that would “have meaning”. She suggests giving the money to Gillian’s “Hands on Etobicoke” committee as she feels the \$15.25 will mean a lot to them.



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**Jim Woodside** – Jim was happy to say that he had just returned from Havelock where he attended the Havelock Jamboree which has many well known Country & Western entertainers performing. He says if you like C&W music you should go sometime but if you don't like C&W, you should "stay away". The Havelock Rotary Club (of which Jim's son David is the Secretary) does a small fundraiser at the jamboree. This is a small Club with only 8 members but they raised \$2,300 which Jim says will carry them through this year with the "things that they look after in the community".

**Valarie Wafer** – Valarie was happy to say that when she was on her DG training Ron Burton (then RI President-Elect and currently RI President) challenged each and every of the DGE's to make a contribution to Foundation. Her DG class was the first to do so and she is proud to wear her "1st Class" button" that was presented to them. Valarie in turn challenged all of the President Elects on PETS training to do the same. She was happy to be able to present President Michael with his "1st Class" button.

**Neil Phillips** – Neil was happy to say that this is his first meeting as AG with his "new boss" Valarie.

**Paul Roeser** – Paul was happy to say that he just completed his 3 official visits as AG with DG Valarie. Paul says that Valarie has "a great message and that this will be a great year".

**Milo Vassallo** – Milo says he was "happy last week, is happy now, and will be happy for the rest of his life".

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## Dates to Remember

**Community Services Committee Meeting – September 04, 2013 , National Silicates Office. 5.30 pm.** Contact Hugh Williams.

**Board Meeting – September 09, 2013, 6.00 p.m. – Venue Michael Bell's Residence** Contact Ron Miller  
Tel: (416) 763-0319.

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