



# THE BULLETIN



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Valarie Wafer

RI President: Ron Burton

Week August 07, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

*Speaker: August 14, 2013 - Jonathan Millard - Ambassadorial Scholar Oxford University*

*Reporting & Pictures: Ron Miller*

### Today's Speaker - Milos Vassallo - Guided Tour of Malta



President Michael asked Milo Vassallo from the Forest Hill Rotary Club to talk about a "Guided Tour of Malta" that he is arranging.

Milo thanked President Michael for the opportunity to talk about the trip to Malta that he is organizing but he said he will be brief as "this isn't his day" since everyone was here to say "good-bye" to Bernadette and Nigel.

Milo is originally from Malta and first wanted to tell everyone a little about his homeland.

Malta is a small island in the Mediterranean Sea. Malta covers approximately 125 sq. miles with a population of 410,000 "politicians" according to Milo. This makes it one of the smallest and most densely populated countries. The capital is Valletta and the two official languages are Maltese (a Semitic language much like Arabic) and English (which is spoken by 95% of the population). Even though Malta is small its location has given it great strategic importance throughout history (which Milo says dates back for over 7000 years). A succession of powers including the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Aragonese, Hapsburg Spain, Knights of St John (Knights of Malta), French and the British have ruled the islands. Malta gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1964 and became a republic in 1974. Malta is a favoured tourist destination with its warm climate, numerous recreational areas, architectural and historical monuments. Milo noted that they have the "oldest free standing" temples there that are 1000 years older than the pyramids. He says Malta is like an "open air museum". Milo says Malta is a safe place with "the friendliest people in the world". Malta is part of the "Euro Zone" hence its currency is in Euros. Milo said it is a "great island" but when he moved to Toronto as the Counsel General for Malta, he found a "nicer, larger place". He is very happy to live here now and thinks that most people do not realize "how lucky they are to live here".

Milo said that the "guided tour" will leave on November 14<sup>th</sup> which he the weather is "very nice" and is like "Indian Summer" in Malta. He added that he thinks that the best time to visit Malta is October/November and May/June. He is looking to have a group of 12 people go. So

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far he has 8 people confirmed. They will fly Lufthansa from Toronto and return. They will be staying at the Hilton Malta Hotel which Milo says is a 5-Star hotel and one of the "most beautiful in the world". Daily Breakfast and 6 dinners at the hotel are included plus 2 dinners with local Rotary Clubs and 2 dinners at local Maltese restaurants. Milo said that the "icing on the cake" will be that he has arranged a "20 minute (or longer) audience with the President of Malta (who Milo knows). The total cost of the entire package is \$3,995 per person for a total of 10 days. All of the sightseeing trips will have a "professional guide". If you are interested please contact Milo a.s.a.p. as he will need a \$500 deposit in a week.

Milo wanted to again thank everyone for letting him be here today. He said he has visited our Club so often that he feels like he is a member here. On one of his visits, Bernadette joking said to Milo that he was here "spying on our Club". Milo said that wasn't the case as he was here to "learn from our Club". Milo was the President of the Forest Hill Club 3 years ago. Milo said that becoming a Rotarian is a "bonus in life" where you can "help people who are less fortunate than us".

## "Bon Voyage" Nigel and Bernadette



As most members are aware, Nigel and Bernadette are heading off to Cape Town, South Africa later today (their flight leaves at around 10 PM this evening) to start a new adventure. Bernadette will be the new Counsel

General at the Swiss Consulate there. For this special occasion wine (which incidentally was graciously supplied by Nigel and Bernadette) was served with lunch. Gillian and Andre Dugas brought a cake and Ingrid McGaughey brought some "Bon Voyage" balloons for the occasion.

Andre Dugas proposed the following toast;

*"I would like to propose a toast to Bernadette and Nigel for their dedication, professionalism and as Bon Vivants of the International Services Committee. They are recipients of the Paul Harris Award for their incredible work and support for our Club and, I dare say, Paul Harris would have been as proud and privileged as we are to count them as colleagues. They will continue to be an inspiration to our Club and motivate us to imitate their dedication and Service above Self. Please raise your glasses to Bernadette and Nigel".*

Nigel and Bernadette wanted to thank everyone for this "great send-off". Nigel said they both enjoyed their time here and is "leaving some baggage behind" for the International Services Committee". With regards to the Magoanine project, he says that he hasn't informed the Maputo Club and their District that "we now have enough money". He says they still need their co-operation and that they need to take "ownership" of the project. Nigel also said there is an outstanding report on the "Genesis" project to come. He is, however, confident that the Committee will "carry on" and continue all the progress made over the past few years. He plans to stay in touch with the Committee and offer any help he can. Nigel also wanted to mention how they were "attracted" to joining our Club. He said that most people think that it was PDG Doug Byers who steered them to our Club. When they met Doug at a "round-about" at the RI Convention in Birmingham, England, he suggested several clubs in Toronto for them to check out. They checked our website and attended our luncheons and were impressed. Nigel said one of the deciding factors that made them join the Club was Frederik Martin's wife Neela liked the name "Nigel Christopher". After "arriving" in the Club, he says they were allowed "to do our

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own thing”, had a lot of fun, and they managed to convey some of their ideas to the Club.

Nigel thinks our Club has “so much going for it” especially with Ribfest. He thinks our Club is “the envy of 98% of Rotary clubs worldwide”. He added that we “should stick with it as we are doing a fantastic job”. One of the things he is very pleased about is the Club’s increased involvement in “hands on projects” such as the “bag packing” (which incidentally Nigel and Bernadette initiated). He feels the “hands on” approach is one way of getting more “active members than sitting members”. Nigel thinks this is a “fantastic club” and that there is “strength in this club”. He also wanted to thank the Club for the Paul Harris recognitions for both Bernadette and himself. Finally Nigel wanted to thank Bernadette. Without her “giving him his head” he wouldn’t have been able to do all the things he did while he was here.



Bernadette wanted to add a few comments. She said that when they came for their “initial meeting” at the Club, she was impressed with the “friendship and fellowship” that she saw that day. This was one of the reason they joined our Club along with the fact that we were “nice sized club” where you could “get to know people quickly and get involved with”. She also wanted to thank the Club for the Paul Harris recognitions. She said it was a “real surprise for her.”

## Visitors & Guests

### Visiting Rotarians

- **Milos Vassale** – Rotary Club Forest Hill  
Speaker Today

### Visitors

- **Jay Douglas** – Potential New Member
- **Sylvia Myers** – Guest of Ingrid McGaughey
- **JoAnne Bell** – Guest of Michael Bell
- **Michael Lu** – Potential New Member
- **Rosaria Giorgi** – Guest of Nigel & Bernadette

Members in Attendance - 18

Visitors & Guests – 6

Total attendance – 24

## 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.**

**Thank you Note - Harry Waterman**



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Secretary Ron received a note from Harry Waterman thanking President Michael and the Board for granting an extension of his Honorary Membership through 2013-14 Rotary Year.

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



## 50/50 Draw

**President Michael**, this week's lucky ticket holder - **Ace of Spades**



## Additional Draw

Milo Vassalo brought 2 One of a Kind hand painted glass art that he wanted to donate to our weekly draw. The lucky winners were **Don Edwards** and **Frederik Martin**.

## HAPPY BUCKS



**Milo Vassalo** – Milo was happy to be a “member of this club” as he has been here so many times. He also noted that it was raining when he came in and

concluded that “even the skies are sad that Nigel and Bernadette are leaving.

**Cy Garland** – Cy was happy to be here today. He wanted to thank Nigel and Bernadette and the rest of International Services Committee for the money the donated for his school project in Liberia. The \$5000 built a 10 room schoolhouse. He says however, that “he will be back for more”. He says they still need “a floor, a ceiling and something to sit on”. He added that “it shows what \$1000 can do for this country”.

**Paul Roesser** – Paul was happy that “in his year as President, Nigel and Bernadette choose this Club”. It has been a “great 4 years” with them both involved in things such as “bag packing, the Trump Aids Walk, etc, etc. We will all remember the “wonderful times” which will remain as “great memories” Paul added that “they will be missed” but is asking them to “keep in touch”.

**Michael Bell** – Michael was happy to say that while Nigel and Bernadette are leaving, they will just be opening a “branch office” of our Club in Cape Town and has no doubt that we will continue to hear from them on a regular basis. “As long as we have money coming in from Ribfest, they will keep in touch”. Michael added said it was “wonderful having them here” but it was like a “changing of the guard”. While we are losing Nigel and Bernadette, we have recruited 16 new members to replace them.

**Sylvia Myers** – Sylvia was happy to hear about the money we sent to the school in Liberia and our school project in Mozambique. She is a teacher and is “passionate” for these types of projects. She wanted to wish Nigel and Bernadette the “best of success in South Africa”.

**Judy Burnell** – Judy said she was sorry to see Nigel and Bernadette leave and hope everything goes well for them there. However, she was happy to talk about the Stonegate Ministry that the Club has donated to. Julian DiCiano (Justin's brother) arranged for a new stove, fridge and freezer for their kitchen for free.

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**Frederik Martin** – Frederik was happy to say that the Maputo Club had decided to donate US\$500.00 towards the Magoanine B Water and Sanitation Project, and Past President Joao Fumane was working on getting additional District Funding and with Nigel and Bernadette in Cape Town this project which both of them worked so hard to raise funds across multiple districts and countries will become a reality in 2014.

## Choice for 2015-16 RI President - K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran



K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka, has been selected by the Nominating Committee for President of RI in 2015-16. Ravindran will become the president-nominee on 1 October if there are no challenging candidates.

Ravindran said his top priority for Rotary will be to increase membership, which he called the bedrock of any organization.

"The emphasis on membership has to continue with focus on the younger generation," Ravindran said. "Additionally, we must seek to attract the just retired and experienced people into Rotary." Creating regional membership plans and realizing that "one size does not fit all" has been a move in the right direction, he said.

"Albert Einstein defined insanity as 'doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.' In many ways this has been the story of Rotary's poor membership advance," he said.

"Thankfully, our approach this time has been studied and altered. We have created 22 different membership regions so that each region would develop and execute a plan that would suit that particular region."

Ravindran said it's important for Rotarians to share their stories, especially through social media, so others can see the impact Rotary has had in their lives. He said it's also important for the organization to speak with a consistent voice. "Our identity must remain simple and be based on our core values. It must be clear and straightforward to both our internal and external audience."

Ravindran holds a degree in commerce and is founder and CEO of Printcare PLC, a publicly listed company and global leader in the tea packaging industry. He also serves on the board of several other companies and charitable trusts. He is the founding president of the Sri Lanka Anti Narcotics Association, the largest antinarcotics organization in Sri Lanka.

As his country's PolioPlus chair, Ravindran headed a task force with members from the government, UNICEF, and Rotary and worked closely with UNICEF to negotiate a cease-fire with northern militants during National Immunization Days. A Rotarian since 1974, Ravindran has served Rotary as a director and treasurer of RI and as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation. He has also served as an International Assembly group discussion leader, district governor, Council on Legislation representative, and zone institute chair. He chaired the Schools Reawakening project, sponsored by Rotary clubs and districts in Sri Lanka, which rebuilt 25 tsunami-devastated schools, benefiting 15,000 children.

Ravindran has been awarded The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award and the Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

He and his wife, Vanathy, have two children, and are level 4 Major Donors to the Foundation.

- Courtesy Rotary International -