



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Valarie Wafer**

RI President: **Ron D. Burton**

Week December 18, 2013

Board 2013-2014

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

January 08, 2014 –Speaker: Kester Trim Salvation Army “Kicking off The New Year”

Reporting: Ron Miller Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Big Ideas Forum – What is Your Big Idea

Leah Huston – MABELLEarts

Leah began by saying that Mabelle is a high-density Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) complex in Central Etobicoke. MABELLEarts is a collaborative process of creating culture with “the hands, voices and dreams” of everyday people. For the past 7 years MABELLEarts has been a leader in Toronto, forging new paths for public space transformation and community-based environmental and site-specific art and design. Their work in the Mabelle neighbourhood has offered resident opportunities to fix what has been broken and neglected, leading to an overall increase in community connection and pride as decreased social isolation and tension. MABELLEarts first began working in what is now known as the Mabelle Park in the summer of 2007. At that time, the park was a garbage-ridden and somewhat treacherous scrap of land in the centre of the neighbourhood. Since 2009, MABELLEarts has been working with professional artists, architects, builders, gardeners and over 700 Mabelle residents of all ages and backgrounds to transform the Mabelle Park from a neglected and dangerous thoroughfare into a vibrant cultural hub. In 2010 we received multi-year funding from The Ontario Trillium Foundation to further support the transformation of the Mabelle Park, as well as other activities that would bring people together both indoors and outdoors.

Mabelle is a high-density tower community in Central Etobicoke, housing over 3000 individuals and

President and The Board of Directors Wish All The Members a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year 2014

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families on one small city block, including newcomers to Canada from around the world.

Today Leah said she wanted to ask our Club for advice on a “unique” project they are planning. There are trees in Mabelle Park that need to be removed for safety reasons. The trees had been neglected for so long that they had become dangerous. There is a furniture company that would like to use the wood to turn into “furniture, cutting boards, spoons, etc”. Her plan is to have a “community milling day” that members of the community could get involved in during the clearing of the trees. One idea she has is to use some of the wood to build a “timber-framed” shed in the park and furniture for the shed. They would also like to do a fundraising dinner of some sort in June or September. She said that they had never done anything like this and were looking to “reach out” for our “advice and expertise” on how to go about it. She wanted to know if this was a “good idea”. The “milling day” will take place in the next few weeks. She wants to “design a safe experience” for the members of the community to participate in the cutting of the trees”. This project is being coordinated by Ontario Trees (who will cut down the trees), Storyboard Furniture (who will use the lumber) and the TCHC. Leah is hoping to get some “great custom furniture” and the shed out of the project. Her other goals from the project are an opportunity for “social mixing” and “getting to know each other better”. She thinks it will be a great “community experience”.

President Michael suggests that we need to look at it further but it sounds like a great idea. Hugh Williams added that June will be a problem for us to help out with their fundraising event due to Ribfest, but September may be a better option.

Maria Connell – St. Vincent de Paul Society

Marie began by saying that the St. Vincent de Paul Society began in the early 1800’s and is associated with the Catholic Church, however you don’t have to be Catholic to get support from SVDP. They are an “outreach arm” from the local Parish. They meet personally with people in need and provide mainly

food, but they also have a furniture warehouse that can supply beds, tables, chairs, etc to people in need. They operate by “word of mouth” and get referrals from parishioners and other local agencies. There are 8 Parishes in South Etobicoke. The money is raised at the Parish level and is spread around the 8 Parishes to where it is most needed.

Graham Curry – Arts Etobicoke

Graham is the Gallery Director and Art Rental and Sales Consultant for Arts Etobicoke and has been involved in their community arts projects. She feels that there is a “need for more arts projects. Their “drop-in” program has been a great success, and they have had requests to consult on a model for “drop-in” programs for other organizations. They currently have programs for ages 10 to 18 which they are looking to expand. They are also looking at a “pilot” project for ages 6 to 9. However their space is limited so they are looking to “reach out” to other organizations by bringing the guidance and expertise. She also mentioned that they are trying to grow their “art rental and sale” program. This is a service for people who “need” art for their home/office/etc. They have art from 50 artists from across Southwestern Ontario. They have “low cost” rental rates and the money raised goes directly into the Arts Etobicoke programs. With increased awareness of this program they will have “more funds to do more programs”. This is one way of becoming “sustainable” over the years and a way of “connecting with the community”. She also mentioned QMAP (Queer Media Arts Program) in Rexdale which is the only youth-led program providing safe space and support for youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans gendered /trans sexual, questioning (LGBTQ) in North Etobicoke. This youth-led project engaged 29 participants aged 15-20 in storytelling, performance and zine-making.

Kester Trim

Kester said he has been busy at the Salvation Army serving 650 families (toys/food/vouchers). He said that they just finished doing Christmas Carols at the

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Etobicoke General Hospital and that tomorrow he is visiting the Immigration Holding Centre.

MicroSkills – Press Conference:

President Michael and The Rotary Club of Toronto West President Bruce Gillies launched the MicroSkills Youth Centre Expansion Project, our 3-year joint Legacy Project between our Club and the Toronto West Club by holding a press conference at MicroSkills this afternoon (December 18th). Lynda Ryder acted as master-of-ceremonies. The Youth Centre Expansion Project will propel the MicroSkills Youth Centre into the future. After 10 years of empowering youth to make positive life choices, the current youth centre at Dixon and Islington has outgrown its space. The project will enable facility expansion and technology upgrade, to encourage the next generation of youth to follow their hopes and dreams. The Youth Centre has a track record of inspiring youth by providing support in a broad range of programs and counselling activities. This significant investment from the Rotary Clubs will provide so many more opportunities for youth to reach their potential in this community.

Michael pointed out that at our “visioning exercise” 2 years ago there was a desire by Club members to “work with youth in North Etobicoke”. The Toronto West club had a similar “visioning exercise” which also showed a desire to “work with youth in Etobicoke”. They approached our Club saying that they had \$150,000 to put towards a “legacy project” that would be aimed at youth in the Etobicoke Community. Our Club agreed to match the \$150,000 (over 3 years) and the partnership between the 2 Clubs began. Michael wanted to thank Hugh Williams for his work on getting the project off the ground and was “instrumental” in preparing the RFP that was sent out to interested organizations.

Birthdays This Week



Jack Fleming - December 24

Frederik Martin - December 26

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

Cheque Presentation – St. Vincent de Paul Society



President Michael presented a cheque for \$1000 to Jolanta Galazaka and Maria Connell from the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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MicroSkills Youth Centre Expansion Project Launch – Wednesday, December 18th:

On Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 1:30PM, the MicroSkills Youth Centre (235 Dixon Road, Unit 12) in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Etobicoke and the Rotary Club of Toronto West, hosted the launch of the Rotary - MicroSkills Youth Centre Expansion Project. Pictures from the launch below:-



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Thank You Notes:

President Michael noted that “thank you” notes had been received from the following;

-St Margaret’s “Out of the Cold” and St. Mathew’s “Out of the Cold” Programs thanking us for our donations.

Christ Church St. James Anglican Church thanking the Club for the 5 boxes of the food packets from the “Kids against Hunger” food packing event. They have all been distributed and we very welcome by those people in need. Kester Trim added that all of the food packages that were left at the Salvation Army Temple after the KAH event have also been distributed and have been “well received”.

Martha MacGray thanked the Club for the “lovely” flowers that the Club sent in honour of the passing of her husband Ken. She also wanted to thank the members who visited the funeral home or sent condolences.



Visitors & Guests

Visitors & Guests:

- **Exilus Previlon** – Potential New member
- **Jolanta Galazaka** – St. Vincent de Paul Society
- **Maria Connell** – St. Vincent de Paul Society
- **Graham Curry** – Arts Etobicoke
- **Leah Houston** – MABELLEarts
- **Zack Youngerman** – MABELLEarts

Attendance:

Members –12

Guests –06

Total – 18

Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial School Mentoring – A Pictorial Outlay



Secretary’s Announcements



**Meeting Cancellations Wednesday
December 25, 2013 and December 01, 2014**

**Next Meeting – January 8th – Speaker
Major Kester Trim (Salvation Army)**