



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week February 20 - 27, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

March 06, 2013 - Club Meeting

Today's Speaker - Classification Talk Maati Lahroussi



President Hugh asked Michael Bell to introduce Maati, but first he wanted to say that Classification Talks are “some of the best meetings we have”.

Michael noted that Maati came to his attention through Councillor Doug Ford who suggested Maati as a member of our Club. Doug felt that Maati's “passion” for his local community in North Etobicoke would fit in well with our Club's desire to look for opportunities to support community projects there. Maati is very active and involved in his community and is very “excited” about being with our Club. Maati attended the Community Services Committee meeting last Monday and has since joined the committee. He has already contributed some interesting suggestions for the committee to consider.

Maati wanted to first take the opportunity to Michael for inviting him to the Club and for being a good ambassador of the Club. He also wanted to thank Hugh and Ron for welcoming him to the club and to thank you all for supporting the Read to Communicate initiative at École élémentaire Félix-Leclerc.

Maati then wanted to tell “something to know about me”. He is Canadian by choice and originally from Casablanca Morocco. He left his home country 26 years ago and has lived in this “wonderful country” for the last 22 years. He has been married for 17 years, and has a princess and 2 boys (though his wife says they have 4 kids including Maati).

His hobbies include traveling, swimming, hiking, and cooking. In terms of his professional life, he worked for Citigroup for 17 years. He started a customer service rep and 17 years later, he was VP of operations in charge of managing and implementing fortune 500 clients' procurement programs, such as Ford, GM, Esso, and Bombardier. At this time, he is affiliated with BSG, a consulting firm; but is actively looking for a new beginning with one of the local firms.

In terms of his passions at work, he has passion for service and leading teams and clients to major change. At Citigroup, he successfully led many teams and clients through major change, and never lost a large market client because of service for 12 years and maintained 98% retention rate.

His passion in the community is to give back and help others, and this allows him to educate himself through the experience of others and to be grateful for what he has.

Besides being a member of our club, Maati is also a member of PPE (Parent Partner in

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Education), the Félix-Leclerc Parent Council, an adviser to Humber E business degree program, and recently He has established a partnership with Humber College to enhance my community.

President Hugh thanked Maati and noted that Maati may use some of his passion for cooking on a “hands-on” project. It was suggested at the Community Services Committee meeting that Club members visit the Yonge Street Mission (or others) to help out serving meals and Maati said he would offer to help cook. Hugh said that Maati is one of our “exciting new members”.



February 20, 2013 * Big Ideas Forum - Dr. Gina Valle



At our February Big Ideas Forum, Dr. Gina Valle, award-winning author, producer, and photographer, outlined her work in diversity. Her key message is that while “Canada prides itself on getting things right when it comes to diversity, and overall it should, but there is a long way to go.” Gina outlined some of the issues that still exist

related to diversity - such as poverty among some immigrant communities, aboriginal issues, women’s issues in the workplace, access to education, understanding/respect of Canadian laws, and more. Each of us individually, together as a club, and Canada can do more to create solutions to these issues.

The Big Idea:

Rather than considering ourselves to be “thinking out of the box”, Dr. Valle challenges us to consider “SHOULD there be a box?”

For the last 40 years, the Canadian Charter of Rights has incorporated multiculturalism as a guiding principle. Every year, approximately 250,000 immigrants enter Canada, although our infrastructure can support closer to 350,000. Approximately 63% of them are single immigrants, 23% are family-class immigrants, and 11% are refugees. Canada could be doing a better job welcoming refugees, and immigrants in general.

Dr. Valle suggests that the starting point for us should be in agreeing what values, as Canadians, we hold. Some ideas offered by the club:

- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of expression
- Access to education
- Ability to make your own success
- Broad range of human rights
- Gender equality
- Political democracy

What’s important to remember is that many if not most of the immigrants/refugees arriving in Canada are from countries where some of these values do not apply. There isn’t universal health care, free education, gender equality... So, if being “Canadian” means sharing these values, then there is a gap to be addressed.

Canadians have traditionally been very welcoming to newcomers. 85% of our immigrants become Canadian citizens (the highest acceptance rate in the world). Diversity

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can be seen to be progressing into the upper echelons of power. We have the highest rate of intermarriage in the world. And the children of immigrants now on average have higher levels of school and success and achievement than Canadian-born kids.

However, there are also key challenges:

- Religious secularism of mainstream Canadians, versus religious conservatism of new immigrants, causes conflict. This can be expected to increase in intensity.
- Slow or missing accreditation of professional immigrants has created pockets of dissatisfaction and disappointment - as Dr. Kirsty Duncan said in the last BIF "Canada promises, but doesn't deliver".
- Language barriers hold immigrants back from being integrated into Canadian society.

So what we should focus on:

- Consider the person as an individual rather than a member of an ethnic or religious group
- Invest into programs that help new Canadians fast-track their English / French language skills
- Push for greater recognition of immigrants accreditation needs
- Be a "broker" for new Canadians
- Encourage intercultural and interfaith events

One key area that Dr. Valle focuses on in her work is challenging stereotypes and supporting diversity in our schools.

The dialogue needs to continue. What can we at Rotary Etobicoke do to support our newest Canadians and other diversity challenges?

Magoanine Update - Nigel Brown

Nigel began by saying that he had cheques for Don Edwards for a total of \$1,200 that are donations towards the "Magoanine Cocktail

Fundraiser". Tickets for the event are "going well" and he is expecting it to be "sold out". He said he is hoping that as many members as possible will attend and to bring family and friends as it should be a fun evening. There will be a draw for prizes and a raffle. See Nigel for tickets. Nigel says that so far approximately \$65,000 has been raised or promised for the project and says they still need another \$20,000 but thinks that things look good to get it. He is hoping to get this before they leave in August so that he can get the "paperwork" done for the RI grants for this project that they are applying for.

Club Votes

The Club votes on the "Rotary Etobicoke and Toronto West Legacy Project" and the "Child Hunger Relief Concert" were conducted on Wednesday, February 20th. Quorum was reached that evening. However, in order to follow the guidelines set out in the by-laws and to be "fair to all members" it was decided that all ballots and proxies were to be held in abeyance until our "regular" meeting yesterday, Wednesday, February 27th, when they would be counted. This gave the opportunity to any members who were unable to attend the February 20th meeting to vote on the proposals. Several members took this opportunity to vote.

The ballots and proxies have now been tabulated and the results are as follows;

Rotary Etobicoke and Toronto West Legacy Project:

Total votes cast = 35 (25 ballots + 10 proxies)

Results: Approve = 28 Do Not Approve = 7

Motion Approved

Child Hunger Relief Concert:

Total votes cast = 36 (25 ballots + 11 proxies)

Results: Approve = 28 Do Not Approve = 8

Motion Approved

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Visitors & Guests



Guests

➔ **Ann Newman** – Potential New member

Club members – we were ~~18~~4 today

Total attendees - **15**

Birthdays This Week



Ingrid Bjel McGaughey - February 23

Andy Chiodo - March 03

Kevin Crigger - March 03

Secretary's Corner

By Ron Miller

Following announcements were made

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

Wednesday, March 27th - Magoanine Cocktail Fundraiser in aid of the Magoanine "B" School Water & Sanitation Project - 7 PM - Bernadette and Nigel's (437 The Kingsway - near Islington) Tickets \$55/person - Contact Nigel Brown

(NOTE: The regularly scheduled luncheon meeting on March 27th will be cancelled)

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.

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



Michael Bell - Michael Bell – Michael was happy to say he had a "job interview" on February 15th and that on February 16th he "got the job". Michael has been named the District Governor Nominee Nominee and will become District Governor for 2015-16. Michael wanted to thank the Club for all of our support in recommending him for District Governor. However, Michael noted that "now the work really starts". As DG our Club will be responsible to host the District Conference in the Fall of 2015. He will have to get a team together to plan for the Conference. He is "delighted" to have the "opportunity" and is looking forward to the "challenge". Michael also mentioned that District Governor Nominee Brian Thompson (2014-15) told Michael that since our Club has 14 new members, he would like him to do a "break-out" session at the 2014 District Conference on "membership retention" (What are the best practices for retaining members and what works and doesn't work). Michael says that the mentors assigned to the new members will be responsible for getting them "engaged" in the Club so that we will be able to retain them as members in the future.

Ralph Chiodo – Ralph was happy to congratulate Michael on his selection to become District Governor. He says since Michael is Past President, Ribfest Chair,

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President Elect, etc, he is very qualified for the job. Ralph was also happy for the "wonderful snow" of the past few days and that his "prayers work". Last year's lack of snow put a crimp in "winter tire" sales but this year he is able to sell them.

Theresa Sherwood – Theresa was happy to say that she is a part of the Club's recently created "Hands on Etobicoke" committee. She said that her mentor Gill "got her going" when she helped with the "Basketeers" project. She says that there is now a link on Facebook for the "Hands on Etobicoke". She has an idea for a logo it and she said Hugh has already put it on. She said that Ingrid was going to help her today with some pointers on Facebook. President Hugh added that he wanted to thank Theresa for her 'efforts and passion' she has displayed since joining our Club and that she hasn't hesitated "taking the bull by the horns" to get things done.

Hands On Etobicoke Needs Volunteers

Our Hands-on Etobicoke needs 6 volunteers to assist on Tuesday, 19th March at Yonge St. Mission (just down from the Eaton Center)

Evergreen is Yonge St. Mission's Center for street involved youth. Serving between 80 and 100 youth (16 to 24 years) we will help staff to prepare and serve a warm, nutritious lunch and help with clean up afterwards. A tour of Evergreen is included.

Maximum 6 per group. Time commitment 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Aprons provided. Preparing vegetables, fruit, salads, snacks, serving hot and cold meals and clearing away using their fabulous industrial dishwasher.

If we receive more than 6 volunteers we are welcome to participate in another evergreen lunch program.

Please contact Gill to confirm attendance/more information

We will be taking socks to donate to Yonge St. Mission which is a priority on their "most wanted" list.

JOTTINGS FROM THE BOARD Feb 04, 2013

By Michael Bell

President Hugh has made the following list of outstanding jobs within the club that need filling. If you are interested in any of the following positions please let President Hugh or Secretary Ron know of your interest:

Board Position: Club Administration

Board Position: Vice President

Webmaster: Toronto Ribfest

Webmaster: Rotary Etobicoke

AIDS Walk Club Representative International Committee Chair

Treasurer in Training (Ribfest)

Treasurer in Training (Club)

Ribfest Marketplace Manager Club Partners Database (CSC)

Hospital Strategy (CSC) Legacy Project (if applicable)

Rotary Food Initiative (CSC) Club Speakers Co-ordinator

Club (point person) for Polio Co-ordinator (Hands on Etobicoke)

Club (point person) for Magoanine Project (after Nigel & Bernadette leave)

The following expenditure were approved from the **Community Services**

Committee: \$1,500.00 to St. Vincent de Paul Society

\$2,500.00 to ecole elementaire Felix-Leclerc

(For their Read to Communicate Program)

\$2,100.00 to Broad Reach (for their Youth Sailing Program)

\$1,000.00 Youth Without Shelter (for our club to paint and own a room at their shelter)

The following expenditure was approved from the **International Committee**:

\$1,000.00 to Shelter Box Canada

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The Membership Committee wishes to thank all of our club members for their input into our club member survey. As to the question of the time and place of our meetings, there was once again no clear direction. The committee feels that since we are having some success with our one evening meeting per month that this should continue as long as it is working. As to the question of members' satisfaction with our club and their suggestions for improvements, there was a common theme of low club morale, poor communications and some members intentionally distancing themselves from the club. It is interesting to note that our club received the District Award for communications with our club bulletin. As to the low club morale, we have been having a great deal of fun with a greater variety of speakers at lunch and especially at our monthly evening meetings with excellent community involvement. We invite all club members to attend one of our evening meetings. As to communications, the committee recommends to the Board that all committees post their meeting minutes to our club website (under member access only) so that there is a greater opportunity for all club members to access information on what our various committees are working on. It is also recommended by the committee that the club continue with our current meeting configuration and that our club leaders be as open as possible with members about what is going on in the club.

Finally, we added four new members to our club this month namely, Erlene Brown, returning former member Jack Fleming, Florian Hammerbacher and Mike Walmsley. Please make a point of welcoming and introducing yourselves to our new and returning members.

Paul Presenting cheque to Jolanta Galazka from St. Vincent de Paul



Lynda Ryder Presenting Paul Roeser with his 5 Sapphire Paul Harris



Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller