



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week January 16, 2013

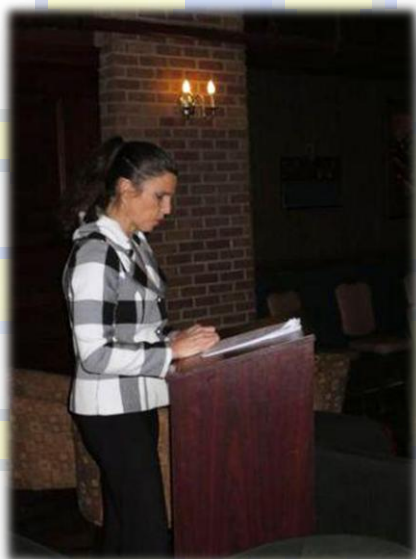
Board 2012 - 2013

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

January 23, 2013 Robbie Burns Day - Special Lunch



Big Ideas Forum - Dr. Kirsty Duncan



Kirsty made a remarkable first impression by going around the room and saying hello to everyone by name. In the few minutes prior to starting she had actually taken time to meet everybody and memorize their names. Quite the feat!

Our wonderful speaker at this week's Big Ideas Forum event was Dr. Kirsty Duncan, MP, one of our newest club members and a passionate

advocate for, among other things, the people of Northern Etobicoke, people with mental illness, newcomers to Canada, and people who are poverty-stricken and disadvantaged.

Kirsty divides her time between her duties in Ottawa and her riding office here in Etobicoke. She explained that she left her job, a job she loved, to fulfill a higher purpose. The three aspects of that focus are as follows:

- 1) To fight for a greener community and greener Canada
- 2) To end child hunger in Canada
- 3) To be a strong advocate for children affected by mental illness

Kirsty's riding of North Etobicoke has some of the most diverse citizenry in Canada. Her riding also houses the largest Somali community in any riding in Canada. Approximately 70% of the community are first generation Canadians. 20% in her riding are not even Canadian citizens yet. As such, they face many challenges, which include language barriers, family reunification issues, and single parent families. Jobs can be very difficult to find, regardless of the qualifications of the individuals in their original country. As well, the reduction in manufacturing jobs has hit the people of north Etobicoke particularly hard, as a significant percentage of them normally would hold jobs in that sector. Serious issues in the riding also include gun violence and unacceptably high drop-out rates in high school.

Kirsty's "Big Idea": make POLITICS be about PEOPLE. Make the offices of MPs be a "refuge", a source of inspiration, help, and guidance. For example, in Kirsty's riding

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office, people in the community can go to find out where to get free food, 24 hours a day. Women suffering from abuse can go and know that they will find a helping hand and understanding ear. Youth in the community can go hang out with other young people. People without work can get help with finding jobs.

Beyond that, Kirsty focuses on national issues that need to be addressed as well. Child hunger is at unacceptably high levels in Canada - 42% of elementary school kids go to school hungry, and 62% of secondary school students don't get breakfast either. ***Canada remains the only industrialized nation without a national breakfast program***. People suffering from mental illness need better community supports, especially for those also suffering from poverty.



Kirsty's insider tips for people wanting to get government support for issues are as follows:

- 1) Speak with **one voice**
- 2) Crystallize the issues to be able to have 2 or at most 3 "asks"
- 3) Submit petitions repeatedly; it is better to have 100 petitions with 30 names on each one, than to have one petition

with 3000 names on it. Each time a new petition arrives, it gives the MP an opportunity to speak anew

- 4) Execute on letter writing campaigns. Do NOT use a form letter or it will be discounted.
- 5) Ask MPs to write and submit motions on the issue (e.g. ask them to submit a motion that Canada decide to outlaw child hunger)
- 6) Write articles to newspapers and other media about the issue
- 7) Ask your MP for help in getting government funding

New Member Introduction - Dr. Kirsty Duncan

Not only was Dr. Kirsty Duncan our speaker at tonight's "Big Ideas Forum", it was the perfect opportunity for her to be introduced to the Club as one of our newest members. President Hugh formally inducted her into the Club, and then Ron Miller presented her with her membership card and the New Member information package. Michael Bell presented Kirsty with her Rotary Pin and pinned it on her. Kirsty said that "it was an honour for her to be part of such a prestigious organization".

Luncheon January 23, Robbie Burns - *Burns Supper Guide*

The annual celebratory tribute to the life, works and spirit of the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796). Celebrated on, or about, the Bard's birthday, January 25th, Burns Suppers range from stentoriously formal gatherings of esthetes and scholars to uproariously informal rave-ups of drunkards and louts. Most Burns Suppers fall in the middle of this range, and adhere, more or less, to some sort of time honoured form which includes the eating of a traditional Scottish meal, the drinking of Scotch

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whisky, and the recitation of works by, about,
and *in the spirit of* the Bard.

Courtesy - Robbie Burns Website

Rotary Day at the Toronto



Marlies

President Hugh announced that there will be a special Rotary Day with the Toronto Marlies Hockey Team on Saturday, February 2nd at Ricoh Coliseum (3 PM). District 7070 has a whole section of tickets of which our Club has 30 to sell. Tickets are \$30 each. \$7 of every ticket sold goes to PolioPlus. The Marlies are playing their "arch-rivals" the Hamilton Bulldogs (farm club of the Montreal Canadiens). It should be great fun. Contact Alex Woda or President Hugh for tickets.

- ➔ **Andrew Misiah**
- ➔ **Audrey Yates**
- ➔ **Liz Read**
- ➔ **Martina Ernst** – Guest of Ingrid McGaughey

Club members – we were **14** today

Total attendees – **26**

Birthdays This Week



Robert Lychenko - January 13th

Judy Burnell - January 20th

Secretary's Corner

By Ron Miller

Following announcements were made

- **January 23rd 2013 5.00 PM - Community Services Committee** Meeting - National Silicates (429 Kipling - at Horner)
- **February 2nd, 2013** - Rotary Day at the Toronto Marlies - 3 PM - Ricoh Coliseum - there are 30 tickets available @ \$30.00/each - contact Alex Woda or President Hugh
- **March 27th, 2013** - Night of 1000 Cocktail-sticks Magoanine Fundraiser - Nigel and Bernadette's - Further details to come.

*Please put all these dates in your diaries
and let Ron know any make-ups/meetings*

Visitors & Guests



Visiting Rotarians

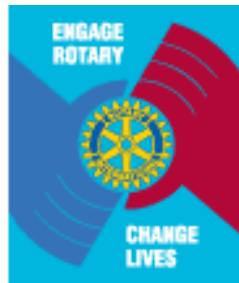
- ➔ **Neil Phillips** – Rotary Club of Toronto
- ➔ **Don Sirko** – Rotary Club of Parkdale-High Park

Guests

- ➔ **Lilian Arrage** – Exchange Student
- ➔ **Jack Fleming** – Former member who is rejoining the Club
- ➔ **Jo-Ann Bell** – guest of Michael Bell
- ➔ **Saveria Caruso** – Guest of Matti Lahroussi
- ➔ **Serge Paul** – Guest of Matti Lahroussi
- ➔ **Peter Cichoszewski** – Guest of Matti Lahroussi

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Engage Rotary, Change Lives' is 2013-14 RI theme



RI President-elect Ron Burton will ask Rotarians to *Engage Rotary, Change Lives* in 2013-14.

He unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2013 International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA, the annual training event for incoming district governors.

"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," Burton said. "We need to make sure that every Rotarian has a meaningful role to play, that they're all making a contribution, and that their contribution is valued."

Burton said the July launch of [The Rotary Foundation's new grant model](#), Future Vision, makes it an exciting time to be a Rotarian. He said the new grant model, which has been used by about 100 pilot districts since 2010, represents a new era for the Foundation, and will help Rotarians get excited about Rotary's ability to change lives.

"It takes everything that is wonderful about Rotary and raises it to a new level – by encouraging bigger, more sustainable projects while providing increased flexibility for local projects, both of which address the needs of the community being served," he said.

Burton asked the incoming district governors to take the lead in helping their clubs through the

transition, with the assistance of their district Rotary Foundation chairs, who also attended the assembly this year. The training sessions are focusing heavily on equipping these leaders to go back to their districts as experts on the new grant model.

Before the assembly, Burton asked each of the incoming governors to make a donation in their name to The Rotary Foundation in order to demonstrate leadership by example. At the assembly, he announced that all 537 governors-elect had complied; along with donations from all RI Board members and Foundation Trustees, the contributions totaled US\$675,412.

"Now, I have to believe that some of this is money that The Rotary Foundation probably would not have received had I not asked. And I think that this is an important lesson" he said. "If you want somebody else to do something, you can just sit around and wait for them to get the idea, or you can ask."

Burton applied that lesson also to membership development, which he insisted is the responsibility of every Rotarian. He told the audience that although he had been an active member of the Key Club, a youth program of Kiwanis International, he went on to join Rotary simply because the Rotary Club of Norman, Oklahoma, invited him to.

"You have to ask," he said.

But Burton emphasized that the job doesn't end when a new member joins: "It's not done until that new member is engaged in Rotary, inspired by Rotary, and uses the power of Rotary service to change lives."

Courtesy - Rotary International

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller & Ingrid Bjel McGaughey