



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Valarie Wafer

RI President: Ron Burton

Week July 24, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

Speaker: July 31, 2013 - John Campbell Classification Talk

Today's Speaker - President Michael Bell - Presidential Throne Speech



President Michael had the pleasure of presenting Hugh Williams with his Past President's pin. In turn, Hugh pinned a President's Pin on Michael's lapel.

As members of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke we are indeed fortunate for the legacy that has been given to us by those members who have gone before. Our club is rich in history and good works and through the establishing of our successful Toronto Ribfest as a fundraising tool for our charitable work in our local community and internationally, we are truly blessed. RI President Ron Burton's theme for this Rotary year is "Engage Rotary ... Change Lives" When he unveiled his theme Burton went on to say, "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 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."

It is my goal that each of you as members of this Rotary club have that opportunity to play a meaningful role in our club and that your contribution is valued. On each table here today is a copy of our 2013-14 committee structure. Secretary Ron will be sending out an electronic version to each of you shortly. Please review and confirm with your committee chair your desire and commitment to serve on his/her committee.

It is my belief that Rotary would not be the successful organization that it is today without our Foundation.

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. Our Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world. In District 7070 we are committed to these goals and to that end each and every club has signed on to support two Foundation programs; EREY (every Rotarian every year) \$100.00 per club member per year and EPN (End Polio Now) \$20.00 per club member per year. Our annual club dues at \$250.00 per year are among the lowest in our District. I want to challenge each and every member of our club to contribute \$120.00 to fund these two Foundation programs which will be matched by our club. It is especially gratifying to know that Rotary is a

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100% charity with 100 cents out of every dollar raised going to our charitable works. There is (in my opinion) no better place for us as Rotarians to financially support our charitable works than through giving to our own Rotary Foundation.

This new Rotary year is already filled with excitement and promise. We have just finished another successful Toronto Ribfest, and our joint Youth Legacy Project with the Toronto West club is moving forward with some 26 groups looking to submit their proposals by July 30th. The Rotary Food Initiative Program is gathering momentum with 7 Toronto based clubs coming on board.

The Community Services Committee will combine with Public Relations under Chair Past President Hugh Williams to assist our local community and to reach out to those most in need. Under the CSC we will have two sub committees one to come up with a Hospital Strategy moving forward and the second our Hands on Etobicoke committee working throughout our local community.

The International Services Committee under Chair Gillian Dugas will continue our Magoanine Sanitation and Water Project in Mozambique and have already submitted a District Grant Proposal for a Child Nutrition Program in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Vocational Services Committee will be chaired by Jack Fleming this year as we looking to reengage with our business community including the "Rotary at Work" program for the hiring of disabled adults in the work place.

Youth Services Committee formerly New Generations will be Chaired by Maati Lahroussi and we are looking to make a further impact with the youth in North Etobicoke, as well as exploring a couple of leads for our sponsoring an Interact Club in Etobicoke. In addition, we will make an effort to reconnect with our Rotaract Club at York University and to provide mentoring and guidance for our youth.

Lynda Ryder is heading Club Administration and has given me a list that her committee will be

working on this Rotary Year including more social fellowship events. Indeed, we had our first such event on Monday evening, our farewell party for Nigel and Bernadette at which time we presented Bernadette with a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Ingrid McGaughey will be Chairing our Speakers Committee responsible for our weekly speakers and BIF's which will continue again this year on the evening of the third Wednesday of each month.

Last year we added 16 new members to our club and it is my goal to ensure that each of these new members finds a place in our club to contribute with their talents and their time. In addition, I challenge membership Chair Alex Woda to take up where we left off last year and to bring in another 16+ members to the club in this Rotary year. We are already off to a good start with 3 new members being added so far this year.

With my duties as president of the club this year and then being District Governor in 2 years I am stepping down as Chair of Toronto Ribfest after 3 wonderful exciting years and I have asked Hugh Williams and Justin DiCiano to be the Co-Chairs of our Toronto Ribfest Committee. I know that they will continue to lead and grow our most successful fundraising initiative on behalf of our club.

Finally, this Rotary year it is my intention to look into the merits of establishing a satellite Rotary club in North Etobicoke. This area of our city would certainly benefit from having it's own Rotary Club and so we will look to see if there is an opportunity for our club to eventually sponsor a new Rotary Club in North Etobicoke.

I want to thank you, my club members for giving me this opportunity to serve you again as president and for your support in backing me as District Governor in 2015-16.

Thank you.

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Certificate Presentation:



President Michael and past President Hugh displayed four certificates that the Club has received for last year.

A Certificate of Appreciation was given to the Club from Citizenship and Immigration - Canada in recognition of the "outstanding support" that we have given over the years by hosting an annual Citizenship ceremony at Ribfest on Canada Day. President Michael added that this certificate will be presented to Ralph Chiodo as a much deserved recognition of his vision and efforts to make this an annual event.

The Club received the 2012-13 Presidential Citation which is presented to Clubs that meet the "targets" set down by the RI President in support of all the Rotary "Avenues of Service" in that year. It is signed by District Governor (2012-13) Ted Koziel, and RI President (2012-13) Sakuji Tanaka. Michael noted that 36 of the 55 Clubs in District 7070 received Presidential Citations.

Past President Hugh Williams received a certificate on behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke in recognition of our "outstanding support to all Avenues of Foundation". It is signed by RI President (2012-13) Sakuji Tanaka, Foundation Chair (2012-13) Wilf Wilkinson, and District Governor (2012-13) Ted Koziel.

Hugh noted that the Club also received a special award from President Tanaka. This is "Recognition of membership Development Initiatives" and is "presented on behalf of the Board of Directors of Rotary international to the Rotary Club of Etobicoke, District 7070, for

its innovative approach to membership recruitment during 2012-13". This award was initiated by DG Ted Koziel in recognition of our 16 new members to our Club last year. Hugh said that this was largely due to the efforts of Michael Bell and Ingrid McGaughey.

Visitors & Guests



Visiting Rotarians:

➔ **Frank Bot** – Toronto East York

Visitors:

➔ **Jay Douglas** – Potential New Member

➔ **Emmanuel Lopez** – Guest of Lynn Manwar

➔ **Graham McGaughey** – Guest of Ingrid McGaughey

Members in Attendance - 16

Visitors & Guests – 4

Total attendance – 20

Birthdays This Week



Ron Miller – July 27

Paul Harris Presentation - Bernadette Hunkeler Brown

By: Nigel Brown

I've been asked to say a few words one last time, and quite frankly, I'm thrilled to! We are both so happy to see you all here tonight – and thank you to PP Hugh, President Michael and the others for organising this event – it is very kind of you.

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You've all heard my story before, many times, but I wanted to tell you about this great project I've just heard of ...! No, it's OK, just kidding – that will come in a few months! No, you are safe: for a change I'm going to talk to you about Bernadette – the brains to my sometimes impetuous brawn!



She is one of 8 children born to a farming couple in the Inner-Schweiz near Luzern, on a farm that could be cut off for a few days at a time during winter. Her father was mayor of the local community for a Swiss-record of 26 years – he is a political animal extraordinaire and the kids developed firm views, through him, and a social conscience from their mother. And incidentally, the village is where the famous Papal “Swiss Guard” was formed.

Bernadette is pretty sharp and had little trouble with her schooling, and went on to do an apprenticeship in office management/book-keeping at her local commune, before becoming an au pair in Paris, and then London, where she learnt two new languages in addition to her native Swiss & High German. She loved travelling, and travel books, and returned to Switzerland with many tales of cheap holidays and even cheaper Punk & New Wave concerts in London pubs! She drifted around for a bit before, at the urging of an uncle, she applied for the Swiss foreign service, and in due course, passed the exams and was posted to Venice to learn the ropes, a posting she was upset with because it was so close to home that she could even catch a train to it! But she enjoyed her time there and looks back on it very fondly. From there she was transferred to New York and spent nearly 4 years in that consulate, enjoying the culture,

becoming a champion down-hill skier with the Swiss Ski Club of NY, attending theatres & concert-halls, and generally making the best of her time! That becomes a recurring theme you will hear!

Next, she was transferred to Rome, where she found out that she didn't speak Italian, but Venetian, and went on to learn this second dialect of Italian. She attended the opening of the World Cup, spoke with actress Ursula Andress (who lived there) and met some Aussies at a diplomatic TGIF, who later helped in her next posting: I met Bernadette in Canberra in 1994 when she was a free-spirited single miss and I was just starting to enjoy my life again as my divorce was going through. Bernadette was working at the embassy there and I was on contract to the federal mines department. After an initial lack of interest on my part, I eventually noticed this woman with laughing eyes, a tantalising smile and a raucous laugh. I think I was just one of many admirers who were carefully kept at arm's length. After months of eluding me though we had a couple of meals out together around Christmas/New Year. She was good fun to be around.

Avoiding most of the sordid bits, I was pleased that Bernadette turned down the opportunity to attend a line-dancing weekend in New South Wales (it's square dancing without the corners), and chose instead to visit me in Victoria, working on a seismic survey. Bernadette left Australia in April 1995 for the Dominican Republic and I followed her some weeks later on a “tentative” basis. Apart from anything else I needed to retrieve my CD collection, which had mysteriously managed to find its way into her container!

The DR tested our resourcefulness to some extent, but we were having a great time, Bernadette was working hard, learning Spanish, and was promoted to third secretary, she turned down several marriage proposals from me and I told her that was it – I wasn't asking any more, but things were going well between us. And thankfully, in late 1997, she finally had to ask for my hand in marriage due to strictly financial reasons associated with her impending transfer (she is Swiss you know!), though it was sort of via ESP, rather than getting down on her bended knee. In fact, it was over the phone from the office and went something like this, “Do you want to go to Switzerland in March?” “Why March?” Well my colleague, Bernard is going skiing in January and February and the ambassador is

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going for Easter in April so ..." "So why would we want to go there, then?" I asked innocently. "Oh, we can talk about it later!" she blurted-out and slammed down the phone! ESP is a definite help to being a husband sometimes, especially with Bernadette, who has an increasingly common habit of starting sentences and then moving on to another thought, leaving me to guess what she wanted in the first case. But we husbands all know the correct answer in these cases, "Yes Dear!" We were married in March 1998, and are so happy we did for a couple of reasons, one being that Bernadette's mother died the following year and her 8 children had generally failed to attract mates by that time – the neighbours in the small village were beginning to talk!

We moved from the land of the long blackout to the land of the long white cloud, New Zealand in 1999. This was a very special posting, culturally (we enjoyed the three main cultures of the place – Maori, Islander & Pakeha (foreigner, generally British), and for nature – the fantastic scenery, the great food and wine, the two mainstays of sporting life, no, life ITSELF, rugby & cricket, the jade carving (which I took up as an antidote to too much voluntary work – it hasn't seemed to work yet though), the earthquakes and the horizontal, driving rain. NZ is special! Whilst that was all being enjoyed, I had been inveigled upon to join the Rotary Club of Mt Victoria by Bernadette's boss, the ambassador, who was leaving for a transfer. Bernadette had started a distance learning diploma course in foreign affairs, which she needed to pass to be promoted in the future. She excelled, and passed there, or after our next transfer, I can't remember which now. She passed her second assessment and was promoted to first secretary as a result. She was also asked to become the first female consular inspector in the department, but turned it down, and the honour was only dished out some 5 years later, so that tells you how well she was thought of in the department.

In early 2003 we transferred to Mozambique, with Bernadette being chef d'chancery. That was an interesting posting – we had a great time, Bernadette had 3 bosses in as many years, learnt Portuguese, and because I was so involved in the workings of the Rotary Club of Polana, she decided to join so we had something to talk about that we had in common. She's a pragmatist, like her father! And was promoted a couple of times. I was awarded my first Paul Harris by the club, and

served DG Maria Luísa (whom some of you have met) as her district secretary. You all know we fell in love with Southern Africa, and we stayed there more than 4 years. Things may not always be easy in Africa, but they are never dull either! But we had the benefits accruing from the diplomatic corps, which certainly helped ease the difficulties. Except Bernadette caught cerebral malaria and was hours from death when it was finally diagnosed. She spent 2 weeks in the ICU in a Johannesburg hospital but came back, seemingly as good as ever!

We were transferred to Dublin in 2007 with Bernadette serving as counsellor, the "number 2" in the embassy there. Her work was important, but the social side of the posting also ran strongly, and it was indeed a very interesting time to be there as the Celtic Tiger died and widespread hardships began to be felt by the population, outside of banking & politics!

Bernadette loves her work abroad because she says she gets a new job every time we are transferred. She loves the travelling, the opportunities to meet people, see places, enjoy the cultures, and escape Europe!

After only 2 years in her new role Bernadette was approached by HQ to be the next consul general in Toronto, a real honour. It is hard to say no to your foreign minister, so we arrived on 11 November, 2009. She is only the third woman consul general in the department's history. But this has been a tough assignment, not only because of several staff issues at the consulate general, for being the first for Bernadette in the corner office and of course the closure of the consulate general after 107 years, a situation we are very sad about. At times I did not help her as much as I could have, but she got on with the work and has, in my humble opinion, done a magnificent job in circumstances. We enjoyed the cultural opportunities in Toronto, the countryside, the interesting politics brought-about by the tripartite regulatory system here (I told you she is her father's daughter!), the safety of the place, the good food and wines, really very friendly locals, and of course, the members of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke!!

On a personal note, and as I said when I was kindly awarded my sapphire Paul Harris recently, I could not have done what I have in the club without the complete support of Bernadette, and oft-times her advice, humour and love. So it thrills me to have

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been able to tell you a little about my wonderful wife, Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, the next Consul General for Switzerland in Cape Town!



survived or have breast cancer until July 28th. She is also happy to say that she is flying to Kerala, India on July 31st for a 28 day stay at an Ayurvedic Hospital for a body detox and rejuvenation.

Michael Bell – Michael was happy to say that today is his “first official meeting” as Club President. He was also happy to see Bob Maxwell here today and wanted to welcome him back as our “new” Honorary Member

Annie Campbell



Vice-President at Famous PEOPLE Players



50/50 Draw

Lyn Manwar, this week's lucky ticket holder - **5 of Diamonds.**

HAPPY BUCKS



Judy Burnell – Judy was happy to say that a month ago she was presented with a pin from the Toronto Police Service for her 20 years as a volunteer with the Police.

Lynn Manwar – Lynn was happy to say that a TV crew was coming to film a piece about her “cancer survival story”. She also is leaving on Friday (July 26th) to attend the “Stretch, Heal & Grow Yoga Wellness Retreat” for young women who have

Hello Hugh,
the Etobicoke Rotary has always been good to Famous PEOPLE Players as I am sure you are aware.
I just wanted to let you know that we have 2 interns from the Baptist University of Hong Kong. I was asking them most about what they liked about Toronto and the said “Rib Fest!” Congratulations.

Reporting and Pictures - Ron Miller