



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week March 13, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

***Big Ideas Forum: March 20, 2013 7.00 p.m. Supt. Frank Bergen 22nd Division
Toronto Police - "Youth at Risk"***

Today's Program - Broad Reach Foundation, St. Margaret's Out of the Cold, Coal "The Diabetes Alert Dog"



President Hugh explained that today's speaker was unable to attend today, but since we had a full program today, it doesn't seem to matter. Hugh noted that since we have been so successful raising funds at Ribfest, it is great to be able to use these funds "to give back to the community". Today the Club is presenting Cheques to 3 organizations that we are supporting.

Broad Reach - President Hugh asked Diane Irvine to present a cheque for \$2,100 to Stewart Sherman from Broad Reach. Stewart wanted to thank the Club and wanted to talk briefly about Broad Reach and his experience with the organization. Stewart will become the organization's new President in April. Stewart has extensive and varied experience in all types of sailing. When he first started with the organization he was "skeptical" about spending 3 days a week sailing out on the water with "at-risk kids" who knew nothing about sailing. He quickly changed his mind. Broad Reach has been the largest on water program for at-risk/disadvantaged youth in Canada that combines life skills development, leadership building, and sailing. Broad Reach works with over 200 youth annually between the ages of 12 and 24. Stewart feels that these "at-risk" kids need a "change in trajectory". These are mainly "street kids" from "challenging neighbourhoods". Society expects everyone to "hit a target" however these kids have never seen the target. They are a small percentage of the population and haven't the "tools to succeed". Most of these kids have little achievements outside of Grade 6. Stewart was amazed at some things that you and I take for granted were "foreign concepts" to many of these kids. He said there were kids that they brought from the Jane-Finch area to HMCS York were surprised to find that Toronto was on a lake. Most of us have succeeded because we had people in our lives that were mentors and models to emulate. It is not the case with most of these kids. Most of these youth have no opportunity to participate in on-water recreational and skills developing activities. To that end, Broad Reach believes that economics

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should never be a barrier to participation and provides all its programs free of charge. Once out on the water (8 to a boat) they are able to talk with the kids and teach them sailing. However, it is not just the sailing skills they learn. It is "real life" skills. They teach them to focus on "small goals" first. They use sailing as a learning medium to develop confidence, leadership, teamwork, responsibility and positive work ethic. Stewart said there are 2 ways of helping Broad Reach help others; financially and volunteering.



St. Margaret's "Out of the Cold" - Andre Dugas was asked to present a cheque for \$1,000 to Terry Grier from the St. Margaret's "Out of the Cold" program. Andre said it was a pleasure to do so as Gill and he had visited the Church to see the program first hand. They were impressed with the program. Andre wanted to thank them for the "impact they were having on the neighbourhood. Terry thanked the Club for our donation. He noted that the OOTC program was in numerous churches across Toronto and are known for "good food & shelter" for the homeless. The program at St. Margaret's began 13 years ago. They operate 21 weeks a year. On Mondays they have dinner and overnight accommodations for 20 to 30 men and Tuesday a breakfast. A company called Dixon Hall provide overnight security and clean mattresses

for the men to sleep on. They usually have 80-100 men for the Monday dinner. Terry mentioned that Hugh's wife Ruth has helped cook dinner. They have 21 teams of cooks that prepare 42 meals. If you want to become part of a cooking team (3-5 people) for dinner/breakfast contact Terry. The meals are plentiful, warm and filling. Any help is greatly appreciated. Terry said he hasn't been to a Rotary meeting in some time but he sees some friends here today. He has known Lynda Ryder for some time and that she and National Silicates have been supporters for many years. They have 150-200 volunteers of "one way or another". They get a lot of their food from the Daily Bread Food Bank and other sources. Their budget is \$10,000/year for supplies and overhead. With the \$10,000, food the cooks bring in, and "gifts in kind", they keep the program running. It is not easy; however it is worth it since they are dealing with "people with tough lives" who really appreciate the help. He is grateful to Rotary and hopes some of us will take the advantage to volunteer. Lynda Ryder added that it was "an honour" to have Dr. Grier here today and that he and his wife Ruth "do so much for Canada and the community".



Coal - The "Diabetes Alert Dog" - Gill Dugas said she was reading the paper one day

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when she saw an article on a little girl, Avery Demaria, with diabetes that needed an “diabetes alert dog” and thought this would be something that the Club might be interested in supporting. Gill presented a cheque to Jennifer Magnus (Avery’s mother) towards the cost of the dog. Jennifer thanked the Club for our help and wanted to talk about Avery and Coal. Avery has Juvenile Diabetes (Type 1) and is insulin dependent. She has to wear an insulin pump. She is too young to accurately detect when she has “too high or too low blood sugar”. Low blood sugar can lead to becoming weak or going into coma (and possible death). High blood sugar or DKA (Diabetic Ketoacidosis) causes the body to break down fats which causes ketones (acidic chemicals) to build in the blood which over time can damage nerves and small blood vessels of the eyes, kidneys and heart. Coal is a 17 week old black Lab who is trained to “alert” Avery when her blood sugar is low or high. Coal is trained by “Service Dogs by Warren Retrievers” in Virginia. Coal has been in Canada since Monday night but has already “bonded” with Avery. There still will be some ongoing training needed but Coal is already doing what he is trained for (Tim Molina, the trainer from “SDBWR” accompanied Coal from Virginia and said he will return every 90 days for further training). If Avery’s sugar is too high, Coal is trained to “paw” her. If it too low he “noses” her face. He is already getting to know Avery and is sleeping with her. Jennifer says that Avery sleeps very soundly and is unable to detect any changes in her blood sugar on her own. Since Coal will be with her at night he will be able to monitor her. He will become her constant companion and in a short time will even accompany her to school. A service dog of this type does not come cheap. The cost is around \$25,000. Her parents have had to raise the money. They held a dinner dance, a Fall Fantasy Festival, etc to raise money. So far they raised around \$14,000 and wanted to thank our Club for helping with this “life-saving” support. Like any Service Dog Coal is trained not to approach people unless “invited” and likewise people should not approach a service dog unless invited. However, members were invited to visit with him after the luncheon.

New Member Induction - Florian Hammerbacher



President Hugh introduced our new member Florian Hammerbacher, and formally inducted him into the Club. Ron Miller gave Florian his membership card, Club ID badge, and his New Member Information Package. PDG Lynda Ryder presented Florian with his Rotary pin.

Michael Bell - Edith Reme Bell

Friends may call at the Turner & Porter York Chapel, 2357 Bloor St. W., at Windermere, east of the Jane Subway, on Monday, March 18, 2013, from 2 p.m., until the celebration of life service in the Chapel at 3 o'clock. For those who wish, donations may be made to the Trillium Health Centre Foundation.

Visitors & Guests



Guests

- **Brock Buchanan**
- **Kaiwan (Kevin) Irani** – Potential new member

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- ➔ **Terry Grier** – St Margaret's "Out of the Cold"
- ➔ **Stewart Sherman** – Broad Reach
- ➔ **Avery Dimaria**
- ➔ **Jennifer Magnus** – Avery's mom
- ➔ **Steve Dimaria** – Avery's dad
- ➔ **Ethan Dimaria** – Avery's brother
- ➔ **Tim Molina** – Trainer – Service Dogs by Warren Retrievers
- ➔ **Coal** – Avery's "diabetes alert" dog

Club members – we were **15** today
Total attendees – **24**

Birthdays This Week



Anthony Doukas - March 17

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)

Thursday April 04 7.00 P.M. - Membership Committee Meeting. Venue: Michael Bell's Residence.

Monday April 08, 2013 - 6.00 P.M. Board Meeting. Venue; Illumineer Office

Saturday, April 27th - Trump Aids Poker Walk (Toronto Beach waterfront) - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Contact: Michael Bell

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!



Andre Dugas - Andre was happy to say "how busy" they have been keeping. He said that the newly formed Rotary "Hands on Etobicoke" committee has arranged an event at the Yonge Street Mission on Tuesday, March 19th. They are going to participate in their lunch program which serves meals to around 80 youths in the 16 to early 20's age range. They will be helping to prepare the meals, serve them, and then help cleaning up. Andre said those helping need not worry though. The Mission has an "industrial dish washer". Afterwards they will get a tour of the mission. Andre says they have "full compliment" of members this time (Jack Fleming and his wife Rhena, Erlene brown, Maati Lahroussi Gill and Andre), but they are hoping to have many opportunities in the future for more members to participate in. Andre added that they were also taking with them 200 pairs of socks to donate to the Mission. Andre was also happy to say that the work went great last

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week at the Youth without Shelter where a group of our members got together to paint a room there. Andre says it was "great day and a lot of fun".

Hugh Williams – Hugh was happy to convey a "happy buck" fro Gerald Lue. Gerald's is happy to report that he will soon be a grandfather. His son Jonathan and his partner are expecting. Hugh noted that he will also be a grandfather again shortly as his oldest daughter Sarah and her partner are expecting a baby (a girl) in June. He also wanted to mention that today's meeting, where we have the opportunity to give out some of our Ribfest proceeds to some of the various charities we support, reminds him of Cameron Helps, a charity that Hugh is personally involved with. Cameron Helps held their AGM last week in Mississauga. They have received a \$165,000 Ontario Trillium Grant. Run therapy programs have been launched at 5 hospitals including Brampton Civic, and St. Joseph's in Hamilton). They also have a strong relationship with the Peel and Dufferin-Peel school boards where a number of run therapy programs have been set up. At a recent meeting, 40 kids signed up for the run therapy program. These programs are designed to build self-esteem through learning to run. This is proven to be successful in helping to reduce depression and improve the mental health of young people. Hugh added that Cameron Helps will be at the Toronto Ribfest again on June 30th for their "Team Unbreakable 5 & 10K Rib Run" again this year. If you are interested in joining the run contact Hugh.

Michael Bell – Michael wanted to say "how happy he was that he was in Rotary" where he has "so many wonderful friends in our Club and in our District. He said he was very grateful for all of the messages of condolence he had received since his Mom passed away on Monday. He said this shows what "a great organization we belong to". Michael said that Mom had a "long and wonderful life" but it was "her time". Michael said he was thankful for all of our support to help him and his family "grieve for a wonderful lady".

Kester Trim – Kester was happy to say that he has "cleared his calendar" to all him and his wife Kathryn to attend the "Magoanine Fundraiser" at Bernadette and Nigel's on March 27th. Kester said that after spending time in Africa, he is very aware of the causes there, especially those relating to education. He says that Nigel has done an "awful lot of work" on this project and has raised interest not only within our Club, but also across our District

and beyond. Kester is hoping "every one of us is going" and if not, "send in your cheque". He also wants everyone to bring guests or "send in your cheques for your guests".

Nigel Brown – Nigel was happy to thank everyone who has put their "pennies, etc" in the jars on the tables or brought them to today's meeting. He thinks Don will have a "great time" counting them. Nigel wanted to thank Jim Woodside for bringing in more "can ring pulls" and says he is still looking for more if you have them. He also wanted to thank Ron Miller for bringing some prizes for the draw at the Magoanine Fundraiser. In the regard, Nigel was very happy to announce that he had secured a "major prize" for the event, 2 return "economy class" tickets from Delta Airlines for "anywhere in Canada or "the lower-48 States". Nigel has received several private donations for Magoanine for around \$1,700. Another Rotary Club has now come onboard as the Markham-Unionville club has donated \$2,000. This leaves approximately \$17,000 still outstanding before he can apply to RI Foundation. If you can't make it to Nigel's on the 27th, Nigel was happy to recommend another fundraiser that Florian Hammerbacher is involved with and is put on by the Consular Spouses Association of Toronto on Saturday, April 6th at the Courtyard by Marriott in Toronto. Tickets are \$75 each. The fundraiser is in support of the Joy Valley Children's House in Nairobi, Kenya. There will be dancing to the sounds of the "Jay Douglas and his All-Star Band" who Nigel describes as a "bit of a reggae & jazz" band and that it should be "a blast". Nigel was also happy to be here today to see his friend Florian inducted into our Club..



50/50 Draw

Today's 50:50 Draw **Hugh Williams** ticket was drawn out of the bag and he pulled the **Ace of Hearts**.

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller