



WEEKLY UPDATE



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Ted Koziel

RI President: Sakuji Tanaka

Week March 20, 2013

Board 2012 - 2013

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

**March 27, 2013 - Magoanine Project Fundraiser - Nigel & Bernadette's Residence
7.00 P.M.**



**Big Ideas Forum -
Superintendent Frank BERGEN -
Toronto Police Services 22nd
Division**



We had a great turnout at Wednesday night's Big Ideas Forum. Our focus was on **Youth At Risk**.

President Hugh welcomed us all and commented that this is now our 9th Big Ideas Forum!

Nigel reminded us all about next week's fundraiser for the Magoanine water sanitation project - fabulous food, wine, prizes, and fellowship. Be there or be square!

Brock presented some samples of beautiful African sarongs that he will be providing to the Magoanine fundraiser for auctioning off.

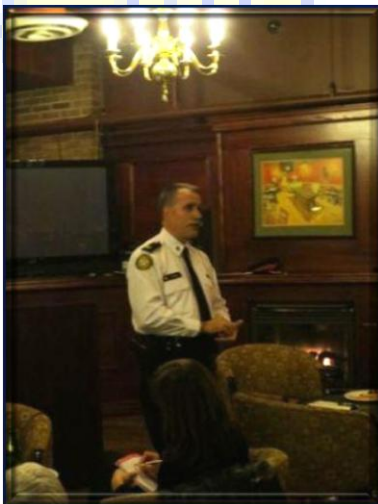
Gill presented a cheque to Stonegate Ministry in support of their new kitchen project. They spoke about their area, which has double the child poverty rates compared to Ontario's average. With a significant number of children at risk, their focus is on engaging the community. The kitchen project is key to bringing people from the community together to learn to cook healthier meals, use local ingredients, and have fun together. A great cause!

WEEKLY UPDATE



Gill also presented the Light Patrol with about 600 pairs of socks to be given to homeless youth. They travel around the city, two evenings a week, in a motor home stocked with soup, sandwiches, blankets and other items that they hand out to the kids. The item most needed and most requested is socks. Light Patrol's focus is on building relationships with the kids they meet, and lending a non-judgemental shoulder to lean on. They hope to prevent having the kids slip into drugs and / or prostitution - a real risk for street kids - and to offer them dignity and another chance at life.

Superintendent Frank BERGEN - Youth At Risk



Superintendent Bergen, of 22 Division, led off by commenting that he fully supports Light Patrol's approach of crime prevention through dignity, not discipline.

A very entertaining speaker, Superintendent Bergen gave us a quick run-down of his background. With the police force since 1982, he was one of a handful of trainees that were sent off for psychiatric evaluation because they didn't fit the standard police officer mold. This was certainly evident throughout his talk.

A farm boy growing up in rural Ontario, his dream was to work at a funeral home, and he worked in this field for several years. It was through chatting with police officers during the course of his funeral work that he realized that he would be able to work with people and at the same time, truly make a difference in the community. Soon after, he joined the Toronto Police Force.

Suptd. Bergen has spent 31 years in the downtown core, 16 of those in 52 Division. He was transferred to 22 Division in January. A key focus throughout his career has been to influence and educate young police officers in "what a police officer should be". He joked about being more than the uniform and "walking the cop walk". But more seriously, he spoke about challenging his officers to think about not only responding to a radio call, but to consider *what impact they can have* when they arrive. The objective is to truly connect with people.

He spoke about the role of police in our society. There are four key aspects of their role:

- 1) Keep public order
- 2) Emergent response
- 3) Victim assistance
- 4) Crime prevention

A major focus for him is on the fourth - *crime prevention*. He talked a lot about engaging youth - programs to assist with prevention of bullying, especially cyber bullying; uniformed

WEEKLY UPDATE

police officers in schools to help youth realize that there is a person behind the uniform; "Assista" - a program with female officers to help youth with the simple things like "how to make a lunch, make a bed, go on a date"; "Rovers" - programs with youth aged 18-26 where they help with seniors' programming; and many more. He strongly emphasized that *forcing* youth to engage simply does not work. Instead, developing programs that foster relationships and true connections are the answer - keeping kids engaged and loved.

In Etobicoke, he commented that the main issues involving youth are the following:

- 1) Prescription drugs - being used, sold, dealt
- 2) Kids in housing projects feeling rootless, not really understanding their role in society
- 3) Theft of electronics, break-ins

Again, the solution came around to his "Big Idea": **Prevent crime through engaging with each other.**



It was such a pleasure to have met Sup't Bergen. We look forward to a rewarding partnership with him and his team!

Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians:

- ➔ **Chris Markou** - Rotary Club of Brampton

Guests:

- ➔ **Supt. Frank Bergen** - TPS 22 Division - speaker
- ➔ **Rev. Linda Dixon** - Stonegate Ministry
- ➔ **Helen Skippen** - Stonegate Ministry
- ➔ **Rev. Jeff Bacon** - Light Patrol
- ➔ **Dave Blanchard** - Light Patrol
- ➔ **Debra Hoffof** - Light Patrol
- ➔ **Ben Omoregie** - Youth Without Shelter
- ➔ **Derek Reid** - F.E.A.T.
- ➔ **Lilian Arrage** - Exchange Student
- ➔ **Allison Williams** - Guest of Hugh Williams
- ➔ **Jo-Ann Bell** - Guest of Michael Bell
- ➔ **Mark Bertrand** - Mind. Body. Success. - Guest of Michael Bell
- ➔ **Brock Buchanan**
- ➔ **Martha Ernst**

Club members - we were **16** today
Total attendees - **31**

Secretary's Corner

By Ron Miller

Following announcements were made

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)

WEEKLY UPDATE

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

May 02 -04, 2013 - Camp Enterprise, University of Toronto, Erindale Campus, Mississauga. Contact: Greg Dobson dobsog1@bell.net.

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.

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

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

Etobicoke Hands On Project - Yonge Street Mission



Our group spent Tuesday, March 19, helping to prepare and serve lunch to 80+ Street Involved Youth at Yonge Street Mission. We all worked on lunch preparation including dozens of chocolate croissants, followed by serving lunch (chicken stir fry, rice, three salads and fruit salad, garlic bread, etc) and kitchen clean-up. Supported by Chef Nathan Scott, who made everything run so smoothly, we enjoyed a wonderful time together and came away very proud of our club. Maati is going to lead us in another Hands-On Etobicoke Meal Project shortly making his own famous chilli recipe. Team members: Rhena and Jack Fleming, Erlene Brown, Maati Laroussi, Andre and Gill Dugas.

Reporting & Pictures Courtesy: Ron Miller, Gillian Dugas, & Ingrid Bjel McGaughey