



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Valarie Wafer**

RI President: **Ron D. Burton**

Week November 20, 2013

Board 2013-2014

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

Speaker: November 27, 2013 – Rotary at Work – Joe Dale & Mark Wafer

Reporting: Ron Miller Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Big Ideas Forum Youth Making a Difference



By Ingrid Bjel McGaughey

At this month's BIF our topic was "Youth Making a Difference". To give us their perspective, we brought in a panel of four young speakers from widely varying fields:

- Anwar Boutahar, the eight year old founder of Anwar's Children's Diabetes Relief Foundation, which is focused on raising awareness and funds for children suffering from Type 1 diabetes in Africa.
- Jessica Reid, co-founder and executive director of F.E.A.T. for children of incarcerated parents – an organization we've supported – designed to address the

needs of high risk children in these family situations.

- Victoria Lesau, an active member of the youth advisory group for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, board member of the Canadian Network for Arts & Learning, and who works in the audit practice at KPMG
- Will Lawrence, a student at Bishop Allen, student trustee for the Toronto Catholic District School Board, Chief Financial Officer of OSTA-AECO, and founder of the Youth Innovators organization.

First, they talked about their backgrounds.

Anwar Boutahar was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes himself at the age of 4. The treatment is intrusive; multiple blood tests throughout the day, the results then dictating whether to supplement his glucose levels or his insulin levels. What he realized however was that children in Africa struggle severely if they have Type 1 diabetes. Many suffer from extreme poverty and are without access to testing strips and medication, and often end up hospitalized or untreated. This led him to start speaking at schools and letting kids know about his own situation and raising awareness of the plight of less fortunate children.

Jessica Reid didn't meet her father until she was 18 years old. That experience, followed with her experiences as an educator in high need areas, led her to realize the lack of services and support for children in similar situations. She and Derek Reid eventually founded FEAT for Children of Incarcerated Parents to address those needs. Services began with a bus that would offer transportation to kids to bring them to visit their parent on weekends at the penitentiaries. Now, primarily in the Jane and Finch

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area, they offer after school programs, mentorship and tutoring in partnership with Ryerson University, and weekend retreats for young girls aged 7-11. Services are constantly expanding.



Victoria Lesau had been involved in many charitable endeavours in her youth. After her completing her education in accounting, she started working at KPMG, but found that she was also drawn to helping people. In particular, her love of the arts put her in contact with many worthwhile arts programs and artists, where she found that her skills were direly needed. She found her niche in mentoring people in these programs and helping them find a business focus. In particular, she was able to help them find ways to demonstrate concrete and measurable results that their programs delivered.

Will Lawrence (joking that he felt like a dinosaur beside our young speaker Anwar – note that Will is only 17 years old himself!) described his journey in founding youth innovators. His role as a student trustee, representing 92,000 students, as well as his work with OSTA-AECO, led him to realize that he and many other students felt let down by the education system. He believes that innovation is an absolutely necessary skill that is being neglected by the schools. As a result, he decided to found Youth Innovators, hoping to unleash the innovative potential of tomorrow's leaders. High school students are engaged directly, and encouraged and supported in creating a new business or social innovation venture.

QUESTION 1:

“What are the challenges or barriers keeping youth from getting involved in trying to create change?”

The panelists each took turns answering this question from their perspectives. They all felt that a big part of not getting involved results from young people not being aware of programs that can offer support to them in their endeavours. As a result, the problems can seem dauntingly large and unmanageable. As well, high risk youth and kids in challenging home situations may face socioeconomic barriers to getting involved; often they are marginalized and not given the extra support they might need to be able to make changes that they see as meaningful. The panelists all agreed that they feel that there needs to be trust as well – trust that adults see their ideas as worthwhile, meaningful, and valuable.



QUESTION 2:

“What can Rotarians and people in the community do to help support young people who want to make a difference in the world?”

The panelists talked about the value of mentorship programs, of providing a forum that allows youth to share their stories with each other, and of showing trust by giving them the independence to run programs and projects on their own. They felt that getting involved in charitable causes early really helps young people see it as a part of their responsibility as a member of the community. Of

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course, funding their initiatives was part of the conversation too, but giving youth a voice was seen as even more important. .

Musgrave Harbour Newfoundland & Labrador

By: P.P Anthony Doukas

The Youth Centre that our Club was instrumental in bringing to Newfoundland is seen as a legacy project for the whole area (Gander Loop). It will be a valuable community asset for many years and is considered to be a proud accomplishment for the whole area. There will be media and government Representatives present during the grand opening. Karen and I will send photos and information after the event.

Our Club should be proud of having made this project possible through their generous donations.

Cheque Presentation – Addiction Free Youth



Gerald Lue presented a cheque on behalf of the Club for \$1,500 to Richard Harrison, Michael Mikhail, Addie Leung and Cindy Harris (l to r in Peter's picture) from Addiction Free Youth to help sponsor their "Power of Choice" program at George Harvey Collegiate.

Secretary's Announcements



Saturday, November 30th – Kids against Hunger food packing project – Salvation Army Temple – Kipling Ave – 12:30 – 4 PM

Wednesday, December 4th - Annual General Meeting – 12:15 PM – The Old Mill

Saturday, December 7th – Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade – Lynda needs 4 people to carry banner however all members are still welcome to participate – 10 AM - Dwight Ave.

Wednesday, December 11th – Christmas Party – Lambton G&CC - \$60 – Contact Lynda Ryder or Ron Miller if you are planning to attend.

William Osler Health System Foundation Gala:

The club has purchased 10 tickets to support the William Osler Health System Foundation gala reception and concert featuring Burton Cummings and Jann Arden. It is November 30 at the Rose Theater in Brampton.

As a club member, you can buy one of these tickets for only \$135. This represents the actual cost associated with the entertainment and reception. The club is covering the other cost portion of your ticket.

By attending, you will be representing Rotary. We hope to be able to use this opportunity to meet key people in the community, show support for the Osler health system, and have fun together!

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Hugh Williams needs to know by next week if you are interested and how many tickets you need.

Here are the details:

<http://oslerfoundation.akaraisin.com/galaforosler>



Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarian

- **Weiting Xu** – York Rotaract
- **James Chang** – York Rotaract
- **Duncan Hui** – York Rotaract
- **Charles Chen** – York Rotaract
- **Donald Koo** – York Rotaract
- **Annie Luong** – York Rotaract
- **Natalie Vick** – York Rotaract

Guests

- **Anwar Boutahar** – Anwar Seed of Hope - speaker
- **Waled Boutahar** – father of Anwar
- **Jessica Reid** – F.E.A.T. – speaker
- **Will Lawrence** – TCDSB Student Trustee – speaker
- **Victoria Lesau** – Youth Advisory Group for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO – speaker
- **Michelle Tinker** – Microskills
- **Hazel Wood** – Microskills
- **Robert Harrison** – Addiction Free Youth
- **Cindy Harris** – Addiction Free Youth
- **Addie Leung** – Addiction Free Youth
- **Michael Mikhail** – Addiction Free Youth
- **Irene Chen** – Potential new member
- **Exilus Previlon** – Potential new member
- **Hewitt and Graeme McGaughey** – sons of Ingrid McGaughey

Dates to Remember

Club Annual General Meeting – December 04, 2013
– 12.15 p.m. Venue: Old Mill Inn & Spa. Contact Ron Miller.

Annual Christmas Party – November 11, 2013. 7.00 P.M. Venue: Lambton Golf & Country Club. Cost \$60.00. Contact Ron Miller or Lynda Ryder.



Attendance:

Members –21
Guests –22
Total – 43