



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Valarie Wafer**

RI President: **Ron D. Burton**

Week April 30, 2014

Board 2013-2014

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

May 07, 2014 –Speaker: Susan Nagy – Lakeshore Arts

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek



RIBFEST Update

By: Liz Read

Ribfest opens in 8 weeks! or 8 Weeks to Ribfest!

Toronto Ribfest is Rotary Etobicoke's major fundraising event. The committee has been working hard since September to plan and organize this massive event. Now it is time for all club members to lend their time and energy to help host it!

Please mark your calendar now so that you can offer your full support.

**Set Up June 25/26 ** Toronto Ribfest
Friday June 27 through Tuesday July 1
** Tear Down July 2****

More details next week.

Today's Speaker – Tomi Banwo – Boys & Girls Clubs of Toronto



Theresa Sherwood introduced Tomi. Tomi has been working at Boys and Girls Clubs of Toronto Network as the Events and Fundraising Manager. Throughout her career she has worked with various non-profit organizations supporting various fundraising initiatives. Theresa noted that last September Gill Dugas and her, through the Hands on Etobicoke committee (HOE) purchased backpacks which they delivered to the Boys and Girls Club at the Rexdale Community Hub. At Christmas Gill, Liz read and Theresa organized a "holiday party for the Rexdale Hub Boys and Girls Club that was held at the Woodbine Banquet Hall where they provided gifts for the kids. She also mentioned that the Boys and girls Clubs of Toronto has an annual fundraising "race for kids" event which is

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much like TV's "Amazing Race". Last month our Club donated \$1000 to help sponsor the event. Our Club is also entering a team in the race. Theresa says we have 2 participants (Theresa and Stephen Mbonye) but still need 2 more (contact Theresa if you are interested). If you can't attend, the team is looking for sponsors.

Tomi began by giving a brief overview of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Toronto. The Boys and Girls Club of Toronto is a leading provider of quality after school and out-of-school programs to children and youth that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of over 28,000 young people and their families in Toronto each year. They are focused on building communities and for decades we have been helping young people to discover, develop and achieve their best potential as they grow to become Canada's future. They offer a vast variety of programs for children and youth from ages 0-21 (the age suggested by the UN). The Boys and Girls Clubs of Toronto are comprised of 8 clubs, they have 7 satellite locations spread across Toronto and together serve 35 communities in Toronto. Tomi noted that there are many people who work and are unable to look after their kids after school (3 – 7 PM) or are disabled and unable to pick their kids up from school. Their mission is to "provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life. They play a critical role in bridging the gap between home and school, while making our cities and towns better places to live in by tackling issues that are at the heart of every community. Their dedicated, trained staff and volunteers offer after school and out-of-school programs in physical recreation, educational support, technology, the arts, youth leadership and more. All of their clubs are; safe, supervised facilities offering daily programs that encourage

the healthy physical, social and educational development of children and youth, from pre-school to young adulthood; founded on a belief in the positive potential of every child; staffed by caring adults who help build self-esteem and encourage the development of positive values and skills for life during critical periods of childhood growth; and are responsive to the unique needs of each child/youth and each community. She wanted to mention the basketball player from Toronto that was the #1 U.S. College draft pick last year. He never played basketball before he came to one of their courts. The Boys and Girls Clubs are open almost every day of the year. Toronto is a "big diverse community" so each club is a little different. For example, at the Albion Club they speak 15 different languages.

Tomi now wanted to talk about their major fundraiser the "Capital One Race for Kids". On May 31st, 2014, they will be embarking on their largest annual fundraising event called the Capital One Race for Kids. It is an urban adventure race where teams of four compete in a race around Downtown Toronto to the finish line, completing 10 challenges at 10 different locations along the way, much like the popular television shows 'The Amazing Race' and 'Minute to Win it'. On race day, each team will be provided with 10 checkpoint clues teams must decipher the checkpoint clues to determine the location of each Checkpoint. At each checkpoint, teams will be given a challenge to complete. Now, each year, the challenges are top secret and only revealed on the event day but each challenge is unique and will either be physical, mental or strategic and is designed for you to experience a fun experience. Upon successful completion of all 10 checkpoints, teams will be handed a final clue that will determine the location of the finish line. Tomi stressed that "you don't have to be physical, just be strategic". One of the

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events at last year's race was "blindfold kayaking at Harbourfront". However, there will be all new challenges this year. The event begins at Nathan Phillips Square and will run from 12 to 3 PM with an activity party for participants afterward. Last year the event raised around \$75,000. She wanted to thank our Club for our support for the event and hopes that more of members will take part. She said it is a "unique" event.

Jack Fleming thanked Tomi for her presentation.

Superior Court Justice Cory Gilmore - Scarborough Rotary Club - Tuesday, May 13, 2014.

The Scarborough Rotary Club has invited our members to attend their meeting on Tuesday May 13th at the Scarborough Golf Club (12:30 PM) when the speaker will be Superior Court Justice Cory Gilmore. She is the daughter of Judge Stan Long, a long-time member of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke. She is one of our Bilingual Judges who practiced law in Alliston specializing in Criminal and Family law. They are hoping to have as many members as possible from our Club attend.

Birthdays This Week



Andy Chiodo - May 03

Kevin Crigger - May 03

Happy Birthday to on your happy day... ..



50/50 Draw

Brock Buchanan - 5 of Clubs. So the pot grows...

Secretary's Announcements



Monday May 05, 2014 2014=2015 Board Meeting. 6.30 PM. Board Room, TPS 22nd Division. Contact President Elect Mark Winson

Monday May 12, 2014. Board Meeting 6.30 PM. President Michael Residence.

Visitors & Guests



Visitors and Guests:

- **Gillian Campbell** - Guest of John Campbell
- **Tomi Banwo** - Boys and Girls Clubs of Toronto - speaker

Attendance:

Members 17
Visitors & Guests - 02
Total - 19

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HAPPY BUCKS

Jack Fleming – Jack was happy to give an update on the MicroSkills project which he says is “now moving along”. Jack is a member of the “Steering Committee” (2 members from our Club and 2 from the Toronto West Rotary Club) and says things are beginning to “crank up” as they have started to demolish the interior of the new space they are moving to with rebuilding expected to start around June 1st. MicroSkills will be moving into a 2000 sq. ft. unit just a few doors down from their present unit in the strip mall which will double their space. They are hoping to move into the unit in August. Jack also wanted to inform everyone about a change to our Steering Committee. “Hugh Williams has asked to step back from his role on the Committee in order that he can undertake some other ‘key priorities’ for our Club. As everyone knows, Hugh was instrumental in initiating the entire notion of a Legacy Project ... and ... he provided great leadership in getting it off the ground and rallying the needed support within the Club. We thank him for everything that he has done ... and ... we know that he will maintain a strong interest as the project now takes flight!” Jack added “We are very grateful that we have a terrific person ready to step in and make a contribution to our Steering Committee. Theresa Sherwood will join our team. She has had a strong interest in the project from its inception. And, she was on hand at the 30th anniversary celebration that took place at the Youth Centre earlier this month. Theresa is a successful business person and operates from a North Etobicoke location. Hence, she has a particular interest in the work being done by MicroSkills in that part of the city. She will be a great addition to our team”.

Ron Miller – Ron was happy to say that his daughter Kathleen has been accepted for this year’s Camp Enterprise that takes place next week (May

8th to 10th). Kathleen is in Grade 10 at Father John Redmond. Ron also noted that while he “was sorry he couldn’t attend last weekend’s Trump Aids Poker Walk” he did help support it. However, he was happy to say that the reason he couldn’t attend was that he was in Kitchener at a “wine & cheese” get-together. Four of Ron’s best friends from high school in St. Catharines now live in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. They have a reunion every year along with other friends and family. There were around 30 people at this year’s celebration.

Lynda Ryder – Lynda was happy to be here today as she hasn’t been able to attend for a few weeks. Lynda said she just completed her 2nd week of training as Rotary Coordinator. She was also happy to say that she was in Allentown, Pennsylvania last weekend as the Rotary International representative at the District 7360 Conference. She was asked to attend by RI President Ron Burton. Lynda said that it was an “amazing” conference. One thing she thought was interesting was on the Sunday session they honoured all of the members who had passed away in the District in the past year. She thinks this is something our District “needs to do”. While at the conference she said she found a great new drink called “boilo” which a concoction made in the Pocono Mountains that is made with “grain alcohol” (better known as white lightning). She said it was much like a “hot toddy”. Finally Lynda said she was happy to see Bob Maxwell at today’s luncheon.

Erlene Brown – Erlene was happy to say that our Club was well represented at last weekend’s Rotary Trump Aids Poker Walk at the Beach. Our Rotaract Club from York University also had a team at the walk. Erlene’s team (3 members and 5 of Erlene’s best friends) won 3rd prize at the walk and won 8 Toronto Argos tickets for opening day. Also one of Erlene’s friends won a \$1200 trip gift certificate.

Liz Read – Liz was happy to remind everyone that in 8 ½ weeks we will “all be together at Ribfest...the best party in town”. It will be where the Ribfest

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Committee will see the “fruits of their labour be realized”. She also wanted to remind everyone to register on the website so she can gauge who will be doing what at Ribfest.

Michael Bell – Michael was happy to mention that next Wednesday morning (May 7th) is the annual “Sleeping Children around the World (SCAW)” breakfast at the Royal York Hotel (7 AM – 9 AM). The international Committee has purchased a table for 10 Club members and/or guests to attend. Seats are still available. Let Michael know if you are interested in attending.

ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS TURN HEADS WITH UNIQUE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Maya Ajmera founded the Global Fund for Children in 1993 to provide seed money to community-based organizations that help at-risk children across the world. Since then, GFC has awarded more than \$32 million in grants to over 600 organizations in 80 countries, improving the lives of millions of children – from educating AIDS orphans in Uganda to conducting so-called curbside classrooms for waste pickers in Cambodia.

"Education is the key to getting human beings out of poverty," says Ajmera, whose studies at St. Xavier's College in Mumbai were sponsored by the Rotary Club of China Lake in California. "Community-based organizations are probably the most creative in being able to find the most marginalized children and provide education that is meaningful and makes sense in their lives."

In recognition of her work, Ajmera was chosen by The Rotary Foundation Trustees to receive the 2013-14 Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award. She will receive the honor at the Rotary International Convention in Sydney on 3 June.

Ajmera credits extraordinary leadership at the grassroots level, combined with the ability and willingness to work as partners, for GFC's success. "Trust is really important," she says. "You also need good ways of measuring outcomes: how many kids got educated, how many were kept off the streets, how many got psychosocial counseling."

Nowhere was the need for leadership and trust more evident than in Afghanistan in the 1990s. GFC awarded \$5,000 to the Afghan Institute for Learning to fund the secret education of 600 girls. Even after the September 11 attacks, GFC continued its support, including a \$25,000 sustainability grant to establish a reserve fund. Today, the institute reaches more than 400,000 women and children annually with education and health care. GFC has also released over 30 children's books, including "Children from Australia to Zimbabwe," co-authored by Ajmera, of which a portion of the proceeds from sales support the organization's grant making. And it's invested in documentary films like "War Child," which tells the story of hip hop artist Emmanuel Jal, a former child soldier in Sudan's brutal civil war. Jal spoke at the Rotary World Peace Symposium in Bangkok in 2012.

Ajmera stepped down as GFC's president in 2011. She is now a visiting scholar and professorial lecturer at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., and social entrepreneur in residence and visiting professor of the practice of public policy at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

"For me, Rotary was an incredible inspiration," says Ajmera, adding that without the scholarship there wouldn't be a Global Fund for Children. "The scholarship fed my soul."

Courtsey – Rotary International
