



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Valarie Wafer**

RI President: **Ron D. Burton**

Week February 26, 2014

Board 2013-2014

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

February 19, 2014 Judy LeRoux – Youth Without Shelter – Shelter Update

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker – Stephen Mbonye Fistula Repair Pilot Project, Kampala, Uganda

In the absence of President Michael, Past President Hugh Williams chaired the luncheon meeting.



Andre Dugas introduced our member Stephen Mbonye by saying "we are looking forward to hearing about his recent visit to Kampala, Uganda and in particular about the Fistula Repair Pilot Project that is being carried out in the Nakasero Hospital in Kampala." Stephen is a valued member of the International Service Committee where he

proposed the Fistula Project. While the exact number of women suffering from this condition is unknown due to the reluctance of most women to seek help, it is estimated that in Uganda alone there are over 200,000 women living with obstetric fistula complications, one of the most serious injuries of childbirth. It is a perforation in the birth canal caused by prolonged, obstructed labour due to lack of timely and adequate medical intervention. Our International Service Committee has already approached and received support funding from RC Oakville Trafalgar and together our two Clubs have forwarded the funding to provide 10 surgeries in March and we continue to look for more funding support from other Rotary Clubs to join us in providing a total of 60 surgeries in this 6 month pilot project. The Rotary Club of Kampala South is monitoring the project and handling the distribution of funds.

Andre added that Stephen was also a valued member of the Hands on Etobicoke (HOE) committee. At one of HOE's recent events, where they prepared dinner for St. Margaret's "Out of the Cold" program, Andre said it was "something to see Stephen wielding trays way over everyone's heads".

Stephen began by saying that Andre had "given much of his presentation already" but wanted to expand on what had already been said.

Stephen noted that Obstetric Fistulas or Vesicovaginal Fistula (VVF) is a condition caused by childbirth, when a prolonged labour presses the unborn child tightly against the pelvis, cutting off blood flow to the vesicovaginal wall. The affected tissue may die leaving a "hole". A woman with Obstetric fistula suffers several physical and social consequences.

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Physical:

- Constant leaking of urine, feces, and blood as a result of a hole that forms between the vagina and bladder or rectum.
- Ulceration and infections can persist as well as kidney disease and kidney failure which can lead to death
- Only a quarter of women who suffer a fistula in their first birth are able to have a living baby, and therefore have a minuscule chance of conceiving a healthy baby later on.
- Some women, due to obstetric fistula, and other complications of childbirth, do not survive.

Social:

- 85% of these women are abandoned by the husbands due to “abnormality”
- Because of their “physical limitations” (leaking and infections) are unable to participate in social activities.
- Misconceptions that this is a STD (sexually transmitted disease) cause family conflict
- There is also a “stigma” attached to themselves and to their family.

This condition can be successfully repaired by surgery called “VVF Repair”. Nakasero Hospital is a privately run hospital that can provide the “advanced medical care” necessary to help these women. This hospital has several senior consultants and surgeons which are a scarcity in Uganda. Nakasero Hospital’s Gynaecology department, led by Dr. Julianne Mbonye (who coincidentally is Stephen’s mother), decided to partner with local NGO’s to identify and treat women in need of Fistula Repair across Uganda. This Fistula Repair project, in conjunction with HAFSO (Hope Against Fistula Support Organization), is a pilot project started as a result. Stephen stressed that this condition is treatable and most importantly preventable.

With the support of HAFSO, among other organizations, they will provide in-kind support to cover 50% of the overall expenses. The 6 month pilot project will provide free surgery to an average of 10 women each month. These women are expected to

spend an average of 3 days in the hospital and then will be moved to a recovery center for recuperation and counseling. Simple business skills will be taught while the women are in recovery. The women will be encouraged to become ambassadors for the program when they are transported back to their villages.

Stephen added that while the project is looking to treat 60 patients in the 6 month pilot project (approximately 10 per month) at a cost of approximately US\$500 per surgery. If successful, Nakasero Hospital intends to extend the pilot project to 100 by the end of 2014. Upon successful completion of the pilot project Nakasero Hospital intends to expand this program through applying for larger grants from large donors such as Fistula Foundation among others. The hope is that this program can exist indefinitely as the need is significant in Uganda. The project also intends to include a prevention program across the country in 2015. This will involve education programs for expecting women and rural medical practitioners.

Nakasero Hospital has been fundraising for this project since late 2013. So far the project has been able to fund all the start up costs which include a recovery centre, as well as hire individuals to various roles. In addition, with the help of the Rotary Clubs of Etobicoke and Oakville-Trafalgar, the project has raised approximately \$4,400. So far 2 patients have had their surgeries with another 8 scheduled in the next 2 weeks. Significant funding is still needed (approximately \$20,000). He is looking to approach other Rotary Clubs and organizations to help with funding.

Stephen closed by saying that they are developing a “strategy” that he “likes where it is going” and that they have “a good game plan”. There is also a plan to try to encourage Doctors here to “volunteer” to give their help and expertise to the project.

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Past President Hugh officially inducted Barry Friesen as our newest member of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke. Secretary Ron presented Barry with his membership card, his Club ID badge, and his New Member Information Package. Membership Director Alex Woda presented him with his Rotary Pin.

Hugh thanked Stephen for his presentation.

Birthdays This Week



Andy Chiodo - March 03

Kevin Crigger - March 03

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

New Member Induction - Barry Friesen



Secretary's Announcements



Monday March 10, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting 6.00 PM. President Michael Bell's Residence.

Wednesday March 12th, 2014 - Ribfest Committee Meeting 6.00 PM TPS 22nd Division HQ.

Toronto West Rotary Club

The President-Elect of the Toronto West Rotary Club has invited our members to join them at a "Pub Night" on Tuesday, March 4th (6:00 pm until around 9:00 pm) at St. James Gate Pub on Dundas (north side just east of Kipling)

As you know, we are working with the Toronto West Club in our Legacy Project, and it would be a great opportunity in a casual atmosphere to get to know our Rotary partners.

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Rotary Club of Etobicoke & Toronto West Rotary Club "MicroSkills Meet & Greet":

Rotary Club of Etobicoke

&

Toronto West Rotary Club

Are pleased to announce

A special "Meet & Greet"

To welcome our friends from

MicroSkills

Friday, March 21st 2014 @ 6:30 PM

Westmount Gallery

88 Advance Road

On December 18th, 2013 our Clubs announced the MicroSkills Youth Centre Expansion Project. This initiative is being undertaken in partnership with MicroSkills. It is a \$300,000 investment in the future of Etobicoke youth.

Hear about this exciting project ... and meet the people of Microskills who are making a huge difference in the lives of Etobicoke youth.

**Contact Jack Fleming,
jdf@flemingadvisors.com, 416-436-0062
for more details. Light food and
beverages provided.**

Visitors & Guests



Visitors and Guests:

➤ **Lucia Rosatone** – Potential new member

Rotary Makeup:

➤ **President Micahel Bell** – Superstition Mountain Club, Arizona

Attendance:

Members – 15

Visitors & Guests – 01

Total – 16



50/50 Draw

Alex Woda – 9 of Spades. So the Pots grows!



HAPPY BUCKS

Ralph Chiedo – Ralph was happy to be back as he has been away for a few weeks. He has been in Southern Italy where he visited several Rotary Clubs there. He had a great time. He also noted that Club members have an open invitation to visit our "sister" clubs there.

Jack Fleming – Jack was happy to say he had a call from Bill Patchett telling him that he was the winner of a \$2,500 hand bag. This goes back to the

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Foundation Walk in the fall when it was part of a raffle at the event. Jack said that he had forgotten all about it until Bill called. He added that he thinks that "someone in his household will be happy to take advantage of it".

President Michael Bell in Arizona.



.I attended the Superstition Mountain Rotary Club for lunch yesterday home of District 5510 District Governor Jay Jones. Here is my picture taken with him after lunch yesterday. Thought you might want to add it to this weeks bulletin. Weather is sunny and 30C each day so far.

Rotary Clubs Around the World Celebrate 109th Anniversary of Rotary

From Panama City, Panama, to Visakhapatnam, India, Rotary members found creative and diverse ways to celebrate Rotary's 109th anniversary the week of 23 February. They illuminated buildings, held health fairs, took part in swimming fundraisers, handed out free ice cream on the beach, and otherwise highlighted the work Rotary does year-round to eradicate polio and meet the needs of communities around the world.
