



# THE BULLETIN



## Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Valarie Wafer**

RI President: **Ron D. Burton**

Week January 29, 2014

Board 2013-2014

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

**February 05, 2014 Speaker: Rosemary Sadlier – African Canadian History A great untold story.**

*Reporting: Ron Miller*

*Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek*

### Today's Speaker: Mohini Athia – COPA Anti Bullying Program



President Michael introduced Mohini Athia from COPA to talk about “anti-bullying”.

Mahini is Business Studies and Special Education teacher who is on a “leave of absence” from the TDSB to work with COPA.

Mohini began by saying that COPA is an acronym for “Centre ontarien de prévention des agressions” and is Ontario’s non-profit provincial assault prevention education training agency. It was established in 1995 to provide training and consultation throughout the province in response to requests from communities requesting access to our assault prevention programs for children in Ontario schools. COPA is a Francophone organization with English-language capacity. COPA’s activities include training, consultation, curriculum development and evaluation and network-building.

They are headquartered in Toronto and support a provincial network, comprised of women’s centres, school boards, community agencies and health centres. These groups oversee the delivery of COPA’s educational programs in their local communities. COPA supports these activities through consultation, resource development, training, and whenever possible, funding.

COPA strives for the creation of safe, strong and free communities, with a focus on the following components: the recognition of the social minority status of children (and youth) — and therefore COPA is committed to the inclusion of a children's rights analysis in programs and services, and policy and practices; the recognition of Francophone social minority status in Ontario — and therefore COPA is committed to broad systemic support for French-language services in Ontario and parity with English-language services; the recognition of systemic inequality and discrimination based on a variety of social factors, such as language, gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, physical and intellectual ability, education, class, country of origin and citizen status; a recognition of and commitment to a feminist and anti-oppression analysis and model in programs and services, and policy and practices; the recognition of the reality of geographically and socially isolated communities in Ontario -and therefore COPA is committed to active outreach and service provision in regions that are typically under-served.

COPA works mainly in schools with a wide variety of practical, innovative and inspiring programs and multi-media resources that are designed to reach out to all members of the school community: students (3 to 18 years old), school staff, associated professionals and caregivers, and parents. “They all

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have a role". COPA also works in health centres and with other community groups around the province. They all work together to create safe communities. Over 120,000 children and youth and 15,000 adult members of Ontario's school system have received at least one of COPA's effective school-based violence prevention programs to foster "safe, strong and free" schools and communities in Ontario.

The COPA mantra of everyone has the right to be "safe, strong and free" does not apply to just schools however. It is for all communities. Everyone has the right to be "inspired" and "follow their dreams"; to be "free to make choices and feel right about themselves" without being told by other people how to live. We must recognize that "we all belong".

Mohini says that we have all seen stories in the newspapers about "bullying". "Each of us here has maybe survived being bullied or are living with verbal, physical or emotional bullying".

COPA's approach is "Tools not Rules". "What works for one doesn't necessarily work for others". They have many resources available that they use to "empower" the people they reach out to. They have video and guide packages; story books designed to reach for children ages 3 to 8 (these are designed to be read with the child); packages designed for the Aboriginal communities, etc. These resources are available from COPA.

The emphasis that COPA tries to convey is values that we all share; courage, kindness, empathy, and community engagement. These are designed to combat racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.

Mohini added that they are also a part of the social media and available on twitter, Facebook and on their blog. She would also welcome any further "collaboration" between our Club and COPA for local projects affecting Etobicoke; or possible international projects or Aboriginal projects; or "anything else we can dream up".

For further information: [infocopa.com](http://infocopa.com)



Ingrid McGaughey thanked Mohini.

## Lynda Ryder - Paul Harris Society:



PDG Mike Cooksey was happy to attend today's meeting to recognize "one of our own for all the good work she does", Lynda Ryder. Lynda is now a member of the Paul Harris Society which recognizes "friends" of The Rotary Foundation who annually contribute US\$1,000 or more to the Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus, and other approved Foundation grant activities. Mike noted that these contributions to the Rotary Foundation help advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. It also supports activities such as; vocational and on-the-job

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training for land mine victims in Cambodia; Hand-washing stations in Ecuador; a scholarship for a Japanese student to study effective adult learning methods abroad; milking cows for farmers in Russia; microcredit loans to women in Togo; reading and mathematics textbooks for students in the U.S. Mike presented Lynda with her Paul Harris Society "wings" that attaches to her Rotary pin. Lynda replied by saying that all members should consider making their own "pledges" to Foundation. She said that it is "well known" that Foundation is one of the only charitable organizations where 100 % of the money goes back into the community (just like the money our Club raises at our Ribfest).

## Paul Harris Recognitions – Michael Bell and Ron Miller



Lynda Ryder was pleased to present a "triple ruby" Paul Harris recognition pin to President Michael Bell and a "triple sapphire" pin to Ron Miller in recognition of their contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

## Light Patrol – Rev. Jeff Bacon & Ray Lee:



Andre Dugas was asked to introduce Rev. Jeff Bacon and Ray Lee from Light Patrol. Andre noted that our Club's Hands on Etobicoke (HOE) committee has been "going around purchasing a lot of things and doing hands-on programs for a variety of community organizations". With this in mind, they have purchased "a lot of things" for the Light Patrol which he says is an "important organization that reaches out directly to the homeless people in the city" by providing "clothing, services, food, etc" to those in need. He was pleased on behalf of Rotary Etobicoke and HOE to present the Light Patrol with what they bought which includes hoodies, socks, sweaters, etc. Ray Lee remarked that he was so thankful for our help as "even the smallest things mean a lot to the homeless such as socks". They operate a 30 foot bus that tours the neighbourhoods helping the homeless. When a youth comes aboard they are really appreciative of socks. Beyond food this is something that gains their trust and opens conversations. Jeff Bacon added that one of their goals is to help youth "transition" off the streets which he says many are trying to do. He says that the things that people and organizations like our Rotary Club do to help out "inspire us to continue what we do". He said this is the second year that he has stood in front of our Club to "thank us" and that he is really appreciative of our help. Jeff said that since last year he had become a Minister. He had been in the past an investment banker and an

## Birthdays This Week



*Stan Long – February 01  
Happy Birthday to on your happy day... ....*



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engineer. His transition came while working with the Light Patrol. He has worked hard getting to know the people on the streets and living under the bridges. He said they are "nice people". He thinks by getting to know them he "has the opportunity to gain their trust". He tries to help to find "more stable housing". A lot of this starts "with folks like us" offering our help. He is very grateful for the "hoodies, socks, etc" and his "heart goes out" to us.

## **Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy (SHEA):**



Jack Fleming was asked to introduce the contingent from SHEA. Jack mentioned that our Club had been interacting with SHEA and had initiated a "Mentoring Project" for students in their Business Studies there. The Club will be engaging in "mentoring activities" there again in the spring. Jack stressed "there are lots of ways to continue this program". The Club will also be making a \$500 donation to the SHEA Scholarship Award Fund. The school will make the appropriate awards (to be known as the Rotary Club of Etobicoke Venture Scholarships) at their commencement ceremony in June. Jack wanted to thank the members of the Club who gave their time to be mentors at the school (which included Jack); Erlene Brown, Martina Ernst, Theresa Sherwood, Peter Dusek, and Maati Lahroussi. At today's luncheon "certificates of recognition" will be presented to the eleven students who performed well through our "Mentoring Program". Jack asked Irma Sefa and John Magwood (teachers at SHEA) to present the awards. 3rd place awards went to; Muna Ali, Akrem Ali, Lud Samatar, and Abdirashid Duale. 2nd place awards went to; Paula Haas, Jenny Truong; and Abdul Karim Iqbal. 1st place awards went to; Rema Abu-Tara, Noah Kherani, Binta Barrie,

and Katrina Pysadee. Irma Sefa wanted to thank the Club for having the students here today and for our "help with their students and to broaden their learning experience". She feels it was "very important input from people with experience in business". John Magwood wanted to thank Irma for all her hard work since she joined the business program at SHEA. He said she was responsible for getting all of the students here even though today was not a school day.

## **New Member Induction - Exilus Previlon**



President Michael officially inducted Exilus Previlon as our newest member of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke. Secretary Ron presented Exilus with his membership card, his Club ID badge and the New Member Information package. PDG Lynda Ryder presented him with his Rotary pin.

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## Secretary's Announcements



**Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Community Service Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm - Salvation Army Temple, 2152 Kipling Ave (a couple blocks north of Rexdale on the west side)**

**Rotary Club of York's Annual Chinese New Year Celebration: Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 pm at the Elegance Chinese Cuisine & Banquet Hall, 7130 Warden Ave., #106. Tickets are \$45.00 each (contact Michael Bell).**

**"Rotary Day to End Polio Now" with the Toronto Marlies: Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm at Exhibition Place (Rico Coliseum). Tickets \$35.00 each (\$10 to End Polio Now) (contact Michael Bell).**

**Inaugural Jean Augustine Legacy Award Dinner: Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 pm at Humber College, 3199 Lakeshore Blvd. West. Tickets are \$100.00 each (contact Michael Bell)**

## Visitors & Guests



### Visiting Rotarians:

➤ **PDG Mike Cooksey** - Rotary Club of Scarborough

### Visitors and Guests:

➤ **Mohini Athia** - COPA - speaker  
➤ **Rev. Jeff Bacon** - Light Patrol  
➤ **Ray Lee** - Light Patrol  
➤ **Barry Friesen** - Potential new member  
➤ **Irma Sefa** - Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy (SHEA)  
➤ **John Magwood** - SHEA  
➤ **Rema Abu-Tara** - SHEA  
➤ **Noah Kherani** - SHEA  
➤ **Binta Barrie** - SHEA  
➤ **Katrina Pysadee** - SHEA  
➤ **Paula Haas** - SHEA  
➤ **Jenny Truong** - SHEA  
➤ **Abdul Karim Iqbal** - SHEA  
➤ **Muna Ali** - SHEA  
➤ **Akrem Ali** - SHEA  
➤ **Lud Samatar** - SHEA  
➤ **Abdirashid Duale** - SHEA

### Attendance:

Members -14  
Visitors & Guests - 18  
Total - 32



## 50/50 Draw

**Michael Bell** - Queen of Diamonds. So the Pots grows!

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## HAPPY BUCKS



**Ron Miller** – Ron wasn't sure he was happy about this but said that he was talking with his brother who lives in Anchorage, Alaska where a couple days ago it was +4C with some rain. They were expected to remain mild for at least the next week or so. It is "amazing" that it is much warmer in Anchorage than here in Toronto. Ron was however happy to say that his brother is planning to join the Anchorage South Rotary Club shortly.

**Theresa Sherwood** – Theresa was happy to all of the students from SHEA here today. She was sorry she was unable to attend their event but, from the results, concludes that they all did a great job.

## Former Etobicoke Rotarian Bernadette joins Cape Town Club



Today we will do the induction of Bernadette Hunkeler Brown and Audrey Joffe as new members of our Club. Welcome aboard Bernadette and Audrey.

May your voyage with our Rotary ship be happy, fruitful and hard working. I don't know if it is an "entry present", but we have also received a thousand Canadian Dollars donation towards our schools libraries development project from Bernadette and Nigel's (Bernadette's husband) previous club – the Etobicoke Rotary Club of Toronto. Thank you for organising the money Bernadette and Nigel.



Additional Pictures from Today's Luncheon with SHEA Students and Teachers.