



THE BULLETIN



Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: **Valarie Wafer**

RI President: **Ron D. Burton**

Week January 08, 2014

Board 2013-2014

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

January 15, 2014. Big Ideas Forum "Youth Mental Health" 7.00 PM Crooked Cue.

Reporting: Ron Miller

Pictures: Ron Miller & Peter Dusek

Today's Speaker: Major Kester Trim – Salvation Army



Hugh Williams introduced Kester by saying that prior to joining our Club; he had been a Rotarian for some time (6 years with Toronto Leaside and 5 years with Le Vieux Montréal). Hugh was also happy to say that Kester's Salvation Army Temple had recently moved back into their newly rebuilt facility on Kipling Avenue.

Kester began by saying that when Ingrid asked him to speak to the Club some weeks ago, she wanted him to do "something inspirational". However, Kester feels that "for this illustrious group it is not so simple to find something adequate to say. I don't know whether it will be possible for me to inspire

this group!" He was hoping that Ingrid would be here today "to roast her".

Kester noted that "the Salvation Army is not made up of just one person but is a composite of many people who contribute their skills as officers, employees and volunteers to be a transforming influence in this world of ours". He would speak to that shortly. He first wanted to touch on some "very practical questions" that we might have, such as:

How well did the financial campaign go this past Christmas? How many families and children did you help? In Etobicoke North the Salvation Army raised \$113,000 gross in the Christmas kettles which he expects will net \$90 - \$95 thousand to work with for their family services. This will compare favourably with last year's campaign (Kester estimates it is about 3% higher than last year and is very happy that he has maintained that level "plus a little bit of growth"). He wants to do some re-evaluation of the program to see if they need more kettle sites or different sites. Across the wider city and country, he is still waiting for the final figures to be published, but they seem to have had a good response. The campaign started mid-November and ended December 24th. For the Christmas period which started December 10th, they helped 813 families at last count with more than 1,500 children receiving toys "from the generosity of the Toronto community". In addition 5 to 6 bags of toys were sent to women's shelters (Ernestine's). There is still some surplus of toys that they will decide where they want them to go. Kester added that "the service we delivered would not have happened without the many helping hands, which, of course, included this Rotary Club". The toy depot coordinator, whom he knows quite well, remarked to him on more than one occasion that "his" Rotary Club came up "big" on more than one occasion!! For

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which, Kester added “we, at The Salvation Army Etobicoke Temple are very grateful”.

New Year’s Reminders – Kester says he has learned to stay away from the idea of resolutions as “they are too hard to adhere to”. Instead he feels he is in a better position to take stock and be reminded of points to remember as he heads into 2014. Upon reflection he has fundamental reminders to keep on course. “What is it I do? What can I offer to the community?”

Kester says that “as a Salvation Army officer, I think it is important for me to remind myself to keep responding to the human need that presents itself daily”. The need is enormous and expanding. With families in need, either real or perceived, there is always the question, “do we really help? Is this what they really need? Is it of value? Are we doing good?” He needs to be reminded to keep doing this. “Jesus remarked once to his disciples that the poor you will have with you always (Mt 26: 11a). While he used this remark to draw his disciples (team) attention to what he had to say to them and not to be distracted by the sea of need around them at that moment, it is a reminder to me of the unending nature of human want and need. No matter how much I do, there is still more left undone. In fact, there are days when one wonders if anything that we do really results in any accomplishment at all!! I need to remind myself that to respond to human need is part and parcel of The Salvation Army’s call... We are, as it were, overwhelmed by the volume of need, the ever changing nature of need, and that is just the way it is!! Just get on with trying to help people, day in day out.... And be content to know that what little I do is helpful.”

Kester says he was reminded “of this truth” this past Christmas through the family services office, when he was recruited to do toys, which in this instance was to serve a mother of several children. She was genuinely amazed at the opportunity to select toys for her family. When we finished she burst into tears and her little daughter ran up to her and asked what the matter was? Why was she crying? Was she sad? She explained to her daughter that her tears were of joy. While not everyone responded likewise; so

many expressed gratitude for what they were able to receive.

Kester added that we all want to make a difference. We want or need to know that we matter to someone. If we keep on responding to many needs around us in our community, we will make that difference. It is important for him to recognize this fact and be reminded that this world needs us to not give up or stop.”

He also feels “I should be looking for opportunities to serve. How can I match the resources I have with the people and resources around me to help and serve. I can think of two opportunities that have promise for development:

Youth - One of the curious things about the future is that it is largely unknown. We can plot any course we want but we do not know what the ultimate outcome will be? Kester noted that “this past year we sent seven children from low income families to camp which was an increase of seven over the previous year. The Salvation Army camp is prepared to take fifteen from my unit, so we will be looking to seize that opportunity and give children a holiday camp experience. We will also be looking at our capacity to use our building for a summer day camp experience. We do not know what is possible but we will examine our options. With such a useful asset we want to see what can be done and have people benefit.”

Emergency Services – “This past summer we provided relief for fifteen low income families who suffered loss of furnishings in the July floods. We were servicing some of those families well into the fall as landlords rebuilt their apartments. With Rotary’s funding strength we provided beds, mattresses and other items to help families get back to a more normal situation. Again this Christmas we were all put to the test with frigid weather and an ice storm. I hadn’t yet stopped the usual relief activity when the Rotary Club of Etobicoke called me to inquire about cots for a warming station that was being set up. I didn’t have any but his request set me in motion to find out just what should happen? Up until that call, I hadn’t given any thought as to what might happen? So I called through to our Emergency Services Director to find out just how Etobicoke Temple might play a role and learn where we fit

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within the emergency resources. We were on stand by to be put into service but were not called upon.” Stay true to your values – Lastly Kester says you cannot go wrong if you have values which seem to be timeless. Honesty, for example, does not seem to go out of fashion. It may at times be challenged and thought foolish but in the long run (“and I have been running long enough”) it is better to be open, fair and transparent. We may be in an age where we think values are being shaped and changed but it is more probable they are simply being revisited and examined in the light of human history.

The Salvation Army has the following Values:

Rooted in our Spirituality: Salvation, Holiness and intimacy with God, we place the following values before our personnel.

Compassion – we embody God’s love, reaching out to others and caring for them.

Respect – we promote the dignity of all persons

Excellence – we are innovative and effective

Integrity – we are honest and trustworthy, accountable to God and each other

Relevance- we seek to understand and meet the needs of people in our communities

Cooperation- we encourage and foster teamwork and partnerships.

Celebration- we are thankful to God for blessing The Salvation Army..... We also have fun!



In closing Kester wanted to make a comparison to Rotary. If you read Our Declaration of Rotarians in businesses and professions (a document presented

in our induction kit by Rotarian Ron) and you will see that it is our values which perpetuate who we are and provide lasting value to what we do. As we set out to accomplish our many tasks this year Kester believes “that I will be better if I can stay true the values that we subscribe to, for me as a Salvationist, and for us as Rotarians”. Keep on responding to human need, seize opportunities to improve and stay true to your key values and relate them to our community.

Thank You Notes

Kids Against Hunger – A thank you note was received from Carl Nabein, Executive Director and Wayne McConnachie, GM of Kids Against Hunger Canada which read, “On behalf of Kids Against Hunger Canada, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Rotary Club of Etobicoke for its sincere concern and help in alleviating the problem of undernourished children. Your fundraising efforts, your help and your time are appreciated! Your November 30, 2013 event at the Salvation Army in Etobicoke was a complete success having packaged 14,256 meals. Your contribution will go far in our efforts to feed starving children and allowing them to have the nutrition required for proper development & growth. Again, many thanks! May your members & volunteers be blessed for their considerations for those less fortunate in the world.”

Anduhyaun and Nekenaan – a thank you note as received from the Anduhyaun and Nekenaan Aboriginal women’s’ shelter that the Club supported this year. The note read “To the Rotary Club of Etobicoke. Thank you for all you do for the women and children we service. All the best in 2014.”

William Osler Health System Foundation & Humber River Hospital Foundation – The Club also received thank you notes from The William Osler Health System Foundation and the Humber River Hospital Foundation for our support.

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A Gift To The Club

Secretary Ron reported that he had received a gift for the Club from Theresa Hoang at his home just prior to leaving for today's meeting. A note was attached that said "To the Rotary Club of Etobicoke. My name is Theresa Hoang and I am a fortunate recipient of the Rotaract Club Silver Youth Civic Leadership. I just wanted to wish you happy holidays and hope that your new year is filled with great joy and may blessings to come. As well, I am writing to thank you for your support and generous contribution to my post secondary education. I really appreciate it!" Ron opened the gift which was a box of "very fancy" cookies which were shared amongst the members attending today's luncheon.



Visitors & Guests

Attendance:

Members - 11

Total - 11

Birthdays This Week



Greg Dobson - January 06

Lynda Ryder - January 08

Doug Hartry - January 11

Keith Theodore - January 12

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

HAPPY BUCKS



Jack Fleming – Jack was happy to say that he had just returned on the weekend from a three week visit with his son and his wife in Scotland. He said the weather there was "quite acceptable" for this time of year. Jack noted that his son and his wife are expecting their first child in early April so they have already scheduled a "return trip" back to Scotland in May.

Secretary's Announcements



**Monday January 13th – Board Meeting,
President Michael's Residence, 7.00 PM**



50/50 Draw

Jay Douglas - Ace of Diamonds. So the Pots grows