

Making a Difference



The Rotary Club of Toronto | Marketing & Communications Special Edition

Volume 2 | Issue 8 | June 16, 2017

ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Laughlen Lodge



By 1970 the The Rotary Club of Toronto had an impressive 58 year history of 'Service Above Self'. During a ten-year period spanning the decades of the 1970s and 80s the Club initiated, funded and completed a significant development in downtown Toronto.

This initiative began in January 1972 when a Special Project Committee was appointed by President George Gilmour to recommend a new major project, with the knowledge that late member Watson McLain "Uncle Watt" had bequeathed over \$400,000 to the Foundation in 1963 specifically to help senior citizens.

There had been some unsuccessful discussion with Laughlen Lodge regarding a joint project to relocate from their old building. The Committee looked elsewhere for a suitable site to build a new senior citizen residence when news came that health authorities sought to close Laughlen Lodge, causing the Committee to re-open discussions with Laughlen.

The discussions resulted in the Club's Board, on June 28, 1972, approving the rebuilding and the redevelopment of Laughlen Lodge at its present site. The official opening occurred on April 14, 1977, and Phase II was officially opened on May 20, 1983. This marked the successful conclusion of the largest single project ever undertaken by any Rotary Club in the World.

— by Robert Smith

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

Foundation Appointees

Peter Love (Pres/Chair)
Susan Howson (Vice Pres)
Bill Empey-(Investment Cm.)
Luzita Kennedy-(Res & App. Cm.)
Valerie Clarke - Dir. at Large

Club Appointees

Susan Hunter (Club Pres.)
Pat Neuman (Club Pr. El.)
Jeff Dobson (Club VP)
Prince Kumar (Club Board)
Kevin Power (Club Board)
John Fortney (Club Board)

Development Associate

— by Ashley Boucher



The Rotary Club of Toronto's generous support has enabled Toronto Public Library to plan and deliver 18 workshops developed for seniors who are planning for retirement but living on a low income.

The impact of this series cannot be overstated as mainstream financial advice is generally targeted to middle- and high-income earners.

Generally, retirement advice does not take into account the availability of the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for low-income seniors. People eligible for the GIS need very different financial advice from what is normally featured on the radio, television, in magazines or newspapers. Advising a person with a low-income to save within an RRSPP, for example, can be very bad advice.

To date, 16 workshops have been held at the following branches: Parliament, Danforth/Coxwell, Lillian H. Smith, New Toronto, Thorncliffe, St. James Town, Albert Campbell, Parkdale, Toronto Reference Library, Downsview, Fairview, Victoria Village, St. Lawrence, Black Creek, Mimico. Two more will be held on June 15 and June 22 at Centennial and Sanderson branches, respectively.

Each workshop was presented by John Stapleton from Open Policy Ontario. John Stapleton is a writer, instructor and Innovations Fellow with the Metcalf Foundation. He worked for the Ontario Government for 28 years in the areas of social assistance policy and operations and was Research Director for the Task Force on Modernizing Income Security for Working-Age Adults in Toronto.

Photo credit: John Stapleton, Open Policy Ontario. Photo credit: John Stapleton, Open Policy Ontario.



John speaking at the Albert Campbell District Branch.

John is extensively published in local and national media and has been featured on The Globe and Mail's "Carrick Talks Money" several times. With his knowledge of policy, effects of poverty, and finance, John has been the perfect presenter to deliver the workshops.

In 2016, the workshops attracted 523 seniors seeking financial advice, or those who wanted to learn more about investment vehicles to make retirement more comfortable. The workshop at Parkdale Branch alone attracted 74 attendees. Numbers from 2017 will be tallied in July, and it's expected that turnout will be just as high.

The audiences, in general, were composed of Toronto's most disadvantaged seniors. Most were there for themselves, but some attendees accompanied an aging relative, or came on their behalf. A majority of attendees were immigrants, visible minorities, or had physical disabilities in some cases.



Attendees at the Lillian H. Smith Branch, November 2016

The City of Toronto supported this wonderful initiative with TTC reimbursement for those in need, ensuring the workshops were accessible to all.

The workshops provided attendees with a complete picture of benefits available to them, explained how different programs interact and provided the best strategies for long-term retirement planning with very limited means. This information is not readily available elsewhere.

Additionally, the concepts explained in the workshops can be confusing to many. A booklet which reinforced key messages was an important piece of the workshop. The Rotary Club of Toronto's funding allowed for the booklet to be redesigned using Clear Language and Design concepts, printing, and free distribution of the booklet.

To ensure resources were readily available to all seniors, including those who did not attend the workshop, branches displayed relevant personal finance resources. A list of recommended Adult Literacy books were displayed in addition to other personal finance titles and resources.

In choosing the location of the workshops, Toronto Public Library and the City looked at neighbourhood income data of residents in the 55 – 64 year age cohort. Another consideration was the size of the branch meeting room, ensuring a large turnout could be accommodated.

Overall, the workshops were very impactful and a great success. Attendees reported that they received information they had not heard before. Sessions were always engaging and interactive, with attendees asking John additional questions. Librarians also reported that it was not unusual for attendees to follow John out to his car, with additional questions about their own particular situation.

John also collected email addresses so he could send the presentation to attendees as this was a popular request.

One attendee emailed John following a presentation and noted how engaged the crowd was "Your presentation was very engaging and informative. The audience really enjoyed it. I also do presentations and I can always tell if they're going well by how many questions are being asked. You had lots!"

**The Rotary Club of Toronto
2017 Scholarship Winner
Lorenzo Penate**



The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Lorenzo Penate is this year's recipient of The Rotary Club of Toronto Scholarship. He will be studying Business Administration at York University Schulich School of Business.

Lorenzo and his mother immigrated to Canada from Cuba 10 years ago and had to learn a new language, understand the culture, and establish new roots and financial stability.

In addition to his strong academic performance, Lorenzo has become actively involved at his school and in the community, including drama/theatre and volunteering with the Salvation Army. He worked with Peer Leaders to improve his leadership skills and created The Vibe Club, to positively reach out to and mentor younger students. Lorenzo is the leader of his school's Safe Schools Action Team bringing awareness and assisting students in areas of substance abuse, healthy relationships, bullying, impaired driving and peer mentoring.

Lorenzo's was drawn to the sport of Boxing at an early age for its mental discipline, positive thinking, leadership and physical fitness. He felt it could benefit others, leading him to run the After School Boxing Program.

Welcome Lorenzo and congratulations!

Marketing & Communications Committee Chair: Sylvia Geist
"Making A Difference" Issue Editor: Sylvia Geist



LIKE us on facebook
[@rotarytoronto](#)



Last weeks post reached over 834 people within the same week.

Rotary Club of Toronto "Buzz Group"

• Elizabeth Simmie • Arash Shahi • Marcy Berg • Rudy Haddad



Souleik Kheyre, 2012 Scholarship Winner

Souleik is finishing up her final course in International Human Resources Development and Labour Law for her Masters of Industrial Relations & Human Resources program at the University of Toronto. She has just finished one portion of her course by travelling to Europe. She had the opportunity to travel to Belgium, France and Switzerland to learn from labour and trade experts and leaders from the European Commission, the International Labour Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. She has developed a strong interest in potentially working abroad in the future. She is set to officially graduate from her Master's program in November 2017. She is currently preparing for the LSAT, with hopes of attending law school in September of 2018.



Naresh Sritharan, 2013 Scholarship Winner

This year, marks a milestone. I have successively completed an Honours Bachelors of Science at the University of Toronto Scarborough where I completed a major in Human & Physical Geography and a double minor in Psychology and Applied Statistics. Starting in September, I will be pursuing a Master's Degree in Education focusing on Student Development and Student Success at the post-secondary level. I initially wanted to become a high school teacher but over the years and with the extra-curricular work I have done at the university, I found a passion in working with students at the post-secondary level. I am currently a Resource Centre/First Year Assistant at the Academic Advising & Career Centre at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC). I hope to use this experience and experiences as a Student Ambassador and Student Recruitment Assistant to help me with my Master's program. Upon completion of my program, I hope to continue to work with students and ensure student success and development.



John Chen, 2014 Scholarship Winner

This September I will be entering my 4th year in the Computer Science Specialist Program at University of Toronto, St. George Campus. This past academic year has been productive and rewarding, and I am happy to have accomplished several personal milestones. I finished this year with a 4.0 Annual GPA, and I improved my cumulative GPA to 3.98. While taking a full course load of 10 courses, I also worked as a teaching assistant in the Department of Computer Science for the first time. I TAed CSC209 (a programming course) in the fall and CSC263 (a theory course) in the winter. These are both mandatory courses for Computer Science students at U of T. In February 2017, I was awarded a Goodwin O'Grady Academic Achievement Award from Woodsworth College, University of Toronto, on the basis of strong academic performance. In April 2017, I received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Undergraduate Student Research Award, which is given to outstanding undergraduate students to fund their research. This summer, I am currently doing research at SickKids Hospital in Professor Michael Brudno's lab (Centre for Computational Medicine). My research area of focus is improving disease diagnosis software using Bayesian networks.



Poorva Patel, 2015 Scholarship Winner

Having finished my 2nd year at the University of Toronto - Scarborough, I am very excited to be going into 3rd year. I am working hard towards earning a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience while also pursuing a major in Molecular Biology. 2nd year has introduced me to different work environments in which my degree can be applied such as teaching, research labs, hospitals and more. I have also taken a few language courses to further expand my communication skills and gain more exposure to various and diverse skills. This year I tutored a few first year students in calculus and biology. I hope to get more involved and perhaps assist a professor in research work during 3rd year. I hope to continue working even harder and dedicate more time to achieve good results.



Anna Majeed, 2016 Scholarship Winner

I have recently finished my first year of university in the Life Sciences Program at the University of Toronto - St. George Campus. This summer, I will be working as a research assistant in an immunology laboratory downtown, experimenting with mice genotypes, growing bacteria cultures and much more. I will also be working as a part-time tutor for high school and elementary students. This summer will be packed full of learning, as I teach those younger than I am and learn more about current research in immunology; I can't wait to get started!



The Rotary Club of Toronto
The Fairmont Royal York
100 Front Street West, Level H, Toronto, ON M5J 1E3
Tel: 416-363-0604 Fax: 416-363-0686
office@rotarytoronto.on.ca www.rotarytoronto.com
The Rotary Club of Toronto | Toronto Rotary | @TorontoRotary

Making a
Difference