

## Today's Program

John Millar, Executive Director, Water First

## Topic

Internship Program for Indigenous People

## Host

David Libby, *member since 1981*

## Location

The National Club, 303 Bay St.



Water First is Canada's leading charitable organization dedicated to resolving drinking and environmental water challenges in First Nations.

John Millar, Water First's Executive Director and founder, will primarily discuss the organization's Internship program, which The Rotary Club of Toronto has generously supported this year. The Water First Internship supports young First Nations adults to achieve entry-level certifications in the fields of drinking water treatment and environmental water quality monitoring.

John has twelve years experience running Canada-wide, non-profit, First Nations focused education and training programs. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph, studying community development and the biophysical environment, and gained his master's degree at the University of Victoria with a focus on non-profits and government policy.

John has worked with numerous NGOs abroad, in the fields of education and water, and at the University of Guelph John worked as a degree program design consultant and lecturer. John started Water First in 2009, in the back of his home, in Creemore, Ontario. Water First now has 20 staff and has collaborated with over 40 Indigenous communities in Ontario, Quebec & Labrador.

## A New Rotarian Discovers Camp Scugog – from 2011

As a kid growing up, I had the privilege of visiting summer camp, and many camp memories I relived this year, my first time at Camp Scugog. Music, food, jokes, fresh air and sunshine. Early wake-up yodels from John Andras, night time guitar tunes from Bert. New acquaintances working together, becoming friends. Camp is a chance to try new things; for some, the first-time baking pastry, for others shingling a roof in the hot sun.

A good camp means good leaders, and we had the fortune of the calm direction of Susan Howson - thanks to her, the painting got done, the brush cleared away. Camp director Dana made everyone welcome and looked after. A special mention to Maureen Bird and her band of trusty roofers replacing an entire roof in one day - well done!

And, like other Rotary events, volunteers are induced with the promise of good food, and on this count Camp Scugog did not disappoint. From home cured bacon at breakfast, catfish sandwiches at lunch, and the most amazing Mardi Gras banquet on Saturday night, nobody left Scugog hungry! Thanks to the hard-working chefs (not the camp cooks from my childhood, I can assure you) for planning and preparing all the great meals AND desserts!

The best part? Knowing the shouts, giggles, life experiences and friendships Camp Scugog will mean to so many deserving children for years to come; what is a fun weekend for us will be a lifetime of memories for others.

Mentioning to someone what a great group from all ages and backgrounds coming together to do such great work, and to have such a great weekend of fellowship and fun, that person gave me sly smile and simply said "Welcome to Rotary". Enough said.



Steve Smith and Maureen Bird on a busy day!

## Don't Wait

**Date:** May 24-26

**Cost:** Rotary Club of Toronto is \$120.00 | Rotaractors \$90.00

**Register now at <https://bit.ly/2I9mPz3>**

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Walk for HIV/AIDS

Saturday, April 27, 2019 – 9am to 1pm

Poker Walk  
for HIV/AIDS



The fight is not over until there is a cure. Meanwhile 30 million people are affected, most on drugs for control only. Join us in Making a Difference. We will be assisting Latinos Positivos, a small Toronto group under People With AIDS. They will be leading a Zumba class again at the event. You can join my team (Maureen Bird – Toronto High Flyers) or donate to our team fund at [www.toronto.rotaryaidswalk.ca](http://www.toronto.rotaryaidswalk.ca)



## International Service Committee Projects

- by Andrea Tirone, Chair

### Atorkor, Ghana - Solar Panel System – Maureen Bird, lead

Ten years ago, the Rotary Club of Picton led the creation of Atorkor Technical Vocational Institute. Our club was one of the original ten contributors. Two years ago, our late member Peter Naylor offered to provide the school with a complete solar system. Our club worked to partner with him and RESCo Solar Company in Toronto to make this happen, with a contribution from Peter of \$250,000. With some parts short-shipped in the large shipment and a lightning strike in June the team was unable to complete everything prior to Peter's untimely death. The system became fully operational in late February. We fulfilled Peter's wish – Get it done!



Getting it done – electrical students at work

### Ubuntu Life Foundation – Cijay Shah, lead

A team of 4 active members of the Rotary Club of Nairobi together with Cijay Shah and his wife went to inspect the rural health centre of Ubuntu at Maai Mahiu village, which is 45 kms north of city of Nairobi on Monday February 11th, 2019. The team was thoroughly impressed by the work done by the President of Ubuntu, Mr. Jeremiah Kuria, and his staff to improve the wellbeing of almost 67 children suffering from neurological impairments such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy and physical disabilities.

Ubuntu provides and administers the neural medication to the patients who visit the medical camps, which are organized 3 times a year. The teams of specialist caregivers together with doctors who come from USA & UK provide not only the care and appropriate medication to the patients (the beneficiaries number almost 200 with children and adults) but also train the local Community Health Workers in the village of Maai Mahiu.



Staff member with children

It is an ongoing project supported by other NGOs. Its sustainability is very high as witnessed by the visit of the Rotary team who also ascertained high level of responsibility taken by the Board of Directors & Staff of the Ubuntu Foundation and also the Village Head.

Our club, through International Service Committee, is proud to donate US\$11,200 to support the activities of Ubuntu.

### Sri Lanka orphanages – Errol Paulicpulle lead

Since the major tsunami in 2010 devastated so much of the country, Errol has been returning to his birthland to assist.

This March in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka Errol delivered several tons of food, clothing school supplies and computer equipment to Hari Boys and Shakthi Girls home. The renovations they completed at the boys' home in 2017 have paid off with badly needed space. The girls' home needs more renovations, and – with your help – we'll be able to raise enough money to proceed. The estimated cost is about \$60,000 CDN for finishing off an entire floor with windows, paint, interior finishing, and furniture.

You can make a difference. Donations to this project can be made through our Philanthropic Fund – be sure to Select Designation – Sri Lanka Orphanages 2019 <https://bit.ly/1IhSCct>



Errol's boys in Hari

### Other International Projects

RC Scarborough had an international grant (five clubs in 7070, one of them us) to assist a small orphanage in Guatemala. They have installed two solar panels with required converters sufficient to drastically reduce their reliance on intermittent and expensive electricity.

We have assisted Beautiful World Canada supporting girls living in extreme poverty in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda so that they can pursue secondary and university education.

We have supported a district initiative to deliver birthing kits to rural Ethiopia. A sweat equity trip under PDG Michael Bell is planned.



**Let's Be Personal** - by Bill Morari



In my role as GM/COO at the National Club I have had the honour and pleasure of meeting numerous Prime Ministers, Presidents, Royalty, Leaders of Industry and the power brokers of Bay St. With almost 1000 total members, a staff of between 75-100 depending on the time of year, a Board of Directors, numerous committees it does keep me busy, but I am one of the lucky ones, because even after all the years working at the Club, I still wake every day and enjoy my job, the only thing I don't like is that the drive into work takes twice as long now, compared to 38 years ago..

As for Rotary, I always have to say thanks to Brian Westlake for sheepishly inviting me to attend a Rotary luncheon in 1999. I think he said, "you wouldn't be interested in coming to a rotary lunch.... would you". I said yes and never looked back, as I felt at the time, I was somewhat successful in life and I was looking for a way to give back to the community. I enjoyed that luncheon, met some wonderful people and came back a second time and decided to join.

Today thanks to Rotary, I have grown as a person, developed new friendships who I know will be lifelong friends, who were there for me when I needed help, whether for business or personal reasons and hopefully I have been able to return the favour. After all, based on the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self", Rotarians are certainly the kind of people I want to do business with and have as my friends.

**Rotary Muskoka Style: Reconnect, Reflect, Relax**  
**Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

We welcome you to join our 2019-2020 District Governor, Beth Selby, at the 2019 Rotary District 7070 Conference. The JW Marriott The Rosseau Resort & Spa is your destination for an amazing time to reconnect, reflect and relax with fellow Rotarians.

For conference information: <http://rotary7070conference.org/>

**Another Robin Hood Army Drive**

The Indigenous Services Committee sponsored another Robin Hood Army drive on March 30th. The team gathered to make sandwiches for the residents at NaMeRes and delivered them along with food donated by India's Taste in Markham and 309 Dhaba Indian Excellence. All delivered to feed 105 hungry men despite a heavy downpour. David Libby and our incoming President Kevin Power had the honour of picking up restaurant donations to supplement the food prepared by the group.



*Robin Hood Army thanks and honours The Rotary Club of Toronto for their support in getting established in year one. Prince Kumar, Lori Brazier and Jeff Dobson*

**Looking for accommodation for Swedish Ryerson Business Student**

Hello, my name is Steffi and I am currently a member of Rotary in Gränna, Sweden. My daughter is 23 years old and will spend a semester in Toronto to study at the Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University. She is looking for an accommodation from end of August to end of December this year. I know we have great contacts and members from everywhere in the world so I wanted to see if you could help us find something? Thank you! Best regards, Steffi Eberts Reinisch [Steffi@ebeplant.se](mailto:Steffi@ebeplant.se)

**Congratulations!**

New Member John Bishop apologizes for missing this week's meeting. He is busy celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary with wife Gillian.

**RI President**  
 Barry Rassin, East Nassau

**District Governor**  
 Mary Lou Harrison, Toronto Sunrise

**The Rotary Club of Toronto**  
**Club 55 – 1912**

**Officers:**  
 President: Jeff Dobson  
 President-Elect: Kevin Power  
 Vice President: John Fortney  
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**Executive Director:**  
 Carol Hutchinson

**Rotary Club of Toronto**  
**Charitable Foundation:**  
 Susan Howson, President

**Editor of the Week:**  
 Lorna Johnson

**Editor May 3, 2019:**  
 John Andras

**What You Missed Reporter for April 26, 2019:**  
 John Andras

**The Four-way test of the things we think, say, or do**

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to all concerned?
3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

**Upcoming Speakers & Events**

- May 2019**
- 3 Dr. Sam Geist, Technology's Impact on Society
  - 10 Anthony Wilson-Smith, Historica Canada
  - 15 President's Cocktails, The National Club
  - 17 NO LUNCH (Victoria Day holiday)
  - 22 President's Cocktails, The National Club
  - 24 NO LUNCH (Camp Scugog weekend)
  - 31 Joe and Gordon Cressy

- EVENTS**
- April 27 District Walk for AIDS
  - May 24-26 Camp Scugog Weekend
  - May 29 Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
  - May 30 R2R, National Club
  - June 1-5 Rotary International Convention (Hamburg)
  - Oct 25-27 Rotary District 7070 Conference (Muskoka)

**Propose a Speaker – Contact**  
 Bert Steenburgh, Chair  
[BSteenburgh@oxfordproperties.com](mailto:BSteenburgh@oxfordproperties.com)  
 Tel: 416-868-3673

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter:  
[therotaryvoice@gmail.com](mailto:therotaryvoice@gmail.com)

Editor-in-chief: Maureen Bird

**LET'S BE PERSONAL**

April 26<sup>th</sup> - Blair Spinney  
 May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Steve Smith



**What You Missed April 12, 2019** - by Lorna Johnson



April 12th was the luncheon to recognize Earth Day (April 22nd) and the Rotary Club of Toronto's Environment Committee's philanthropic projects. President Jeff opened the meeting and after the invocation, singing of O Canada, and the toast to the Queen.

June Brown gave a very heart-felt call to action for the Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes fundraiser and awareness campaign to end gender-based violence. You can see how the fundraising is progressing for Team Rotary High-Steppers, <https://whiteribbon.akaraisin.com/Pledge/Event/Scoreboard.aspx?seid=18486&mid=84> Please donate and/or participate in the event on May 29th. June foreshadowed some interesting "Kitten-heel" races at future Rotary luncheons.

Jeffrey Johnson regaled us with his Spring 2019 Culinary Moment, praising the erect asparagus and inviting us to sign-up for the Fellowship and Entertainment Committee Asparagus dinner at Enville Catering on May 14th – act quickly as seating is limited.

Past President, Bill Morari loves his position as General Manager of The National Club, even after 38 years with the Club. Check out "Let's Be Personal".

Kurt Kroesen, long-time member of the Club's Environment Committee, introduced our guest speaker, Derek Zavislake, whom he has personally known for many years. Derek opened our eyes to how to get the best cup of coffee: 1) Quality green coffee beans; 2) Know about the roasting and; 3) Brew. Did you know that it has taken coffee only 500 years to become 2nd most popular beverage in the world, only behind tap water? Or that coffee likes to grow in the shade (naturally coffee is understory of a rainforest)? And it

takes 7 years for a coffee tree to produce its first fruit? Or that there are more antioxidants in fresh roasted coffee than 3 oranges?

The popularity of coffee has led to the destruction of forests due to monoculture farming and the use of wood-fired coffee driers. Coffee is also crop with the second highest use of pesticides, behind cotton in world, and we don't eat cotton! Because of this, Merchants of Green Coffee is a sponsor of solar-powered coffee driers. If these were adopted across South America, the coffee industry would stop burning 16,000 acres of wood per year. Derek and Merchants of green coffee are also proponents of 1:1 farm to forest relationship, i.e. land that is half forest / half coffee farms, high altitude farming and shade-grown coffee. This produces carbon offsets, the use of fewer pesticides, more nutrients, and best-tasting coffee.

President Jeff thanked the speaker and presented him with a donation in his honour. The Ace of Clubs pot continues to grow as Alex Brown took home the wine..



*Derek Zavislake explaining the wonders of coffee – with his coffee plant!*

**What You Missed April 17, 2019** - by Maureen Bird



We gathered on the Roof Top Garden of the National Club, protected by heavy tent walls and propane heaters. But the atmosphere was warm!

Under the leadership of Vice-President John Fortney we had Dawn-Marie King introduce our speaker, Dr. David Urbach. He was mentioned as a surgeon who has pioneered same-day knee replacement surgery. Wow! What a way to open up hospital beds.

He said there are three criteria for good health care: Quality, Cost and Access. We want it good, cheap and fast – pick two. Our problem is that wait time is increasing with cataracts at an average of 141 days and joint replacement at 210 days. We are ranked 9 out of 11 high GDP countries for our care – US is 11th.

Our system is funded by the Federal government but administered by the provinces. Our system is deep but narrow – great for doctor and hospital services but 1/3 is covered by private care using health benefit plans or patient pay.

Canadian costs per person is \$4,609 where US costs are \$9,451 per person – more than half of that private funding. Where the US

is fastest for access it comes at a cost. Canada has 30% of cases waiting for a specialist for over two months and 18% waiting over four months for surgery. We need to do better. We need to reduce access and treatment that is excessive with unneeded tests.

We are an old system (think being in the wrong teller line at the bank). A solution happening in some provinces suggests a Central Intake / Single Entry model where you are in the queue for the next available spot in your area would create a fairer and faster system.

It was a great evening topped off by a great buffet – as always.



*Left to right: Dr. David Urbach with host Dawn-Marie King*

**JOIN ROTARY NOW!**  
[www.rotarytoronto.com](http://www.rotarytoronto.com)

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