



A Holiday Message from the President



Our Rotary 2017-18 theme, "Making a Difference" is utmost on everyone's mind, while doing projects so worthy to our city and the world. We can ask ourselves, "What can

I do to make a difference to someone's life, to their world"? Making a difference is offering a part of ourselves, our life, and spreading that time and effort to help the most vulnerable. Each person shares themselves in different ways. Some volunteer for special projects, some plan the philanthropic projects worthy of our assistance, others attend events and lend a helping hand, others plan fun Fellowship events and others work on program development. Everyone helps in his or her own way. Rotarians know that by sharing our talents and time, we can make a difference!!

Today's Program

Annual Club Christmas Party

Location

Fairmont Royal York Ballroom



A couple of party animals from last year!

Today is the day we share good company and fellowship with all our Rotary friends and guests, as we celebrate the Holiday season together.

In the spring what a difference we made in the life of our family from Syria! Maureen Bird and her committee, and family and friends, have worked tirelessly in getting the family acclimatized to Canada and assisting wherever they can along the way. This has indeed been a great achievement as it has surely made a huge difference in their lives. Thank you, Maureen and your committee!

We are making a huge difference in the lives of many people in the inner city with the unveiling of the new Sherbourne Health Bus - how exciting it was to the team at Sherbourne and to us. This great project enables the team on the Health Bus to now provide more specialized services to the most vulnerable population in the inner city.

For many months, Lorraine Lloyd and her Children's Christmas Party committee and Anny-Sandra Hamel and her Senior Citizens' Committee have worked with enthusiasm and determination to execute special parties for the young and not so young... Congratulations to all members, families and friends of members, guests, Rotaractors from Toronto, U of T and Ryerson for making these events spectacular. Everyone is to be congratulated in making a difference to so many "young and older" lives. Just seeing the smiles, excitement and joy in their faces is our thank you. Thank you to these two leaders, Lorraine and Anny-Sandra, and their teams!!

The Club Christmas Party committee, led by Dauna Jones-Simmonds will be hosting a great event on Friday. Her team of enthusiastic volunteers have rallied together; planning to make this one of our very best parties... there will be a silent auction, a raffle with lots of great prizes, delicious food and wonderful fellowship. The raffle and silent auction revenue goes to PACT Urban Peace Program, a most worthwhile organization chosen by The Club Foundation Board.

Roadmap to 2020 under the direction of Prince Kumar, with Vice President Kevin Power and the new Board of Directors has made quite an impact on what we do and will do in the future. We are ready to start making a difference working on the initiatives voted on by the members of the club. These ideas came from the many sessions held over the summer and fall. We are just starting to get fired up. January will see a mobilization of some of the initiatives. Congratulations and thank you to Prince as Lead for the Special project and Kevin Power and his team for their unwavering input.

Every Rotarian gives in their own special way and I want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to serve, giving of your time and effort, to make a difference in others lives. I am proud of your efforts to make our city and world a better place. The world these days needs the spirit of Rotarians ever more. "Why do I do this?" My answer is simple. I want to make a difference in others' lives. If what I do will make a difference to how someone feels and make their life brighter and more joyful, even for a few hours, that is what makes it all worthwhile. The more you give, the more you will receive...ten fold!!

-The next 6 months will be a busy time as we prepare for the Rotary International Convention June 23 to 27, 2018.

At this special time of the year, do take time to relax, and to reflect on how lucky we are to live in a country where we are free to be ourselves, have our own ideas, and are able to speak freely.

I wish you and your families the very best for a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and Happy New Year.

Paul Harris/William Peace Award to Don Brooks

- Comments by Richard White.

It is my honour and pleasure to present to you our latest Paul Harris Fellow/ William Peace Award winner, Don Brooks. I sponsored this member when he joined the Club on April 1, 2005. He took to Rotary like, as they say, a duck to water - needing no mentoring whatsoever.

He is current chair of the Scholarship Committee and former chair of Community Champion Scholarship Committee. He has been a member of the Community Service, International Service, Youth and Children Service Committees and is a current member of Senior Citizens Committee. He was on the Board of Directors 2009-12 and is now in his second term of service on our Board. He was the Liaison Director to the Rotaract Clubs for two years and received the Club Builder Award in 2012. Don is well known for his ongoing interest in the Rotaract Club of Toronto.

He has been an avid (may be even rabid) volunteer at Argos 50/50, Children's Christmas Party, Seniors Christmas Party, Camp Scugog and numerous Fellowship events often accompanied by his lovely wife, Susan.

When Don takes on something - watch out because he'll roll right over you to get it done and won't take no for an answer. He is a great example of Service Above Self. Congratulations from all of us.



Don Brooks...our newest Paul Harris/William Peace award winner with President Pat and his wife Susan

Welcome New Member Brinda Luckoo



Brinda is an innovative, result-driven marketing and business executive. She has a proven track record in customer acquisition and retention and over 20 years' extensive experience in audience management acquired in the UK and Canada. She is the President of Inovva Media Inc. which provides state-of-the-art digital tools designed to drive growth in the Media, Publishing and Not-For-Profit industries. Previously, she was Executive Director of Consumer Marketing at Rogers Media. She holds an Honours degree in International Marketing from the UK and France, is a member of Mensa, and received multiple Consumer Marketing awards. She grew up in Paris and London and has been living in Toronto for the last 17 years with her husband Binoy and Pitchou, their little Yorkie.

She has worked with charitable organizations in the past such as Sense in the UK and the Rogers United Way committee. She has also already participated in our Club's Children's Christmas party and the Kids Against Hunger project in past years. Brinda is joining Rotary as she has a desire to give back to the community and make a difference.

Welcome New Member Randy Gunn



Randy was raised in Nobleton with his 3 brothers. He is currently a Wealth Director with BNY Mellon Wealth Mgmt. He has over 17 years of financial services experience previously with Connor Clark & Lunn Private Capital, Scotia Asset Management and Citigroup. And is a long-standing member of the CFA Society Toronto's Private Client Committee. Randy holds a Bachelor of International Business from Brock University, a MBA from the University of Windsor and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. Recently, Randy joined the Responsible Investing Committee for the Oakville Community Foundation and also decided to join The Rotary Club of Toronto after identifying with the Four-Way Test and hopes to be able to give help to improve the lives of others. Randy enjoys playing sports, coaching and travel.

Welcome New Member James Braithwaite



James is a Physiotherapist and practices with his team at Braithwaite Physiotherapy in Toronto. He is an engaging physiotherapist who believes that beside improving how you look and feel, working toward peak physical function is an excellent avenue for general personal development that can spill over into other areas of living.

James has an extensive background in Physiotherapy, graduating with a Masters degree from the school of physiotherapy at Queen's University in 2010. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manual Physiotherapy. He is also an amateur athlete, a coach, teacher, speaker, and (according to James) an all around fantastic guy! He is looking forward to contributing to Rotary and giving back to the community.



The New Look for Club Media & Communications

- by John Fortney, Liaison Director



New members, new ideas, new energy! One of the most exciting things about a club as large and diverse as The Rotary Club of Toronto is the influx of new members and the exciting energy and ideas they offer. Currently, a group of all fairly new members have been working on the media and communications committee creating social media guidelines and actions and are on track to completely re-vitalize our website. The new Chair, Heather Gordon, runs incredibly efficient meetings which are producing great results, and quickly. Her team includes Jason Colbert, Arash Shahi, Rudy Haddad, Marcy Berg and Maureen Bird (Voice). Be on the lookout for great things from this committee; they will be impossible to miss. Congratulations everyone.

P.S. I wrote this after the Club Assembly and I believe this was one of the best ever. The Survey program written by another newer member, Brent Thomas, was nothing short of Brilliant!

Roadmap to 2020, Update # 8 – A Big Thank You to 103 Rotarians!

- by Barbara Thompson



Thank you to 103 Rotarians from our club who provided their insights in 2017 to help build the Roadmap to 2020. We are continuing to make progress on many fronts and hope to engage all members in 2018 in one way or another to help reach our vision 2020. Our Vision 2020: Be the organization of choice to achieve one's philanthropic life goals among friends, with annual funding of \$2 million.

You can continue to provide electronic and direct feedback to the Club Executives anytime you like by accessing one simple form – go to: survey.rotarytoronto.com. Thank you all and have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Rotaract Club of Toronto News

- by Binoy Luckoo, Liaison Director

December 4th was an exciting night. I was in attendance with Incoming Director Mary Lou Harrison and we were expecting to see three new members. Instead we had the amazing surprise to see 10 new members to the Rotaract Club of Toronto.



The latest new member group of Rotaractors. How's that for membership development!

To President Joseph Hanna and all of the members involved, congratulations to you and your team!

RibFest Volunteering

Our annual RibFest fundraising is helped so much by partner clubs such as our Rotaractors and members of the Toronto Sunrise club with whom we share the proceeds. They are a small club but they have really leapt in to help. Thank you!



President Pat presenting a cheque to club president Michael Sprung and Jason Pole

RI President

Ian Riseley

District Governor

Neil Phillips, Toronto

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: Pat Neuman

President-Elect: Jeff Dobson

Vice President: Kevin Power

Treasurer: Rick Goldsmith

Executive Director:

Carol Hutchinson

Rotary Club of Toronto

Charitable Foundation:

Susan Howson, President

Editor of the Week:

Don Bell

Editor January 12th:

Maureen Bird

What You Missed Reporter for December 15th:

Don Bell

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

December 2017

22 & 29 No meetings - enjoy the holidays!

January 2018

5 NO MEETING

12 Angie Draskovic, Yonge Street Mission

19 Patrick Boyer, former MP, Historian

26 Dr. Ernie Seaquist, The Search for New Worlds Like the Earth

Events

December 17th Toronto Swedish Singers Concert

January 16th Polish Dinner Café Polonez

January 23rd Whiskey Night at Feathers

Propose a Speaker – Contact

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What You Missed December 8, 2017

- by Maureen Bird



Once again the Senior Citizens Committee has provided one of our great events of the year, a special Christmas lunch for intra-Toronto Seniors. Under the capable leadership of Chair Anny-Sandra Hamel the committee came through organizing drivers, table hosts, - the stories we hear! - gift bags, the Carolers and Rotaract elves who accompanied Santa and the Yule logs with sparklers. President Pat had the honour of hosting the members, seniors, one visiting Rotarian from Sri Lanka and all our guests.



John Wanless Grade 6 Choir Entertains the Guests

We thank the Salvation Army Band, Wheeltrans, the hotel staff who assisted everywhere, the Police Bus and limo services. A special thank you to the Grade 6 carolers from John Wanless Junior School. Once again they entertained us with great performances of very special seasonal tunes. They really do a wonderful job of getting full attention from the audience. At least two of our guests said their first invitation to the Royal York was as guests of Easter Seals as special needs children at our long-running Children's Party.



Santa, a.k.a. Derek Matisz, greets the Seniors.



Sharon Brandt came to our Children's Christmas party when she was a child!



Early Birthday Wishes for January

- 2 June Brown
- 4 Paul Truelove
- 8 John Lloyd
- 11 Tim Lang
- 14 Dauna Jones-Simmonds
- 16 Don Bell, Rohit Tamhane
- 18 Derek Matisz, Knud Westergaard
- 19 Binoy Luckoo
- 21 Richard White
- 23 Mumtaz Iqbal, Cijay Shah
- 27 Keshav Chandaria, Jeff Dobson
- 28 Doug Hughes



Past President Richard White looks after the Ladies

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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