

Today's Program

Michiel Roodenburg

Topic

Cycle for Water - 30,000 km on a Bamboo Bicycle

Host

Kevin Power, *President-Elect for 2019-20*

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay St.

Rotary Christmas Luncheon, Friday December 14

- by Jackie Davies



Season's Greetings to all:

Now that the Seniors' Christmas Luncheon and our famous Children's Christmas celebration is over it is time to think about our own Members special Christmas Lunch to be held next Friday, December 14th at the Fairmont Royal York. Prepare to enjoy a feast!

We need your help to donate prizes for our raffle. All the proceeds will be going to a most worthy charity which will be announced at the luncheon. Please contact me if you have something valued at \$30. or more for the raffle as we would like to raise at least \$5,000 for the charity.

We are planning to have a most festive menu with fabulous entertainment and many other surprises so please plan to attend.



This story is about an unlikely friendship and how Michiel and his buddy Joost, two men with totally different personalities and backgrounds, found a common goal and passion. It's a story about how they, through perseverance, friendship and a lot of generosity and kindness of organizations and the people they came across, were able to help people and have the trip of their lives and at the same time.

After finishing a master's degree in finance and business, Michiel decided that the corporate world had to wait a couple of years. After being confronted with the severity of the water crisis when he lived, worked and studied in various parts of Africa and the Middle East, he founded the organization "Cycle for Water" together with Joost. They cycled 30,000 kilometers from Alaska to Antarctica to raise awareness for the global water crisis, which is still leaving 1 billion people on earth without access to clean drinking water and sanitation resources.

To make the expedition an even greater challenge, Cycle for Water was the first attempt to cycle the entire route on bamboo bicycles. Not only as an effort towards minimizing the carbon footprint of the journey, but also to demonstrate that a lot of challenges can be overcome using sustainable products and solutions.

The two friends spend almost two years on their bikes and made their way through the forests of Canada, urban sprawls of the States, deserts of Atacama, jungles of Ecuador and over the Andes mountain range in Chile and Argentina, until they reached their goal - Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world and eventually Antarctica.

Through 6 live interviews on CNN, who followed them in their footsteps, they were fortunate enough to reach many homes to tell the stories of the people that have to live without access to clean drinking water, but also the stories of where solutions lifted whole communities out of poverty. Through Cycle for Water they funded small-scale water and sanitation projects, visited rural towns and communities and documented those interactions in order to report to the outside world. The team set up partnerships with the World Bank, Net Impact and the WWF.

The story continues. Cycle for Water Two started in 2015 when new adventurers picked up the banner and cycled from France to New Zealand. Preparations for the third 'African' edition are underway.

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Rotary Celebrates Seniors

- by John Andras



For over 55 years our club has celebrated the holiday season with inner-city seniors. Many are shut in. Many have no family. For some it is the only Christmas party they have. We had 200 seniors coming from 8 agencies: Second Mile Club, Sunshine Centre, Salvation Army, Yonge Street Mission, Little Trinity Church, Church of Resurrection and St. Savior Church (they come as a group), SPRINT, and new agencies Sistering and, St. Matthew's Bracondale

The spirit of the Thursday special luncheon was summed up in a thank you letter from SPRINT.

"Thank you very much for the invitation to the Rotary Christmas Lunch yesterday. The clients could not stop talking about how much fun they had and how grateful they were to be invited. Many clients were very awestruck by the fact that the Rotary Club was willing to put on such a magnificent event for seniors in Toronto. The Rotary members at our tables were a pleasure to talk with and very helpful at the end of the event by bringing each client their jackets. I cannot thank you enough for providing SPRINT Senior Care with the opportunity to bring clients to your event."



Santa with his Rotary and Rotaract elves.



Glenn Davis, Emily Eng on the viola, and Brigitte Bogar entertain.



The boys of Crescent School enthrall Seniors, Rotarians and Rotaract members with a medley of holiday songs, including a Liszt piano solo by 12 year old Payton Lee.



The room was packed with city Seniors enjoying a special day out.

Calling all Piano Players!

We would love for you to join the roster of club members who contribute to our Friday luncheons with their musical talents. We even have music for Road to the Isles, O Canada, Take Me Out to the Ball Game, and other club favourites to help you get started. Please contact Glenn Davis, Lorna Johnson, or Carol Hutchinson for more information.

December Birthdays!

3	Fabio Ventolini	16	Mary Lach
5	Randy Gunn, Peter Simmie	17	Eckhart Mehler
6	James Barnett	18	Alex Brown
8	James Braithwaite	22	Bill Empey
9	John Farrell, John	23	Hedley Hunter
13	Ed Ryder	24	Peter Love



Rotary Club kicks off Christmas season for kids with special needs (Edited from CBC)

Toronto's longest-running Christmas party for children welcomed more than 500 guests on Sunday to help kick off the holiday season.

The Rotary Club of Toronto Children's Christmas Party is an annual event for kids with special needs, and this year, kids had the opportunity to meet Santa himself and pick up some gift bags, along with having some Christmas fun.

"It's all about fun, celebration, having laughs, and we want to do our part to try and start the season off with some laughs and some fun," President Jeff told CBC Toronto.

The Rotary Club worked with Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf, CNIB, Easter Seals Ontario, the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and the Starlight Foundation of Canada to help make the party possible.

And the event, now in its 89th year, took place downtown at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, where it began in 1929.

Dobson says he has been at about 16 Rotary Children's Christmas Parties, adding that there have been a number of highlights over the years.

"Every single highlight for me is when I get to walk around the room and see the smiles on the faces of these kids. That's what it's all about."

Crystal Spice was at the event with her son Steven, "[The party] means the world to kids because they spend most of their time in and out of hospitals," she said, adding that her son is at Sick Kids Hospital between three to five times a month.

"It gives them a day to actually just be kids."



Santa and a special friend (CBC).



Jeff Dobson, president of the Rotary Club of Toronto, says the Children's Christmas Party on Sunday was all about the kids. (CBC)



Crystal Spice and her son Steven at The Rotary Club of Toronto's Children's Christmas Party on Sunday. Spice says her son had two brain surgeries for chiari malformation and came with the Starlight Foundation. (CBC)



Even the adults love this party! Krystyna Benyak, Morrigan Wolf and DG Mary Lou Harrison dancing (twisting) to the music of 3D - a group of retired police officers.

RI President
Barry Nussam, 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

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Susan Howson, President

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John Andras

Editor December 14:
Don Bell

What You Missed Reporter for December 7:
Richard White

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 2018

- 7 Annual General Meeting
- 14 Club Christmas Party
- 21 NO LUNCH-due to Christmas Holiday
- 28 NO LUNCH-due to Christmas Holiday

January 2019

- 4 NO LUNCH-due to Christmas Holiday
- 11 Andreas Souvaliotis, Carrot Insights

Events

December 9 Swedish Christmas Concert

Propose a Speaker – Contact
Bert Steenburgh, Chair
BSteenburgh@oxfordproperties.com
Tel: 416-868-3673

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter
therotaryvoice@gmail.com

Editor-in-chief: Maureen Bird

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Your charity gets \$920 more!

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By donating shares directly, you get a better tax credit and give more to the charity you care about.

It is easy to do – just go to the Rotary Club of Toronto website and choose the Rotary Toronto Foundation pulldown menu. In that menu, choose the Make A Donation link. Make your choice as to donating securities or cash, then follow the instructions on the form selected to complete your donation. If all else fails call the office, (416) 363-0604.

<https://www.rotarytoronto.com/page/donations>

Don't have securities you want to donate? Cash is always welcome. We do make a difference.

Cambodia Sweat Equity Trip

Bakong Technical School in Siem Reap was the \$100,000.00 International Service Committee Centennial project. The building of the large classroom block is now complete and our team of 19 Rotarian and friends finished the painting for the big Opening Celebration on Thursday, November 29th. The team also did extensive landscaping work. Check our blog at www.makeanimpact.ca/blog

In addition to the work at the school we donated 13 bicycles to Children's Improvement Organization (an orphanage with 39 children) and painted their dining room. We provided funds for Mr. Toyn's enrichment school for children whose parents search the dump for recyclables and had English classes with them.

Cambodia continues to be one of the mostly heavily mined countries and we spent a day with people from the Cambodian Landmine Museum. We also met with Mine Risk Education, a group who goes to schools to teach the children how to recognize ordinances and who to contact. The Cambodian Self-Help Demining group gave us a demonstration of equipment and the process for exploding landmines.



The Toronto contingent: Brian and Joyce Westlake, Maureen Bird, Paul Truelove, Chris and Pat Snyder.

My Seniors' (Christmas Party) Moment

- by John Andras



One of the delights of attending a Rotary luncheon is meeting new friends. I had the delightful honour of sitting beside Jiajing, a new member of the Rotaract Club of Toronto. Jiajing was originally an Interact member from California who came to Toronto for work. Like many coming to Toronto she had no friends or social life outside of her job. She was traveling on the subway during the RI Convention this past summer and noticed some Rotarians. Gathering up her courage she engaged them in conversation. They mentioned Rotaract. She went on-line, found the website and attended her first meeting. She now has many friends and is extremely active in the community, including being Santa's Helper at both the Seniors' and Children's Christmas Parties.

Paul Harris was a newcomer to Chicago. He, like Jiajing, found himself alone in the big city. When he founded Rotary in 1904, he did so primarily to make friends. It is wonderful how history repeats again and again and again.


The Rotary Club of Toronto


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