

ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

Volume 103 | Issue 30 | April 1, 2016

Speaker

New Members Day

Host

The New Members

Topic

April Fools Worthy

Location

Fairmont Royal York,
Upper Canada Room

The New Members are absolutely delighted to host lunch today! We'd be honoured for you to sit at a table where you most feel comfortable, to enjoy some of the activities we have in store for you and other members, and to enjoy witnessing some of the announcements and changes we have in store.



Heather Hetherington



Kevin Craft



Luba Rascheff



Mitra Goody



Emre Yurga



Anny-Sandra Hamel



Andrea Tirone



Annie Chu



Andrea Vabalis



Brent Thomas



Liz Simmie



Rudy Haddad



Robert Rastorp



Tim Lang



Trevor Lenders



Jonathan Wu

Senior Citizens' Committee Update

– by Barbara Thomson



A few years ago, The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation received capital grants from the Laughlen Foundation and from the sale of the Laughlen Centre totalling \$3.2 million with the understanding that the income generated by these funds would be used to benefit disadvantaged seniors in downtown Toronto. Subsequently, the Foundation suggested the Senior Citizens' Committee take the lead in establishing a process for identifying additional projects to help seniors in our community.

An application package and a process were developed based on the existing criteria used by the Foundation whereby the Research and Appeals Committee continues to provide their due diligence, prior to the submission of proposals to the Foundation for consideration. This year we are pleased that the Foundation has approved the following submissions:

1) West Toronto Support Services - \$32,500

Since 1985, this agency has continued to support the independence of older adults and adults with disabilities. There is an increasing number of older adults living alone, with financial constraints and limited mobility. WTSS transportation program consists of a wheelchair accessible bus, a mini-van and a car that needs to be replaced. These funds would support the replacement of that car.

2) Senior Peoples Resources in North Toronto Inc. (SPRINT) - \$33,000

SPRINT has been caring for seniors and enabling seniors' independence since 1983. Their transportation program provides seniors with access to appointments, facilities and their Adult Day Programs. A new vehicle will ensure the safe transportation of seniors to much needed services that support both seniors and their caregivers.

3) Fred Victor - \$8,800

Fred Victor (formerly the Fred Victor Mission) has recently established a day program for vulnerable seniors in St. James Town. This pilot project would include the purchase of tablet computers and would test the benefits of connecting seniors with access to technology. Should the pilot project be a success, Telus has expressed interest in continuing the program.

4) Toronto Public Library – \$15,000

In support of the City of Toronto's Seniors Strategy, the Library piloted a financial literacy program designed to provide attendees near retirement age, who are at or are below the poverty level with free access to expert advice to maximize income in their retirement years. This funding will expand the existing program from 4 to 18 branches, focusing on the downtown core.

5) The Good Neighbours Club - \$18,500

The Good Neighbours Club has been supporting homeless men in Toronto since 1933. They have submitted a proposal for a new telephone system that would include a voicemail box for every member which could be accessed from anywhere in the city. This would allow members to access information regarding medical appointments, housing opportunities and social services; a privilege they have never been afforded, due to their homelessness.

Going to Camp???

Camp Weekend is May 27-29 don't miss out register now

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or go to the club website Member Area and look for Camp Scugog.



Chef Bill Morari prepares the fish



Painting the picnic tables

Refugees - Mr. Trudeau, You Have Let Us Down

– by Maureen Bird, The Rotary Club of Toronto Sponsorship Group



For the past six months thousands of Canadians have opened their hearts, their wallets and their homes with plans to welcome Syrian refugees. We wanted to show what we can do as individual Canadians to make the world a better place. But 1000 groups who have the funds and the teams ready to devote their time and personal efforts are now being told to wait until next year.

Yes, we are delighted that the government took on the responsibility to bring in 25,000 fully-funded refugees. But you have to admit that your resources were stretched to accommodate these refugees with many spending weeks feeling abandoned in hotels. Now you say the government plans to bring in another 10,000 refugees under the government plan. But 5,000 could easily be assigned right now to the groups who are ready and waiting. We have the resources and the people and the funds. There is over \$30,000,000 in accounts ready to add into the Canadian economy. Evidence shows those refugees who have come in the past under the private route have fared far better than the government ones who have sometimes felt neglected.

Canadians showed what we can do privately when thousands of people were fleeing Vietnam in 1979-80. These refugees were housed in private homes with no government funding. These refugees have made us proud. We can do this again but we need you to open up the stream until every group which has applied to sponsor through the Sponsorship Agreement Holders has received a family, and soon.

Make us proud to be Canadians again because right now I am not a happy Canadian.



Easter Meals for Shut-in Seniors

Once again our Rotarians, through the Senior Citizens' Committee, delivered 150 Easter meals to seniors in the downtown core. This has been an annual event for decades and will be repeated again at Thanksgiving.



Marg Riach of Second Mile Club, Harold Hetherington and Krystyna Benyak preparing for the deliveries.

Kids Against Hunger Second Annual Sweat Equity and Fellowship Fundraiser



Date: Saturday April 30th, 2016
Time: 11:00 – 3:00 PM
Location: 888 Yonge Street (Masonic Temple at Davenport and Yonge)
Cost: No cost - only your time and Sweat Equity
RSVP: space is limited – it will be a first come first save basis. Please RSVP to dmrashid@gmail.com

Last year we spent two 1.5 hour shifts packing 20,000 meals with fellow Rotarians, friends and family. This year we are going to have one shift for 3 hours.

All of the packaged food went to a native community in Northern Ontario. We will be donating the food to another native community this year.

There was a big request last year to host the event closer to public transit. This year the event will be taking place in the concert hall of the Masonic Temple. Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones played a few concerts there. The Temple is at Davenport and Yonge; the closest subway stop is on the Yonge line at Bloor. Looking forward to another fun day.

District 7070 Rotaract Conference: “Discovering Your N.E.M.O - New Experiences, Meaningful Opportunities”

This year's Rotary theme is “Be a Gift to the World” and we decided to create a theme about discovering your gift through Rotaract. Rotaract offers new experiences and meaningful opportunities to its members which enables them to discover their gifts to the world. I hope you will join us for a chance to learn something new about yourself - come discover your gifts!

Join us (for the 2nd year) on Saturday, June 11, 2016, from 9 am to 9 pm at York University Campus. We held the conference here last year and it is a fantastic venue! The early bird registration deadline is March 31st, which is coming up very soon! The early bird price is just \$30. After that day, the registration fee jumps to \$40 from April 1st to May 31st. If costs pose an issue, please contact us and we can arrange something - we want to accommodate all! Non-Rotary individuals may still get involved! We encourage you to invite the Interact and Rotaract clubs that you sponsor and you can even invite RYLA participants and Youth Exchange Students.

We have some incredible breakout sessions lined up for you!

- Crush's Guide to De-stress, Duuude - How to “Self Care”
- Think like Dori, Just Keep Swimming, Swimming, Swimming - Learning from Failures

- I Can't Speak Whale!!! - Public Speaking Intervention
- Fish are Friend, Not Food! - Leading with Purpose
- Don't be a Drifter, Ride the Current of the Ocean! - Turning Goals into Action
- Looking for More Fish? We'll Show you How to Bait Them - New Member Strategies
- Mr. Johanson's School for the President-Elects - President-elect Training (PETS) for Rotaractors
- ...and more!

How great are these sessions!?! Many of them will be facilitated by Rotarians and Rotaractors from our very own District. Consider sponsoring Interactors and Rotaractors in your district to attend this fantastic conference!

Visit www.rotaractd7070.org to register!

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item with you to help take part in our district social project. The food will be donated to a food bank in the city.

Can't wait to see you in June! Please e-mail rotaract7070@gmail.com if you have any questions.

RI President
Ravi Ravindran

District Governor
Michael Bell, Etobicoke

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: David Hetherington
 President-Elect: Susan Hunter
 Vice President: Pat Neuman
 Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director:
Carol Hutchinson

**Rotary Club of Toronto
Charitable Foundation:**
Peter Love, President

Editor of the Week:
John Andras

Editor April 8, 2016, Voice:
Shelley McIntyre

What You Missed Reporter:
Johnathan Wu

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

April

- 08 Justin Taylor, Exec. Dir. Rainbow Railroad
- 15 Brenda Simon, Dir. Of Play, Earth Day Canada
- 22 Jeremy Diamond, Vimy Foundation
- 29 Perry Monaco, LinkedIn

May

- 20 No Meeting due to Victoria Day Weekend
- 27 No Meeting due to Camp Scugog

Events

- April 9 - Macaroon at Aphrodite Cooks
- April 12 - R2R National Club
- April 30 - Rotary AIDS Poker Walk
- May 26 - President David cocktails
- May 27 - 29 Camp Scugog

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair
jandabrown@rogers.com
 416.799.5827

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter:
voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca



Our Club reached 634 people on Facebook this week.



What You Missed March 18, 2016 – by John Andras



We gathered at the Upper Canada Room and I had the pleasure of hosting Rudy Ruttimann, the ED of SKETCH and Marie McDonald, the coordinator for Push for Change and the high school sweetheart and fiancée of our guest speaker Joe Roberts. I also sat with Maureen Bird and learned of the frustration she and her team is having with delays and confusion over the selection of our refugee family. Her report is included in this Voice.

There were several announcements.

- The Annual reports of both the Club and the Foundation are in the Office. All members should take one. It provides a summary of the remarkable work of our committees and foundation to improve the lives of people in Toronto, and around the world. Even experienced Rotarians cannot help but be impressed by the scale and scope of our club's activities.
- There was an announcement about the upcoming President's cocktail Party (Report in the Voice)
- Shannon Lundquist reported on the Annual Fundraiser at the Steam Whistle Brewery. At the time there were still some tickets available (it has since sold out!) The fundraising goal is \$20,000. All members are encouraged to make a donation. This is the one Fundraiser we have over the course of the year. All proceeds go to support the work being done by our committees. Read the Annual report-we do important, ground breaking work. Surely this is worthy of your support! <http://www.rotarytoronto.com/SitePage/rotary-annual-fundraiser-2016-at-steam-whistle-march-31-2016>

Our guest speaker Joe Roberts is known as the "Skid Row CEO". He is the living embodiment of the fact that "anything is possible". For almost 10 years he lived under the Georgia Street Viaduct in Vancouver, pushing a shopping cart filled with his life's possessions, a street kid and addict. His downward spiral began in 1975 when his father died. The family, a normal middle class family, was left without support. Joe's mother remarried. The family home became a place of abuse, violence and alcoholism. At 9 years of age, Joe, wanting to fit in, started taking drugs. At 15 he left home. At 16 he left school. At 18, in 1986, he drifted to Vancouver hoping for a fresh start. Instead,

without guidance and grounding, his life unraveled.

That said, unlike so many young people in his place, he had a mother who would not give up on him. In crisis he ended up in rehab, and returned back in Ontario for school. His first job was selling photocopiers for Minolta Canada which led in 1997 to Joe becoming the CEO for a small Tech start up in Vancouver. In 12 years he went from a street kid who sold his boots for a fix to the cover of Maclean's.

Joe considers himself incredibly fortunate. He knows most youth living on the streets lack the supports he had to get off. He promised himself that, if given the chance, he would do something to help those less fortunate than him.

Push for Change will have Joe pushing a shopping cart (a converted baby carriage) 9,000 km across Canada in a journey that will take 17 months crossing 10 Provinces and 3 Territories. 100% of the operating budget is coming from sponsorships. Joe will be collecting donations along the route and hopes to raise over \$17 million. 50% of the funds will go to "Away Home," a Canada-wide school-based prevention project coordinated by Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. The remaining 50% will go to front-line agencies dealing with homeless youth in local communities.

Joe's talisman is a penny he picked up on a training walk he took from Calgary to Vancouver. The penny is scratched, tarnished - a street penny. It has exactly the same value as a shiny new penny. In the same way, a young person, living rough under a viaduct, has the same value as one who lives in comfort. The only differences are circumstance and opportunity.

Joe Robert's inspirational presentation deserved a rare standing ovation.



Joe Roberts carries his "shopping cart" during a training walk



Presidents Cocktail Party, March 22, 2016 – by John Andras

As is our club's tradition, when there is no Friday meeting, the president holds a cocktail reception. The second floor of the National Club was comfortably full with Rotarians, Rotaractors and guests settling in to tables with drinks and a delicious roast beef buffet. Among our guests were two members of the Intercultural Dialogue Institute, which is dedicated to fostering understanding, goodwill and friendship among Canada's diverse ethnic communities. They are exploring how IDI and Rotary might be able to work together to promote peaceful coexistence. Also with us was Dale Roy from SKETCH who accepted a cheque for \$7,500 from the Rotaract Club of Toronto as a result of the recent Great Gatsby Fundraiser.

This was a wonderful opportunity for us to gather in a more informal setting and enjoy the company of Rotarians and friends both old and new.

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com



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