



Today's Program

Jeremy Diamond, Exec Director
Vimy Foundation

Topic

Vimy: Symbol of our National Identity

Host

Alex Brown
Alex joined our club in 1984 and is current Chair of the Program Committee.

Location

Fairmont Royal York, Upper Canada Room

Happy Earth Day

A Rotary committee with a twist - Serving those who cannot speak for themselves

– by Kurt Kroesen



Earth Day comes but once a year but at The Rotary Club of Toronto the members of the Environmental sub-Committee (ESC) labour on an ongoing basis towards improving the local environment.

Meet the club's newest committee. As of July 1, 2016 ESC (aka Earth-Saving Committee) will be renamed the Environment Committee. Up to now the sub-committee has been operating under the aegis of the Community Service Committee. The ESC has as its focus environmental issues in Toronto. Its members are particularly interested in supporting groups that work to address environmental issues but also allow collaboration between the organization and club's various constituents – volunteers, other committees, even other Rotary clubs.

One good example of this is Not Far From The Tree. This organization picks fruit, eg: apples, pears, mulberries, from backyards and donates part of the crop to shelters and other places that provides services to food banks, community kitchens and shelters. Volunteers pick the fruit. The ESC, along with Community Service, has financially supported this organization and we are also planning to volunteer to pick fruit and go to a cider pressing event. Stay tuned for your environmental/fellowship committee invitation when the fruit is ripe.

ESC is also planning a drive to collect used computers and donate them to Planet Geek to refurbish and then donate the refurbished computers to those in need who do not have a computer. Stay tuned on that one too.

ESC is just completing a project at Ritchie Parkette. Thanks to a George Weston Foundation grant, the Friends of Ritchie Parkette has built an outdoor skating rink and gardens with native plants. Ritchie Parkette has been certified as a MonarchWatch Waystation. This will be the first spring for many of the plants so we are looking forward to seeing all the beautiful native flowers.

The ESC is also exploring ways, in conjunction with the District Environment Committee, of supporting and being involved in the recently approved Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG). Right now ESRAG is looking to sign up members. We encourage all Rotarians and family members interested in preserving the environment and reducing man-made climate change to join up. Currently membership is free. If you would like to join here is the link: <http://esrag.org/?p=9028>.


The new Environment Committee is seeking members who are willing to assist and participate in its activities. Please come out to a meeting and see if this is a committee you might want to contribute to. We meet on the fourth Friday of most months, after the club lunch, usually in the Rotary Boardroom.

April 30th – A Busy Day

Start out at 9:30 at the Leuty Pavilion, foot of Lee in the Beach. Stroll 5km for AIDS. Donations to Toronto High Flyers will be going to support a Global Grant through the Uxbridge Rotary Club for Dignitas International. Dignitas is creating a program in Malawi for teen mothers. This will mirror the great work done by Dignitas with its Teen Clubs, Maternal and Child clinics and continuous AIDS testing and treatment. Donations to the team can be made at <https://www.gifttool.com/athon/OurTeamPage?ID=1945&AID=2939&TID=22542>



Pick up a box lunch and proceed to the Masonic Temple, Davenport and Yonge



Second Annual Sweat Equity and Fellowship

When: Saturday April 30th, 2016 from 11:00 – 3:00 PM
Where: 888 Yonge Street (Masonic Temple at Davenport and Yonge)
RSVP: Space is limited – Please RSVP to dmrashid@gmail.com

We will be donating the food to a Northern Ontario indigenous community.



Jeremy Diamond is a public historian, who for more than 20 years, has been developing unique ways to tell the stories of Canada to audiences of all ages.

Jeremy is currently the Executive Director of the Vimy Foundation, whose mission is to preserve and promote Canada's First World War legacy, as symbolized with the victory at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917, a milestone when Canada came of age and was then recognized on the world stage.

He is currently spearheading their various centennial projects including the building of the Vimy Visitor Education Centre, to be completed in 2017.



What You Missed April 15, 2016

– by Maureen Bird



We had a full room last week with our DG Michael Bell and Rotarian visitors from Uxbridge, Northumberland, the E-club and Churchill Downs, Louisville, KY.

Announcements – Kids Against Hunger (see ad on page 1), FnE's opera experience with serenades from our own Brigitte Bogar and, Alanna Scott regarding Earth Day which is April 22nd. Donate tree planting commitments at Earthday.ca

Garry Glowicki, head of Bridge Prison Ministry, spoke about his parolee charges

who did a clothing drive for refugees and Indigenous peoples. His 40 year ministry, helping former inmates reintegrate, can help 25 persons stay out of jail for the cost of housing one inmate for six months.

Alanna then introduced our guest speaker, Brenda Simon. Brenda started out with a recipe from her mother for raising children – take one large green field, add 6 kids, 2 dogs, 1 pile of pebbles and a running brook. Mix thoroughly for several hours and enjoy the mud smell and smiles. Too many children today are suffering from “nature deficit disorder.” But it is human nature for children

to have learning experiences on their own. We need to coach the adults to let children grow sometimes without instructions. There needs to be two planes of childhood experience; one to keep them safe and instill some order while the other plane allows them to plot flights away from order. So many of our playgrounds are sterilized and CSA regulated. Her group has a program called “loose parts play” where they bring in a large box of “things” for a day and let the imaginations reign.

Our guest Garry Glowacki won the wine in the 50/50 draw.

Upcoming Speakers & Events

April

29 Perry Monaco, LinkedIn

May

6 Rahul K. Bhardwaj, The Toronto Foundation

13 TBA

20 No Meeting due to Victoria Day Weekend

27 No Meeting due to Camp Scugog

June

3 Dr. Robert Inman, Univ. Health Network

Events

April 23 - FnE Games Afternoon, Café de Melbourne

April 30 - Rotary Walk for HIV/AIDS 9:30

April 30 - Kids Against Hunger packing 11:00

May 11 - Youth Leadership Expo – Daniels Spectrum

May 26 - President David cocktails

May 27-29 Camp Scugog

Editor of the Week

Maureen Bird

Editor on April 29, 2016

John Andras

What You Missed Reporter

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 114 people on Facebook this week.

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KAIROS Blanket Exercise

After our meeting on Friday, 35 of us gathered with Ed Bianchi of KAIROS.

Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is a *Canadian faith-based ecumenical* organization effecting social change through *advocacy*, education and research programs for 20 years.

Ed was joined by Tim and Luanne Hill, members of the Mohawk Nation. Tim started the program with traditional words, honouring our Mother Earth, water, plants, trees animals, birds, winds, our elder brother the Sun, our grandmother the Moon, the stars, the 4 spirit beings and the creator of all things. We are one heart and one mind as the council fires are kindled.

The exercise (not a ceremony) then proceeded with us moving onto 6 large blankets on the floor, representing Turtle Island – the land we know as Canada. With Ed, Luanne and Tim narrating, we moved through the history of the relationship between the Europeans and the Indigenous Peoples. In 1763 George III set out a document that suggested that the parties would work harmoniously together in this great land. Then we talked about European diseases killing the people, treaties not being honoured and land being taken away – some of us had to move off the blankets and corners were folded up to represent the land and people that disappeared. Some tribes were made extinct such as the Beothuk of Newfoundland.

The 1876 Indian Act outlawed customs and celebrations. Some lost status through marriage

or even becoming a lawyer and had to stand off the blanket. Then came the residential schools and blankets were isolated. By the end of the exercise only six people were left on the blankets. We then returned to our seats and we went around the circle describing the impact of the exercise on us. We were all truly moved and were feeling the pain of the Indigenous peoples.

KAIROS makes this program available to other groups (minimum 20). If interested contact Chris Snyder, chair of HIP – Honouring Indigenous People – at chris@eccgroup.ca



Tim and Luanne Hill with Ed Bianchi



The shrinking blankets

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