ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

Volume 104 | Issue 12 | October 21, 2016

This special lunch is hosted by our club's Indigenous Service Committee and HIP: Honouring Indigenous People

Today's Program

The Right Honourable Paul Martin

Topic

A Conversation on Indigenous Education

Host

Chris Snyder, Chair, HIP

Moderator

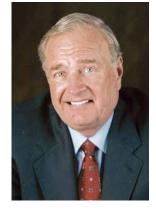
Carolyn Purden, Chair, Indigenous Service Committee

Location

King Edward Hotel, 37 King Street, East

Time

Registration 11:30, Start 12:00



The Right Honourable Paul Martin was Prime Minister of Canada from 2003 to 2006 and Minister of Finance from 1993 to 2002.

During his tenure as Minister of Finance, he erased Canada's deficit, subsequently recording five consecutive budget surpluses while paying down the national debt and setting Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio on a steady downward track. He was the inaugural chair of the Finance Ministers' G-20 in 1999.

During his tenure as Prime Minister, Mr. Martin set in place a ten year, forty-one billion dollar plan to improve health care and reduce wait times; signed agreements with the provinces and territories to establish the first national early learning and child care program and created a new financial deal for Canada's municipalities. Under his leadership the Canadian Government reached an historic deal with Aboriginal people of Canada to eliminate the existing funding gaps in health, education and housing known as the Kelowna Accord.

After leaving politics, Mr. Martin founded the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative focusing on elementary and secondary education for Aboriginal students and the Capital for Aboriginal Prosperity and Entrepreneurship (CAPE) Fund, an investment fund investing in Aboriginal business.

Mr. Martin has advised the African Development Bank and works closely with the Advisory Council of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa, sponsored by the African Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. He was a founding co-chair of the Congo Basin Forest Fund, a 200 million dollar British-Norwegian-Canadian poverty alleviation and sustainable development fund for the Congo Basin Rainforest. Mr. Martin was also a commissioner for the Global Ocean Commission.

Before entering politics, he had a distinguished career as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The CSL Group Inc., the largest self-unloading shipping company in the world. Its acquisition by Mr. Martin in 1981 represented the most important leveraged buyout in Canada at that time.

Rotarians Visit Residential School

- by Bill Empey



On October 1st members of the Indigenous Service Committee visited the Mohawk Institute in Brantford. The institute was the first residential school in Canada and operated until 1970. During those years, more than 15,000

children aged four to 16 lived there. It's now owned by Six Nations and renamed the Woodland Cultural Centre, an aboriginal non-profit charity devoted to indigenous art, history and culture.

Nothing prepared us for the assault on our senses as our young guide led us through the shabby rooms that housed the students, telling us the stories of the survivors. We heard about abuse, about how the children's self-confidence and pride in themselves and their culture were stripped away.

Upon arrival, the children, some from as far away as northern Quebec, were assigned a number and a Canadian name and assimilation began. They were punished for speaking their native language; brother was separated from brother, sister from sister; a teacher always supervised rare family visits.

We visited the girls' dormitory where 60 kids were stacked in bunk beds three high, and the bathroom where three small bathtubs were filled only once for the weekly bath.

Downstairs, we saw the tiny closet where children were locked for punishment, the laundry where the girls worked, and the dining room where teachers ate wholesome food, while the children ate "mush."

Our guide's words drove home the reality. Abuse of children has destroyed families and created epidemics of suicide – we were looking at the cause.

We left after 90 minutes, desperately asking what could possibly heal all the pain, how an apology could even begin to matter. We began to understand the immeasurable debt owed to so many generations.

The building is closed for renovations during the winter but will reopen in the spring. At that time, Carolyn Purden, chair of the Indigenous Service Committee, hopes to organize another tour for Rotarians.



This for all the students

What You Missed October 14, 2016 – by Maureen Bird



President-Elect Pat Neuman was in charge today and started with a Memorial for long-time member Walter Thompson. PP Bill Morari introduced visiting Rotarians from 6 clubs including Mumbai and Finland plus several guests. Errol Paulicpulli spoke about his upcoming trip to orphanages in Sri Lanka. Donations to assist can be done online or through the office. Vice-President Jeff Dobson then reminded us to mark our calendars for our club's Annual Assembly on Wednesday, November 2nd.

Mat Harrison, chair of the golf committee, had the pleasure of presenting a cheque from our golf tournament in August to Young People's Theatre's Executive Director Nancy Webster. She gratefully accepted the donation of \$13,678.61 for their program, which has been running for 50 years.

Then we had the pleasure of receiving a cheque for \$48,649.29 from PP Jack Fleming and current President Gregg Dobson from RC Etobicoke for our part in The Toronto Ribfest, which runs on the Canada Day weekend. Thanks to all our volunteers who made this possible.

Brian Westlake introduced our guest speaker, Andy Byford, CEO of the TTC by saying he remembered the early stations well in his job as a cleaner while a student. Andy came to Toronto from the London and Sydney transit systems and quickly set out to implement a five-year plan to turn things around. He started with "quick fixes" such as removing graffiti, cleaning the collector booths and changing cleaning of cars from daily to every other run. He found that there was no corporate plan and set out a fundamental process for change which started with 83 townhall meetings with staff.

He has focussed on seven items. First was safety, for staff and customers. Then he focussed on improving customer service and conditions and performance of the people – he has managed collective agreements with four unions. He has implemented change – there are now four women on the executive board. Assets are an issue – the signalling system from Union to Eglinton is original equipment. But Union Station was totally revamped on budget and on time. The new streetcars are coming – still slowly but improving. For funding he is looking at promised new infrastructure funds from Ottawa. He believes that they are enhancing the reputation with all these changes.



Jack Fleming, Pat Neuman, Gregg Dobson and David Hetherington



Pat Neuman with golf chair Mat Harrison and Young People's Theatre Nancy Webster

He has a 400 day drive to the finish line for new signalling, the line to Vaughan and improved Presto integration. Unfortunately there was no time for questions but we did wish him a happy birthday. Valerie Clarke had the right ticket for the 50-50 draw but went home with the wine.

World Polio Day, October 24, 2016

Flag Raising - Markham Civic Centre, Friday October 21, 2016, 12:45 pm

Flag Raising - Richmond Hill, October 23, 2016 after conference breakfast

Flag Raising - Toronto City Hall, Monday October 24, 2016, 11:00 am

Podium roof of Toronto City Hall

Please come out and show your support.

We will also be lighting up the CN Tower and the Toronto sign red, white and yellow to raise awareness to our cause and efforts in eradicating this disease on October 24th.

On October 24, 2016, tell the world that Polio is being eradicated and that Rotary is leading the way!

There are many ways to bring to the attention of Rotary's fight to end Polio worldwide:

World Polio Day Chair for District 7070, Jennifer Boyd, at jennifer.boyd@hotmail.com





In Memoriam - Walter Thompson



Walter Thompson joined The Rotary Club of Toronto Club on May 12, 1955 at the age of 28 with the classification of Lithographing. At the time, he was Assistant General Manager of the family printing firm, Thompson and Sons Limited. His uncles, Robert W. Thompson (joined 1919) and Sidney W Thompson (joined 1921) and his father, Arthur C. Thompson (joined 1949) had all been members of the Club. The Rotary Club of Toronto had about 480 members at this time.

Walter served on the Transportation Committee for several years in the late 1950's, served on the Youth Service Committee for 12 years (including Chair), twenty years on the Classification and Membership Committee (with 2 years as Chair), one year on the

Membership Development Committee and 5 years on the Investment Committee. Walter served also for one year on the Club Board as Honorary Treasurer.

Walter joined the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation Board in 1977 and served on the Board for the next 37 years. He was Vice-President of the Foundation from 1982 to 1989 and President from 1990 to 1992. He was an invaluable member of the Research and Appeals Committee for many, many years and was its Chair several times.

Walter Thompson joined the Board of the Tippet Foundation in 1980 and served as its President from 1991 until 2012. Through Walter, the Tippet Foundation has partnered with the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation in support of many, many initiatives. The Tippet Foundation has also supported many major Rotary Club projects over the years including both Rotary Club of Toronto Health Buses and the Habitat for Humanity homes on Rotary Drive.

Walter Thompson was a thoughtful and effective philanthropist and endeavoured to ensure that funds were managed and spent wisely and with maximum impact, often helping small agencies which did not have access to mainstream funding.

Walter was awarded a very well-deserved Paul Harris Fellowship (and later a William Peace Award) by John Austin in 1990. He earned 100% attendance for the first 52 years that he was in the Club and was in his 62nd year of Rotary International and The Rotary Club of Toronto membership.

In May 2015, Walter Thompson was the very first recipient of the William Coutts Award "for outstanding contribution to the work and development of the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation". This award was created by the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation in memory of the Club Member, William Coutts, who made the first donation of \$1,000 to establish the Foundation in 1951.

Walter was a loving, charitable and dedicated man who will be sorely missed by his friends and fellow members at The Rotary Club of Toronto.

You're invited to:

Club Assembly 2016

We're changing the format this year; it will be fun and informative!
What's Rotary's social media presence on Facebook and Linked-In?
Bring your laptop, tablet, or smartphone (free w-fi provided) and find out.
Also featuring guest speaker Andris Pone, President Coin Branding
Cost is one lunch ticket (includes dinner).
Wednesday November 2, 2016. 5:30 – 7:30pm
The National Club, 303 Bay Street
Please RSVP right away to Carol office@rotarytoronto.on.ca

RI President John Germ

District Governor Jim Louttit, Toronto Sunrise

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: Susan Hunter President-Elect: Pat Neuman Vice President: Jeff Dobson Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director: Carol Hutchinson

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation: Peter Love, President

Editor of the Week: Maureen Bird

Editor October 28, 2016: Karen Scott

What You Missed Reporter for October 21, 2016: Emre Yurga

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

October

28 Truong Ta, Sonofi-Pasteur: World Polio Day

November

- 4 lan Wood, former ambassador
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 8 Shaneen Bruder and Ron Crane, Pine River Institute
- 25 Mark Saunders, Toronto Chief of Police

Events

October 21-23 - District Conference October 24 - World Polio Day November 2 Club Assembly

Propose a Speaker – Contact Mario Voltolina, Chair mario.Voltolina@gmail.com Tel: 416-720-7236

Send articles

to therotaryvoice@gmail.com

HIP: Honouring Indigenous People

HIP is a Canada-wide joint Rotary and Indigenous Peoples initiative supporting learning in indigenous communities while promoting understanding, awareness and sensitivity of the issues of Indigenous People to Rotarians and others. The driving force in its establishment is Chris Snyder, now HIP chair, of our own club who continues to quietly lead by example in all he does.

The first partnership with Indigenous Peoples in Canada involved the old District 7070 Healthy Beginnings initiative, The Rotary Club of Toronto, the Dolly Parton Foundation and the James Bartleman Literacy Initiative. Books are now supplied by The Rotary Club of Toronto to Sandy Lake in northern Ontario and within the GTA. Many other sponsorships across Canada have grown out of this initial partnership. Follow the many programs at www.rotaryhip.com



Dolly Parton Imagination Library Partners-L-R-Kenn Richard(NCFS), Dr. Suzanne Stewart(OISE), Dolly, Chris Snyder(HIP) and Jeanne Smitiuch(Imagination Library)



JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com

Eskantaga playgroud

The Rotary Club of Toronto has partnered with One Laptop Per Child, which provides small laptops to indigenous children throughout Canada.

HIP in partnership with Elephant Thoughts supported a one-week summer science camp program in Timiskaming First Nation, Quebec. As the first reserve created in Canada, this Algonquin community is located right on the border of Quebec and Ontario and 60% of their traditional territory is in Ontario. The Elephant Thoughts Summer Camp has been travelling to First Nations and Inuit communities nationwide since 2004 to deliver high energy, high quality science and technology themed programming to help engage and empower participants between the ages of 9-13. The aim of the program is to help promote the "Big Ideas" relating to all fields of science and technology while creating awareness about traditional culture and indigenous science practices.

The Dr Robert McClure Health Science Bursary was created to honour the work of Dr Robert McClure, an outstanding humanitarian, gifted surgeon, the first lay Moderator of the United Church of Canada and member of the Toronto Eglinton Rotary Club. The Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton will award up to 4 bursaries of \$2500 each, in the spring of each year to First Nations Students in the Health Science Program at Ryerson University.

Rotary Club of Guelph

Hearing loss in aboriginal populations has been shown to be anywhere from 32%-40% higher than rates reported for non-aboriginal Canadians. Nunavut does not have a universal newborn hearing screening program so many children go unidentified. There is only one audiologist for the entire Qukiqtani region so many children are not identified or supported in a timely manner. The project was named as a finalist for the Arctic Inspiration Prize. On January 27, 2016, Better Hearing in Education for Northern Youth were awarded \$300,000 as one of three winners for the award. The money will be used to outfit all schools in the Baffin region of northern Canada with amplification equipment so students who are experiencing hearing loss can continue to succeed in school.

Kashechewan's Paddling with the Cree

Our newest project made up of a group of young people completed their first canoe adventure along the Albany River to Kashechewan despite some difficulties with low water levels. The members developed strong whitewater skills and were able to line canoes down the rapids. Plans are underway for trips next year. The Rotary Club of Peterborough Kawartha also did a mixed group paddling trip this summer through Adventure in Understanding.

Art Benefits with First Nations

We have partnered with the Six Nations on a children's art reconciliation Project Dianne Patychuk's vivid paintings pay tribute to indigenous people's experience - and so does her art practice. At a reception on February 13, proceeds from the sale of works in her We Are All Treaty People exhibition, inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, go to Neskantaga and Pikangikum First Nations safe water and playground projects.

The playground at Neskantaga has now been installed. Thank you to the many donors including several Rotary clubs, a family foundation, an anonymous donor, an artist and the Neskantaga community itself who have made it possible to purchase equipment for one playground. Children will now be able to learn necessary skills and enjoy recreation like the children in other communities.

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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