

ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

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Today's Program

Steve Paikin

Topic

Bill Davis: Nation Builder, and Not So Bland After All

Host

Robert O'Brien

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street



Steve Paikin is one of Canada's leading journalists and political commentators. Born in Hamilton, with his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto and Master's in Broadcast Journalism from Boston University, Steve shot to public attention as anchor and Queen's Park correspondent for CBLT and host of a daily news and current affairs program on CBC NewsWorld. He has been with TVO since 1992 hosting public affairs shows Between the Lines, Fourth Reading, Diplomatic Immunity, Studio 2 and The Agenda with Steve Paikin. He was the respected moderator for three federal election debates in 2006, 2008 and 2011 and three Ontario provincial leader debates in 2007, 2011 and 2014. He is the author of seven popular books including The Life: The Seductive Call of Politics, The Dark Side: The Personal Price of a Political Life, Public Triumph Private Tragedy: The Double Life of John Robarts, The New Game: How Hockey Saved Itself, Paikin and the Premiers, I am a Victor: The Mordechai Ronen Story and just released in October 2016, Bill Davis: Nation Builder and Not So Bland After All. In addition to his hosting public affairs programming and writing, Steve has produced a number of feature-length documentaries.

His documentary Return to the Warsaw Ghetto has received international awards including the Silver Screen Award at the US International Film and Video Festival and China's Shanghai Film Festival. He was appointed Chancellor of Laurentian University in Sudbury in October 2013 and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario.

REPORTING OPPORTUNITY

The Voice Committee would like to reinstate a "Member News" Column, a feature we all enjoyed for many years. It covered personal tidbits such as members' travels, family marriages, illness, career moves and more. If you would like to help us and take this challenge on (as a bi-weekly feature) would you please call or speak to Maureen Bird or Lorna Johnson. Voice committee members would be able to help you with content etc.



Member News

Ernie Carr reports:
The big news has to be the Blue Mountain Camp, Paint and Play weekend. With clubs and churches fighting declining numbers, what can we learn from an activity that keeps growing and getting better. Eighty-

A Wonderful Donation



Club Vice President Jeff Dobson and Cijay Shah (a member of ISC) shared the podium with Peter Conroy, President of Shorcan Brokers Limited, at the Toronto Stock Exchange Opening Bell on January 19, 2017. Shorcan donated \$13,279 from its annual charity day to the mentally and physically challenged orphans of the Ebenezer Children's Home, which is near Nairobi, Kenya. Cijay leaves for Kenya on March 2nd and donations are still being accepted in order to reach the goal of \$51,000. This is a club-endorsed project and donations can be made online at <https://goo.gl/9keccN> or you can call or email the Rotary office if you would like to support this excellent project.

Next Week – at the Fairmont Royal York: Celebrating Black History Month

Our speaker will be Singer Liberty Silver. Some of you may remember her from an Icebreaker many years ago. Her topic: An Evolution Through Music.

Incoming District Governors Look Forward to "Making a Difference"

– by Ryan Hyland, Rotary International editorial staff



Rotary International President-elect Ian H.S. Riseley made the case last week that protecting the environment and curbing climate change are essential to Rotary's goal of sustainable service.

Riseley, a member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia, unveiled the 2017-18 presidential theme, Rotary: Making a Difference, to incoming district governors at Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. The meeting was also attended by members of the Host Organizing Committee for Toronto 2018, including Michele Guy.

Environmental degradation and global climate change are serious threats to everyone, Riseley said. "They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable, those to whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility. Yet environmental

issues rarely register on the Rotary agenda," he said. The president-elect challenged every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members between the start of the Rotary year on 1 July 2017 and Earth Day on 22 April 2018. Trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming.

"It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring," Riseley said. "I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself."

In his address to the 2017-18 class of district governors, Riseley also urged clubs to improve their gender balance and lower the average age of their members. Only 22 percent of Rotary's members are women, up from 13 percent 10 years ago. At that rate, Riseley said, it will take another three decades for Rotary to achieve gender parity. We know that we can do more together than we could ever hope to do alone.

"Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now," he said.

Noting that 103 of the 539 incoming governors are women, Riseley said they are the type of women we need in Rotary, "leaders who will help Rotary connect with, and represent, and better serve, all of the members of all our communities."

Riseley also believes it is imperative that clubs find ways to attract and engage younger members. Today only 5 percent of reported members are under 40, and a majority of members are over 60, Riseley told the audience. "Consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don't get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members," Riseley said.

"Clubs will make a difference this year through their own decisions", said Riseley, "but it will take teamwork on a global scale to move Rotary forward and secure its future".

"We know that we can do more together than we could ever hope to do alone," he told incoming governors. "I ask you to keep that spirit of teamwork and cooperation always in your minds and to take it back with you to your districts."

[Editor's Note: The Rotary Club of Toronto's membership percentage of women currently stands at 30 %]

The Fellowship & Entertainment committee is delighted to invite you to a Saturday Lunch in Yorkville Please note there have been changes to the venue, time and cost of the event.

A traditional Italian restaurant in the heart of Yorkville, Vaticano, run by Italian-raised celebrity chef Felice, is offering an exceptional 3-course Winterlicious prix-fixe menu featuring salmon trout filet, port tenderloin scaloppini, chicken and vegetarian pasta options.

Please reserve your spot in advance, bring your family! We look forward to seeing you on January 28.

When: Saturday January 28, 2017 at 12:00pm.
Where: Vaticano Restaurant 25 Bellair St, Toronto
Price: \$28.00 pp +tax +gratuity, beverages are extra, payment at the restaurant
Limit: 20 people
RSVP: please send your reservation to
Anna Koneva anna.y.koneva@gmail.com

ESRAG

– by Kurt Kroesen



When I first joined The Rotary Club of Toronto, I started hearing about WASRAG. At first I thought it was a mythical beast Rotary had developed as an avatar. I found out later that Rotary International has RAGS, no not the cloth kind, but Rotarian Action Groups. WASRAG is dedicated to water and sanitation and The Rotary Club of Toronto is a key supporter of it.

A Rotarian Action Group (RAG) is a Rotary International approved autonomous, international group with a passion for a particular type of service. Rotarian Action Groups provide assistance and support to Rotary clubs and districts in planning and implementing service projects in their respective areas of expertise.

One of the most recent RAGs is the *Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group*. Its mandate is “Rotarians working proactively to make the world a better place by taking care of our environment – particularly the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions”.

As a new RAG it is working hard to obtain new members, define an agenda and act as a clearing house for worthwhile ideas and initiatives within

Rotary. The Rotary Club of Toronto Environment Committee sees this as a way for Rotarians to become more aware of and perhaps more involved in environmental sustainability initiatives.

Joining ESRAG costs \$30USD per year. This provides needed operating funds to this new ESRAG. It also provides you with information about the types of initiatives that are being carried out by Rotarians around the world in the ongoing struggle to preserve and improve our environment for our and future generations.

Please do consider joining this worthwhile initiative. The link to the page to join is: https://esrag.org/?page_id=9745

This page provides information on ESRAG and its various sub-groups. If there are any questions or you would like more information please contact Kurt Kroesen.

The Rotary Club of Toronto Environment Committee also invites members to join us. We meet on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Rotary Office. Come and see what initiatives we are promoting on behalf of the Toronto environment.

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:
Don Bell

Editor Feb 3rd, 2017:
Brigitte Bogar

What You Missed Reporter for Jan 27th:
Brigitte Bogar

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

February 2017

- 3 Liberty Silver, An Evolution in Music
- 10 Mark Trouyet, Consul General of France
- 17 No meeting Family Day

Events

January 28 - Lunch - Vaticano Restaurant, 25 Bellair St.
Note change of venue

March 30 - Club Fundraiser, Steam Whistle

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Mario Voltolina, Chair
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Tel: 416-720-7236

Send articles

to therotaryvoice@gmail.com

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www.rotarytoronto.com



What You Missed January 20, 2017

- by Terry Wray



There was excitement in the air as we came together for today's Rotary Lunch at the Royal York. We saw busy people in the lobby with strange equipment piled here and there.

Harvey Sullivan assisted the Sergeant-at-Arms, Luzita Kennedy in getting the head table seated. It included Past Club President Bert Steenberg who has returned to the club...everyone was delighted. Susan reminded us again that our Annual Fundraiser at the Steam Whistle is Thursday March 30, 2017. She encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the evening, invite friends and volunteer at the event. Our financial support is so important to the ongoing work of the club.

In the middle of dessert, a Giant Multi-Colored Ceremonial Lion jumped through the door into the Imperial Dining Room. The loud banging of drums and cymbals followed, as the prancing, charging Lion took over the room. President Susan stepped forward and fed it a big head of lettuce; this finally silenced the mystical beast. (In Mandarin or Cantonese the word for lettuce sounds like wealth). This moment of excitement showed us how the Lion Dance represented the Chinese New Year tradition of "Sharing The Wealth".

Geoffrey Johnson took the podium to introduce our speaker and using his most charming Mandarin, or was it Cantonese, connected us to the Chinese New Year and to our speaker, Gloria Fung who went on to enlighten us about this most precious date in the Chinese calendar. On this first day of the spring moon in 2016 there were 2.9 billion trips as Chinese families came home to celebrate together; the largest movement of people in the world.

Gloria Fung was born in Hong Kong and educated in England. A strong advocate for social justice, democracy, freedom and human rights in Canada, Hong Kong and China, she is a former National Vice-President of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC). Her talk reminded us that our freedoms and institutions must be protected and fought for each and every day. Her description of the Yellow Umbrella movement in Hong Kong illustrated this dramatically.

Each of us received a red envelope (lucky money) with chocolate and a draw ticket. Maureen Bird won a huge box of Chinese chocolate treats.

It was an exciting luncheon that ended with Geoffrey Johnson winning the 50/50 ticket and going away with the wine. He deserved the wine; he and his committee did a super job putting this meeting together.



President Susan feeds the Lion with money (lettuce)!



Maureen Bird, speaker Gloria Fung, President Susan Hunter and Kerry Bowser – dressed for the occasion.

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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