

ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

Volume 106 | Issue 1 | July 13, 2018

Today's Program

Jeff Dobson, President

Topic

Plans for 2018-19

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street



Fellow Rotarians,

It is my honour and privilege to address you today as the President of The Rotary Club of Toronto as we begin our 107th year making the world a better place. Having been a member of this Club since 2001 I know most of you, and some of you very well, that's likely the main reason I'm standing before you today...friendship. I know we all had our own reasons for joining the Club and I'm sure most would say it had something to do with wanting to "give back." To be sure, that is a valid and noble reason. We should all be grateful that such motivation exists. I'm also pretty sure that most people stay in the Club not only because they found success in their desire to "give back" but also because they found friendship.

I joined this Club because my twin sister asked me to. Many of you knew my amazing sister Alison who was married to member Paul Truelove. Sadly, we lost her in 2006. She was a force to be reckoned with in pretty much everything she did, and Rotary was no exception. She was a founding member of an Interact Club in high school. She was a founding member of the Rotaract Club of Toronto in the 1980s. Then she was one of the early female members of this Rotary Club. "AJ" (as many of us called her) dragged me kicking and screaming to this Club. I complained to her that I didn't have time because I had a demanding job and two small kids. But, like I said, she was a force to be reckoned with.

I've had a privileged life so far. I had

successful and loving parents, I was given a great education. And the privilege that comes from being a white male in our society is not lost on me either. However, I never thought with all that privilege that I would have to thank so many brave souls who have taken to the streets in protest in order to secure my equal place in society as a gay person.

Today at the start of our 107th year we have about 160 of the finest people you could ever know working on countless projects to make Toronto and the world a better place. And they usually have a lot of fun doing it. But we need a slightly higher membership if we want to enjoy the benefits of our downtown location and everything that goes with it, which our members have said time and again they do. We must get better at finding and keeping new members.

Which brings me to our Rotary theme for this year "Be The Inspiration." I've come to realize that you don't have to give a great speech to inspire, sometimes just one kind word will suffice. Inspiration may come from finding ways to feed the world, but for those of you who heard Caryl Stern, President of UNICEF speak at the convention, sometimes all it takes is one biscuit. You don't have to take charge of a whole project to be inspirational. Sometimes all your son, or daughter or colleague needs to see to be inspired is that you showed up for Rotary. It's important that we don't underestimate our power to inspire.

Last year in Atlanta, the RI Board agreed to new vision statement:

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

It may not sound as audacious as our Club's vision statement but I do think it's profound.

To make this vision a reality, they identified three priorities.

1. Support and Strengthen Clubs
2. Focus and increase humanitarian service
3. Enhance public image and awareness

I'm very happy and relieved to report that these priorities are very much in keeping with the five core drivers we identified to help our Club achieve its vision. After several focus groups and countless hours, we came up with over 200 specific Club initiatives that will not only allow us to achieve our specific Club vision, but also RI's vision...Achieving lasting change - globally, locally, and individually. So why are we doing all this - the vision statements, the planning, the inspiring? Because...

- Kids need to dream.
- Seniors need life with dignity.
- Our indigenous peoples need to be treated like citizens.
- Women need equality.
- Our environment needs protection
- People in the LGBT and extended community need to live without fear.

Our Club has helped all of these causes in inspiring ways.

Our Roadmap to 2020 will help us as a Club do more of what we do right, even better.

We're going to raise our membership to a more comfortable level.

We're going to inspire one another and those around us in many ways, big and small.

I will do my best to help us achieve our vision.

Thank you.

The 2018 – 2019 Board of Directors of The Rotary Club of Toronto



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Chair Executive Committee
LD for Honours & Awards,
Strategic Planning and
Environmental Service



Jeff Dobson
President



John Fortney
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University of Toronto

Stephanie Kroone
President
President.rotaractuoft@gmail.com

Ryerson University

Melinda Kroome
President
ryersonrotaract.org

Rotary Pre-Convention Party

On Wednesday, June 20th we held a cocktail party at the National Club for members and Rotarians who were here early for the convention. We were honoured with the presence of RI President Ian Riseley and Juliet as well as The Rotary Foundation Chair Paul Netzel and Diane and past President Gary Huang and Corinne. Most members of the Host Organizing Committee were present and we were treated to wine by a convention sponsor, Megalomaniac Wines. Once again Bill Morari and The National Club came through with wonderful food!



Co-chairs Michael Cooksey and Michele Guy at the end of a busy seven years!

Neil's Last Hurrah

Past District Governor Neil Phillips and the District Governor Team hosted a reception for more than 120 Rotarians and Rotaractors and their guests from all over District 7070, on July 8, 2018 at the Scarborough Golf and Country Club. During nibbles they played the slide show of District Club Projects, which was shown repeatedly at the stage in the House of Friendship. PDG Neil (ably assisted by District Governor Mary Lou Harrison and District Governor-elect Beth Selby) recognized many clubs, Rotarians, and Rotaractors for their outstanding contributions to Rotary during his year as District Governor.



Neil Phillips receiving his past District Governor pin from Jim Louttit

Awards were made for media efforts, best international project (see Rotary Canada for Toronto Bay-Bloor's concrete ping pong tables), literacy, membership, attendance at our District Conference and service to Youth – congratulations to the entire Youth Exchange Committee for their great work.

Neil was presented with an album of pictures of his very busy year. After his holiday in France in August we look forward to seeing him back with his home club!

Condolences

Roland Andrews, brother of our Member Gloria Lee, passed away with family at his side, on Wednesday June 27, 2018 after a long illness. He was in his 72nd year.

Donations if you wish, to The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation in his memory would be appreciated in lieu of flowers.

Our best wishes go out to Gloria and her family.

Many of our Members of the Club will remember John Spragge and his many contributions to our club. His wife Beverley passed away on Thursday, June 28, 2018.

A celebration of life and a reception will be held in Lawrence Park Community Church (2180 Bayview Avenue) on Saturday, July 21st at 2:00 p.m.

For those that knew John and Beverley, the family has indicated that if you wish, please make a donation to the charity of your choice.

RI President
Barry Rassin, 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
Treasurer: Rick Goldsmith

Executive Director:
Carol Hutchinson

**Rotary Club of Toronto
Charitable Foundation:**
Susan Howson, President

Editor of the Week:
Maureen Bird

Editor July 20, 2018:
Carolyn Purden

What You Missed Reporter for July 13, 2018:
John Andras

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

July 2018

- 13 New President Jeff Dobson's Vision for 2018-19
- 20 Mary Lou Harrison, District Governor 2018-19
- 27 TBD

August 2018

- 3 NO MEETING Civic Holiday
- 10 TBD
- 17 Sara Waxman
- 24 TBD
- 31 NO MEETING Labour Day holiday

Events

September 20 Golf Tournament

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Bert Steenburgh, Chair
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Send articles to

therotaryvoice@gmail.com

Editor-in-chief: Maureen Bird

Indigenous Service Committee

— by John Andras — as presented on June 15



Rotarians at the Premiere of 3rd World Canada in November 2010 saw and later heard witness from Indigenous audience members the truth of conditions facing remote fly-in indigenous communities. We learned about the legacy of the residential schools, the 60s Scoop and the ongoing crisis facing children, families and communities.

We knew something must be done. President Peter Love established a Task force under Chris Snyder which became the Aboriginal Service Committee and later the Indigenous Service Committee to attempt to address the inequity between the descendants of colonialists and the First Peoples of Canada.

We recognized that issues were far bigger than one Rotary Club could deal with. HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) was born. HIP a stand-alone charity with a Board that is ½ indigenous and ½ Rotarian provides an opportunity for Rotary Clubs, Church groups, schools, businesses and community groups across Canada to work together as directed by communities and our Indigenous Board members. From in-kind collections of clothing and hockey equipment to a recent donation of 250 computer systems supplied by Siemens and The Rotary Club of Scarborough Bluffs in partnership with First Nations Technical Institute and Elephant Thoughts, HIP is working to develop connections, friendships and “right relations”. Our Indigenous Service Committee has provided critical Funding for HIP to help ship goods, provide anti-suicide programming and canoe trip opportunities for youth.

We have worked closely with First Nations School in Toronto providing funding for needed equipment, backpacks, sports uniforms and running shoes to allow the students to better participate in activities, purchased selected books for the classroom and organized career days to broaden perspectives.

We have helped provide funding for the Mohawk Institute a former residential school. We are working to preserve the voices of the survivors so that future generations can learn, understand intergenerational impacts and insure that the odious history surrounding these institutions will never happen again.

We have begun a relationship with HIP to support Dennis Franklin Cromarty School in Thunder Bay, which serves 24 fly-in communities where school ends in grade 8 or grade 10. Recognition for Rotary’s work has been honoured by Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell with awards of the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers to Chris Snyder and John Andras.

If you share our concern for the status and wellbeing of Canada’s indigenous peoples, there is no better way then by joining the Indigenous Service Committee and working with us to finish the work of Confederation. We work to make sure that on every Friday, at some point in the future, we can sing the True North Strong and Free with pride.

What You Missed July 6, 2018

— by Maureen Bird



This was quite a year to celebrate! We had outgoing board members John Joseph Mastandrea and Binoy Luckoo at the head table. Peter Simmie and Barbara Thomson are also finished their board duties. Past President Steve Smith introduced visitors. Michael Cook and Michele Guy unveiled the thank you plaque from RI for a job well done! Congratulations to all!

We did start with a quiet moment in memory of Frank Strickland.

Outgoing President Pat Neuman ran through the huge list of those who spent the year “Making a Difference” and it was long. What an effort our Club has made this year. She shared this message through ClubRunner to all members and thanked us all.

We also introduced 13 new members to our Club this year.

Pat then had the honour of conducting Jeff Dobson’s oath of office as he assumed the role of President of this wonderful club. Past President Susan Hunter had the happy task of thanking Pat for all her work and presenting her with a gift and her own gavel plaque.

Brent Thomas had the right ticket in the 50/50 draw but left with the wine. We retired to the lounge for a celebratory drink courtesy of Pat. Thank you so much for a great year from all of us.



Pat Neuman giving Jeff Dobson his president's pin



Pat Neuman receiving her Past President pin from Susan Hunter

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 The Rotary Club of Toronto  Toronto Rotary  @TorontoRotary





A popular spot for pictures



Recognizing our traditional lands
Photo by Steve Demeranville



Celebrating 50 years of Rotaract



Beyond Borders dinner at Hockey Hall of Fame



A Saturday night fun event, Rock at the Distillery



Ripley's Aquarium - It took a lot of volunteers!



Perfect weather at CNE RotaryFest



Cooking halal food for guests at RotaryFest



Korean Angel Peace Dancers



Our own Strongman Mike Johns



Our Michele Guy really rocking it!



And on to Hamburg for 2019!

21 groups from our club held special dinners for visiting Rotarians in their homes or a suitable venue. Thank you all for making this a very special event for so many of our visitors.



Don and Nadine Bell with the 2019 Hamburg chair, Thomas and Ute Garske Assisted by the Birds, Browns and Smiths



Kevin Power, Alanna Scott, Kurt Kroeson and Lorna Johnson at the Wilson Gardens



Paul Truelove and Jackie Davies at the yacht club, assisted by many



Cijay Shah in his backyard



Pat Neuman at her home with Mary Lach



Party room of Westlakes, Naylors, Morgans and Chandarias



Debbie Snider, Lori Brazier, Brinda Luckoo at Prince Kumar's



Jack Robertson assisted by Monica and John Carr



WIC hosting at PAL

Gloria Lee received a sweet thank you.

"Last night dinner was wonderful. Special appreciate your warm kind for our two grandchildren. I am sure they feel special good experience.

Thanks again your kindness.

Good luck."

- PDG in KOREA Dr.Seung Il Ban

There were many other members who provided special home events on the Monday evening for our visiting Rotarians. Karen Scott and the Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT) entertained 130 people including the al Zahabis, our Newcomer Family. Food was prepared by Syrian women. Bill Morari and Geoffrey Johnson hosted at the National Club and Becky Jones at the Hunt Club. Home dinners were held by Saleem Kassum, Susan Howson, Luzita Kennedy. Bill Empey assisted by Ric Williams and Carolyn Purden, Rick Goldsmith helped by David Libby, Meu Ching Crompton, Tony Houghton and Steve Smith, hosts Sylvia Geist and Bert Steenburgh with help from David Higgind and Peter Stevenson. More dinners by Neil Phillips with Richard White and Barbara Thomson, Jason Phelps with Suzanne Seaquist, Rohit Tamhane and John Fortney. Apologies to anyone we missed.