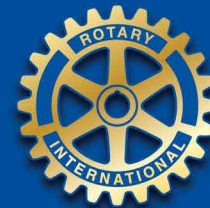


# ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

Volume 106 | Issue 41 | July 5, 2019

## Today's Program

President Jeff Dobson's Farewell

## Topic

Presidential Changeover!

## Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street



*Husband Casey Hadaway admires Jeff's new "President Pin"*

About a year ago, I addressed the members and told them they were stuck with me for 525,600 minutes. And then they did the best rendition of J-E-F-F ever (to the tune of Y-M-C-A). It was awesome! Wow, that year went by fast! It's time to reflect on what happened!

Change has been a common theme in the past few years with great leads by Susan Hunter and Pat Neuman and will, no doubt, continue in the years ahead. It's not that your Presidents are all desperate to change things for the sake of change, we're just desperate to make sure that we don't stay the same.

Thanks to the many of you who participated in focus groups this year to help us identify how we should move forward. It is, after all, your club so it makes sense that strategic decisions be based on the input of as many members as possible. I would like to thank incoming Vice President Prince Kumar for his efforts both this year and last year as we renewed our club's Strategic Plan and updated our Vision to take us to 2020. He brought his professional skills to bear on this huge effort and we are grateful.

It will come as no surprise that membership was a key topic of discussion at many meetings over the year. This year Lori Brazier was the lifeblood of our membership committee. It was her energy and persistence that moved us forward with the elements of the strategic plan that involved membership and by natural connection, marketing. This activity required some professional assistance that, once again, we found from within. I would like to thank relatively new members, and professional branding experts, Andris Pone and Mike Leon for their terrific work in recent months.

I would like to thank the sixteen people who joined our great club this year and I have already started to get to know all of you and see you making meaningful contributions. Krystyna Benyak has been our one-person welcoming committee to pretty much all of our new members. And this is good time to remind all members, but especially the new ones, our club is what you make it. Get involved. Make it what you want it to be.

Our club isn't really known for its fundraising, at least not in recent years, with one glaring exception; the Steam Whistle fundraiser. The people who attend this event absolutely love it. There were many repeat guests, and the new ones this year have threatened to attend again next year because they had so much fun. We do this event right, and have done so for more than 10 years thanks in very large part to member Fabio Ventolini; thanks Fabio!

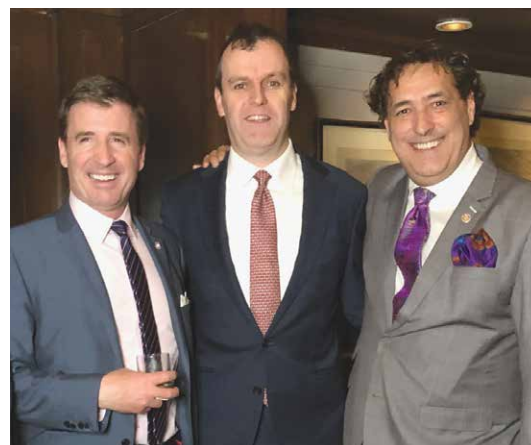
John Fortney and partner Garren Anthony brought their annual cocktail event back this year and it was the hot ticket in Toronto, with great food, great entertainment - just an amazing party. More importantly, they decided to donate the proceeds to the St. Mike's Transition Centre, generously supported by our own Foundation. Big thanks to John and Garren!

Not all the parties we had were fundraisers. We have two amazing parties at Christmas time - one for the kids and one for the seniors. We've been doing these for many years so we're pretty good at it. Thanks to Chairs Karl Kremer and Anny-Sandra Hamel for their hard work.

We have a good reputation for hosting these events, just as we have a reputation for having great speakers. Our last speaker of the year, Chief R. Stacey LaForme, was outstanding. He is a prime example of the caliber of speakers we enjoyed this year; we even had the Mayor! Our Program Committee is led by Bert Steenburgh. He, along with a dedicated team, did an outstanding job.

My sincere thanks to Bert and the whole team for their work.

There are lots of things happening in our Club all the time. Our committees are often hard at work with a special project, some big, some small. Some need your help, financial or otherwise, and the organizers must do something to get your attention. One of the most memorable is the Walk-a-Mile in her shoes event, where the Woman's Committee holds a "race" where a handful of our male members literally run to the front of the dining room and back in woman's shoes. I for one realize the symbolism of this, growing up in such a male-centric world and how difficult it has been for woman in our society; walking a mile in a woman's shoes is about far more than just high heels. The fact that the



*President Jeff, St. Mike's Dr. David MacKinnon and John Fortney*





*quite a collection of size 12 shoes!*



*Prince Kumar, John Fortney, Jayson Phelps and President Jeff in Hamburg*



*Jeff dedicating the Alison Truelove playground at Camp Scugog*

main event raises money for the White-Ribbon campaign for the prevention of gender-based violence makes it even better. Thanks to June Brown and Marci Berg and Chair Jane Fitzgerald and all those who participated.

It's important to travel. We all need to meet and converse with people from other places and witness other cultures first hand. That is how we become better humans and thereby enhance society for our children and future generations. Attending the RI Convention can be great way to do it with friends. Whether you're there to witness a moving flag ceremony, to hear inspirational speakers, or just share a pint with friends at a German beer hall. We had great representation from our club in Hamburg, Germany last month. Michele Guy presented on how a Rotary Club can bid on a hosting a future convention. Incoming President Kevin Power threw a great party, which is the custom for Presidents-elect. Next year, John Fortney will be throwing a party in Hawaii so make your plans early.

Our International Committee continues to do amazing work. Relatively small amounts of money can go a long way in the developing world. This is especially true when we participate in Rotary Global Grants where are our dollars are matched, many times in some cases. Our current Global Grant project is building toilet blocks in a poor region of India. It quite literally changes the lives of the people it benefits, especially the girls. I'm also very pleased that the Club Board has agreed in principal to have a club-sponsored sweat equity project. My thanks to Chris Snyder for his great work over the years, and his persistence this year to help move forward with this initiative. And big thanks to Andrea Tirone for chairing the International Committee, which is probably one of the most complicated committees in our club.

Love is love is love. A week ago Sunday, about 80 Rotarians, including several from this Club, made history by being the first members of Rotary to participate in the Toronto Pride parade as Rotarians. It was a fitting last event for me to attend as President of this Club. It was great to show Torontonians that we are diverse, inclusive, and we like to have a good time. Special thanks go to District Governor Mary Lou Harrison and Past District Governor Neil Phillips for spearheading Rotary's participation. Members of the LGBTQ community and their allies need your support. If you are an ally, show it some way. If you don't, how will we know? To paraphrase the words of Elie Wiesel, "When there is human suffering and humiliation, we must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim."

To Foundation President Susan Howson and all the members that work directly with the Foundation like the Board, Research and Appeals and the Investment committee, thank you. Our Club is known for its Foundation and the fact that so many members are involved in its careful stewardship is wonderful.

To all the members who supported me, either directly, or by working on a great project that I was not able to mention here today, thank you! To all the Past Presidents, thank for you for your advice, your encouragement, and even your words of caution. To the members of the Club Board, who showed up, stepped up, and got engaged to help make the Club better this year, thank you! And of course, our Club officers who kept me in check, Treasurer Rick Goldsmith, Vice President John Fortney, and President Elect Kevin Power. Thank You!

I would like to give a special thanks to Maureen Bird for so many things. She has been a star editor-in-chief of our Voice Newsletter, a tireless supporter of many international projects, and many other Club activities. She truly lives the 4-way test and most importantly, has been a great friend and supporter to me. To our Accountant, Belli Teetharmada; thanks for your steady work in keeping our books straight. And finally, to Carol Hutchinson, our Executive Director. I could not have done this job without her, my sincere thanks!



In conclusion, when faced with proposals to change things in the coming weeks and months, I would like to humbly ask all of you to do the best you can to set aside any initial resistance you might have. We must adapt to survive, let alone thrive. To thrive, we must look ahead, plan for what we want to be, and if I can use an analogy from the Great One, Wayne Gretzky, we have to skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it is.

I believe we're on the right track. You might love what's being proposed, or you might need some time to warm up to it. But please rest assured that it was well thought out by many of your fellow members, and it is intended to make and keep the Club vibrant, so that we can continue to make Toronto and the world better for another 100 hundred years.

The RI theme this year was Be The Inspiration. I'm not sure if I was inspirational, I'll leave that for you to decide, but I'm pretty sure my sister Alison would be proud and that's most important to me.

It has been my honour to serve as your President. Thank you.

## Rotary Pride – June 23, 2019

– by Maureen Bird

More than 80 members of the 7070 Rotary Family were delighted to join the Pride Parade in Toronto to show our respect and support of the LGBT2SQQ community. Toronto is one of the most diverse cities in the world and more than a million people came out to celebrate this on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

This was our first appearance in the event but will not be our last. It has been a few years in the making, led by our own past president Neil Phillips and assisted in the efforts by Jeff Dobson, our outgoing (in more ways than one) District Governor Mary Lou Harrison, chair Nicole Patterson of East York and Karen Summerville of Toronto East.

As we worked our way across Bloor and south on Yonge to Dundas Square Mary Lou danced the entire way in her unbelievable rainbow striped leggings. John Andras wins the prize for the most high-fives and hugs with the very engaged spectators. We will be back.



Happy Rotarians celebrating Pride



President Jeff with Maureen Bird



Casey Hadaway, President Jeff and incoming president Kevin Power

**RI President**  
Mark Maloney, Decatur, Alabama

**District Governor**  
Beth Selby, RC of Cobourg

## 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:**  
Brigitte Bogar

**Editor July 12, 2019:**  
Maureen Bird

**What You Missed Reporter for July 5, 2019:**  
???

## 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 2019

- 12 Kevin Power's Inaugural Address
- 19 Heritage Singers
- 26 Incoming District Governor Beth Selby

### Events

- August 22 Rotary Annual Golf Tournament
- Sept. 8 Foundation Walk, Humber College Lakeshore
- Sept. 25 A Night of Sake
- Oct 25-27 Rotary District Conference (Muskoka)

### Propose a Speaker – Contact

Bert Steenburgh, Chair  
BSteenburgh@oxfordproperties.com  
Tel: 416-868-3673

**Send articles to**  
therotaryvoice@gmail.com

**Editor-in-chief:** Maureen Bird

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[www.rotarytoronto.com](http://www.rotarytoronto.com)





## Thank you for Welcome Box donations

– by Bill Empey, Chair, Indigenous Service Committee



Welcome Box



The Rotary Club of Toronto and the Indigenous Service Committee want to thank Costco, the National Club and many other donors who provided items, letters and cash for Welcome Boxes. These boxes will be given to 175 indigenous students leaving home in remote communities where there is often extreme poverty and no access to school after grade 8, to start their high school in Thunder Bay. This is often their first exposure to urban living and they arrive to live with a new family, often without the most basic essentials for a new life. We have collected so many items for 175 Welcome Boxes. Rotary and the Robin Hood Army will begin assembling the boxes next week and send them off to Thunder Bay in time for the arriving students.

## What You Missed June 21, 2019

– by James Macdonald



The Indigenous People's Day lunch opened with a traditional drumming ceremony by Elder Garry Sault which this week's Voice reporter missed, arriving late to a capacity lunch crowd mirroring past Raptors celebrations.

President Jeff began with an acknowledgement of the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, welcomed a large group of visitors and returning new member Kim Hunter. Jeff then waved a Rotary Pride t-shirt available if anyone wanted to join his group for Sunday's Pride Parade. "Let's Be Personal" 3 minute bio was presented by member Mary Bennett.

It was then announced that Rotary and the Robin Hood Army, has raised over \$2000 of in-kind welcome gifts, for the 175 indigenous students relocating to Thunder Bay this September, from 23 remote fly-in Northern Ontario communities to begin 4 years of high school away from home.



Left to right: President Jeff and Chief R. Stacey LaForme

Our guest speaker Chief Stacey LaForme was introduced by John Andras as a man of great presence, a leader of wit, and wisdom, who had mesmerized a crowd of thousands at the past RI convention in Toronto. Stacey began by saying he had nothing prepared, but was going to jump into a little of his dating history when was younger and fit, or maybe explain what's going on with his hair, or why the colourful shirt with flowers? He said he wears it as his obligation to the earth, to teach others that we all shouldn't have to fit into stereotypes. He said his teachings have come from surprising locations. "Many ask my opinions on the flag and anthem. I answer, that so many of my people fought and died for Canada; of course I honour this country".

He then recounted a Rotary experience, when an RI convention committee tried to shape and limit his welcome speech. He refused and told the executive to step back and understand his vision of why he needed more time to communicate. Though it may seem like conflict, after these-business minded Rotarians paused and thought of the circumstance, it became a fun learning experience for everyone.

Throughout his four years as chief, he has combined his leadership with his writing and poetry. He held up his latest book titled "Living in the Tall Grass" which tells of his people's experience, their troubles and hopes, their connection to the earth and their perspective. Chief Stacey recounts a time in his youth when a public school teacher praised his poem, but then wanted to change the last paragraph, which dissuaded him from writing. "Sometimes the best intentions can do more harm". Twenty-nine years later he picked up a pen and wrote a poem of forgiveness which a colleague again tried to edit, but he wouldn't allow it, as the poem caught a moment in time, of a beautiful woman he loved and connected with deeply, subsequently revealing it was his mother. Later Robert H. Thompson asked him to write a poem to commemorate the "World Remembers Memorial", an idea of displaying all the names of the war dead from both sides of the conflict. Stacey then read the commemoration poem, inspired by some old WW2 indigenous vets, who'd been fighting for eight years to get the same rights and benefits as others.

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 The Rotary Club of Toronto  Toronto Rotary  @TorontoRotary



## Welcome Back Member Kim Hunter

Kim R. Hunter is President and CEO of Humphrey Funeral Home. He became a licensed funeral director in 1976, starting his career at Bedford Funeral Home in Toronto, then joined the Humphrey Funeral Home where he rose to company Vice President and then became owner in 2018.

Kim has served on various not-for-profit boards including Bayview Hospice, The Laughlen Centre, Toronto East General Hospital Foundation, Milton District Hospital Foundation and The Royal Canadian Military Institute.

In 1998 Kim joined The Rotary Club of Toronto and stepped away from the Club in 2007. During that time he received The Club Builder Award for his service to the Club. He is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Acton and is a Paul Harris Fellow.



*Paul Truelove pins returning member Kim Hunter*

## Let's Be Personal – Mary Bennett



I grew up in a tiny country town in the Finger Lakes region called Skaneateles, where everyone knows everyone and no one locks their doors.

As we get older, it's easy to see the pivotal moments when events are set in motion which change the course of your life. For me, I was 15 and my parents agreed to host 3 inbound exchange students for a winter weekend that our local Rotary club hosted. This simple act of opening our home to Rotary spawned decades of hosting exchange students, my father becoming a Rotarian and I and my sister spreading our wings and becoming exchange students ourselves...she to Chile and I to Italy.

After college I moved to Italy and to work in IT for the Olympics. Eager to see the world, I ended up traveling and working in their Timing & Scoring department. Living overseas, working on fast paced sporting events, learning new cultures and languages was the best gig any 20/30yr old could dream of. Eventually it was time to get a real job. I ended up at the government, about the furthest thing possible from the Games world. I've adapted, as any good ex-exchange student does, and am enjoying my new role with the Ministry of the Solicitor General that has been tasked with overhauling the technology which supports radio communication across the province for all of our first responders. My role is to make sure the OPP is able to continue using their radios to do their jobs while we transition them to newer technology.

When I moved to Toronto I knew I wanted to become a member of a local club. I shopped around a bit and finally was put in touch with Michele Guy...within minutes I had agreed not only to come to my first Club event, the St. Patrick's Day drinks and jokes (where I was wooed by Bert's jokes), but I had also been recruited to help at the convention. Does anyone get away with saying "No" to Michele? The rest, as they say, is history.



Come and join your friends at Rotary for a fabulous day of golf, sun and a great time!

### The Rotary Club of Toronto 71<sup>ST</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

on  
Thursday August 22, 2019

at the  
**Cherry Downs Golf Club**  
2110 Concession Rd 7, Pickering Ontario

**\$175 Per Player.** Enjoy a complete program of events, BBQ lunch, 18 holes of Golf, including power cart, steak dinner and a warm-up bucket of balls.

**Non golfers** are welcome to join us for cocktails, dinner and silent auction for \$60.

**Early Bird Draw** at the Club meeting on Friday, July 19th. Winner receives a round of golf and lunch hosted by Ross Amos at Mississauga Golf and Country Club.

**Prizes** for Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Closest to the Beer Barrel, Putting Contest and "Burgundy Ball" competition during the tournament.

Register today as singles, twosomes, threesomes, foursomes and non Golfers.

**Register Online at [www.rotarytoronto.com](http://www.rotarytoronto.com) or  
Contact the Rotary Office at 416.363.0604**

Donation of silent auction and foursome prizes are appreciated.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Please contact Karl Kremer, Committee Chair at  
416-445-5084 or [kjkremer64@gmail.com](mailto:kjkremer64@gmail.com)

**Net Proceeds go to:**



Hope Air is a unique and essential component of Canada's universal healthcare system. Hope Air is Canada's only national charity providing free flights to low-income Canadians who must travel to medical care that does not exist in their communities. Hope Air Exists to bridge the distance between low-income people living in small and rural areas, and the medical care they need.



## Jeff's Farewell – Wednesday June 23

So we say goodbye and do it with class and style befitting such a classy guy.

Thank you Prince Kumar for being a fabulous organizer and MC. The tribute booklet with pictures and comments is spectacular. Both of Jeff's sons James and Christopher spoke of how they were connected to our club by their father, as helpers at the Kids Christmas parties, then behind the scenes doing the pictures, selling tickets at the Argos games and now getting involved with Rotaract. Keeping it in the family!

Past President Robert O'Brien spoke of working with Jeff's twin sister Alison Truelove to re-establish Rotaract, then her dragging Jeff "kicking and screaming" into our club. He said he didn't have time but over the years he has more than found the time. Thank you.

After other comments by past presidents Geoffrey Johnson, Pat Newman and John Lloyd we were able to enjoy a lovely dinner served in the Rooftop Patio at the National Club.

We thank the Humber Community Musicians Serena Mancuso and Jesse White for their marvelous Jazz performance. And a special mention of the whisky tasting table sponsored by PMA Canada, Purveyors of Fine Wines & Spirits.

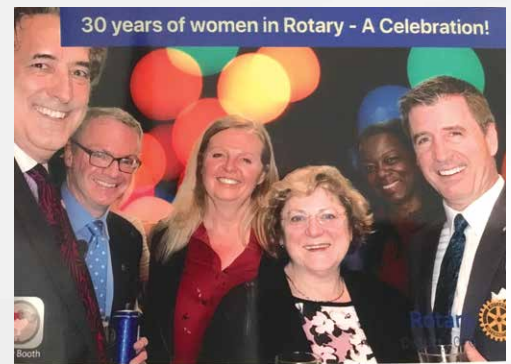
Jeff, you have been a great ambassador of all things Rotary!



*Incoming president Kevin, former DG Mary Lou and president Jeff*



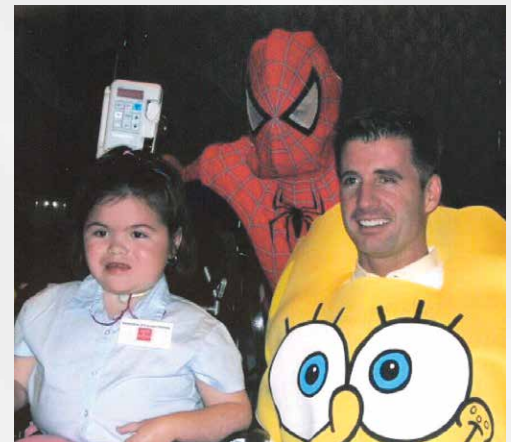
*President Jeff with sons Christopher and James*



*John Fortney, Kevin Power, Annelise Taylor, Mary Lach, Pauline Lyons and Jeff Dobson*



*Wheeling for Muscular Dystrophy*



*Jeff loving the Kids Party*



*President Jeff and our late member Knud Westergaard*



*Casey and Jeff with Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell*



*Jeff with Veterans Jack Robertson and Jim Bell*