# ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

Volume 106 | Issue 41 | June 21, 2019

#### **Today's Program**

Chief R. Stacey LaForme

#### Topic

National Indigenous Peoples Day

#### Host

John Andras, Past Chair Indigenous Service Committee, Director of Rotary HIP

#### Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street

#### **Traditional Welcome**

Elder Garry Sault



R. Stacey LaForme is the elected Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). Born and raised on MCFN, Chief LaForme has served his community for over nineteen years,

being first elected to council in 1999.

Chief LaForme has participated in a number of committees and boards throughout his seven terms; served as a Councillor, including involvement with the MCFN's Pan Am Games Secretariat (PAGS) and as Chair of the PAGS Committee.

Chief LaForme performed the Traditional Greeting and welcomed all at the Opening of the Rotary International Convention held in Toronto last June and was so warmly received by over 20,000 Rotarians and guests from around the world.

Chief LaForme is committed to increasing involvement and communication between Elected Council and both on and off-reserve membership. He is very active throughout MCFN's traditional territory, which encompasses 3.9 million acres of Southern Ontario, not only as a Chief, but as a notable storyteller and poet. Chief LaForme has recently

been appointed as Honourary Senior Fellow for Massey College, joining the Duke of Edinburgh and the Chancellor of Oxford as only the third person awarded the highest honour the college can bestow.



## **Rotary Walks with Pride**

#### Diverse - Inclusive

Rotary has 100 spots at the Toronto Pride Parade on Sunday June 23rd. There are still some available.

#### https://rotary7070.org/event/rotary-at-pride-toronto-parade/

If you can't join us then watch the broadcast. To our Jeff and our Johns we are honoured to be able to support you. You are true Rotarians, "Making a Difference" through "Service Above Self". In Rotary we are all one.





*Watch for us!* 

Flags at the National Club



# 71st Annual Rotary Club of Toronto Golf Tournament, August 22, 2019

# We're counting on your support.

Your 2019 Golf
Committee:
Karl Kremer (Chair),
Mat Harrison,
Don Bell, Jay Littlejohn
Terry Wray, Deb Snider
Paul Westlake

Thursday August 22nd is the date for the Rotary Club of Toronto's 70th Annual Golf Tournament with a new location for this year - Cherry Downs Golf Club in Pickering!

- Check in begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch
- Golf is a scramble format with a shotgun start at 12:30 PM
- Cost: \$175 for golf (includes lunch and dinner and cart). \$60 for dinner only
- Golf Hole Sponsors: \$300

We have a great selection of prizes and an excellent dinner planned.

Hope Air is our designated charity this year.

#### To register or donate:

- https://bit.ly/2WUs1dG or -
- Contact Karl Kremer, tel: 416-445-5084, email: kjkremer64@gmail.com

# **Congratulations to Dawn-Marie King – Club Builder Award Recipient**

The true strength of Rotary globally is built at the individual Club level. Everything we achieve comes from 34,000 Clubs around the world. And what makes our Club – in fact any Rotary Club – successful?

The members. You. And it takes a dedicated group of members to help build, sustain, and keep a Club vibrant. Appropriately enough, we acknowledge those individuals within The Rotary Club of Toronto by bestowing on them the Club Builder Award.

Each year, the Honours & Awards Committee convenes to discuss who has earned such distinction. What does one have to do to be recognised by their peers? Well, they must have been a member of the Club for at least three years; have been an active member of at least three different committees or task forces; more specifically, must have chaired a committee or special project. And, of course, in all these Club dealings demonstrated the Four-Way Test.

I am here today to introduce another recipient of this honour.

Now it's become custom to sometimes announce these recipients in a cagey way, with a surprise "tell all" reveal at the end. However I'm not sure I can manage that this time. This individual has achieved and done so much – you'll figure out who they are very quickly.

This individual joined our Club five years ago, and has been a "club builder" from Week One.

An active member who's volunteered for Argos 50:50 ticket sales, Children's Christmas Party, Charity Golf Tournament and more.

She became a fast regular at Camp Scugog, where after ably managing the dish pit for a few years, (and helping make the chefs look good), decided it was better to leave us alone and enjoy the sun in other active areas.

When Jai Persaud moved back to Guyana, we needed someone to organise us all for shifts at Ribfest. They inherited our spreadsheet, and took it to a new level of organisation. Coordinating volunteers takes a deft hand, gentle coaxing, and a warm smile. This individual has all three, not to mention an insane level of patience, and put these skills to good use, getting Rotarians to agree to do tasks they might not have immediately jumped up to volunteer for.

That experience of herding cats put her in great stead to work with Lorraine Lloyd in organising all the volunteers (hundreds) – across not just our Club but several districts – for the Host Organising Committee for the Toronto International Convention. In the process, she researched and implemented a new online volunteer tool.

Michele Guy will tell you how critical that effort was to the success of the convention; and helping Michele sleep better at night this time last year.

On Fundraising, she's helped with the annual Poker Night at Steam Whistle, and this year's Cocktails for Care Event.

She's chair of our Youth & Children's Committee, and directly involved with many of their projects, coordinating with our Rotaract Clubs as well. At the district we just completed RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), and the committee wholeheartedly sponsored a candidate from each of our three Rotaract Clubs. At



Neil Phillips, Dawn-Marie King and Jeff Dobson

the District, she was one of the panel judges for the York University Rotaract Case Study competition.

As an incoming Board Member July of this year, she helped organise our Club Assembly.

Quite frankly, she has stepped up to the plate every time she has been asked – and many times she hasn't. Truly, she is one of those people I have come to know I can rely on – and feel obliged to return the favour whenever she asks something of me.

Outside of Rotary, she leads an active professional life as a healthcare executive (did I mention assisting the Program Committee with speakers?) – but somehow doesn't let that get in the way of all this Rotary work.

It is with great pleasure, and my personal honour, that I announce the latest, and unbelievably well-deserved, recipient of our Club Builder award, Dawn-Marie King.

Neil Phillips, Past President

# **Go Scugog – June 15th**

Once again our intrepid bikers Geoffrey Johnson and Bill Morari led the group of those Rotarians and friends who travelled kilometers through the countryside around Camp Scugog. It was a good day for biking, not too hot and a following wind for the last few clicks. The counselors were arriving to get ready for the first campers. So many of these young people came as campers themselves. That in itself tells you a lot about the meaning of this camp.

All funds raised are to help pay the fees for campers who can't afford it. We are close to our goal and the donation page is still open.



# **Help Indigenous Youth – the Welcome Box Initiative**

**Imagine:** 

You are 13 years old in a fly in indigenous community and about to enter Grade 9. Your local school ends in grade 8. To have any chance of a life free of poverty you and your family know that you will have to fly far, far away to a strange and sometimes hostile environment where you will be forced to live with strangers.

Imagine:

You have no money for school supplies. You have no money for personal hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant). If you are a girl you might have to miss school one week per month because you have no pads or tampons.

John Andras met these young people at Dennis Franklin Cromarty School in Thunder Bay. He asked them if there was one thing they would like what would that be? "A pillow that is not stained brown/ that is lumpy/ that stinks, a blanket that is not stiff and mouldy, a bed so that I do not have to sleep on a mat on a concrete basement floor" is what he heard.

Imagine:

Imagine there is a solution to help make these young peoples' beginning in Thunder Bay better?

Imagine if you were them? Imagine if you could help?

These young people deserve a good start to their school year. Let's not let them down.

The Indigenous Services Committee of The Rotary Club of Toronto and the Robin Hood Army (RHA) Canada in partnership with Rotary HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) are working together to support indigenous students leaving home to go to high school in Thunder Bay. We need your help.



John Andras says call him "Cash Man".

We are preparing Welcome Boxes that will be given to 175 indigenous students leaving home in remote communities 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

We are collecting the following items for 175 Welcome Boxes and need your help. We need donations of:

- Deodorant (male / female)
- Nail clipper
- Comb and or Brush
- Notebook (200 pg each)
- #2 pencils
- Sharpener
- Pens
- Pillows, Comforters
- Female hygiene products
- Cards OR small board game (teenage friendly)

Each Welcome Box will cost just over \$100. We are targeting to send the boxes to Thunder Bay in July so they are ready for the students arriving at the First Nations School in August / September. We also want to include, in each box, a hand written letter from a non-indigenous youth welcoming the students and wishing them well. We are seeking young people who would write these letters and a short outline can be provided to help.

Donations would be welcome at any time. The Rotary Club of Toronto will provide a tax receipt for any donation over \$20.00. If you wish to write a cheque, make it payable to the Rotary Club of Toronto and please put Welcome Box in the memo field. You can also ask Belli to charge your account. Rotary members will be available to collect cash donations and Robins (RHA members) to collect in-kind donations.

Bill Empey, Indigenous Services Chair (empey@prismeconomics.com) Prince Kumar, RHA and Indigenous Service LD (prince.kumar@stranexus.com)

#### **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:**

Lorna Johnson

**Editor July 5, 2019:** Brigitte Bogar

What You Missed Reporter for June 21, 2019: James Macdonald

#### 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

#### June 2019

Farewell for President Jeff Dobson,

No Rotary lunch (Canada Day Holiday)

#### **July 2019**

Changeover from Jeff to Kevin

Kevin Power's Inaugural Address

Incoming District Governor Beth Selby

#### **EVENTS**

Rotary walks with PRIDE June 23

June 28

Robin Hood Army Rotary Annual Golf Tournament August 22

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

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter: therotaryvoice@gmail.com

Editor-in-chief: Maureen Bird

# **LET'S BE PERSONAL**

June 21st - Mary Bennett



# Rotarians, are you ready to make a difference in the lives of youth again? Email us to get started!

This Rotary year YOU - the Rotaractors and Rotarians of The Rotary Club of Toronto made this happen with Youth Initiatives - a sub-committee of Youth and Children Services:

- In partnership with Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board you were able to inspire 400 youth from grades 7 & 8 and hosted them for a full day Youth Leadership Expo, with practical workshops, hands-on activities, and inspirational speakers.
- In partnership with Robin Hood Army you led Canada in building bridges across oceans, you led a card / letter exchange be tween the youth in Canada and youth-in-need in India. You gave a glimpse of hope, education and created awareness about Canada
- you touched the lives of 400 youth-in-need, some in slums and streets from 3 cities in India
- With your generosity, 1800+ hygiene products were distributed to various youth shelters in Toronto, with personalized messages to each and every single youth in the shelter from grade 7 and 8 students
- You meticulously reviewed, debated and awarded 7 grade 11 and grade 12 students with financial awards to celebrate their successes and encourage them to thrive in school and education
- You celebrated youth civic leadership and created awareness of the need to empower our youth leaders

First give yourself a pat in the back! And then think do we want to do this again and empower more of our youth leaders? Fellow Rotarians, we are at a crossroads today, where we may have the financial backing, we may have the Rotaractors but we don't have enough Rotarians signed-up to make this happen – are you ready to make a difference in the lives of youth in our community? If so, contact Dawn-Marie King: dawnmarie.king@rotarytoronto.com, Chair of YCS or Mary Bennett: mary.bennett@rotarytoronto.com Chair of Youth Initiatives. And a Thank You to Rotaractor Ankita Sethi for putting together the video presentation last Friday

# We Bid Goodbye to **President Jeff Dobson**



On Wednesday June 26th we will be celebrating the end of the year with Jeff. Please join us at the National Club Rooftop Patio, 303 Bay Street, 5:30 pm.

Please RSVP to office@ rotarytoronto.com to confirm your attendance. The cost is \$50 – let them know to charge your credit card when you confirm. You can also pay cash at the door but NOT lunch tickets for this event.

# What You Missed June 14, 2019

- by Rodayna Abuelwafa, The Rotaract Club of Toronto



Organization, was able to celebrate

young passionate youth who had the ability to go above and beyond in their personal and educational lives; giving back to their communities. A Youth Leadership Awards lunch was held last Friday celebrating the Youth accomplishments by giving them plaques, bursaries and certificates.

We started the day with our acknowledgement of our place on Traditional Lands and by singing the National Anthem and enjoying some Jazz music by the Humber College Band. Additionally, we were pleased to have Dr Uton Robinson - Executive from TDSB, Gina Iuliano Marello - Superintendent of Student Success TDCSB, Brian Smeenk - President of the Merit Awards Bursary Program and Sarah Marriott - Director of Operations at Merit Awards Bursary. Each of our guests had the chance to direct a few words to the winners and all the attendees stressing on their experience, work and the importance of youth and education.

The Rotary Club of Toronto was honored to sponsor seven Youth, where they were given

On June 14, the Rotary Club of different bursaries to help them in their next educational Toronto with the assistance of the step; either in post-secondary education or in the last sec-Rotaract Club of Toronto and in ondary school year. Leyla Adoleli and Naod Abraham, partnership with the Merit Awards two of the Youth winners, had the opportunity to share their accomplishments and the importance of supporting Youth and Education in general.

> Overall, the event was a great success celebrating Youth who want to push the human race forward. There is no doubt that Education and Youth are two important factors in this life; as Erasmus mentioned "The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of youth".



Winners Leyla Adoleli and Naod Abraham with Presenters

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