



### Today's Program

The Honourable Bob Rae, PC, CC, OOnt, QC, Ontario's 21<sup>st</sup> Premier

### Topic

The Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Why It's Still Happening and What We Can Do About It

### Host

Robert O'Brien, Club President 1998-99

### Location

Fairmont Royal York, Imperial Room



The Honourable Bob Keith Rae served as Ontario's 21st Premier from 1990-1995 and Interim Federal Leader of the Liberal Party in 2011-2013 during which time he played a significant role in the rebuilding of the federal party and its return to power in October 2015.

Between 1978 and 2013 Mr. Rae was elected eleven times in federal and provincial politics and served in Parliament and at Queens Park.

He was named Queen's Counsel in 1984, appointed to the Privy Council in 1998, named as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000, received the Ontario Order of Ontario in 2004 and Companion of the Order of Canada in 2015. Mr. Rae led a major independent inquiry into the Air India bombing which took place on June 23, 1985, which was one of the worst terrorist incidents in Canadian history.

His committee's landmark report made important recommendations to the Minister of Public Safety, which have improved the security of travel for Canadians travelling today. Mr. Rae teaches at the University of Toronto as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the School of Public Policy and Governance. He has written five books, most recently What's Happened to Politics in 2015 and has a regular column in the Toronto Star.

Mr. Rae is a senior partner of law firm Olthius Kleer Townsend LLP where he works with First Nations across Canada as legal counsel, advisor and negotiator. In October 2017, his considerable skills were employed when he was appointed Canada's special envoy to Myanmar, to review and report on the Rohingya refugee crisis and the serious crimes against humanity and genocide unfolding in that region. He is a leading and respected spokesman on humanitarian and social rights and has been recognized as a Senior Fellow to the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.



## YOU'RE INVITED



### The Rotary Club of Toronto's Annual Fundraiser at **THE STEAM WHISTLE BREWERY**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:30 pm

The Steam Whistle Brewery

285 Bremner Blvd.

(SOUTH EAST OF THE ROGERS CENTRE)

**GREAT FOOD, GAMES & PRIZES!**  
ADMISSION IS ONLY \$150 AND INCLUDES DINNER!

ALL PROCEEDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE  
ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO'S TRANSITION CENTRE  
AT ST. MICHAELS HOSPITAL



Rotary Transition Centre (RTC) is a program within St. Michael's Hospital that allows vulnerable patients who are discharged from the Emergency Department, who can manage their own care and behavior, to stay for a period of up to 18 hours as a means of transitioning back into the community. During their stay they may rest, launder clothes, shower, access hot meals, and are provided with hygiene products and clothing when needed. RTC is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a team of community support workers who provide support and work with clients to consolidate appropriate discharge plans.



**CORPORATE TABLES FOR 10 WITH  
CORPORATE RECOGNITION \$1750**

PLEASE VISIT THE ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO WEBSITE [WWW.ROTARYTORONTO.COM](http://WWW.ROTARYTORONTO.COM)  
TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND/OR MAKE A DONATION

### Camp Scugog – May 24-26

You have seen the images; you have heard the tales...now it is time to sign up for another weekend of hard work, great food and abundant fellowship.

If you are a newer member or someone who has not yet made it up – we strongly encourage you to ask someone who has been to tell you about the weekend. Members repeatedly say it is a highlight of their Rotary year, and a weekend not to be missed.

What exactly is Camp Scugog? In simple terms, we head up for a weekend of hard work fixing up a camp (located near Port Perry) for disadvantaged families. What does this entail? Generally, we are painting cabins, fixing fences and other assorted projects. No special skills are required – though there are specific projects for those who have a skilled trade background. You work in assigned teams with a friendly – if demanding – foreman/forewoman.

In exchange for your time and work efforts, the "Camp Chefs" (fellow Rotarians) work long hours to prepare a culinary extravaganza. We have never heard of anyone going home hungry!

More details and sign up are available on our website under EVENTS.  
THIS IS A MEMBERS ONLY EVENT

## Cocktails for Care



Our own very special  
John Fortney

Thank you John Fortney and Garren Anthony! On Friday, February 8th, more than 200 of us gathered at the National Club for a wonderful evening. With a lovely buffet and great music, we celebrated our support for the Transition Centre at St. Michael's Hospital. Funded originally by our club in 1998, it is in need of renovations in line with the major changes at St. Mike's. They raised over \$24,000!

John wants to acknowledge the following; Premier Sponsors Affleck Greene McMurtry, Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd.:

Sponsors Phelps Group, Sheffield Moving and Storage, Coutts Crane, Research Capital, Arcadia Senior Care.

In Kind Sponsors Studio 1098, and Saturday Night Superstars. In addition, thanks go out to other donors of items for the Silent Auction, John's "poker" draw and the door prizes. We were treated to a superb buffet and ended the evening dancing to the Superstars. John's fraternity Alpha Delta Phi and the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority sold the draw tickets. Thanks to Lori Davidson for the invitation design, LP Graphics for help with printing, Adrian Cheung for the video and Rotaractor Michael Tai for his amazing pictures. The evening was a real team effort.

People evidently still love the Maple Leafs as four prime tickets went for more than face value. Bidding was hot and heavy on a week in Nérac, Gascony, offered by Neil Phillips and Mardi Michels. Did that include meals provided by Neil and Mardi, who both love to cook? John gave his thanks to all, backed by President Jeff Dobson, venue host Bill Morari, National Club President Winnie Go and Dr. David MacKinnon, Deputy Chair of St Michael's Emergency Department. John read a very poignant letter from a Transition Centre guest.



Bill Morari, Jeff Dobson, Dr. David McKinnon and John Fortney

*I originally came to Toronto in 1985 as a landed immigrant and refugee. I have always been very thankful for the health care system and the government support here in Canada. I lived here for 20 years and truly loved living in this country.*

*I unfortunately had to return to Iran, as both my parents were ill. When I arrived in Iran, the government noticed that I had a cross tattoo and imprisoned me. I was imprisoned for years. They would let me out, and then would capture me again, imprison me and continue to torture me. I felt fearful, terrified and worthless, physically and mentally broken.*

*In August 2018, with the support of the government, I returned to Canada to start my life again. When I arrived here, I was so ill I thought I was going to die. I couldn't walk, I could barely see and I was in extreme pain. I felt so hopeless and broken.*

*I walked in the door at Rotary Transition Centre. They listened to my story, made me feel safe, and supported me during this vulnerable time. Not only did they give me somewhere to stay but they gave me hope for the future. Over two days I saw doctors, got medication, received clothes, ate good food and was referred to a community case manager who would help me to figure out all the pieces of my life.*

*I think the Rotary Transition Centre is an important place for people who feel like they have nothing. This place has been a heaven for me. I got help when I was broken. I feel like a human being now. I live like normal people do. I have a home. I have food to eat. It all started with being in the Centre with feelings heard, respected and that my life was worth something.'*

John and Garren have been raising funds (over \$400,000) for very important causes for so many years. Thank you so much for giving back.

Video of event!

<https://vimeo.com/319268284/4dff81b45c>



Party time



## New Member Daniel Massicotte

Daniel grew up in Montreal where he graduated from McGill with a BA in Literature. After university, he moved to Korea where he taught High School English for two years. There he met the love of his life.

Daniel's interest in Rotary was first sparked when he discovered that his grandfather, Danny Faour, from the Rotary Club of Corner Brook, Nfld., has been a member for over 50 years and has served most of the Director roles in his club and chaired the Adventure in Citizenship program for a number of years.

He runs a small consulting firm 7Click that helps dating companies all over the world scale their business.

Daniel manages a personal portfolio of stocks and a couple of condos in Toronto. He's an avid reader, Lego collector, regular gym attendee and enjoys taking the occasional afternoon to cook up something new in the kitchen... even if no one else can get past the first nibble!

He looks forward to getting involved in Rotary, and serve in our Club and in his community. He is married to Sara and they live in Uptown.



*Vigen Ghazarian, Membership Committee member Krystyna Benyak and Dan Massicotte*

## New Member Vigen Ghazarian

Vigen was born in the Soviet Union during the Cold War. His father managed a large soviet farm and mother was kindergarten principal. When Vigen was 22 years old, the Soviet Union broke up, and his homeland Armenia gained independence.

He studied mathematics in Armenia (B.Sc.) and economics (M.Sc.) in the United States on a scholarship awarded to him by the United States Congress. He moved to Toronto over 20 years ago with a strong determination to succeed. He worked as an investment analyst for over ten years for one of the country's top stock brokerages and was recognized as a Top Analyst by Starmine/National Post. He has helped Toronto's Armenian community raise funds for Ontario's only Armenian day school.

He has three children and is greatly involved in his children's education and upbringing. His oldest, 11, is a Canadian champion in chess.

By joining the Rotary Club of Toronto, Vigen wishes to give back to this beautiful country, which gave him an opportunity for professional and personal growth. He is also looking forward to developing new friendships and learning from the Rotary's outstanding people and speakers.

## The small but mighty Robin Hood Army does it again

- by Alex Brown

On the last Friday of every month the Community Service Committee, under John Lloyd, chair, has committed to assist the Robin Hood Army as they served dinner to 50-85 residents in need at Strachan House, located at 805 Wellington St W. Last Saturday was our turn and I accompanied Lori Brazier, Susan Hunter & Marci Berg as we set about preparing a hot meal for over 50 people. The menu was fit for royalty (pasta /meat sauce, garlic bread, a great fresh salad & juice). Everybody loved it, and we loved serving it. What an experience, what a great yet easy way to give back. Plan on joining in on this rewarding adventure, helping others first hand. Watch for the notice in the Voice when it is our turn next.



*Alex Brown and Past President Susan Hunter*

**RI President**  
Barry Nussam, 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:**  
Brigitte Bogar

**Editor March 8, 2019:**  
Brigitte Bogar

**What You Missed Reporter for March 1, 2019:**  
Robert O'Brian

### 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

### March 2019

- 08 Barb Gosse, Cdn. Centre to End Human Trafficking
- 15 TBD
- 22 Stephan Dani, Running the Gobi Desert
- 29 Rahul Bhardwaj, Corporate Governance

### EVENTS

- March 21, R2R National Club
- March 24, District Curling Event
- March 28, Steam Whistle Fundraiser
- May 24-26, Camp Scugog weekend

**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

- March 1<sup>st</sup> - Jay Littlejohn
- March 8<sup>th</sup> - Michele Guy



## Step Up for Scugog Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>

- by John Bishop



150+ Rotarians and Rotaractors attended the recent “Step Up for Camp” Fundraiser held at The Bata Shoe Museum. The venue is unique in the world of Museums and is dedicated to the history and fashion of shoes. During the evening, many guests took the opportunity to walk through the exhibition to view the many international examples.

At the event, there was a very well stocked food table organized by En Ville catering and an equally well stocked bar and a DJ in attendance.

Katherine Kirkpatrick-Wahl and her team managed to secure some wonderful items for the Silent Auction, with all the funds raised going for Camp Scugog.

For the last decade, Rotary and Rotaract Club of Toronto has been supporting Camp Scugog, offering support and programming to disadvantaged children, youth, and mothers since 1931.



Rotaractor Diego Galbiati and Errol Paulicpulli

## Let's Be Personal - Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

- by Susan Hunter



I am a consultant at Willis Towers Watson Perrin, a global advisory, broking and solutions company that helps clients around the world. I specialize in Human Capital consulting supporting organizations with business issues around people, performance and pay. I work with clients undergoing change and disruption in their business; which may include rapid growth, entering a new market, losing critical talent, or dealing with employee engagement issues. I listen, I diagnose the issues, and I come up with solutions.

Beyond work, I have always believed in the motto of Service Above Self. My father was a Rotarian and instilled the importance of giving back. So, in March 2002, I joined our Club with Nina Cole as my sponsor.

Over the years, I have been a member of numerous committees. With Des Bethell's encouragement, I was the first Chair of the

Community Services Committee, which was newly created out of the Urban Peace Committee.

With Don Bell and Bob Rutherford, I was the lead volunteer organizer for Rotary Drive, where we built 10 townhomes partnering with Habitat for Humanity.

I participated in the One-On-One Mentoring program at St. Francis of Assisi supporting a young student. I have been on two sweat equity trips to Cambodia and attended six Rotary International Conventions. Most recently, I was honoured to serve as Club President during 2016-2017.

Currently, I am Chair of Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) for District 7070, a program for Rotarians to learn more about Rotary and become better community leaders.

Lastly, I count many people in our Club as my friends and mentors, and continue to find opportunities to serve.

## What You Missed February 22 , 2019 - by Carolyn Purden



Newbie-at-the-podium President-elect Kevin Power delivered an almost flawless performance as he stood in for President Jeff at our meeting at the National Club.

Warning of a full agenda, he opened proceedings early. Monitor Bert Steenburgh introduced two visiting Rotarians and two guests, then President-elect Kevin took the mic to make several announcements and remind us to buy tickets for the March 28 Steam Whistle Fundraiser. Then he welcomed not one, but two new members, both introduced by Krystyna Benyak.

Featured in the Let's Be Personal spot, Susan Hunter described how she delivers value to clients and why Rotary has played such an important role in her life.

February is Black History Month and Dauna Jones-Simmonds introduced the guest speaker, her friend Dr. Carole Chauncey, who talked about a little-known figure in our Canadian history.

Dr. Carrie Best, born in 1903 in New Glasgow, N.S., was an early champion for social justice. Hearing that some high school girls had been removed from the town's Roseland Theatre

because they had tried to sit in the “whites-only” section, Dr. Best and her son purchased tickets for the same section. Before they could take their seats they were accosted, accused of disturbing the peace and subsequently convicted and fined. Interestingly, Viola Desmond, who graces our \$10 bill, visited the same theatre a few years later and famously also sat in the “whites-only” section and was arrested.

Dr. Best spent her life advocating for Indigenous and civil rights. She founded a newspaper, launched her own radio program and became a weekly newspaper columnist. Appointed a Member of the Order of Canada, she appeared on the 59 cent stamp in 2011.

President-elect Kevin thanked the speaker and then – the fatal flaw – began to close the meeting. What? “No 50-50 draw?” cried John Andras. President-elect Kevin made a deft recovery and the ticket was drawn. The winner? Tony Houghton — one of the 50-50 ticket sellers. Hmm. Perhaps fortunately for him, he didn't win the pot of \$1,202 — and he almost didn't win the wine either as President-elect Kevin momentarily forgot to give it to him. The wine was presented, all was well and the meeting concluded.

**JOIN ROTARY NOW!**

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



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