

Today's Special Remembrance Day Program

THE GREATEST GENERATION

Introduction To Program

Past President Robert O'Brien, Past Chair of The Churchill Society

Special Featured Speaker

Past President Jack Robertson, Pilot Officer and Navigator, Royal Canadian Air Force

Music Provided By

The Governor General's Horse Guards

Location

Fairmont Royal York, Imperial Room



Jack Robertson was born August 4, 1925 in Hamilton and grew up in Toronto. On his 18th birthday Jack enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force. After intensive training Jack became a Navigator and a commissioned Pilot Officer. He was stationed in St. Jean, Quebec outside Montreal and in Charlottetown PEI. After

the War Jack graduated from the University of Toronto in Commerce and Finance. He joined Cassidy's Limited and as a principal buyer and Vice-President he travelled extensively throughout Europe and the Far East in search of chinaware, glassware and giftware. He was a member of the Montreal Board of Trade and lectured at the University of Michigan on trade with China. Jack returned to Toronto and incorporated his own company "Jack Robertson Sales Ltd" and he moved to Oakville where he has lived ever since. Jack joined our Club 42 years ago in 1976 with the Active Classification "Agent-China, Glass". He served as Club President 1991-1992. During his year as President Jack's theme was to focus on children and the theme of his year was "Help Youth, They're Our Future". As well that year he established a special committee to investigate the issue of children with drug addiction, which led to the Club's partnership with Pine River Institute. Jack is still an active member of the Senior Citizens Committee and served on the Board of the Second Mile Club and is well respected by all. Jack participated in the Sweat Equity Project in Malawi in 2010 and his son Andrew who joined him that year has returned every year since then to Malawi. In 2013 at age 89 Jack enthusiastically participated in the Club's Sweat Equity Team to Cambodia. Jack is the father of one daughter and four sons and continues to live in Oakville. He is a talented and passionate artist in his spare time.

Rotary And The Tradition Of Remembrance

- by Robert O'Brien



The Rotary Club of Toronto has a long and proud tradition of honouring Remembrance Day and paying tribute and respect to the men and women who have served our country. The very first Rotary Remembrance Day program was November 11, 1922 in the King Edward Hotel, four years after the end of the First World War and one year after the Parliament of Canada declared in 1921 an Armistice Day to coincide with the end of the Great War. The speaker at that first Rotary Remembrance Day meeting was Reverend John Burke of Newman Hall in Toronto and the title was Tribute to Our Soldiers. For the next fourteen years, every Friday preceding Remembrance Day, the guest speaker was a prominent member of the clergy in Toronto who would try to find and express some spiritual meaning to the losses and sacrifices of the Great War.

In 1936, three years before the beginning of World War II, the theme of remembrance disappeared from the programmes at the very time when it was most especially needed. On November 11, 1938 ten months before the outbreak of World War II our speaker's topic was What Munich Means to Canada and this foreign policy expert spoke of "the logical expansion of Germany eastward while Britain and France held Western Europe". How wrong he was! It was the last Remembrance Day speech prior to the outbreak of World War II in September 1939.

In 1946, a year after the defeat of Hitler, the theme of Remembrance was restored and every year since then the theme remains Remembrance: Lest We Forget. There have been some patterns however. When I first joined the Club in 1985 the Remembrance Day meeting featured one of our esteemed members who served in battle—heroes such as Bob Foster, Ted Shuter, Don Armitage, Norm Simpson, Elgin Coutts and in 2002 the last member to grace us was John Gregory. From 2003 onwards in part because of the War against Terror and Afghanistan, our speaker each year was a leading member of the defence staff who addressed the Club about contemporary issues. Brigadier General Fred Lewis and General Rick Hillier in 2006 were particularly memorable.

Today's Remembrance Day meeting, November 9, 2018, marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and returns us to our roots with an esteemed Past President who served in World War II speaking about the continuing importance of Remembrance in our Club's heritage and tradition.

OUR HALL OF HEROES

Honouring Our Rotary Club of Toronto Veterans



John Austin

In May 1945, at the age of 18, John entered the Canadian Armed Forces in Toronto. When he was in advanced training at Camp Borden, his father, a veteran of the First World War, passed away. After the war ended, John stayed on to achieve his active service, and left the Armed Forces in October 1945 as a Private.



Jim Bell

Jim enlisted in the army in August 1950 to fight in the Korean War. Jim was in the Fox Battery of the Second Regiment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, eventually becoming a bombardier, where he plotted gunfire and managed signals.



Elgin Coutts

Elgin formally joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on August 28, 1940, as an airplane mechanic after training in Cambridge, Ontario. Elgin served at Flight Training Centres and Repair Depots. He got his wings and became a Pilot Officer, then a Flying Officer and finally a Flight Lieutenant, eventually travelling to Iceland.



Saleem Kassum

Saleem served with the Royal Air Force Equipment Branch from 1962-1967 and in the Reserve from 1967-1971. He became a Flying Officer. Saleem served in Singapore 1963-1965 during the Indonesian Confrontation of Malaysia.



Jack Robertson

Jack left high school to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943. After training as a pilot he then went through further training as a navigator, becoming a Pilot Officer in February 1945. He remained in Canada working as a navigator until demobilization after VE Day.

And those we lost this past Year:



George Richardson

George joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943 and trained in Toronto, Oshawa, and Ottawa, where he got his wings. He continued training in Ontario and Quebec until 1944, when he was posted to a fighter squadron on the West Coast, doing patrol flights to spot Japanese until September 1945. He was discharged as a Warrant Officer with 135 Squadron. He joined Rotary in 1967 and passed away June 9, 2018.



Frank Strickland

Frank joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 and trained as a technician eventually joining The British Second Tactical Air Force, which sent him to post war Germany. He was discharged in 1947. He joined Rotary in 1966 and passed away June 17, 2018.

Members of The Rotary Club of Toronto who served in the First World War



Major A.D.
Armour



Lt. F.G.
Diver *



Lt. C.F.
Deck



Capt. F.W.
How



Lt. H.L.
Smith



Lt.-Col.
John A. Shaw



Lt. C.P.
Stillwell



Sgt. B.A.
Trestrail



Major A.H.
Vanderburgh



Major G.F.
Wilson



Major E.A.
Williams



Major J.A.
Campbell



Pte. W. B.
Peace



Capt. W.W.
Wright



Lt. H.C.
Blachford

Lest We Forget
11 NOVEMBER

Members of The Rotary Club of Toronto who served in the Second World War

Unfortunately pictures were hard to find. Apologies for any omissions.



Lyman T. Barclay



C. Malin Harding



Charles S.L. Hertzberg *



Reginald W. Hopper



Stanley Montgomery



W. Mark Mounfield



Walter W. Peace



Oscar Pearson



Charles E. Read



A. Murray S. Stewart



W. Gordon Wood

In our Rotary office is a plaque listing 202 sons, daughters and grandchildren who served in WWI.

In addition for WWII there is a list in the Voice of 1945 of 196 sons, daughters and grandchildren in service.

** Died in service*

CLUB ACTIONS DURING THE WARS

WWI – Victory Gardens

During World War I the club was responsible for organizing thousands of Toronto families into “block” groups to utilize the large number of vacant lots throughout the city for “victory gardens”.

WWII Partnership with the Rotary Club of Liverpool

Our Rotary Club formed a strong relationship with the Rotary Club of Liverpool, one of the most bombed cities in England. Former member Richard Brown lived there from 1940 to 1944 and remembers helping his mother unpack the crates from Canada. They contained new and used clothing, vitamins and other items requested by the Liverpool club. Most welcomed by young mothers were baby cereal and Carnation milk. This continued after the war as the people struggled to recover from the devastation, and queued up for anything and everything.

With the Lads on Active Service – a Regular Voice Feature

Their mothers may have sent them food packages but all our members, sons and daughters on active service all received monthly packages of cigarettes from our club. The Voice issues are full of thank you notes – ‘much appreciated’; ‘the Sweet Caps sure beat the British smokes’; ‘so look forward to the arrivals’; ‘I don’t smoke but am very popular in the barracks’; ‘definitely thankful for these cigarettes which continue to arrive with amazing regularity’. And to close, ‘I look forward to joining you at the club for Father-Son Day on my return’.

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:

Guest editor Robert O’Brien and Maureen Bird

Editor November 16, 2018:

Brigitte Bogar

What You Missed Reporter for November 9, 2018:

Robert O’Brien

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

November 2018

- 16 Susan Howson, Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation
- 23 Cyndie Jacobs, Bear Story
- 29 Senior's Christmas lunch (Thursday)
- 30 NO LUNCH – see 29th

December 2018

- 7 Michiel Roodenburg, World water crisis
- 14 Club Christmas Party

Events

December 2 Children's Christmas Party

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

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com



Memories

In 2005 and with an updated version in 2009 our recently deceased member Peter Naylor commissioned "Memories", - stories from members of The Rotary Club of Toronto who served before joining the club. Many thanks to Ron Waddling for his work on this book.

These are the many we have lost - never forgotten.

Patrick Anderson enlisted with the Royal Canadian Artillery in March 1940 and joined Rotary in 1978.

Ken Andras Senior was the Squadron Leader Head Ops for 6 Bomber Group. Ken joined Rotary 1945 and was president in 1954. His two sons Ken Junior and John are both members of our club with John our president in 2003.

Don Armitage joined the 4th Queen's Own Hussars in England in 1938 and served for 12 years including being involved in the Battle of Alamein. Don joined Rotary in 1981.

Bill Bahen joined the Royal Navy in 1944. He joined our Rotary club in 1987 as a transferee.

Dr. George Beck enlisted in late 1942 and was severely wounded. Despite ending up legally blind he returned to the investment industry for 60 years. He joined Rotary in 1959 and served not just Rotary but the Anglican Church, Wycliffe College and CNIB.

Murray Bosley enlisted in 1942 and was soon sent to officer school. He entered Europe 10 days after D-Day when battles were still raging. Murray joined Rotary in 1950 and served as president in 1965. His brother Ray was president in 1970.

Donald Carman enlisted in the R.C.A.F in 1943. His service was with the Wireless service making sure our pilots had proper equipment. He joined Rotary in 1977 and served as president in 1985.

Bob Carveth enlisted in the Navy in 1944. His service was in Halifax and was there for the lesser known major ammunition explosion. He joined Rotary in 1977 and was president in 1985.

Maurice Cowper-Smith enlisted in the army in 1942. A foot deformity kept him from going overseas but as an officer he worked closely with the U.S. government. He joined Rotary in 1978.

William Dale joined the Canadian Armoured Corps in 1943 and served overseas in the Tank Corps. He joined Rotary in 1968 and served as president in 1981.

Bob Foster served in the Air Force and survived a horrific crash landing in a disabled plane. His New Sound Familiar singing group performed at many special Rotary parties.

John Gregory joined the RCAF in 1942 and returned from active services in 1945. He continued to serve for 12 years and was Honorary Colonel for 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron for three years starting in 2005. He joined Rotary in 1975.

John Beverly Howson served in the RCAF and searched for submarines in the English Channel. He joined Rotary in 1959 and both John and Betty were strong supporters of Rotary events. Their daughter Susan was president in 2007.

Alan Martin entered the Royal Navy in 1939 and ended up serving as a liaison with the U.S. Government. He joined Rotary in 1966 and was president in 1988.

Jack McQuaig joined the army in 1943. After the war he became an expert in executive management training. He joined Rotary in 1956 and was charged with the coaching of many of our presidents.

Gilbert Milne worked through the war as a navy photographer, landing with the D-Day invasion. He was in France, Italy and Greece. He joined Rotary in 1958 and many of his pictures of our events are in our archives.

Blake Moore enlisted in the RCAF in 1942. Like others he talked about the discipline service brought to his life. He joined Rotary in 1978 and was president in 1990.

Stewart Munro joined the navy in 1941 and served protecting convoys. He served our club as president in 1967 and as District Governor in 1969.

Norman Ovenden enlisted in the Navy in 1943 working on escort ships in convoys. He joined Rotary in 1960 and spent many years assisting in the office.

Ted Shuter joined the Royal Canadian Regiment in 1935 and served for 31 years. He was in France by 1940 but was forced to leave after a week. He served in Sicily and snuck back to duty after treatment for injuries. He also served in Korea, then tours in Germany and Washington. He joined the Rotary club in 1973.

Norman Simpson served in the Navy searching for submarines in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He retired as a Lt. Commander, joined Rotary in 1956, was Cub president in 1966 and District Governor in 1982.



A Special Thank You

*to Brigitte Bogar for honouring
Knud Westergaard with a Danish
rendition of "Abide With Me".*




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