



CENTENNIAL BEAT

September 2012

Service Above Self

The Rotary Club of Toronto, \$100,000 Centennial Award

Dear Readers,

This is the eighth issue of the Centennial Beat, a publication recounting themes and achievements as our Club celebrates its Centennial Year having started on July 15, 2012. During our Centennial Year the Club will be donating in excess of \$1,000,000 to local and international agencies.

Committees and committee work are the back bone of Rotary and our Club is no exception. The Senior Citizens Committee (SCC) was formally started in the summer of 1963 with the proceeds from a bequest from a much loved and admired member, Watson McClain. Through this generous gift the Club was able to put seniors' issues on a more formalize footing; helping to solve problems that it had been tackling since the 1940's. You will find a short history of the SCC in the September 14th issue of the Voice.

This Centennial Beat will focus on The Good Neighbours' Club. The SCC chose the Rotary Health and Wellness Centre as a worthy and appropriate project for our Club as it looks to the next 100 years of service and making a difference in the lives of seniors in Toronto.

Enjoy.

Catherine Lloyd

Five Rooms That Make A Difference

— by Dr. David Bruce, Director of Community & Social Services The Good Neighbours' Club

The Rotary Club of Toronto embodies the pioneer spirit, even in the twenty-first century. Pioneers once travelled into unknown territory with little more than their courage; so Rotarians, with characteristic determination, now venture into the service of the little-known and underserved population of older men living on the margins of society.

The Rotary Club of Toronto has more than once literally put wheels under the efforts of The Good Neighbours' Club to offer essential services that promote the dignity and well-being of older homeless and marginalized men. The donation of a van for the use of the Club has long meant that Good Neighbours' Club members have been able to access donations of food and clothing for our more than 5,000 members. More recently, the Rotary van has been used to distribute meals to shut-in members in our own Meals-on-Wheels program.

This spring The Rotary Club of Toronto raised its support of The Good Neighbours' Club to a whole new level, awarding Good Neighbours' with one of The Rotary Club of Toronto Centennial Awards. The \$100,000 grant was used to construct the **Rotary Health and Wellness Centre**. This new centre adds five new and very badly-needed rooms to the second floor of our facility at 170 Jarvis Street: a recovery room for those who have had no shelter and no sleep; a multi-purpose clinical room featuring a folding dentist's chair; a multi-purpose clinical room featuring an examination table; a counseling room for our front-line social work staff; and a boardroom where group activities can take place from planning meetings and group therapy to music classes.

These facilities will build both quantity and quality into the care of marginalized men over the age of fifty. Approximately 375 men visit the centre on any given day and front line health and social services are in high demand. Members of The Good Neighbours' Club routinely lend a hand throughout the Club helping to keep the building ship-shape, serving meals and assisting in programming.

The Director of Community and Social Services will be developing programming specifically for the Rotary Health and Wellness Centre, building bridges between agencies for the service of its members. Members of The Rotary Club of Toronto are encouraged to drop by The Good Neighbours' Club. They are invited to help serve the noon meal, assist members in our computer café, drop in for a game of cards, or become involved in one of our committees.



The Good Neighbours' Club delivery van proudly displays the logo of The Rotary Club of Toronto.

The Rotary Health and Wellness Centre adds five new and very badly-needed rooms to the second floor of The Good Neighbours' facility at 170 Jarvis Street:

- recovery room for those who have had no shelter and no sleep
- multi-purpose clinical room featuring a folding dentist's chair
- multi-purpose clinical room featuring an examination table
- counseling room for our front-line social work staff
- boardroom for group activities, like music classes and therapy

Join Rotary Now office@rotarytoronto.on.ca

CENTENNIAL BEAT

The Senior Citizens' Committee and the Rotary Health and Wellness Centre a great fit!

— By Barbara Thomson RCT Project Liaison



Almost three years ago, the Senior Citizens' Committee compiled a database of community agencies supporting the Seniors Community in the Greater Toronto Area. An invitation was sent out to twenty-two agencies to attend a Community Consultation Forum, focused on identifying the gaps in services available to this marginalized population. Proposals were reviewed and based on the selection criteria, three organizations were asked for additional information and to provide a presentation to the committee members. The votes were taken and The Good Neighbours' Club of Toronto, a centre for homeless senior men was selected to receive the \$100,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation.

The Good Neighbours' Club proposal focused on the limited access senior homeless men have to health care services. Although the Good Neighbours' Club provides on-site, free of charge services by nurse practitioners, street health nurses, public health authorities and many other health care providers, they lacked the appropriate facility for delivery of these medical services.

The construction of a health and wellness centre with a properly designed space including appropriate medical equipment would significantly improve the quality and quantity of care provided to these men, in a dignified and confidential setting.

The creation of the Rotary Health & Wellness Centre provides a more professional and stable environment for medical practitioners to provide basic care and support to older marginalized men in the downtown core.

The votes were taken and The Good Neighbours' Club of Toronto, a centre for homeless senior men was selected to receive the \$100,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation

MOVING FORWARD

Want to make a difference? Join the Senior Citizens' Committee

Contact Barbara Thomson, chair
bc.thomson@sympatico.ca

Do you ever wonder about seniors who have no family to be with around the holidays?

Help out at the annual Seniors' Christmas Party

Do you like old fashioned sing-a-longs?

Come out to the June Picnic at the Second Mile Club.

Centennial Calendar

June 1, 2012

The Rotary Club of Toronto and Toronto Argonauts Community Champion Scholarship Luncheon

July 18, 2012

President Neil Phillips Argos Field Kick-Off

August 24, 2012

The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Employment Empowerment

September 14, 2012

Rotary Health and Wellness Centre Good Neighbours Club

October 19, 2012

The Rotary Club of Toronto, Emily's House Perinatal Program, Project of Philip Aziz Centre

November 2, 2012

New Comer's Clinic, Sherbourne Health Centre

November 23, 2012

Founders Day Luncheon

January 18, 2013

Working Women's Community Centre

February 8, 2013

Seeds of Hope

February 24 to March 2, 2013

City of Toronto Rotary Week

March 1, 2013

Guest Speaker, Rotary International President Sakuji Tanaka, Evening Cocktail Party

April 12, 2013

Bakong Technical College, Cambodia

May 10, 2013

Arts for Children & Youth

May 23, 2013

Closing Event-Centennial Gala

100 4 100

CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP GOAL

"Senior citizens' issues and concerns will, over the coming decades, be an increasingly important aspect of public policy and involve society at large in addressing these issues and finding meaningful ways of effecting change. Being a part of the Senior Citizens' Committee, has given me the opportunity to be a part of that change."

— Tony Leal, member since 2009

