

Today's Program

The Presidential Address

Speaker

President Richard White

Host

Peter Love

Location

The Imperial Room,
The Fairmont Royal York Hotel



Richard White joined The Rotary Club of Toronto in June 1996. He served as a member, Vice Chair and then Chair of the Research and Appeals Committee. He joined the Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation Board in 2003, became Vice-President of the Foundation Board in 2006 and served as Foundation President from 2007 to 2011. Richard joined the Board of The Rotary Club of Toronto in 2005 and has been a member of the Executive Committee for six years and its Chair in 2012-13. He has been the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee starting in 2012. Richard is the President of The Rotary Club of Toronto for the 2013-2014 year.

Richard is Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and a Certified Financial Planner. He is Vice-President of Mackie Research Financial Services Inc. and advises employers and individuals on employee and retirement benefits and retirement and estate planning.

Forward into Our Second Century

— by President Richard White



Here we are at the beginning of our second century. The Club has had an exciting and rewarding Centennial Year during which we gave away over a \$1 million, had many special events and lots of good press. We raised our profile in the City of Toronto, with Rotary District 7070 and with Rotary International. We also celebrated our accomplishments going back to 1912 – major events and amazing projects that the Club has undertaken in the past. We have an enviable legacy to live up to.

The Rotary Club of Toronto is a living entity. How do we go forward from here? There is a danger in becoming complacent and reverting to doing things that same old way. It is important to examine everything that we do and determine if we can do it better or in a different, more effective way. We will shortly have a dynamic strategic plan in place which will carry us into our second hundred years. During the past few years, we have expanded our horizons, launched many successful projects and gained valuable experience in running events and the Club itself. We need to build on these strengths and embrace and use new tools such as social media to further the goals of the Club and its members. This will mean getting even more involved with our community and continuing to be relevant and effective in addressing its needs. How do we support the larger Rotary and Rotaract family and its projects and goals?

A large part of our focus will need to be on the Club itself. We need not only to expand membership, but also to make sure that we attract committed members who reflect the rich diversity of our community and its needs and desires. Fellowship is a key component of being a Rotarian. We are all looking for meaningful friendships with like-minded individuals. It is the responsibility of every member to welcome, mentor and engage the new members and encourage them to take on more interesting and challenging roles in the Club in line with their own time and interests. And above all, we need to continue to have fun while pursuing “Service Above Self”!

Neil's Rib Fest Adventure

— by Past President Neil Phillips

When I said I was looking to build partnerships last year, little did I know what this would entail! Over the Canada Day Weekend, there were 35+ volunteers from this Club who put in 550+ hours of volunteering over four days. I had the onerous personal responsibility of helping judge all 16 Ribbers for their BBQ chicken, pulled pork and ribs. I also was forced to perform taxing PR duties with Pinball Clemons, Miss Teen Ontario and Miss Teen Canada.

Pat Neuman agreed to take on the initial organisation of this initiative and Jai Persaud was our weekend coordinator. He was with me 12 hours each and every day, keeping everyone in line. On Sunday, he became a well-deserved Rotary Warrior. I am delighted to report that our Club's net proceeds were \$65,000. This in addition to the same amount going to the Rotary Club of Etobicoke and monies being provided to the Toronto Sunrise Club, who were gracious enough to help us staff the weekend. Thank you to all who came out and brought friends. I am looking forward to seeing even more of you next year!



Pulled Pork Judging! Past President Neil Phillips brings home the bacon: \$65,000 worth for our Club!



Past President Neil and Rotary Warrior Jai Persaud meet some new friends



Past President Neil and Michael “Pinball” Clemons

**JOIN ROTARY
NOW!**

www.rotarytoronto.com

The Rotary Club of Toronto
65th Annual

– Golf Tournament –

Join us on
Thursday August 22nd,
at
The Richmond Hill Golf Club

Registration is now open on the
Rotary Website: **CLICK HERE**

Please contact Mathew Harrison,
(416) 868-3578
mharrison@burgundyasset.com

Proceeds to Princess
Margaret Cancer Foundation
in support of club and
golf committee member
Diane Watson

Sponsors and Donations
Needed



Upcoming Speakers & Events

July 2013

- 19 Andrée Cazabon, Gemini Nominee and filmmaker
- 26 Michael Shapcott, Director of Housing and Innovation, Wellesley Institute

August 2013

- 2 No Meeting, Simcoe Day Weekend
- 9 TBA
- 16 Chris Snyder, Author, "Be Smart With Your Money"
- 22 Club's 65th Annual Golf Tournament
- 23 Valerie Wafer, Governor, Rotary District 7070
- 30 No Meeting, Labour Day Weekend

Propose a Speaker
Peter Simmie, Chair

Program Committee
peter.simmie@bristolgate.com

Editor of the Week
John Andras

Editor for July 19, 2013
Jeff Dobson

What You Missed Reporter for July 12, 2013
Susan Howson

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter:
voice@abacusconsultingservices.ca

Why You Should Always Read Rotary Emails or Sailing on Toronto Brigantine's Playfair

– by Lorna & Cliff Johnson



If you are like us, every single day of the week your Inbox fills up with emails. But reading emails from Rotary is worth putting at the front of your daily To-Do List. About a month ago an email from Jeff Dobson came popping into our Inbox. On a whim, we opened it; Jeff told the story of how The Rotary Club of Toronto helped Toronto Brigantine buy its new engines and how, in thanks for that, a select number of VIP Rotarians, on a first-come-first-served basis, were going to be taken out on a three hour tour on the June 15th. Leaving Gilligan's Island jokes aside, we thought WOW! FUN! YES! So, we hit the Reply button and booked ourselves in.

The day was brilliant. T-Shirt weather but not too hot. After a safety tour we set sail. The interesting thing about this program is that apart from the captains, the whole crew and staff are all volunteers. This is one of the last Tall Ship sailing programs for youths in the world. Each summer they take 18 local teens, from 12 to 18 years old, out for camps lasting from one to several weeks, where the trainees learn to be sailors. They learn leadership, discipline, and team work. Most of the trainees pay for the experience, but about one-quarter of them receive bursaries based on need.

Those who develop an interest and show a flair for sailing often apply to come back as crew. The crew spends the entire summer taking kids on sailing/camping trips. In many ways it is like Camp Scugog, but with a twist of learning to deal with the fickleness, deadliness and beauty of nature on a grander scale. In addition to the sailing, the crew volunteer all year long, maintaining the boat and making parts. The mast for the Playfair was actually built by the crew that took us out on our voyage. The crew, most of whom are high school students, were brilliant. They involved all of us in tasks suitable to our skills and inclination. Several brave souls climbed up to the top of the mast to capture the view. After a bit of waiting around for the wind to pick up, we finally experienced the exhilarating feeling of a Tall Ship flying through the waters of Lake Ontario, past Billy Bishop airport and out to, thankfully, pretty calm waters.

We learned that our Rotary Club had actually financed the first engine for the Playfair 40 years ago; so when the ship needed a new engine, they thought of us. We also met the sailor who was nominated by the Executive Officers and selected by the Captains as the best sailor of last year. He won a paid trip to work on a Tall Ship in Europe, with an adult crew. So, for all those people who have lost faith in our youth, you should have opened your email and you missed a pleasant afternoon and a wonderful learning opportunity.



Toronto Brigantine's Playfair

Calgary Flood Relief

– by Past President Neil Phillips



Two weeks ago I sent everyone an update regarding the situation in Alberta, and how our Club might be able to help our friends in Alberta. Over the past fortnight I have been in discussions with President Doug MacDonald of The Rotary Club of Calgary, and District Governor Pat Killorian from D5360, finding out what their plans were as they started the recovery process. On Friday, July 5th I was pleased to announce that our Board passed a motion to send \$10,000 in relief funds to assist. These funds will be allocated to local Rotary Club projects to help needy persons in the afflicted areas rebuild their lives. Many thanks to the Board for their support of this relief.

The 2013 - 2014 Board of Directors of The Rotary Club of Toronto



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What You Missed, July 5, 2013 – Passing the Gavel!

– by Lorna and Cliff Johnson

Talk about mixed emotions! At The National Club there was a veritable cognitive dissonance of Rotarian proportions, sad that Neil was leaving and ecstatic that Richard was ascending the throne. Witnesses to this momentous occasion included Neil's brother, and his friends, old and new. There were 16 guests, eight visiting Rotarians and three Rotaractors attending the ceremony, reflecting the success of one of Neil's key goals as president: to improve the collaboration between The Rotary Club of Toronto and the other Clubs in our region.



Outgoing Past President Neil Phillips pins incoming President Richard White

The passing of the gavel and the President's pin was filled with the memories of all the events of the Centennial year and the expectations of the next 100 years. The fact that Rotarian Presidents are Presidents-in-Waiting for three years is amazing and is one of the only ways you could be prepared for the breadth of the responsibility, particularly for a Club of our size! To help Richard cope with the reams of data needing to be crunched to run the Club, Neil awarded him with a slide rule! It was heartwarming and inspirational to hear from the new Rotaract Club of Toronto President, Natila Demneri, how President Neil redefined and strengthened the relationship between our Club and Rotaract. Just think of how experienced these young future Rotarians will be when they join our Club! She awarded Neil with an Honorary Rotaract membership and named him Rotaract Warrior par excellence!



Past President Neil becomes an Honourary Rotaractor and is pinned by Rotaractor Out-Going President Natila Demneri

As Neil joined the ranks of the Past Presidents Club, you could tell there was an element of shared reflection when Past President Sandy Boucher gave his insight to Neil about the year to come. We are sure that after such an event-packed Centennial Year, Neil will suffer separation anxiety but for only a short period of time, as he has already agreed to spread his inspiration and service ethos throughout the region as assistant Governor Rotary District 7070 and Co-Chair Rotaract, Rotary District 7070! In reflecting on the events of the past year Neil awarded Paul Matthews from Consul Media a Paul Harris Fellow for producing the Spirit of Rotary DVD and the updated club History Book. Neil named Jai Persaud a Rotary Warrior for his onsite organisation and 12 hour shifts at Rib Fest. Photographer Brynn Campbell became a Rotary Warrior for volunteering as photographer at the Centennial Gala. Phil Mamas became a Rotary Warrior for his ongoing graphic design work on our weekly Rotary Voice. Neil singled out Belli and Carol as well for recognition as Rotary Warriors for all their work under virtually impossible conditions.



Past President Neil learns the benefits of being a Past President from Past President Sandy Boucher

Then, in a series of testimonials about the contribution to the Club that he has made this past year both personally and through inspiration and leadership, Neil received a trophy with a pig on top to commemorate the Rib Fest, a yearbook of Rotary Voices, a Past President Pin, a Gavel Plaque, and a voucher for travel so that he can take a well earned and much needed rest. On the Club's behalf, Neil accepted from the District Governor a Rotary International Foundation Award for the highest per

capita donation by any club in the district AND a District Award for producing the best club bulletin for our Voice. (Ed Note: Congratulations go to our fabulous Voice Team!)

We should all be proud of Neil and be able to rest assured that Neil's personal touch in guiding our Club over the past year will continue uninterrupted in the well-deserved role of Past President. As a demonstration of his reintegration into the rank and file of membership, Neil managed to pick his own Ace of Clubs Ticket and gave himself a bottle of wine! A maestro to the end! And we suspect that next year he will need to advocate for his own Presidential Pardon – now that Harvey is the holder of the Inaugural Centennial Presidential Pardon, a new Club tradition has been born!



Sylvia Geist holds a bound copy of the Centennial Year Rotary Voices, presented to Past President Neil as a memento of an amazing year



Past President Neil receives a cheque for \$65,000.00 from the Rotary Club of Etobicoke for our participation at Rib Fest

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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