

ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

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Today's Speaker

John Ralston Saul

Topic

Changing Canada: The Remarkable Comeback of Aboriginal Peoples.

Location

The Imperial Room, The Fairmont Royal York



An award-winning essayist and novelist, John Ralston Saul has had a growing impact on political and economic thought in many countries. Declared a "prophet" by TIME magazine, his fourteen

works include his philosophical trilogy: *Voltaire's Bastards: The Dictatorship of Reason in the West*, *The Doubter's Companion: A Dictionary of Aggressive Common Sense* and *The Unconscious Civilization*. They have been translated into more than twenty languages in over thirty countries. He won widespread acclaim in 2005 for *The Collapse of Globalism*, which among other things foresaw the global financial crisis of 2008.

In his national bestseller, *A Fair Country: Telling Truths about Canada*, Saul argued that Canada is a métis nation, heavily influenced and shaped by aboriginal ideas: egalitarianism, a proper balance between individual and groups, and a penchant for negotiation over violence are all aboriginal values that Canada absorbed. He has received many national and international awards for his writing, such as Chile's Pablo Neruda Medal, South Korea's Manhae Prize, and the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction Literature. He serves as General Editor of Penguin Canada's Extraordinary Canadians series of books, to which he also contributed a double biography of Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine and Robert Baldwin, and as co-Chair of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, a national organization working with new citizens.

A long-time champion of freedom of expression, he was re-elected to a second term as President of PEN International in October 2012. His latest book, *Dark Diversions*, is his fifth novel in English, and the first in twenty-four years.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



The Rotary Club of Toronto is donating in excess of \$1,000,000 to local and international agencies during our Centennial Year.



Please join us at a
**Special Friday
Centennial Luncheon**
on April 12, 2013
at The Fairmont Royal York
Ontario Room

Guest Speaker: **Ms. Megan Campbell**

Consultant, Aid Advocacy & Sustainable Strategies

"The End of Water Projects: A Vision for Sustainable Water Services"

Ms. Megan Campbell led the Water and Sanitation venture in Malawi for Engineers Without Borders. She has over a decade of experience in international development and advocacy in Canada, Africa and Asia. Megan holds a degree in Systems Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo and now works as an independent consultant helping leading-edge Canadian organizations create powerful strategies for social change. Megan specializes in helping African government institutions find practical ways to increase the sustainability of their water and sanitation services.



The \$100,000 Award will be presented to
Bakong Technical College
Siem Reap, Cambodia



The Rotary Club of Toronto is partnering with Bakong Technical College in Cambodia to build a vocational school whose mission is to serve the rural community of Siem Reap. The building of this College will provide the Khmer people with important vocational training and skills. On completion, there will be approximately 300 young people who will seek employment in tourism and environmental protection. Its courses will include English, computer training, cooking, hospitality training, green design, fish farming, agriculture, micro credit and bicycle repairs. BTC is the realization of Ronnie Yimsut's dream of bringing much needed education to the young people of his country.

Ronnie Yimsut will be present to accept the award.

Registration 12:00 p.m. | Lunch 12:15 p.m. | Cost \$38.00 per ticket

Tel: 416.363.0604 | Email: office@rotarytoronto.on.ca | www.rotarytoronto.com

Happy Nowruz! Happy Spring! from Massood Mashadi

The first day on the Iranian calendar falls on the March equinox, the first day of spring, around 21 March. At the time of the equinox, the sun is observed to be directly over the equator, and the north and south poles of the Earth lie along the solar terminator; sunlight is evenly divided between the north and south hemispheres. In c. the 11th century CE major reforms of Iranian calendars took place and whose principal purpose was to fix the beginning of the calendar year, i.e. Nowruz, at the vernal equinox. Accordingly, the definition of Nowruz given by the Iranian scientist ūsī was the following: "the first day of the official new year [Nowruz] was always the day on which the sun entered Aries before noon".

(Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowruz>)



Welcome New Member Cliff Johnson!



Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Cliff spent the first 30 years of his life on the West Coast living in California, Oregon and Washington. He attended the University of Oregon, Northwestern Law School at Lewis & Clark, and was admitted to the Oregon Bar. After managing his own "Fly-By-Night" law office, where he flew from his own personal airstrip to his clients' sites, he moved to Australia in 1988. While in Australia, Cliff also developed the love for espresso coffee – both in serving and roasting – and he trained in Australia with master coffee roasters and master baristas. Cliff's portfolio business career has spanned the law, (he obtained a Master of Laws at the University of Melbourne), food manufacturing and executive search. These days when asked, Cliff describes himself as a youth worker, originating from when he transplanted his 12 year old son from New York City to Melbourne, Australia. Based on this experience, and his interest in identifying the point in a young person's life where society could intervene and break the generational cycle of crime and poverty, Cliff left the business world to work with at-risk kids in custody and "pre-custody" children of generational poverty in schools and pre-schools. In 2011 Cliff and his wife/Rotary Sponsor, Lorna, decided to come back to North America via the U.S. to be closer to family. He joined the Rotary Club of Freeport, Maine, in 2012, from which he is transferring. Settling into Toronto, Cliff intends to keep up his work with kids but also to embark on a career of roasting and retailing Australian Style Coffee. He is looking forward to contributing to the Rotary Club of Toronto, particularly in serving underprivileged youth, and on the Scholarship Committee, as he has a passion for mentoring.

Remembering How Rotary Began Growing

– by John Talman



During our Centennial year we have lost a few members and gained many more. At our special luncheon at the King Edward Hotel, I spoke to both Vlad Kavan and Pat Anderson. Though almost blind, Pat knew my voice, recognized me first and called out "John, how the heck are you!" Both Vlad and Pat are gone now but our fond memories of them stay with us. On different occasions back in the late 1990s when the History Committee was working on our book, both these members asked me the same question: Why did it take so long for Rotary to start expanding? I would give them a short explanation that though Paul Harris wanted to grow Rotary, many members in the Chicago Club were not as enthusiastic. Thus three and one half years after its founding in 1905, the movement had not yet spread from Chicago.

In June 1908 a new member of the Chicago Club and friend of Paul Harris, Manuel Munoz, was sent to San Francisco in the interest of his firm. Shortly after his arrival Manuel had a chance meeting with a young lawyer named Homer Wood. Over supper they talked of many things including a new kind of business and civic club called Rotary that had been formed in Chicago. Munoz had no written material with him but he gave the name of Paul Harris as the one to contact. Homer got in touch quickly with Paul who most obligingly sent a reply and

a copy of the Chicago Bylaws. In the summer and fall of 1908 Homer kept in constant touch with Paul Harris. An organizing committee was formed by Homer to find enough suitable San Franciscans and to make arrangements for the founding of a Rotary Club there. On November 12, 1908, with Homer as temporary chairman, a meeting was held at the St. Francis Hotel where Homer was unanimously elected President. Congratulatory telegrams were read by Homer from Paul P. Harris and B. F. Arntzen, President and Secretary respectively of the Chicago Rotary Club. Thus San Francisco became Club No. 2 in Rotary. Homer continued the expansion of Rotary and it is interesting to note that Club No. 3 was Oakland, Club No. 4 Seattle, and No. 5 Los Angeles – all began in 1909! New York and Boston were organized later in 1909, and Tacoma was No. 8 in February 1910. We have continued to grow since that time and we should all be proud to be members of such a great service club. One hundred years ago – on May 1, 1913 – there were 75 clubs (including our Toronto Club 55) in the United States, Canada and the British Isles, with a membership of 8209. And we have continued to grow!

Author's Note: Source for much of the material in this article comes from the 1940 hard cover book "History Rotary Club of San Francisco" given to me as a present from Eleanor McGrath at her annual Christmas party in Toronto.

Rotary International has designated March as Literacy Month: Healthy Beginnings Committee Promotes Literacy in the Community

– by Jackie Davies, Committee Chair



For the past six years the Healthy Beginnings Committee has focussed on assisting agencies that provide literacy and numeracy programs. The Committee has made donations to Flemingdon Park (for their reading circles through Frontier College) and members have participated in reading to pre-schoolers, to programming of the Storytellers (June Brown), and from our budget we provide books and counting games in the canvas bags. We have made donations to The Dolly Parton

Imagination Library for children living in St. Jamestown who have received a book once a month for a year. The Committee has arranged for the Club to donate a book once a month to an aboriginal child (through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library) in honour of our speakers. We have been fortunate to have been given donations of books and games from Joe Amato, John Andras, John Fortney, Kevin Power and Paul Truelove. If you have any good used books for children aged 0-6, please drop them off at the Rotary office.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

All You Have To Do Is Ask – by Michele Guy



How much does Bert Steenburgh enjoy Rotary? What about Susan Hunter? Why do you think Lindsay Hooper joined? How come Jim Norwood is always around? Because they enjoy the time they spend with the rest of us! Membership in our Club is about being with other members and enjoying that time. Sure we do good work, and we are having an amazing year making many people's lives better. We look after others as we would expect to be looked after. But we wouldn't do it if we didn't enjoy it. After another great lunch with a very good speaker the other day, one of the guys in our Club said "This club is so amazing, I feel like applying again". Imagine! Imagine that you realize that you belong to such an amazing group of people you would want to apply again! Why don't you ask someone else to join this amazing group. You will be happy you did, and so will they.

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com



Friday March 22 is World Water Day!

World Water Summit 2013 - June 21 in Lisbon, Portugal

Immediately before the Rotary International Convention

This is the fifth annual World Water Summit. Experts from the world community will address vital health, sanitation and water issues. Sessions will range from in-depth discussions for the experienced Rotarian to WASH 101, a forum for Rotarians newer to water and sanitation projects. For information or to register go to:



www.wasrag.org
or www.startwithwater.org

The time has come to rethink the future of Wasrag. The Board of Directors has reflected on the lessons learned from Wasrag's first six years of operation. This experience is reflected in the new structure. To all our members - we thank you for your loyal support during the sometimes difficult years of our evolution. Now we are poised for an exciting new future. Please learn about the plan and think how you could be a part of it. There will be many new roles, requiring a very diverse set of skills as we go forward. In the next few weeks we will be conducting a survey of Wasrag's members to solicit your views on our role and how we can best meet your needs. In the meantime, for more information contact David Libby (djlibby@sympatico.ca) or Wasrag's Future. (info@wasrag.org)

A Rotary Success Story

— by Chris Snyder

In 2006, the first Rotarians & Friends Sweat Equity team visited Tanzania. Our primary work was to help to refurbish a school at Kilema. Since then nine teams have gone and worked on over six schools in the area. Kilema has been very hard hit with HIV/AIDS to the point where approximately 20% of the children are AIDS orphans. While primary education is free, books and uniforms are still needed. Secondary school is not free. Members of the teams are providing funds annually for what is now about 105 marginalized children so they can go on to secondary school. We have now entered into a partnership with Canadian Support of Rural African Initiatives (CSRAI) which oversees the program, organizes and monitors the quality of education and results. To date, secondary and post-secondary schooling has been provided to approximately 300 children who otherwise would have dropped out after Standard 8. The money has been provided by the Trump/AIDS Walk and efforts of former team members including Pat Snyder, and Steve Truelove and Jeff Kawzenuk through their schools in Port Hope and Brighton. Paul Truelove and Jackie Davies have also been big contributors. On February 16th, a fundraiser was held at Paul's house. This has raised over \$7,200.

The cost of schooling is about \$200/child (almost \$15,000/year). This program deserves to keep going! To be part of this success story, to provide education for one child or more, please make your cheque payable to CSRAI. Send to Jackie Davies, 54 Somerdale Square, Toronto, ON M1E 1N1. 100% of the proceeds will go to the children's schooling.

TrumpAids Walk 2013

is Saturday, April 27
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Join a team or donate

Go to

www.trumpaidstoronto.ca

For more information, email
maureen@trumpaidst.ca
In three years our Club
has raised \$5,000 for our
AIDS charities.

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: Neil Phillips
President-Elect: Richard White
Vice President: Steven Smith
Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director:

Carol Bieser

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation:

Robert Smith, President

Editor of the Week:

Massood Mashadi

Editor for April 5, 2013:

Joseph Pochodyniak

What You Missed Reporter for Next Week:

Bob Cartledge

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?

Submit an Article to the Voice Newsletter:

voice@AbacusConsultingServices.ca

Upcoming Speakers & Events

March 2013

29 Good Friday, No Meeting

April 2013

- 5 Pia Søltøft, Professor, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, University of Copenhagen
- 12 Centennial Award Lunch, Bakong Technical College; Meagan Campbell, Consultant, Aid Advocacy and Sustainable Strategies; International Services Committee,
- 19 David Raymont, President, York Pioneer and Historical Society
- 26 David Naylor, President, University of Toronto

May 2013

- 3 Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- 10 Centennial Award Lunch, Arts For Children & Youth; Steve Paiken, TVO Producer; Rotaractors
- 23 Club Centennial Gala

Propose a Speaker

Peter Simmie, Chair

Program Committee

peter.simmie@bristolgate.com



Ping Pong on February 27th – A Toronto Adventure

– by Terry Wray



It all started on King Street West as 16 Rotary fun-seekers searched for a location beside a bar and down an alley. The falling rain and snow added to this adventure. This Ping Pong idea evolved from some creative Americans that included Susan Sarandon and their creation “SPiN Galactic”. It is spreading the love of Ping Pong across the globe. The basement venue was comfortable with lots of tables and a bar area producing drinks and a variety of creative food items. Rohit organized everyone as they arrived and friendly practice sessions began. It became clear there were big differences in experience and ability, but the field was more level as

we ordered food. The Sloppy Joes made from lamb and the grilled cheese with crispy pork belly were great, as was the Slow n’ Low Beef Ribs.

As the individual competitions started, it became clear there were serious players among us – revealed as they removed their personal Ping Pong bats from embossed cases with special materials on the bat surface that you are not allowed to touch. Early on the stronger male players started to express themselves as they maintained long rallies with the girls but quickly pounded the weaker males into submission. Ping Pong has its many styles: the “bullet” (the straight to the face approach of Bert); the “dancing ballerina”

(Elaine Wray’s style); a very sophisticated “spin” method (used by Rohit and Amik); and the “changing shoes” technique (used by charming Dina). It was not an evening without casualties; in the match between elegant Mario and the fast and furious Bert, the trainers were called in to treat Mario’s dislocated shoulder! Rohit, Dina and the Fellowship Committee did a great job in pulling this evening together. Everyone had a great time in a relaxed fun environment and there were some well deserved winners and good prizes. Be aware though, if you want to be a winner, you will likely need your own personalized bat with a sticky surface!

What You Missed March 15, 2013

– by Lori Brazier



My hat goes off to guest speaker Howard Wetston, CEO of Ontario’s Securities Commission, for an interesting talk on securities regulation. It was definitely a credit to his passion! We’ve all lived through the troubled times following the collapse of Lehmann Brothers and the various financial crises. Mr. Weston’s exposé described how our province’s Securities Commission, along with others throughout the G20 world, have broadened their focus beyond the traditional investment vehicles – such as stocks in publically traded companies and government bonds (which probably all of us have in our portfolios) – to trading in derivatives, ETF’s and asset securitization, all complex products traded outside the stock exchange. To further complicate

matters, trade is international – crossing into jurisdictions with varying degrees of regulation, involving foreign currencies (some unstable) and, most importantly, increased levels of risk and speculation. Derivatives and asset securitization are alternatives to IPO’s and other stock offerings, for raising capital. They are popular because there is typically less red tape and more flexibility. The Securities Commission’s interest lies in finding ways to control and reduce the risk inherent with unbridled speculation and unscrupulous actions or fraud on the part of either those seeking capital or investors. There is a need for standards, benchmarks, transparency and responsibility, claims Mr. Wetston, so that capital will continue to flow and ultimately fuel the economy. We cannot and should not eliminate risk in business

and trade – but the risk should not arise from wrongdoing or unethical behaviour.

We would need at least a day with Mr. Wetston to really appreciate what the Commission has cooking...and more than this Voice article to do justice to the topic! If anything, we can now read the financial pages with a little more wisdom. In other news, our Rotary family guest was a Rotarator from Spain – Daniel Valladolid – most fitting in Rotaract Week! New member Lorna Johnson, introduced her husband, Cliff, as our newest member – one week after being inducted herself. Wow! Gary Williams took home the wine in the Ace of Clubs draw, so the pot is intact and the suspense builds with only a few cards left in the pack.



Inner Wheel News Annual Bridge Luncheon

Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, April 24th at Islington Golf Club. Come for coffee at 10. Bridge begins promptly at 10:30. Non-bridge players most welcome to join us for cash bar at 12:30 and lunch at 1 p.m. Send your cheque (\$32 includes bridge, lunch & prizes) made out to Dorothy Martin, Suite 903, 2010 Islington Ave, Toronto M9P 3S8.

Correction: Pardon us! In the March 15th Voice, the article on the Peace Symposium was authored by Maureen Bird and not Richard White. Thanks Maureen!

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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