

Today's Program

Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins

Topic

Resisting the Globalization of Indifference

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street



Cardinal Thomas Collins is one of Toronto's prominent citizens and leaders. He was born in Guelph, Ontario on January 16, 1947 and was ordained and entered spiritual life forty years ago in Hamilton, Ontario. He has

an educational background in English with a Bachelor's degree from Waterloo and Master's degree from Western. He also studied in Rome where he obtained his Doctorate in Theology. He served as Bishop of Saint Paul, Alberta and Archbishop of Edmonton from 1997 to 2006 before being appointed Archbishop of Toronto in January 2007.

Two years ago on February 18, 2012, Collins was elevated to the College of Cardinals in Rome, becoming the fourth Cardinal in the history of the archdiocese of Toronto and 16th in Canadian history. He was one of two Canadian Cardinals who participated in the Conclave of 115 Cardinals who elected Pope Francis I on March 13, 2013 and he has been named a special advisor to Pope Francis at a time of change and renewal.

The archdiocese of Toronto stretches from the shores of Lake Ontario north to Georgian Bay. It includes 225 parishes and 594 schools and represents a community of 2,000,000 people. St Michael's Cathedral, Cardinal Collins' home parish, is located in the core of downtown Toronto and serves 36 ethnic and linguistic communities. He is Chancellor at the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. He is also a Trustee of Share Life, whose annual fundraising goal is 12 million dollars to provide 354,000 services to over 96,000 people in need and also assists in developing countries around the world.

Toronto Rotary Food Initiative Forum

– by Richard White



With the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto a little over four years away, the Toronto Rotary clubs met over a year ago to try and find a project in the city that some or all of the clubs could get involved with. After some discussion seven clubs, including The Rotary Club of Toronto, decided to move forward with what has become the Toronto Rotary Food Initiative. This project would focus on child hunger and nutrition, which is one of the great challenges facing our city and our youth.

Last Friday, April 4, 2014, an expert forum was held at the National Club and included 25 individuals representing many groups interested in and trying to deal with this issue. The purpose of the Forum was to identify areas where the interested Rotary clubs might get involved and make a difference. This forum was very informative and inspirational.

A healthy breakfast is the key to nutritional health.

- People who skip breakfast tend to have higher daily intakes of fat, cholesterol and energy and lower intakes of fibre, vitamins and minerals.
- Skipping breakfast increases with age – 24% of grade 4 children do not eat breakfast, by grade 8, 47% of girls and 33% of boys skip breakfast.
- Skipping breakfast is more prevalent in, but certainly not limited to, lower income families (about 1 in 6 children and youth in Ontario live in poverty).

Currently, in 2013-2014, there are 699 student-nutrition programs covering 152,500 students in Toronto. These programs have the following impact:

- Improve diet outside the school
- Reduce obesity and chronic disease
- Improve attendance, alertness and class participation
- Improve test scores in math, sciences and reading
- Reduce behavior problems and dropout rates
- Level the playing field
- Provide job skills training for students, parents and volunteers

The programs with the most impact have the following attributes:

- A free universal morning meal served around 10:00 am in the classrooms provided all students with the best opportunity to benefit.
- Students, irrespective of gender, socio-economic, or cultural backgrounds benefited equally.
- School meals provided in the foyer tended to restrict student participation and in-class meals raised participation by 50%.

The benefits of these programs seem obvious and overwhelming. The cost is less than \$2.50 per student per day.

What are the challenges that these programs face?

- Schools see this as a health issue not a school issue
- Funding needs to be increased
- Getting nutrition into the school curriculum to educate students and parents
- Need more volunteers – individual and corporate
- Extend the program to preschool and expectant mothers
- Dealing with this issue on weekends and in summers



The challenge for us as Rotarians is to determine if and how can we help, and where can we have the most impact. Stay tuned for future progress on this initiative. As things move forward we will be looking for club members and club committees to get involved in this exciting initiative.



What You Missed April 4th, 2014

– by Susan Howson



Some announcements came first:

- Committee chairs please advise Carol of your attendance at the orientation meeting April 24th. If you're not able to attend provide the name of the committee member representing you.
- Michele Guy made an excellent pitch to attend the Camp weekend. The food is fantastic. The work is hard but of great benefit to the Camp, but what the weekend is really about is creating friends for life.
- Jay Littlejohn promoted the April 10th R2R meeting at the National Club. Here's a chance to network and get to know your fellow Rotarians. This could help you become more successful in your business and we all know successful people are generous in helping others. Thus, you and Rotary both win.

Alex Brown then introduced our guest speaker, Karen Stintz. Her topic: "A better tomorrow." Karen stated that she hoped that the ballot question for the mayoral vote would be, "Who do you trust to build the city that we want?" rather than a referendum on Rob Ford.



Karen Stintz and Richard White

Our city is a wonderful safe place to live and work. Toronto has grown to 2.7 million people; unfortunately the infrastructure has not kept up to the growth in populace. The biggest issue is congestion and lack of good transit. To build a better city we need to have people getting where they need to go. There should be a czar of transit to manage and co-ordinate the TTC and our roads.

After Karen's talk, there was plenty of time for questions.

- Gardiner tear down? Maybe it should be reconfigured to serve other neighbourhoods better.
- Porter Jets? The airport is a great asset for the city and needs to grow. But we also need to protect our neighborhoods and make sure the city does not get stuck with costs.
- Social safety net? Spend money to support food programs in schools. Give support to families with young children.
- Youth jobs? Companies are moving back into the city. We need to reduce the red tape for small entrepreneurs to start up business. Municipal forms are often the same as the provincial ones, but have a different layout. Filling them out multiple times is a waste of time and money. More companies mean more jobs.
- Condo development? What is enough? We may be there now and need to protect our neighbourhoods.

The Ace of Clubs draw had \$3,131.00 in the pot, but Neil Phillips only took the wine home.

Tax Time

As April the 30th approaches, it is appropriate to remember a quote from Mark Twain. "The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin." Look for loopholes.

Upcoming Speakers & Events

April 2014

- 18 Easter, no meeting
- 25 David Phillips speaking on Earth Day at the Albany Club

May 2014

- 2 Major General Richard Rohmer
- 9 Bob Howard, CEO St. Michael's Hospital
- 16 No Meeting
- 23 Camp Scugog Fellowship Lunch

Events

- April 6 Trump Aids Poker Walk
- May 23-25 Camp Scugog
- Jun 28-Jul 1 Rib-Fest

Propose a Speaker
Peter Simmie, Chair

Program Committee
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Editor of the Week
Don Bell

Editor April 25th, 2014
John Andras

What You Missed Reporter, April 11th
Garrick Ngai

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