

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

Centennial Luncheon Program

The Ballroom, C Level, The Fairmont Royal York

Featuring : Guest Speaker ZACH PAIKIN



Zach Paikin is a grassroots Liberal activist who recently contested the position of National Policy Chair of the Liberal Party. Zach graduated from McGill University with a BA in Middle East Studies and Political Science and is pursuing his Masters in Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. He serves on the board of directors of the Mount Royal Liberal Association and has spent years working on numerous Liberal campaigns across the country and engaging in the policy process.

Zach has years of experience in organizing for charitable causes. His work over the past several years with CFL Fans Fight Cancer and the Les Bartley Fund, among other groups, has helped raise tens of thousands for cancer research and treatment centres across Canada, notably the Princess Margaret Hospital, the Wellwood Resource Centre, the Segal Cancer Centre, the Wellspring Cancer Support Network and more. Zach has also spent time advocating and raising funds for global victims of genocide.

In recent years, Zach has spent time as a featured columnist and political commentator for various national and international media outlets, defending liberal causes whenever given the opportunity. In particular, he is a regular guest on Toronto's Newstalk 1010 and is an editor at Fair Observer, an international multimedia journal. He continues to contribute research to several Washington-based think tanks, focusing on issues related to international security and Canadian and American foreign policy. He is also a columnist for Canada's iPolitics and a regular blogger for the Huffington Post Canada.

Highlighting: The Rotary Club of Toronto Centennial Award of \$100,000 will be given to Youth Employment Services YES
for its innovative program, The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment : Job Camp

The Rotary Club of Toronto's Centennial Project will partially fund The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment: Job Camp whose goal is to help at-risk and disadvantaged youth for three years and will be housed at Youth Employment Centre YES. Job Camp is housed within the newly named Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment at 511 Richmond Street West.

The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment: Job Camp is an innovative program, that provides support to multi-barrier youth in jeopardy of being unemployed long-term. Two weeks of group and individual learning are followed by job placement. Job Camp is an inner city place program that allows youth to have fun, make new friends and learn new life skills. This model teaches the participants many ways to find work.

Over the years, the success of the program has flourished. Job Camp is a citywide program where many other agencies refer youth. It is a flagship program for YES. Just like summer camp, Job Camp focuses on giving the most disadvantaged youth an engaging experience that is never forgotten. Job Camp provides meals, TTC tickets and help with job appropriate clothing. The participants learn comprehensive employability and methods of sustaining long-term employment.



Members of The Rotary Club of Toronto and Youth Employment Services YES personnel.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUTH & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Author: Michael Morgan (RCT committee historian)



Our committee initially began its work as the Children's Crippled Children's Committee which was renamed to Children's Service Committee. In 1997, that committee joined forces with the Youth Service Committee and became the Youth and Children's Service Committee.

Christmas parties for disadvantaged youngsters have always been an important item in our Committee's annual calendar. The first recorded Rotary Children's Christmas party was held on Dec. 23, 1919 and the event grew increasingly popular. In 1940, 683 physically challenged children and their families went to the Royal York Hotel to see Santa and give him their Christmas wishes. The tradition of the Children's Christmas Party continues today, with Rotarian volunteers pitching in to ensure hundreds of disadvantaged children and their families have a memorable day.

Juvenile delinquency amongst boys was always a concern of Rotary and in the early 1920s, we established 11 boys clubs with the assistance of more than 200 volunteers. About 500 boys participated in Saturday afternoon outings. During the depression years, "boys work" was once again emphasized, with the club working in conjunction with Big Brothers, Boy Scouts and various schools to prevent teenagers from becoming "idle and delinquent."

In 1956, a sub-committee of the club's Youth Service Committee was established to assist the probationary staff of the Magistrates Court with the rehabilitation of young first offenders. The Committee subsequently became the Probationers Aid Committee and during the early '60s, in conjunction with the Salvation Army, devoted much of its activities to working with young probationers

In 1966, the club opened the **Paul Harris Lodge**, which had 12 rooms for young probationers. The committee also proposed amendments to the Young Offenders Act, three of which were accepted by a House of Commons committee studying juvenile delinquency.

Unemployed youth was another concern of club members. Wanting to assist young people who were seeking a job, the Youth Service Committee in 1968 decided to fund and establish **Youth Employment Service YES**.

Another early initiative of our club was the 1921 establishment of **Bolton Camp** to provide much needed vacation time for mothers and children from the poorer sections of the city. In 1922, more than 1,000 children, many of them living in dreadful conditions, went to Bolton to experience a real two- or three-week summer holiday at the camp.



Camp Enterprise, held annually at Bolton Camp, was an important initiative of the Youth Service Committee in the late '70s, designed to expose teens to various aspects of the business world. Between 70 and 80 young people were selected by city high schools to enjoy a weekend camp experience, with Rotarians acting as facilitators for activities such as negotiating a labour contract.

Summer camps continued to be a focus for Rotary over the decades, and in 1942 it initiated the **Blue Mountain Camp** work weekend for club members. The camp may have changed – we now go to **Camp Scugog** — but the May work weekend continues to attract our members.

By 1922, the **Crippled Children's Committee** was actively at work providing wheelchairs and other aids for physically disabled children. By the '40s, the spread of polio amongst youngsters was a major concern of the city and the committee was active in providing assistance to the sufferers. Little did they know how heavily involved Rotary International would one day become in eradicating the disease world-wide.



During the '70s and '80s, much of the work of the Crippled Children's Committee was devoted to investigating appeals for financial support for families with physically challenged children. The appeals were referred to the Committee by the Easter Seals Society and usually involved items such as wheelchair ramps and prostheses. In 1959, the Rotary Club of Toronto constructed a **lodge** adjacent to the Crippled Children's Centre on Bayview Avenue. It served as a residence for parents of children coming from across the province for treatment at the centre.

For many years, the club enjoyed a partnership with the Easter Seals Society. It started with a joint fund-raising campaign in 1955 and for decades the two organizations collaborated on projects such as the Children's Christmas Party, Blue Mountain Camp and the annual Easter Seals Telethon.

A highlight for the Rotary Club of Toronto was its sponsorship and subsequent chartering of the **Rotaract Club of Toronto** in February 1980. **The University of Toronto Rotaract Club** came into being a short time later and the club has maintained an association with these two important organizations ever since.



In 1982, the club adopted as its official signature project the creation of a new home for the **West End Creche**. Since 1909, this organization had been doing remarkable work treating emotionally disturbed pre-school children in cramped and out-dated premises. The new home was opened in 1984.

Constitutional reform and the unity of the country was a concern in the early '90s and in 1991 the club responded with a unique program called **Generation 2000**. Young people were selected from communities across Canada, trained in Toronto, divided into teams and provided with vans so they could cross the country from coast to coast, promoting pride in our country. With the

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUTH & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

cooperation of 111 local Rotary Clubs, the young people visited 600 high schools and community centres.



By the mid-1990s, the major challenges for children had changed from physical disability to family break-down, guns and gang violence, bullying, and addiction to drugs and alcohol. “Urban Peace” was the rallying cry of Rotary International in 1996 and in subsequent years Toronto responded with three annual Urban Peace conferences that focused primarily on young people. Other initiatives arising from the Urban Peace conferences included: a) our association with a group of University of Toronto students (now expanded to York University) that enabled them to form Peace by Peace, teams of university students teaching conflict resolution skills to grade five students; b) our support of Leave Out Violence (LOVE), which works with young people who have been victims or perpetrators of violence, or witnesses to it and c) one-on-one school mentoring program in which members of our club, with the support of the City of Toronto, mentored grade school children on a one-hour-per-week basis.

Pine River Institute is a long-term residential treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth 13 to 19 struggling with mental health issues. This unique program received its first major funding from the Club in 2007 so that these young people did not have to be sent out of Canada for help.



The Rotary Club of Toronto, through the Youth and Children's Service Committee, continues to build partnerships with other organizations. One of these is the **Argonaut Football Club**. During the regular football season, Rotarians and volunteers from the charities they support sell tickets for the 50-50 draw that is held every game. Half the proceeds go to the winning ticket, and half to Rotary-designated charities.



For many years the committee has also been responsible for organizing our **annual Youth Day celebration** in which we proudly present our Youth Civic Leadership Awards to outstanding young people, e.g. ;our involvement in Rotary International's Youth Exchange program and our participation in District 7070's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership) program.

In conclusion, The Youth and Children's Service Committee currently meets monthly to consider youth-related projects brought to its attention by Rotarians and the community at large. Some of those considered worthy of support are given assistance from funds allotted to us by the clubs Philanthropic Fund. Requests for larger amounts are forwarded for consideration by the club's Research and Appeals Committee and the Rotary Club of Toronto Foundation.

Inner Wheel News – September birthdays

Our best wishes go to Peggy Dale on the 4th and to Pamela Libby on the 19th.



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:

David Hetherington, President

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

August 2012

- 24 **Major Centennial Speaker, Zach Paikin, Political Activist**
Youth Employment Services YES
“The Rotary Club of Toronto Centre for Youth Empowerment: Job Camp”
- 31 No meeting (Labour Day Weekend)

September 2012

- 7 Nelson Wiseman, Associate Professor of Canadian Government and Politics, University of Toronto
- 14 Major Centennial Speaker, Dr. Judith Shamian (RN, PhD), President and CEO of Victorian Order of Nurses
- 21 Claude Lamoureux, FAIR Canada
- 23 District 7070 Foundation Walk in Bowmanville

Propose a Speaker
Peter Simmie, Chair

Programme Committee
peter.simmie@bristolgate.com

Editor of the Week
Maureen Bird

Editor September 7
Greg Vermeulen



THE PIONEER SPIRIT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO: ITS SIGNIFICANCE

– Author: Nancy Schaefer, President YES



8 Rotarians Create a Unique Legacy for Our City

It all started in the 60's. The huge first wave of the baby boom generation came of age, ready to enter the work force. The labour market was not able to absorb all the unemployed youth. Coupled with the hippie generation, the streets were full of young people who had dropped out, used drugs, and had no hope or prospects for the future. Faced with unemployment and discrimination these young people presented a daunting problem to our city.

The streets of Toronto were filled with young people who couldn't get jobs. Some were homeless, many had not completed high school, and most had no direction or purpose. Street workers at the time who were involved with alienated youth of the 1960s recognized the need for specialized services and support to help these young people find work or training programs. One of these street workers had a Dad who belonged to The Rotary Club of Toronto. A youth worker,

named Wally Seccombe brought the dilemma to the RCT. Wally's father was a member of the Youth Services Committee. It was during a backyard barbeque that these 8 Rotarians put their heads together and realized that these young people needed a specialized service tailored to their individual needs. The idea for a specialized agency to help 'marginalized' and 'alienated' youth took root.

It was Rotarians Ernie Griffith, Ian McRae, George Gilmour, Norman Bell, Robert Amell, Norman Millington, Harry Graesser, Ernest Scott who incorporated Youth Employment Service YES on May 8 1968. All members of the Youth Services committee, these gentlemen created a lasting legacy that addressed the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized youth to find jobs. They had no model on which to base their ideas. Nevertheless, Youth Employment Services was created in 1968. (picture from the Centennial Beat).

RCT pledged \$15,000 for three years. These eight Rotarians became the first Board of Directors. A Director and a part-time secretary were hired in February 1969. One hundred marginalized youth were assisted

that first year. A Jobs Committee was established and many of the first employers were Rotarians In 1971.

This new and effective organization quickly became the model for the development of similar programs throughout Ontario and Canada. These founding Rotarians would be very pleased to learn that delegations from Britain, Japan, the West Indies, the Netherlands, Australia, Thailand, Egypt, Netherlands, would visit and incorporate aspects of the program into their own programs, a tribute not only to the effectiveness of the organization but to the universality of its philosophy. YES has been replicated all over the world.

Today Youth Employment Services YES has a staff of 50 in 4 locations and helps almost 4,000 youth a year. Over 110,000 have been helped with 80% success in jobs, training or education outcomes. The model created in 1968 by 8 Rotarians continues to change to a Centre of Excellence and a Champion for Youth.

What You Missed – Maureen Bird



We welcomed back President Neil from his trip who greeted us briefly in French! Mathew Harrison introduced visiting Rotarians and guests. James McAuley was elected as our new club treasurer, replacing

Harold Fisher, our treasurer for many years. Harold will continue his membership in our club.

President Neil announced a Canadian Blood Services drive to be held Monday, August 27th at the ACC from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Member Bill Gleed organized these for many years in the past.

Mathew did double duty, reminding us that it was the last chance to sign up for our golf day on Sunday, September 23, 2012. Special Rotarian guest from Bowmanville, Randy Henry, updated us on the Annual Rotary Foundation Walk.

Peter Simmie introduced our guest speaker: Marili Moore. Ms. Moore has many interests; biologist, museum collections manager, singer, and ordained Anglican Minister. She has recently spent time working on her MA in Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and developed friendships with students from all over the world. She found the issues of the Middle East very complicated, given that people from many cultures live together and wish to retain their differences. Different spoken languages, such as Hebrew and Arabic contribute to the complexity of understanding problems and finding solutions. Ms. Moore remains hopeful that peoples of the region will find a way to move forward.

The Ace of Clubs pot continues to grow with Krystyna Benyak taking home a bottle of Le Gravillas Sablet 2010 which Neil brought back from Sablet, France.

The Annual District 7070 Foundation Walk will be held in Bowmanville on Sunday, September 23, 2012. The money raised comes

back to the district to fund matching grants, both local and global, for projects initiated by Rotary clubs.

There will be two routes, a shorter one through the town and a 6.5 km route through the Bowmanville Valley. President Neil will be doing the longer walk and is being challenged by John Lloyd who claims he can finish the shorter walk in less time than it takes Neil to trek through the valley. Plan to join them. Pledge sheets will be on the table. More information is at www.rotary7070.org



The Rotary Club of Toronto

The Fairmont Royal York

100 Front Street West, Level H, Toronto, ON M5J 1E3

Tel: 416-363-0604 Fax: 416-363-0686

office@rotarytoronto.on.ca www.rotarytoronto.com

