

## Today's Program

Marilyn McHarg  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer, Dignitas International

## Topic

Ten Years of Saving Lives in Malawi  
and Beyond

## Location

Upper Canada Room, Fairmont  
Royal York



With over 20 years of diverse experience in medical care, advocacy and research, Marilyn McHarg is the President and CEO of Dignitas International, a medical and research organization dedicated to improving access to quality care and treatment for those with HIV/AIDS and related diseases in resource-limited settings.

Marilyn is a founding member of the Canadian section of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), one of the world's foremost independent medical humanitarian organizations. Marilyn spent nine years with MSF in Africa from 1991 until 2000 working as a Field Nurse in Uganda, a Training Consultant and Medical Coordinator in Sudan, and a Medical Coordinator as well as Head of Mission in South Sudan and Liberia. Following this, Marilyn served as Operational Director for MSF in The Netherlands and later as Director of Operations for MSF in Switzerland. She then spent six years as the Executive Director of MSF in Canada until July 2012.

Prior to joining MSF, Marilyn worked as a registered nurse at Women's College Hospital and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, as well as a Research Assistant at St Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton and Queen's University in Kingston.

Marilyn completed a Masters of Applied Science in Nursing at McGill University and an Honors Baccalaureate of Science in Life Sciences and Psychology at Queen's University. She holds certificates in tropical medicine, critical care, quality assurance and nursing audits. In recognition of her distinguished voluntary community service, Marilyn received the Alumni Humanitarian Award and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Queen's University. In 1996, Marilyn obtained her pilot's license.

Dignitas International, where Marilyn is Chief Executive Officer, was founded in 2004 to work with the Ministry of Health in Malawi. Rotarians and friends including many from our club have made five sweat equity trips to Malawi to see the work being done by Dignitas and meet with the people. It has been a moving experience for all of us to see these people coping with dignity and laughter while affected by this horrible disease. But Dignitas is making a difference!

## The Rotary Club of Toronto and Argonauts Celebrate our Scholarship

On Tuesday, August 12 many of us gathered at the Rogers Centre to watch our president Steven Smith complete two tasks. The first was the kickoff, performed by Steve with the assistance of his eight year-old twins Samantha and Matthew. He kicked from the 20-yard line and the ball was "air bound" into the end zone. Later in the game Steve and the president of the Argonauts presented our Scholarship to winner John Chen, who was present with his parents. In addition our club sold 50-50 tickets and \$4,500 went to the winner with a like amount to Youth Charities. A great evening as our Argos played to a convincing win over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.



Teen Club in Zomba – all infected with AIDS at childbirth.



Post-natal clinic – note the twins.



The Kachere "sisters". All infected with AIDS but caring for the grandchildren in the new classroom.



Steve Smith, Argos president Chris Rudge and Scholarship Winner John Chen.





# WANTED BRIDGE PLAYERS

**6 TUESDAY AFTERNOONS**  
Oct 7 & 21 | Nov 4 & 18 | Dec 2 & 16

**FUN FELLOWSHIP**

Contact Peter Naylor  
416-463-2114 or Belli at office

## District 7070 News

Our district, led by our governor Brian Thompson, is made up of 54 clubs from the west edge of Toronto, east to Belleville and north to Newmarket and Alliston. Every club is deeply involved in the community. But we come together for some events.

**The District Foundation Walk is taking place on Sunday September 21** at George Brown College's new Campus on Queen's Quay. Check out Sugar Beach, Sherbourne Common and other new developments at our Waterfront leading up to the Pan Am Games. Our city is changing! More info to come.

**The District Conference "Shaken & Stirred" will take place October 24th to 26th** at the Westin Prince Hotel. More information on these events is available at [www.rotary7070.org](http://www.rotary7070.org)

## What You Missed, August 15, 2014

– by Elizabeth Tremblay



Lunch, great information, and great inspiration! What a pleasure it is to report to you as the newest member of RCT. In the comfort of camaraderie, we joined together as a community focused on making a difference once again. The news, fellow Rotarians, is that young-birthday-president Steven Smith will not need to resign and join the Argonauts after his on-field debut. The only explanation President Steve offered (despite his widely-spread contract rumours) is that we and the Argonauts are, in fact, already a winning team. Guest Speaker, Jason Colero, a hero of the Toronto Argonauts Football Club as Director of Education and Community Programs, offered a Pinball Clemons-inspired talk that challenged us to be an "open, not closed-gate community," a "we" culture, not an iPod, iPad, or iPhone culture, and to live Pinball's own vow: "Service Beyond Self." As a passionate and moving speaker, Jason explained that our two iconic institutions have indeed "Huddled Up" to encourage the next generation of youth with ideals of character, excellence and service. Jason explained the one mission of the Toronto Argonaut Football Club in community involvement is empowering youth. It is the Allstars 5-step Program that mentors and provides the outlet for youth to take what the Argos teach—confidence and team-making skills, and a "run with it" attitude to recruit a friend to become an important member of the community. In sum, change and save lives, become the next Argonaut or the next Rotarian, or even the next Pinball Clemons.

Jason's Argo programs, including, "Level The Playing Field" and "Huddle Up" and "Make the Call," were inspired because he himself was bullied as a youth. He related the mental health saga of another survivor, an Argonaut, who went on to win the Grey Cup Championship. We saw video of youth attesting in "Huddle Up" sessions of their own awareness of gender-based, in-school bullying. Jason taught us that great things are possible with Rotary's involvement that doesn't necessarily involve a touchdown on the field. He mentioned the Allstars Program as a way to carry the torch to the next generation. Finally, Jason said what I am quickly learning: "Rotary is amazing, and it is an honour to work together."

Appropriately, Krystyna Benyak represented the Rotary Argos 50/50 at the head table, with John Andras representing New Membership, Alex Brown as the New Chair of Programs, and Susan Howson as Chair for the Youth of Camp Scugog. Lorraine Lloyd encouraged us to all support the Argos/Rotary initiative and the 66th Annual Golf Tournament. Carol Hutchinson was "premiered" to all in attendance, and Rohit Tamhane won the wine. This new member wanted to stand and applaud you all loudly!

**Please share the following message on your social media channels,** (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter)

*Please join us on Friday Sept. 5 for our exciting guest speaker, Terry Fallis and his topic is "On Being a Twenty First Century Canadian Humourist" We meet at the Royal York at noon in the Upper Canada Room. Guests are always welcome. Cost of the Lunch is \$38.00*

## Upcoming Speakers & Events

### August 2014

29 No Friday, Lunch due to the Holiday Weekend  
Have a Safe and Happy Holiday! - Labour Day

### September 2014

5 Terry Fallis, Novelist  
19 Thorkil Sonne, The Power of Thinking Differently

### Events

September 21 - Foundation Walk  
October 24 - World Polio Day

### Editor of the Week

Maureen Bird

### Editor September 5, 2014

Joe Pochodyniak

### What You Missed Reporter for August 22

Maureen Bird

### Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair  
[alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca](mailto:alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca)

### Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter

[voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca](mailto:voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca)

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