



Today's Program

Jasmine Herlt, Canada Director, Human Rights Watch

Host

Sylvia Milne

Location

Fairmont Royal York, Upper Canada Room



Jasmine has been the Canada Director for Human Rights Watch since the office opened in 2004. Human Rights Watch in Canada is focused on outreach, fundraising and advocacy. Under Jasmine's leadership, the Canada Committee has

grown to 50 members in Toronto and Ottawa. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Jasmine was the Executive Director of the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research and prior to that she was in-house counsel for Crown Life Insurance Company, specializing in employment law. Jasmine has served on numerous non-profit boards, including St. Michael's Hospital and the food bank Stop 103. She lives in Toronto with her husband and two children.

Human Rights Watch is one of the world's leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. By focusing international attention where human rights are violated, we give voice to the oppressed and hold oppressors accountable for their crimes. Its rigorous, objective investigations and strategic, targeted advocacy build intense pressure for action and raise the cost of human rights abuse. For more than 30 years, Human Rights Watch has worked tenaciously to lay the legal and moral groundwork for deep-rooted change and has fought to bring greater justice and security to people around the world.

The Rotary Club of Toronto
SPEAKEASY
Fun & Games
— 2015 —

The Rotary Club of Toronto's Annual Fundraiser will be held on
Thursday, March 26th
6:30 PM
The Steam Whistle Brewery
255 Bremner Blvd. (South East of Rogers Centre)

Great Food, Games & Prizes
Admission for only \$125 as a donation to Rotary's many charities.
Corporate tables for 10 with Corporate recognition \$1,500
Beer \$5 | Wine \$5

Protecting the World's Children from Violence and Exploitation

A recent study by Christian Children's Fund of Canada found that one in three children globally say adults are not doing enough to protect them from harm. Every day, children are subjected to violence and exploitation such as forced early marriage, forced labour or trafficking, thus leaving communities around the world desperate for a solution. Learn more about the action Canadians can take to protect the world's most vulnerable children by attending our February 6 luncheon to hear Mark Lukowski, Chief Executive Officer, Christian Children's Fund of Canada. Named one of the top 25 charities in Canada in 2014 by the Financial Post, this organization works to help more than 500,000 children, youth and community members around the world each year. You will learn about some of the issues facing children in developing countries, what world leaders are doing to make a difference, and how individual Canadians can bring hope to children in need. Join us on Friday, February 6 at 12:00 pm to be a part of this transformative and informational session on a very important global issue.

Senior Citizens Committee

Last February the Seniors Committee hosted a forum with 29 agencies participating. The two strongest needs for Seniors are transportation and communication. In light of this we received \$6,000 from the Toronto Foundation for computers. Heather Findlay obtained 18 computers from a government agency, and then installed new hard drives and software. Maureen Bird found a great buy on Black Friday and purchased an additional 20 computers. These have all now been distributed to seniors' centres and residences in the downtown core. Skype is a wonderful tool.

On April 1 (the Wednesday before Easter) we will be distributing 150 Meals on Wheels to persons in the downtown core chosen by the Second Mile Club, an agency started by our club in the 1930s. Drivers and helpers will be needed from 11:30 to 1:00. Contact Jack Robertson or Anny Sandra Hamel if you can help.

Barbara Thomson is the chair, Mary Lach vice-chair and Anny Sandra Hamel is secretary. They meet the third Friday of the month in the club office.

Sweat Equity for Rotarians, Family and Friends!

Please join us on Saturday March 7, 2015, to help package 20,000 meals for kids around the world through Kids Against Hunger. We need 70 volunteers working 1.5 hour shifts. This event is open to friends and family.

Date: Saturday March 7, 2015

Time: First shift --12:00 - 1:30;
Second shift -- 1:45 - 3:15.

Cost: There is no cost for this event.
You may donate money. It costs \$1.65 to assemble one bag, and each bag feeds 6 people.

Location: Neil has generously donated a warehouse in the 401 and Dixie area at 1695 Meyerside Drive.

Fellowship: There will be a small fellowship event after the second shift. If you would like to stay please bring a little finger food. There will be wine glasses. Please bring your own wine or beer.

RSVP – Please indicate:

1. The number of people you will bring. If you are bringing children under the age of 12, please indicate their age.
2. What shift you would like to participate in.

Please RSVP with Dina Rashid dmrashid@gmail.com. The last day to register is February 20, 2015.

WHAT IS KIDS AGAINST HUNGER AND WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

I attended the district conference for the first time this year. Among the keynote speakers and booths was a room dedicated to Kids Against Hunger. There were three assembly lines that consisted each of 11 Rotarians from all over the district. Each assembly line was manually sorting, package sealing and boxing bags of food for hungry kids around the world. Kids Against Hunger's sole mission is to ship meals to starving children and their families in over 60 countries through partnership with humanitarian organizations worldwide. Being part of that assembly line was a very rewarding experience. It created a sense of community with fellow Rotarians and instilled a sense of accomplishment and gratification. President Steve has been supporting the idea for our club hosting an event for the reasons of fellowship and fundraising.

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www.rotarytoronto.com





International Service Committee Activities

– by Maureen Bird



The ISC meets regularly at noon on the first Thursday of the month. We are a group of 16 and receive about 40 requests for funding each year. Each project is assessed for need, impact and whether proper monitoring can be expected from third-world countries.

Last year, in addition to the smaller requests we responded to, four other clubs supported large Global Grant projects, which can create 3.5 to 1 matching funds from The Rotary Foundation. These were in Uganda, Malawi and Kenya. All are being well monitored by Rotarians from here and overseas.

This year we have also funded several small projects. Many of them have support from local Rotarians. Steve Rutledge of Whitby Sunrise is currently in Laos with Adopt-a-Village. We have sent money to provide water filters for 26 families; these will have a Rotary Club of Toronto logo on them.

Stephen Mbonye is an Etobicoke Rotarian. His mother is an obstetrician at Nakesero Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. She has set up a pioneer program for fistula repairs in women. Severe damage can result from lack of medical care in delivery causing horrendous problems. This is the second year we have provided \$5,000 towards this project.

A woman from Toronto has taken on a large group of orphans in Tanzania (Majengo Canada) and has a large support group to assist. We funded a small project last year and we are assisting with funds towards solar power, as they are located well off the grid in an area with poor power at the best of times. Tablets are being arranged to assist with learning, including a strong focus on the English language.

Ebola continues to be a problem in West Africa. We donated \$2,000 to Doctors Without Borders whom we consider to be best on the ground agency in the area.

Canadian Landmine Foundation will be having a fundraiser soon and we will match some of the funds raised. There are still 5,000,000 landmines in Cambodia and although the location of many is known, they prevent people from using the land. A Rotarian from another district is working near Phnom Penh with landmine survivors. We have provided funding for pit latrines for families.

In April, Rotarians will be returning to Malawi to work at a school in a poor district. Our committee is providing funding for supplies. We will also be with a group of women with AIDS (my Kachere Sisters). In 2009 we helped them build a nursery school for orphaned grandchildren and bought them sewing machines. They will make menstrual sanitary napkin kits so that young girls can stay in school. See www.daysforgirls.org

Please join us in our endeavours. Heather Findlay is our chair until July 2016 and John Farrell is vice-chair. Khrystina McMillan is secretary.

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

Officers:

President: Steven Smith
President-Elect: David Hetherington
Vice President: Susan Hunter
Treasurer: James McAuley

Executive Director:

Carol Hutchinson

Rotary Club of Toronto

Charitable Foundation:

Robert Smith, President

Editor of the Week:

Maureen Bird

Editor February 6, 2015:

to be announced

What You Missed Reporter for Jan 30th:

Khrystina McMillan

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@rotarytoronto.on.ca

Upcoming Speakers & Events

February

- 6 Mark Lukowski, Christian Children's Fund of Canada
- 13 No Meeting due to the Family Day Holiday
- 20 New Member's Program – At The National Club
- 27 Dr. Danielle Martin, Women's College Hospital, State of the Canadian Health Care System

March

- 6 Chief Bill Blair, Metropolitan Toronto Police Chief
- 13 Stephen Levy, President & CEO, Ryerson University
- 26 RCT Poker Night Fundraiser – Steam Whistle Brewery

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair

Program Committee

alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca



What You Missed, January 23, 2015

– by David Sharpe



We were fortunate to be in the Ballroom for this very special meeting at The Royal York Hotel. We were honoured to host at the head table veterans George Richardson and Frank Strickland, both of whom served in the Air Force in World War II. Past-President Gerry Nudds, our monitor, introduced three visiting Rotarians and numerous guests.

In a formally called club meeting our own Neil Phillips was nominated by the club for the position of District Governor 2017-18, our International Conference year. Best wishes, Neil. Rohit Tamhane spoke about the great work and many events of our Toronto Rotaract Club, announcing their ever-popular fundraiser, Vodka Tasting on March 13. Also mark your calendars for our own fundraiser at the Steam Whistle on March 26, more information to follow.

We were pleased to host our distinguished speaker, The Honourable Erin O’Toole, Minister of Veteran Affairs Canada who was speaking just one day removed from his birthday. Minister O’Toole’s topic was “Care, Compassion and Respect for our Veterans.” Minister O’Toole was appointed to his cabinet post just three weeks ago and has been on a cross-country “listening” tour since his appointment. For those not in attendance, you missed an inspirational, candid talk from a true leader, lawyer, retired air force officer with 12 years service and active Rotarian (Courtice) who has hopes of changing the current dialogue with Canadian Veterans.

Minister O’Toole was joined in the audience by his wife Rebecca and children Jack and Molly and his father John. John was the provincial representative of the Durham Region, making John and son Erin the only father/son combination to simultaneously represent the same riding! Also in attendance were current and former servicemen and women and members of the Churchill Society and the True Patriot Love Foundation. Minister O’Toole, a founder of the True Patriot Love Foundation and a former member of the Churchill Society, so rightfully reminded us of the 50th anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill’s death on January 24.

Minister O’Toole announced a three-point veteran-focussed plan that includes:

- a “veteran-centric” approach to veteran policy and programming.
- a seamless integration for Canadian Forces into civilian life.
- creation of a culture that strives for service excellence.

Minister O’Toole explained that the implementation of the plan will involve an informed and respectful dialogue with care, compassion and respect.

We were also reminded of our mantra, “Service Above Self” and the importance of recognizing those who make the greatest sacrifice by donning the uniform for country and for freedom. It was appropriate that Minister O’Toole referenced Sir Winston Churchill often and left us with this quote, “It is no use saying, ‘We are doing our best.’ You have to succeed in doing what is necessary.”

On March 1, 2013 Minister O’Toole missed our Centennial lunch with President Tanaka but made an announcement in Parliament about our club’s \$100,000 donation to Polio Plus, which was broadcast throughout the Rotary world.

Despite the near misses of John Andras, the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was former Toronto Rotary President Richard White. Richard was thrilled to take home his bounty despite not pulling the elusive Ace of Spades. Also, guest Jeff Ballingall won two tickets to the upcoming Rotaract Vodka Tasting event.

The event was well-covered by the press with both TV and print exposure. More information on this lunch is available at <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/01/23/new-veterans-minister-erin-otoole-vows-respectful-approach.html>

This meeting was also referenced on the government website: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=924879>

“The Rotary Club of Toronto has done an outstanding job raising awareness in the community of the remarkable achievements and contributions made by Canada’s Veterans. I was honoured to address the Rotary Club of Toronto to talk about how to best meet the evolving needs of our Veterans and their families.”

The Honourable Erin O’Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs

“We are honoured to welcome Minister O’Toole to our meeting today. We are grateful for his support and proud of being part of his continuous efforts to ensure that Veterans and their families get the support they need.”

Steven Smith, President of the Rotary Club of Toronto



Minister Erin O’Toole with veterans Frank Strickland and George Richardson and club president Steve Smith



Minister O’Toole at our podium

The Rotary Club of Toronto

The Fairmont Royal York

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