

Speaker

Canon Alan Budson

Topic

New Year's Message

Host

Winz Casagrande

Location

Fairmont Royal York,
Imperial Room

A Rotary Happy New Year to Everyone – by David Hetherington



While I was enjoying a year-end, and for Rotary a mid-year break, here in Daytona Beach, I was asked if I wanted to send on a New Year's message through "The Voice", to outline what we would like to accomplish in the last half of my Rotary Year. Sure, why not, after all it is raining today following a week of unusually hot and sunny weather. First, a reflection on the first 6 months of my Rotary Year. We managed to balance the Club budget after it ran a deficit last year. Our numerous committees accomplished many notable activities and accomplishments. Thank you to all committee chairpersons and their active committee members as well as the Liaison Director Board members for their time and guidance. Some of the highlights included:

The great efforts of John Andras and the Aboriginal Service Committee, who conducted a very successful and informative lunch with many indigenous leaders as well as several Government representatives attending. We had the honour of hosting the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell on not one, but two occasions back to back. Susan Hunter and her "Effective Committees" team held a very informative session on committee leadership and presented a "How-to" manual on conducting successful meetings. This included a "cheat sheet" of Robert's Rules of Order - invaluable, in the opinion of one who has attended and conducted many a meeting. Pat Neuman led the Club Assembly, which brought forward so many ideas and comments we are still trying to prioritize them. Many thanks to all who led, and all those that enthusiastically participated in these and all are other events in the past 6 months.

As for the coming (and for me the final) six months, we hope to complete the work of the Effective Committees Team, which was the third focus of our Strategic Plan and arguably the most difficult part to implement. All of our efforts are geared toward keeping our Club vibrant and relevant in today's busy work society. We will continue to implement new ideas that will allow new members to involve themselves in the various aspects of the Club's activities. We continue to encourage the Marketing and Communications Committee to involve the Club in the world of social media. These media will allow us to reach potential members that we would not have access to ordinarily. (Has anybody seen my Twitter Handle? It's missing.)

I have always considered myself fortunate to have been involved in team sports, and even in my squash career, an individual sport, we were always involved in teams at the club, city, provincial and national level. From that experience I learned that there are very few things that will ever compare with the joy of accomplishing a goal with your friends and teammates.

Rotary once again provides that opportunity to achieve goals in teams and with your friends. So I encourage you to think about your own friends and acquaintances to whom you could give the gift of this kind of feeling by asking them to join us in The Rotary Club of Toronto.

Let's think about bringing someone to a lunch or one of our cocktail parties, or to join us in a Club activity. No need to keep it to ourselves; let's share the wealth of our Rotary experience.

Happy New Year! And may all of your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.

DCH.

Rotary Carolers – Fellowship and Entertainment - Laughing All the Way – by Lorna Johnson



More than 20 Rotarians and friends gathered at the Café de Melbourne on Church Street in anticipation of a memorable night of carolling on the streets of downtown Toronto. With a selection of nibbles accompanied by tea and coffee, the warm-up looked more like a Christmas meet-and-greet, until Brigitte marshalled everyone around the piano to start the night off indoors, with joyful renditions of Frosty the Snowman, Winter Wonderland and other Favourites. John Joseph and June Brown heartily encouraged the group to venture outside, where we caroled our way along Church Street to Dundas Square, serenading friends and strangers alike. We still don't know if we were an enhancement or a detraction from the Dundas Square Christmas tree, but we did attract quite a crowd. Finally we made our way to the Imperial Pub for more socializing and a final hug for 2015. Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for the New Year.



Canon Alan Budson is a priest of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

His ministry has included postings at the churches of St. John the Baptist, Norway; St. Margaret, New Toronto and currently St. Philip, Etobicoke, where he has been pastor for more than twelve years. His interests include historical theology, mysticism, poetry, and jazz.

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Welcome New Member Robert A. Rastorp



Rob is a litigation lawyer with Rogerson Law Group, a boutique litigation firm based in Toronto with an associated office in Ottawa. He is involved in a range of litigation files from civil and commercial to bankruptcy and insolvency, estates and administrative law. In the course of his duties he has appeared at many levels of court from the Ontario and Superior Courts of Justice, through the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Federal Court of Canada, as well as various administrative tribunals.

A graduate of Queen's University majoring in Political Science, Rob continued his graduate studies at Columbia University and obtained his law degree at the University of Toronto. He has been involved in the Young Patron's Circle of the Royal Ontario Museum for some years and is also a member of the Arts & Letters Club of Toronto. Rob was born and raised in Toronto where he has resided for most of his life. He has traveled from Iceland and Russia to Hawaii and French Polynesia, while he regularly visits Costa Rica where his parents have maintained their winter home for some years. When not in Toronto or traveling, he spends time at his family's farmstead near Cobourg, Ontario and his wife's family cottage on the French River in northern Ontario. Rob looks forward to enhancing his involvement in the community through his involvement in Rotary, and to working alongside fellow Rotarians in their endeavours.

What You Missed December 18, 2015

— by Mary Lach



THE ANNUAL CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

What a wonderful day! Two huge buffet tables, set up at each side of the room displayed an overabundance of mouth watering food choices and decadent dessert tables. Not your average weekly luncheon fare.

President David Hetherington, called the meeting to order, introduced Robert Rastorp as a new member with Sylvia Geist as mentor, and John Fortney as Emcee. Maureen Bird, chair of the refugee sponsorship committee co-ordinated the silent auction and the sale of raffle tickets. Krystyna Benyak and John Andras were busy circulating and selling raffle tickets, and they did a great job, raising \$2220!

This will help cover costs of the Children's Christmas Party. Meanwhile Rotarians and their friends were bidding on all the silent auction items, and at the end of the lunch we had raised \$3590. How is that for the Christmas spirit!

This year The Foundation's charity of choice was "Rosedale United Church" for the Rotary Toronto Refugee Group organized within our club. A cheque of \$5,000 was presented by Bob Smith, Foundation Chair to Claude Hould, chair of the Rosedale Refugee Settlement Committee and his wife Linda Hutson.

Throughout this festive luncheon we were entertained by our very own main performer - Brigitte Bogar, who enchanted us with Christmas Carols and a beautiful rendition of Ave Maria accompanied by Glenn Davis at the piano. At the conclusion President David thanked all hard working Rotarians for hosting the successful Children's and Senior's Christmas Parties. Both parties brought the magic and spirit of Christmas to many special needs children and inner-city seniors. May the magic of Christmas never end, as its greatest gifts are family and friends. Merry Christmas!



June Brown checking out some of the 30+ auction items.



David Hetherington, Claude Hould, Linda Hutson and Bob Smith

NINA COLE



On December 29, 2015, Dr. Nina Cole died peacefully in Niagara-on-the-Lake after a long battle with cancer. Nina was a member of The Rotary Club of Toronto from 2001-2008 and then transferred to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club where she became President in 2014-2015. In our Club, Nina was active with the International Service Committee and Gift of Life. Nina received our Club Builder Award and was the lead organizer of one of our most successful events featuring Stephen Lewis.

The Gift of Life provides children with heart disease from developing countries access to medical treatment. Nina spent countless time and energy organizing and personally hosting children and their families. She was Chair of District 7070 Gift of Life program during 2004-2007.

Nina's other passions were international projects where she took part in numerous sweat equity trips to Tanzania and Cambodia. During 2007-2008, she spent a prolonged academic sabbatical conducting research projects in Australia, Southeast Asia and China.

Professionally, Nina had twenty-nine years of experience in human resources management as a practitioner, consultant, researcher, and professor. She earned a B.Sc. (Hons.), an MBA and a Ph.D. and taught at Brock University, York University, and the University of Toronto. She capped her career as Chair of the Department of Human Resources Management and Organizational Behaviour at Ryerson University and retired in 2012.

Nina was known by many friends near and far for her kindness and generosity. She personally supported the education of a young man named Da, a land mine survivor in Cambodia, and Maria Christina, a young girl in the Philippines. Nina's generosity is being felt today by many who benefitted from knowing her.

A celebration of Nina's life is being planned.

Upcoming Speakers & Events

January 2016

- 15 Dr. Jerry Cutler – Prof. Nuclear Engineer
- 22 Mark Maclean – Real Estate
- 29 Alex McKee – Getting the Millennials to Leave home

February

- 5 Joe Roberts – Helping Needy Kids

Editor January 8, 2016

Don Bell

Editor January 15, 2016

John Andras

What You Missed Reporter for January 8th

Shelley McIntyre

Propose a Speaker – Contact

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