

Today's Speaker

Changeover Meeting

Topic

President Steve Smith's Farewell Address

Location

The National Club



Our Strategic Plan at Work

It's difficult to believe that it has been one year since I had the privilege of taking the oath of office as President of The Rotary Club of Toronto. And what a year it has been! I noted in my inaugural address that I believed it is the job of the President to work along with a talented group of people to make The Rotary Club of Toronto even stronger by year end. Thanks to the Board of Directors, the committees and all our members, I believe that we have achieved that goal.

The primary objective this year was to continue to implement the Strategic Plan. A strategic planning committee was created in 2012 under the supervision of Sandy Boucher. The committee, with feedback from the membership, identified six strategic drivers that are key to this club's future success. These are: Engaged Membership, Inspired Communications, Effective Committees, Strong Foundation, Sustainable Finances and Governance.

Over the past couple of years the focus of this club has been the implementation of the first two drivers, Engaged Membership and Inspired Communications. The membership committee has made great progress in implementing strategy. For example, the "New Members" program has been very successful in engaging new members in our club. Initiatives are progressing to increase our membership through the referral networks of Rotarians in our club. As well there is an initiative to attract corporate membership. The Marketing and Communications Committee has also made great progress this year particularly on the Social Media front. We are connected not just through the website, but we now communicate on Facebook and Twitter and we continue to develop our internal and external communications. This is a cornerstone to keeping our current membership engaged and attracting new members.

The implementation of these two strategic drivers was initiated last year and the Strategic Planning Committee, headed by incoming president David Hetherington, continues to oversee implementation. This year we have started to focus on Effective Committees and a task force, headed by VP Susan Hunter, has outlined a

comprehensive strategy which will be implemented over the next year.

Over the years, and certainly since I joined The Rotary Club of Toronto in 1999, the demographics of our club have changed significantly. Our membership includes people of varied backgrounds, professions and, yes, age groups. To address our changing demographics we must continually evolve the ways in which we provide Service Above Self. This includes assessing the wonderful traditions of our fine club and to determine if there are ways in which we can innovate while remaining true to our roots. "That's the way we have always done it" is not the mantra for growing our club. We must determine how best to retain the interest and commitment of our current membership while successfully attracting new members. To that end, and on behalf of the Board, I issued a call for input from our membership in a recent Voice submission. I encourage everyone to contact the office and/or to speak with members of the Board should you have any comments or suggestions on the manner in which we do things at the Rotary Club of Toronto and how we might do things better.

This has been an exciting and challenging year. We have hosted Royalty, enjoyed visits from both the President and President-elect of Rotary International and have had wonderful guest speakers. We have maintained commitment and support of many of the causes we hold dear and we have explored new ways to provide Service Above Self. For example, we had a very successful Kids Against Hunger event. This brought together Rotarians, Rotaractors, families and friends for a sweat equity project to help make

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Our Strategic Plan at Work *continued*

a difference in the lives of Indigenous people in Canada while also engaging our members in the spirit of fellowship and charity.

This year we initiated a “new tradition”, the President’s Cocktail Meeting, wherein we gather in a more social setting to conduct one of our meetings. We have received virtually unanimous positive feedback about this type of meeting which is meant, not to replace, but to supplement our regular lunches. It is less formal and people have the opportunity to really get to know each other better as they enjoy cocktails and appetizers.

As we continue to evolve, we face surmountable challenges and I am confident that our club is well positioned to achieve the goals of our Strategic Plan with continued commitment from a strong board and membership. I would like to thank, in particular, David Hetherington and Susan Hunter for their ongoing advice and support this year and for their valuable contributions to achieving our goals. Thank you to the Members of the Board of Rotary Club Toronto, the heads of various committees, Carol (the Hutch!) and all my fellow Rotarians for your unwavering support, kind words and hard work during my term. It has been an honour and great privilege to serve as president of this great club and it would not have been possible without your support.

In the spirit of fellowship and the belief in Service Above Self, we continue to make a significant difference in the lives of others. In the words of out-going RI President Gary Huang, let’s all continue to “Light Up Rotary”!

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com

President Steve’s Farewell Drinks

On June 15th about 70 members and friends enjoyed a lovely evening at The Duke of Westminster, joining President Steve in his final farewell. Finger foods were excellent and the company fun. Richard White played host and we kept the speeches to a minimum. Yes, there were cracks about hearing the last of Steve’s jokes. Steve wisely left that up to Glenn that night.



Michele Guy shares the secrets of Past Presidency with 2014-2015 President Steve



Richard White welcomes Steve to “retirement”

Camp Lake Scugog Bike Rally



Bike ride to Camp Lake Scugog to support the kids

On June 20th the intrepid riders were out again to raise funds for sending kids to camp. Led by Geoffrey Johnson, Bill Morari and Kevin Powers, 15 of us set off from Aurora Side Road and Woodbine for the 62 km trip to camp. Others included camp staff and some who read about the ride on the Internet. This year’s route was much better than last, with almost no trucks and fewer hills in the first half. Even Maureen Bird joined in, completing just under 18 km. We were greeted by a lovely crowd at the finish line and then enjoyed a BBQ lunch provided by Geoff and Bill. Funds raised will help bring kids to camp and will be matched by the Andras Family Trust. Thank you, Ken.



Ken Andras accepts his award

Seniors Picnic



Jack Robertson, Glenn Davis, chair Barbara Thomson and Anny-Sandra Hamel

On June 15th the Senior Citizens Committee hosted guests of the Second Mile Club for a picnic at their Carlton Street facilities. It was a lovely day and we were able to enjoy the sunshine on the patio. With Glenn Davis at the keyboard, members of the committee led the ladies and gentlemen in a rousing sing-song – all the old tunes were played. Lunch was chicken breasts, salads and ice cream. This was followed by Crown and Anchor, a game enjoyed by all. Pennies were used and the table winners received gifts provided by Jack Robertson. This event has a long tradition with the committee.



Anny-Sandra Hamel at the big wheel

67TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO



Come and join your friends at Rotary for a fabulous day of golf, sun and a great time!

The Rotary Club of Toronto 67TH Annual Golf Tournament

on
Thursday, August 20, 2015

at the
Richmond Hill Golf Club

8755 Bathurst Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario.

\$175 per player. Register on the Member site or call the office

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:

Karen Scott

Editor July 17, 2015:

John Andras

What You Missed Reporter for July 17th:

Lorna Johnson

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

July 2015

- 17 David Hetherington, President, 2015-2016
Throne Speech, National Club
- 24 Michael Bell, District Governor
- 31 No meeting - enjoy Civic Holiday

August 2015

- 7 - Allan McInnis, Young People's Theatre

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair

Program Committee

alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca

Ribfest- Our Volunteers Braved the Rains and Did Us Proud



Jack Robertson, Steve Smith, Pat Neuman, Kevin Power and Gerry Bird

For the third year, our club joined up with the Rotary Club of Etobicoke which has been running the Centennial Park event for many years. Our role was to collect \$2 donations at the gates, assisted by Rotaract clubs and Toronto Sunrise. Saturday was a tough day with pouring rain most of the time. Gates closed early at six. Sunday morning the grounds were supersaturated and the event was cancelled. But Monday morning was promising to be dry so the teams were out in force for a busy day. Rain also held off on Tuesday and Canada Day, Wednesday when attendance soared to 75,000.

Pat Neuman was in charge and was there all day, every day. Way to go Pat!! Shannon Lundquist arranged the schedules. Others putting in full days were Steve Smith, John Joseph Mastandrea, Kevin Power, Dawn-Marie King, Don Bell and Brian Porter. Special mention goes to Jack Robertson who, during the pouring rain on Saturday, volunteered to return Monday. Also very special mention goes to Anny-Sandra Hamel, who with help from daughters Marissa and Arianne Wilson and friend Jasmine, covered shifts every day.

All donations will be shared between Etobicoke and the Toronto clubs on a shift-weighted basis. Thanks to all who came to help.

What You Missed, June 19, 2015

– by Karen Scott



The lobby of the National Club was full of Rotarians, visitors and guests, buzzing in eager anticipation of the commemoration of National Aboriginal Day on June 21. Traditional drums and singing by Phil Davis, representing the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Host First Nation of the Panam Games, provided a memorable start to the meeting. Rev. Andrew Wesley, Elder in Residence at First Nations House at the University of Toronto, provided poignant opening remarks and a prayer, in both English and his native language. He reminded us that our native peoples were taught to be kind and gentle and respect all creation.

Following enjoyment of the meal and fellowship, President Steve introduced the head table, our very special aboriginal guests, two District Governors, Rotaractors, visiting Rotarians and guests.

John Andras introduced Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. Cindy grabbed our attention immediately with her discussion of “Reconciliation: The Children’s Version”. Following the release of The Reconciliation Commission Report, Cindy said we need to ensure we don’t have to say sorry twice. The current generation should grow up healthy and proud of who they are. A full implementation of Jordan’s Principle, equitable care for ill children, has been called for in the TRC Report. The evidence is overwhelming; a disproportionate number of First Nations people still lack the most basic services that other Canadians take for granted.

Cindy quoted Shannen Koostachin (1995 – 2010), who said “School should be a time for dreams – every kid deserves this.” Shannen started her advocacy by standing up for herself and her classmates and bringing to the attention of Ottawa that their school was situated on a contaminated site. Shannen was nominated for the Children’s International Peace Prize in 2008. Read her story at: www.shannensdream.ca. Cindy also advised us that a Human Rights case has been filed alleging that Canada’s provision of child welfare is discriminatory. A ruling is expected this year. There are 7 free ways to make a difference. Go to www.fncaringssociety.com. In order to make a difference to change the world, we need knowledge, persistence, passion, and spirit. Silence is the best friend of injustice. We all only have one childhood.

President Steve thanked Cindy for her inspiring presentation. Ken Andras won the wine in the Ace of Clubs draw. President Steve brought the meeting to a close with wishes for a Happy Father’s Day.



Phil Davis opened the meeting with traditional drums and song



Two of our very special guests – Andrée Cazabon and Murray Crowe, a participant in TRC

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

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