

ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

Volume 102 | Issue 42 | June 12, 2015

Today's Program

Kevin McGurgan, British Consul General

Topic

British Priorities After The Election

Host

Robert O'Brien

Location

Imperial Room, Fairmont Royal York



Kevin McGurgan took up his appointment as HM Consul General and Director General for UK Trade and Investment in Toronto in August 2014. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1971, Kevin joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1990. He comes to Canada after four

years as Consul General in Florida, based in Miami. During that period he was responsible for business development between the UK and Florida and oversaw the expansion of the Consulate's staff and role across Florida and the Caribbean.

Kevin's diplomatic career has seen him serve short tours in Russia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Syria (1993-4); as a press officer in the UK's Permanent Representation to the European Union (1994-5); as a political and consular officer in Bosnia (1996-7) and from 2003-2005 as Head of the Political and Economic team in Sweden with a specific focus on European policy issues and counter-terrorism. Between 2005 and 2008 he was Deputy Head of the Iraq Policy Unit in the Foreign Office before being seconded to the Home Office to work on organised crime, counter terrorism and migration issues. In London he has also worked on Afghanistan, the Balkans and arms export policy.^o

This is his first posting to Canada but not his first time working with Canadians. As Deputy Head of the NATO Provincial Reconstruction Team in Helmand province from 2008 – 2009, he worked closely with Canadian colleagues in neighboring Kandahar. From 1997 – 2000, he worked closely with Ambassador Fowler and the Canadian delegation at the United Nations in New York on multilateral sanctions regimes, negotiating and implementing sanctions regimes in the Middle East, Asia and diamond and arms embargoes in Africa (Sierra Leone and Angola).

Kevin is accompanied by his wife Vicki (also from Scotland), and his two sons, Alexander and Michael. He is a reasonable runner who completed his first marathon earlier this year. Follow Kevin on Twitter @KevMcGurganFCO

Individuals Can Make a Difference: 2015 District Rotaract Conference

– by Susan Hunter

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not."*

~ Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



These wise words from Dr. Seuss served as the theme for this year's 2015 District Rotaract Conference held at York University on Saturday, May 30th. Neil Phillips, Rotarian Extraordinaire and District Rotaract Chair worked with Weiting Xu, District Rotaract Representative to put on a great conference. Over 100 enthusiastic and energetic Interactors, Rotaractors and a number of Rotarians took part in a jam-packed day of plenary sessions.

Shannon Lundquist led a session on "Personal Brand Management" and Susan Hunter led another session on "Effective Board Members & Goal Setting" generating a great deal of strategies and techniques for attendees to take back to their clubs. Neil Phillips was part of another plenary session partnering with Kelly Ku from the Rotaractor Club of Toronto and Liam Hancock from the Interact Club at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute to talk about "Retaining Members & Transition." RYLA veteran Ric Williams attended the conference along with other Rotarians including Wilf Wilkinson, Dr. Bob Scott, District Governor Brian Thompson and his wife Karen, and many others.

Masters of Ceremonies Dishan Ratnajoithi and Jasmine Jasani began the Conference with a rousing and boisterous welcome to all attendees and literally jolted everyone awake. The keynote address was then delivered by Wendy Leaver who spoke about the human trafficking work with The Rotary Club of Toronto to build a safe house for women with Covenant House. Wendy spoke about the passionate dedication of our Club's Women's Initiatives Committee and how they worked tirelessly over the past three years to build the safe house. Although the topic had a very serious tone, attendees were quite intrigued by Wendy's comments and had plenty of questions and comments to share with her.

The rest of the day was filled with a great deal of laughter and youthful exuberance. Networking opportunities were aplenty and conference participants were encouraged to use social media throughout the day to tweet about

ROTARACT

Rotaract brings together people ages 18-30 in universities and communities worldwide to organize service activities, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun. Rotary clubs sponsor them, but Rotaract members manage and fund their clubs independently. Rotaract members work closely with their local Rotary club, and may join after their Rotaract membership ends.

INTERACT

Interact is a club for youth ages 12-18 who want to connect with others in their community or school. Interact club members have fun while carrying out service projects and learning about the world. Interact clubs organize at least two service projects a year: one that benefits their community and one that encourages international understanding. While Interact clubs receive guidance from individual Rotary clubs, they govern and support themselves.

RYLA

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership development program run by Rotary. While participants can be any age, most events focus on secondary school students, university students, or young professionals.

Individuals Can Make a Difference: 2015 District Rotaract Conference continued

their experiences. Attendees had a choice of three Plenary Sessions led by engaging and passionate speakers. And finally, the Conference was capped off with a “paint splatter” session just before the festive dinner and the Awards Presentations at The Underground Restaurant. Neil Phillips surprised Weiting with the Rotary Warrior pin at the awards presentation for all of her hard work organizing the conference.

Judging by the high quality of the Conference schedule and events, I think it's safe to say that Rotary has a great future with all of these Interactors and Rotaractors. Throughout the day, many of the Rotarians like me were struck by the impressive talents of these young people -- their level of commitment to Rotary, their deep passion to make an impact in their communities and globally, and their abiding belief that they will indeed make a difference in the world.

Interactors came from high schools in Clarington, Etobicoke Collegiate, Uxbridge, Vaughan Secondary School, and Scarborough.

Rotaract attendees came from DC/UOIT, York University, Toronto, UofT - St George, Loyalist College, L'ile de Montreal, Queen's University.

Many Rotarians came to support the conference with members coming from Willowdale, York, Woodbridge, Whitby Sunrise, Whitby, Trenton, Toronto-Earls court, Toronto West, Toronto Skyline, Toronto Twilight, Toronto, Richmond Hill, Port Perry, Etobicoke, Courtice, Coburg.



Conference attendees



Neil Phillips - Rotaract District Chair and
Weiting Wu - District Rotaract Representative

New Member Anthony Whalen



Anthony was born in Toronto to David and Tina Whalen. Anthony's grandfather, George B. Whalen, was a Rotarian in St. Stephen, New Brunswick from 1927-1935 and

served in many capacities including President. Anthony's father David spent many years serving communities under the Rotary banner both locally and abroad and was Director of Education for the Rotary Club of Whitby Sunrise.

Anthony initially realized his skills in telecommunications with BCE, and attained “President's Club” status after less than 8 months with the company. This led to his consistent involvements with the Executive team and being chosen to represent the division

at the National Meetings. Anthony is currently the Sales Executive representing Ontario for teliPhone Navigata-Westel, the largest independent facilities based CLEC (“see-lek”) in Canada. He also serves as a Real Estate Broker and Vice President of Available Real Estate Inc., Brokerage. He has extensive experience with corporate telecommunications, sales, marketing and consulting. Anthony is always pushing himself to create and follow through with new initiatives. While leading a team with JJS Marketing, he created and led international resort development campaigns with Bluegreen Corporation, as well as creating a partnership with and securing advertising for the WNBA.

Anthony grew up in Durham region and Toronto with a privileged lifestyle, but things drastically changed during the late 80s. Having experienced both wealth and poverty, and seeing the determination, hard work and sacrifice of those around

him, Anthony decided that helping others overcome their obstacles, especially youth, was a responsibility. He has worked on various campaigns to further that including partnering with the City of Toronto to create programs such as “Street Feet”, allowing underprivileged youths to have a positive outlet and work towards common goals.

Anthony and his “better half”, Kathleen, have two beautiful little girls, Brooklyn, 6, and Alyssia, 2. They enjoy the outdoors and travelling, most recently to Disney World, and prior to that the Dominican Republic. They're all looking forward to another trip soon, most likely back to Disney and possibly Jamaica.

Anthony considers it an honour to continue the family tradition and represent the Rotary to the best of his abilities for many years to come.

Fellowship and Entertainment Filipino Style

— by Graeme Imri



On a balmy-ish June evening, 24 Rotarians met at Lamesa Filipino Kitchen on Queen Street West for a lovely evening of kinship and conversation, with topics ranging from golf handicaps, to exotic fruits, to rave parties. It is true that one learns something new every day - I learned that there is a tiny little lime called a Calamansi that tastes delicious when mixed with hard liquor! We also learned (don't ask how) that Dave Bautista and Lou Diamond-Phillips are famous Filipinos.

Vice President Susan Hunter was an attentive host and the great Lamesa staff served up a series of delicious treats that Susan and Hedley had thoughtfully tried out ahead of time... a menu of flavourful delights like toasted Siopao (sweet glazed pork on a milk bun) and Adobong Manok (seared chicken thigh with soy vinegar and black garlic) took us on a little sensory journey, as well as, mopping up the strong beer from Quebec and killer-Manila cocktails. The 'Halo Halo' (apparently Tagalog for Mix, Mix) dessert was a show stopper, resembling a technicolour iced capp with rice krispies, and tasting just sweet enough to round off such a feast and make us wish it was about 15 degrees warmer. Luckily, the company more than made up for that!



Rotarian revellers at Lamesa Restaurant earlier this month

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:

Jeff Dobson

Editor June 19, 2015:

Brian Porter

What You Missed Reporter for June 12th:

Maureen Bird

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

Happy Birthday returns to Rotary

After a hiatus of almost a year, the Fellowship & Entertainment Committee is delighted to announce that they are reinstituting the long-standing practice of personally wishing our club members a happy birthday. Additionally members will be sent a Rotary Birthday Card signed by FnE and Club members as well as the Rotary Club President.

If you haven't provided Carol with your address or your preferred contact telephone number, please do so if you would welcome a happy birthday call and a Birthday Card. Until someone else takes their place, Dauna Jones-Simmonds and June Brown will be making the birthday calls.

The birthday cards will be available to be signed by club members at the occasional cocktail parties that the club holds to replace a club lunch ahead of a holiday weekend.



Brigitte sings Happy Birthday Mr. President to President Steve Smith at the Rotary Club Cocktail Party

Upcoming Speakers & Events

June 2015

- 19 Cindy Blackstock, NCFST- Aboriginal Day
26 No Meeting, Canada Day

Ribfest: June 27 – July 1

July 2015

- 3 No Meeting, Canada Day
10 Changeover Day – National Club
17 Throne Speech – David Hetherington, National Club
24 Michael Bell – District Governor

Propose a Speaker – Contact
Alex Brown, Chair

Program Committee
alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca

What You Missed, June 5, 2015

— by Don Brooks



A cloudy day was made brighter by President Steve's warm welcome to Rotarians and guests in the Fairmont Royal York's Imperial Room, as we honoured the Rotary Club of Toronto and Toronto Argonauts Community Scholarship recipients.

Guests included the 2015 Scholarship winner, Poorva Patel, the three prior winners, District Governor Brian Thompson and three members of the Argo staff that work with our Club on the Scholarship.

Karl Kramer gave a plug for our 67th annual Golf Tournament on Thursday, August 20 at the Richmond Hill Golf Club, to benefit Unity Charity's Urban Arts Outreach Program. Karl requested that potential sponsors and prize donors contact the Golf Committee.

Pat Neuman asked for more volunteers for Rib Fest on June 27 – July 1. Our Club works with the Etobicoke Rotary Club on this very successful fund raiser for both Clubs. Pat also requested that all members come to enjoy the Toast to and Celebration for President Steve on Wednesday, June 17 at the Duke of Westminster, Chelsea Pub, which is downstairs, First Canadian Place.

Barbara Thomson, Chair of our Scholarship Committee, gave some background on the Scholarship, which originally started as a Centennial Project, and has carried on, in recognition of its great value in our community. The scholarship is awarded in conjunction with the Toronto Argonauts who assist in the publication and selection process.

The four past and current winners of this fully-paid four year scholarship at a Toronto area University each spoke, expressing their gratitude to the RCT and Argos, for the life changing opportunity that the scholarship has provided. This year's winner, Poorva

Patel, will be studying Life Sciences at the University of Toronto. Poorva will major in Neuroscience, collaborating with the fields of genetics, mathematics, linguistics and engineering. Her ultimate objective is research in Neuroscience.

The speaker was our very own Vice President Susan Hunter and her topic was the Importance of a University Education. Susan gave three key suggestions to the students and others in the room:

- Enjoy the process of learning, while developing useful skills such as thinking on your feet, influencing and motivating others and developing relationships,
- Be curious about the world around you and get involved in that world, such as by joining Rotaract, and
- Be comfortable with being uncomfortable, by embracing uncertainty, angst and confusion which can lead to moments of growth that move you to the next stage of your personal development.



President Steve, Barbara Thomson, Mrs. Patel, Poorva Patel (Scholarship recipient), Mr. Patel, Shannon Lundquist

The Ace of Clubs bottle of wine was won by Valerie Clarke, and President Steve wrapped up the meeting with a good news/bad news golf joke to the appreciative (?) audience as they rushed back to work.

CELEBRATE AND THANK PRESIDENT STEVE SMITH IN RCT STYLE!!

**IT 'S A PARTY AND YOU'LL
WANT TO BE THERE...**

DATE: Wednesday, June 17, 2015
WHERE: Duke of Westminster, Chelsea Pub (downstairs)
 First Canadian Place
 77 Adelaide St. W.
WHEN: 5 pm to?????
DRESS: Your choice
COST: \$30.00 per person

See you all there! Let's party on....

As June approaches, our Rotary year is coming to a close and President Steve completes his term as our Leader. This is the time to say thanks and celebrate at a party honouring President Steve!!

Join your fellow members in a fun filled after work gathering where long speeches and formality are strictly forbidden...jokes are allowed though.

This is a time honoured tradition in our Club and we invite all fellow Rotarians and guests to attend.

Enjoy great appetizers, drinks and fellowship in true Rotary style as we relive the highlights of President Steve's year. A cash bar with wine, full bar, and a variety of local brews will be featured.

Don't delay...Register at the Rotary Office 416-363-0604 or at office@rotarytoronto.on.ca **by Friday June 12!!**

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com



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