

Today's Speaker

Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Topic

Reconciliation: The Children's Version

Host

John Andras

Location

The National Club



Cindy has 25 years of social work experience in child protection and Indigenous children's rights. As Director of the First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Service (FNCARES) at the University of Alberta, her research interests are Indigenous theory and the identification and remediation

of structural inequalities affecting First Nations children, youth and families. Her promotion of culturally based and evidence informed solutions has been recognized by the Nobel Women's Initiative, the Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Frontline Defenders and many others. An author of over 50 publications and a widely sought after public speaker, Cindy has collaborated with other Indigenous leaders to assist the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in the development and adoption of a General Comment on the Rights of Indigenous children. She also recently worked with Indigenous young people, UNICEF and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to produce a youth friendly version of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Cindy is currently completing a Master of Jurisprudence in Children's Law and Policy at the Loyola University Chicago.

The Aboriginal Service Committee: Learning More About Residential Schools

— by John Andras — Chair, Aboriginal Service Committee



In 2010, the world premiere of 3rd World Canada, Andrée Cazabon's heart-wrenching film about 8 siblings orphaned by suicide in the remote fly-in First Nation of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI), was held at the Royal Ontario Museum. Our club hosted the event and many Rotarians were in the audience. We were unprepared for the shock of the film which outlined conditions facing the community and detailed the fallout of the Residential Schools on Indigenous people in the north. Following the screening was a Q&A session. One after another, aboriginal members of the audience stood and told their stories. The Rotarians were mute witnesses. How could we not have known? A taskforce was established under Chris Snyder. We met regularly with Indigenous leaders to try and understand their history, to allow them to guide us upon the right path.

The Aboriginal Service Committee came out of the Taskforce. We meet the first Monday of each month at Native Child and Family Service Toronto (NCFST), 30 College Street, at 4:30PM. We continue to consult with Indigenous leaders and many regularly attend our meetings to advise us. We have been active in Toronto with First Nations School collecting backpacks, donating books and organizing career days. We have worked with NCFST equipping after school programs with technology through One Laptop Per Child, directing skids of diapers, clothing and other in-kind items. We also created a business plan and funding for the NCFST's Scarborough GED Program, which is now part of an integrated educational plan for Indigenous youth in the Kingston/Galloway area. We were initial partners of the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Forums and helped save the Lieutenant Governor's Club Amick when it faced a funding gap. We also look north and have funded programs in the fly-in communities. We helped organize the Reconciliation Exchanges to KI. We have provided technology to Neskantaga Community School in the wake of a suicide cluster. We most recently provided technology to Wapekeka First Nation to replace computers lost when their school burned down.

We helped found Honouring Indigenous People (HIP) which consists of a Board which is 50% aboriginal and 50% Rotarian under the Chair of Chris Snyder. HIP, through its website www.rotaryhip.com, aims to educate Rotarians and non-Rotarians on our hidden history, share success stories and best practices and bring Rotary Clubs together on joint projects. The latest project is to equip a playground for the school at Neskantaga. Your club's Aboriginal Service Committee contributed \$5,000.00 toward this project. The Aboriginal Service Committee has created a safe space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to gather in Truth and Reconciliation. We have been nominated for the City of Toronto's Hubbard Award for Race Relations. If you are interested in contributing to the work of restoring right relations with our first peoples you should consider joining us.



Student in Neskantaga working with a Tablet computer donated by our club through One Laptop per Child.

Seeking Your Thoughts ...



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The Rotary Club of Toronto is steeped in over 100 years of tradition. Tradition is a significant part of who we are as a club. To some extent, it defines and differentiates

us from other clubs. Over the years, the manner in which we operate our club and conduct our meetings has steadily evolved while, at the same time, maintaining many of the traditions to which we have become accustomed. A recent example of this evolution is the Board initiated President's Cocktail Meeting which is held during weeks that we do not have a Friday lunch. The objective of this type of meeting is to provide a more interactive and social environment for our members to enjoy and get to know each other better. This initiative has been very well received by our members. One of the major evolutions of the club has been demographics. Now, more than ever, the makeup of our club's membership is more representative of our entire community and, as such, the ways in which we operate the club should be continually reviewed to ensure that our club continues to attract and retain members. To that end, the Board of The Rotary Club of Toronto is seeking your feedback.

Some questions to consider: Should we consider changing the way we conduct lunch meetings? Are there specific activities, projects events that you would be interested in that we do not already address or that we currently do that you feel we should discontinue? What would you like to see done differently? Should we try something new? We want to know what works for you and what doesn't work for you. After we gather as much feedback as we can, we hope to conduct a special lunch, or perhaps, a mini assembly to collectively explore these questions with the membership. Please forward your comments via email (or in the "old fashioned" hand written method) to Carol Hutchinson office@rotarytoronto.on.ca at the Rotary office. The Board will review and decide the most appropriate way to present the feedback to the membership. This is your chance to provide input that will shape the future of this great club. Your input is vital. Let your voice be heard!

President Steve

The Most Recent Paul Harris Fellow

Sylvia Geist joined our Club in 2004 and immediately rolled up her sleeves and got to work. Before the ink on her application was dry she was off to Camp Huronda for a very cold work weekend and then never looked back. She joined the Women's Initiatives Committee and before you knew it she was chairing the committee – for two years no less! She has chaired Healthy Beginnings, Marketing and Communications, Public Relations, the Power of Rotary luncheons and the Voice Committee. She has also been a member of our Club Board.

Her dedication to our club has included many different leadership roles – she was instrumental in putting together the History Book for our Centennial, she led the effort to put together that wonderful video of our Club that has been used to recruit new members ever since. She has led numerous Forums for various committees – Women's Initiatives, Seniors and Healthy Beginnings. Most recently she has led the restructuring of the Voice Committee, and given the Healthy Beginnings bag program a new self-functioning structure. Congratulations Sylvia!



Sylvia Geist Receives the Honour From Sylvia Milne

A New Club Builder

Greg Vermeulen chaired Community Services for two years, as well as being chair of the Electronic Media Sub-Committee for several years. As chair of the Electronic Media Sub-Committee, Greg had and has the unenvied job of explaining such communication media as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Clubrunner and websites generally to other members of our Club, many of whom do not have a burning desire to learn all "that stuff". His leadership and ground-breaking work in this area have been invaluable to the Rotary Club of Toronto.

Along the way Greg, a Rotary Warrior, also became involved in the Environmental Sub-Committee, Marketing and Communications generally, the Voice, International Service and Strategic Planning.

Greg is in his third year on our Board and, after being Board Liaison to Community Services, is currently Board Liaison to International Service. Our Club is lucky to have him as a member. Congratulations, Greg!



President Steve congratulates Greg on his award.



New Member Mohit Pramanik

Mohit Pramanik was born in the foothills of the Himalayas in India and since then has had the privilege to call many metropolises in both the Eastern and Western hemispheres, including Toronto, home. After completing his undergraduate degree at McGill, Mohit attended Johns Hopkins for graduate school. Stints with the World Health Organization in Geneva and a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation project in Addis Ababa followed thereafter. Having returned to Toronto, he works for an international NGO called *Save The Children*, overseeing partnerships that the organization has fostered with Canadians. Through Mohit's work with *Save The Children* he contributes to efforts to ameliorate conditions for the marginalized and the deprived in low and middle income countries.



Having been a member of an Interact Club many moons ago Mohit is familiar with the role of the Rotary movement and its critical place in this world. Through his involvement in the Rotary Club of Toronto, Mohit hopes to make a difference in his own backyard. He is very interested in helping tackle the issues of access and equity that confront certain sections of Toronto's society. He also looks forward to furthering the global impact of this club.

Mohit is not half as serious as he looks and is always up for an adventure, a humorous conversation and trying off-the-beaten-path food. So do engage him in these indulgences! Mohit is excited to become an involved member of this community of social change agents and getting to know fellow Rotarians well.

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:

Brian Porter

Editor July 10, 2015:

Karen Scott

What You Missed Reporter for June 19th:

Karen Scott

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



Welcome Oliver Boucher!

Arrived the morning of May 28th, 2015, at Grove Hospital, Fergus. 7lb 4oz. Both doing very well!

Upcoming Speakers & Events

June 2015

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 12, 2015

– by Maureen Bird



We were welcomed to the Imperial Room with both God Save the Queen in honour of our speaker and O Canada.

Past President Brian Westlake welcomed three visiting Rotarians and thirteen guests. It was wonderful to see the room so full. Pat Neuman reminded us of Steve's Farewell and asked again for volunteers for the Ribfest from June 27 to July 1, five full days needing to be filled. This is a major fundraiser for our club and your help is needed. Pat also introduced our Exchange Student, Johan Chur of Denmark. Although our club covered his costs this year, he was hosted by three families in Courtice because we were unable to get host families here with access to one school. He said he enjoyed being in a small town "where everyone knew his name!" It was a busy meeting.

Don Brooks had the privilege of presenting a "Club Builder Award" to Greg Vermeulen while Sylvia Milne presented Sylvia Geist with a "Paul Harris Fellow" and "William

Peace Award". Then President Steve introduced our newest member Mohit Pramanki, with member Lorna Pitcher attaching his Rotary pin. Member Robert O'Brien reminded us that today is the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, then introduced our speaker, British Consul General Kevin McGurgan who talked about long family connections with Canada with his grandfather doing convoy duty in the Haida class and his father a submariner on our east coast.

His department's major role is generating trade currently \$2.5m hourly. He spoke of the huge surprise of a conservative majority in their recent elections but reminded us that The Scottish Nationalist Party held 56 of 59 seats. The government expects the economy to improve with no tax increases but extra powers will be given to Scotland with a larger share of VAT. There will be a referendum in 2017 about the continuing relationship with the European Union. The free movement of people in the EU has

hurt Britain because of its generous welfare system but is also hurting other countries with some of their brightest emigrating. Britain is still a major partner in the global stage with a large financial hub, a centre of sports and is building two aircraft carriers. It is proud to be supporting Canada in the Ukraine and maintaining trade agreements.

A donation has been made to 416 Support for Women and the wine was won by Krystyna Benyak, leaving over \$2,200 in the pot.



Rotarian Rita Upchurch, visiting from South Croydon in England, chats with the Consul General.

Wines You Never Knew You Liked

– by Andrea Vabalis



Thursday evening, June 11th, saw some 40 Rotarians and guests enjoy being surprised by wines. This was the 14th stop on the "World Wine Tour," and once again ably conducted by Past President, and, in his spare time, notable wine expert, Neil Phillips. Neil teamed up with National Club sommelier, Brian Perry, both of whom spoke knowledgeably and entertainingly about the grapes, their provenance and their unique tastes. It was a memorable exploration of different varietals - four

whites and four reds from all over the world - Ontario home-grown as well as from France, Germany, Italy, South Africa, and who knew?--from Greece too. We were greeted with a glass of bubbly from the oldest sparkling wine-growing region in the world, followed by a half-blind tasting of three white wines - a Gewurztraminer, a Riesling and a Chenin Blanc. This meant you had to guess which wine was which. We were then treated to four delicious reds, each of which improved dramatically

the more one imbibed and paired them with the tasty buffet meal which was served. The evening of convivial Rotarian fellowship was carried out in the National Club's elegant private dining room, with the Club's usual impeccable service. These sold-out wine tour events are not to be missed - be sure to sign up for the next one early, and enjoy!

JOIN ROTARY NOW!

www.rotarytoronto.com



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