



Today's Program

Sheldon Levy, President and Vice Chancellor of Ryerson University

Topic

University Growth in the Past Ten Years

Location

Fairmont Royal York, Upper Canada Room



Sheldon Levy is President and Vice Chancellor of Ryerson University, and has been a respected postsecondary leader and analytical visionary for the past forty years. He previously served as Vice President Finance and Strategy, University of Ontario

Institute of Technology; Vice President Government and Institutional Relations, University of Toronto; President, Sheridan College; and Vice President Institutional Affairs, York University. Current appointments include: Council of Ontario Universities Executive Committee and Government & Community Relations Committee; Board of Directors, Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation; Advisory Council, Toronto Region Board of Trade; Board of Governors, Trails Youth Initiatives; and Board of Directors, Pathways to Education Canada.

Sheldon is recognized for championing an entrepreneurial academic model with the international impact of both the Ryerson Digital Media Zone and the Centre for Urban Energy, and is dedicated to student success, distinctive programs and research, and the university's role as city-builder. He was awarded a BSc, MA, and Doctor of Laws honoris causa by York University, and lectured in computer science and mathematics. He is on the list of "The Power 50 Most Influential in Canadian Business Today" (Canadian Business) and "The 50 Most Influential" (Toronto Life), and was chosen recipient of the 2013 Toronto Region Board of Trade Builder Award.

Celebrating & Appreciating the Toronto Rotary Club and Geoffrey Johnson



Ezekiel's Story

"I think SKETCH helps a lot of young people be creative. It gives them the tools, the time, and the space to explore their ideas. And they do it with such enthusiasm! I've always felt people at SKETCH really believe in me, and because of that, I've had the motivation to take chances and develop as an artist and as a person."

When Ezekiel first came to SKETCH—the Toronto community arts initiative for youth on the margins—it was to record his own music. But it was SKETCH's community kitchen and gardens that made him stay.

Whether he was up to his elbows in flour or flowers, the act of growing food and preparing it for others helped him grow out of a life of homelessness, and into a life of possibility and belonging.

Not a fan of the word "homeless," Ezekiel was able to show himself and others that, despite his living circumstances, he could be a cook, a gardener, a musician.

He turned out to be a natural in the kitchen, so he volunteered daily to cook nutritious meals for the other youth at SKETCH, and found it rewarding to get creative and whip up dishes to accommodate a variety of diets.

His enthusiasm extended from what was on the plate, to how it got there. So he got his hands dirty in the SKETCH gardens which provide fresh produce and nourishment to neighbourhoods.

Ultimately Ezekiel was able to secure a job working in a community-centre kitchen through connections he made at SKETCH. After work, Ezekiel would bike straight back to SKETCH where he'd volunteer to cook.

Ezekiel will be one of many SKETCH culinary artists wowing Rotarian guests at "Taste@SKETCH, a Celebration of the Palate" event on April 23, 2015 from 6-9 at 180 Shaw Street. Come along and dine on sensational food - courtesy of En Ville, and meet Ezekiel and other inspiring young artists—tomorrow's culinary leaders! For more information, visit www.tasteatsketch.eventbrite.ca.

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

SAVE THE DATE
The Rotary Club of Toronto's Annual Fundraiser
Thursday, March 26th
The Steam Whistle Brewery

Creating a Haven for Young Trafficking Victims in Toronto

— by Kevin M. Ryan, President & CEO Covenant House



We at Covenant House worked closely with the two young survivors at the heart of Toronto's first criminal prosecution to lead to a sex trafficking conviction. Working with these young people fueled our determination to expand our efforts to help youth escape the chains of modern trafficking.

So you can understand why we are tremendously excited to announce we will be opening a transitional housing program designed especially for sex-trafficking survivors in Toronto early next year, as another critical step in our work to fight the human trafficking of homeless youth. The residential program, whose location will remain confidential to protect the residents, is a broad partnership with Toronto Community Housing, the city's housing authority; the municipal government; the police; and the **Women's Initiatives Committee of The Rotary Club of Toronto**, which played a leading role in bringing the project to fruition. The seven youth, ages 16 to 24, who will call this place home for up to two-years will know that a wide swath of the community cares about them and their futures.

The opening of the house early next year in Toronto will follow shortly after we open Aspire House in New York City, a ten-bed therapeutic home for young trafficking survivors, in connection with the LifeWay Network, thanks to a \$1-million anonymous grant. Our new homes for trafficking survivors in Toronto and New York City will share much in common with our other specialized programs for young trafficking survivors in Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala. We are taking a similarly broad-brush approach to our anti-trafficking work overall, gathering a large number of partners together to prevent and prosecute the forced sexual exploitation of young people, often but not always girls, and to give survivors the care they need. Our new housing programs in Toronto and New York City are only one piece of our overall work.

Sex trafficking in Canada, like in the United States, is a poorly understood but serious problem. In a survey by Covenant House Toronto, we determined that most Ontarians are unaware of the extent of the issue. Many people believe the most common victims are trafficked internationally; in fact, an estimated 71 percent of trafficking victims in Canada are Canadian citizens.

Homeless young people are particularly vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. "We estimate that as many as 1,000 of our youth are involved in some form of the sex trade annually, mostly trading sex for survival," said Bruce Rivers, executive director of Covenant House Toronto, which served almost 3,000 young people last year. "Their desperation makes them highly vulnerable to sexual exploitation for profit."

While data can be hard to come by, it is estimated that 30 percent of homeless youth in Canada have been involved in some form of the sex trade, often as a strategy for survival. A 2013 study by Fordham University and Covenant House New York showed that of about 200 randomly selected young people at the shelter, almost a quarter had been trafficked or participated in survival sex, undertaken in exchange for something of value like food and shelter. About half said they could have avoided this fate if they had only had a safe place to stay. A second study, focused on homeless youth in New Orleans, will be released shortly, and gives us no cause for relief.

We know pimps often search out and prey on young people who lack shelter and familial support. Such kids, like the ones we see every day, are particularly vulnerable to a sweet-talking guy who pretends to be a boyfriend, but turns out to be an exploiter.

In Toronto we will focus many of our efforts on prevention and early intervention, to help increase awareness

of the problem and to reduce its scope. We will help people understand the potential danger of sexual predators, signs that someone may be trafficked, and how to take action.

"We know that homeless youth are targeted by predators, and we also know that unsuspecting young girls in schools, malls and online are also lured into this kind of sex slavery," Mr. Rivers said.

We also plan to offer anti-trafficking trainings to shelter workers; staff at businesses like motels that may interact with trafficking victims; medical professionals, who often help them in emergency rooms; and city workers, to help them recognize and help young people who are trafficked.

As part of our crisis intervention plans, we plan to put together an outreach program to make contact with trafficking victims and provide a network of services to them, including safe beds and referrals to legal and medical services. Program residents will receive transformational support, including trauma and addiction counselling, life skills training and educational and vocational support through Covenant House and partner agencies. Free legal assistance will also be available from the firm of Baker & McKenzie for young people in Toronto.

We will never win the war against the human trafficking of children and youth until we first embrace and win the fight against youth homelessness. As long as our subways, bus terminals, abandoned buildings and malls continue to shelter youth with nowhere else to turn, pimps and predators will have an ample supply of desperate youth.

Source: Huffington Post

Link to this article

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/kevin-m-ryan/creating-a-haven-for-youn_b_6802036.html



Did you know...

Rotary's Role in the Formation of the United Nations 1943-1959



June 12, 1959 - Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed the closing session of the 50th Rotary International Convention in Madison Square Garden in New York City. He thanked Rotary for helping the "less fortunate" countries.

The Rotary Club of New York, as many other Rotary clubs, played an essential role in building support during the formative years of The United Nations, and in selecting New York City for the Permanent Headquarters of the United Nations. As such, more than 60 years later, Rotary International still maintains the highest consultative status with the United Nations of any non-governmental organization. In this capacity, Rotary International

and the United Nations has built a strong and productive partnership in achieving the Millennium Development Goals of 2000, including the global eradication of Polio, cultural exchanges, literacy, education, water/sanitation projects, and promotion of peace conferences around the world.

By the late 1940's, Rotary International was one of the largest "international" organizations in the world. There were more than 6,800 clubs in more than 81 countries. More importantly, Rotary was already working on projects around the world to diminish the causes of war and aggression. In fact, during a 1943 Rotary conference, held in London, an outline of the development of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was established in 1946 and Rotarians helped write its constitution. Additionally, many of the delegates at the San Francisco Conference that were representing their respective governments, were also members of their own Rotary clubs and utilized their clubs to develop support for the soon to be established United Nations Organization (UN).

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

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What You Missed Reporter for March 13th:

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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:

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Upcoming Speakers & Events

March

- 20 Ron Denham - at The National Club
- 27 Paul Garfinkel – CEO CAMH
- 31 Rotary Members and Guests Cocktails Networking, Committee updates

April

- 03 No Meeting - Good Friday Holiday
- 10 Mark Sakamoto
- 17 To Be Determined - at The National Club
- 24 Neil McOstrich, Wisdom of Storytelling - Imparting Wisdom To CEO's

May

- 01 Kelly Murumets - CEO, Tennis Canada
- 08 Steve Cornish, Doctors Without Borders Canada

Propose a Speaker – Contact

Peter Simmie, Chair

Program Committee

peter.simmie@bristolgate.com

The Board of Directors of
 Lake Scugog Camp
 Invites you to attend our

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2015
 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Metropolitan United Church
 56 Queen St. E. Toronto

Light Refreshments will be served
 RSVP by March 17
 admin@campscugog.org



www.campscugog.org



What You Missed, March 6, 2015

– by Heather Hetherington



The Upper Canada room was flooded with sunshine and a sense of keen anticipation and warmth amongst the members as our guest speaker, Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair, made his way to his place at the Head table. And what an august Head Table it was! The Chief was surrounded by four past Presidents, current President Steve and President elect, David Hetherington, along with Vice President Susan Hunter.

Richard White, Monitor for the day announced the presence of three visiting Rotarians and thirteen guests, one of whom was Staff Superintendent Jane Wilcox, guest of Chief Bill Blair and today's host, Marg Stanowski.

Following brief announcements reminding us of the upcoming Rotaract vodka tasting fundraiser on March 13 and our own fundraiser at The STEAM WHISTLE BREWERY March 26, it was time for our guest speaker to be ably introduced by Marg Stanowski, and warmly welcomed by all.

The Chief commenced his remarks by expressing thanks to the Toronto Rotary Club for its efforts to help Toronto earn the reputation of being the safest and most livable city in the world by being citizens "who give back and hold dear the values of inclusiveness." He cited the recent project of the Women's Initiative Committee in establishing a Safe House in collaboration with Covenant House

(of which he is a patron) in an effort to help those trying to break free from human trafficking. Chief Blair spoke of the magnitude of this problem and the efforts of the Police to deal with it.

Looking back over his thirty-eight year career, he noted that when he first joined the Police service, everyone seemed to be like him- white males, athletic and sharing similar values. However Toronto now has 160 neighborhoods, representing every race, culture and religious tradition. In an effort to promote inclusiveness and form partnerships within such diverse communities, our Police service now mirrors that diversity, outranking all other forces in North America and internationally. During his ten-year tenure as Chief, the inclusion of women, such as Staff Superintendent Wilcox, to top ranking positions was also a strategy he promoted, noting that women brought a much needed "different perspective."

As he concluded his remarks, Chief Blair joked that many had speculated on his future plans after his term ends on April 25, but not to expect news until at least April 26.

A standing ovation was given and a question period followed. The chief responded to five questions including a question which was reported on by the Globe & Mail. The question dealt with the proposed life- in- prison legislation. In response he spoke out against it calling it a "political calculation."



The Chief receiving his Paul Harris Fellow with Marg Stanowski, President Steve, and Staff Superintendent Jane Wilcox

President Steve expressed thanks to Chief Bill Blair for his decade of leadership and then awarded him the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship. Rotarians joined in a standing ovation. In drawing the meeting to a close, President Steve omitted his usual humorous anecdote, and instead shared a piece of good news. Past President Neil Phillips will be Rotary International District Governor 2017-18 and hearty applause followed.

And what about the Ace of Clubs draw? Well John Andras was present but Staff Superintendent Wilcox won a bottle of Vodka donated by Rotaract and the pot remains at \$1,324.

A memorable meeting indeed.



The Rotary Club of Toronto

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