

Today's Program

Dr. Ron Denham, Founder and Chair Emeritus of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG)

Topic

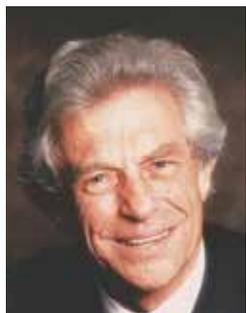
Rotary and the UN Millennium Development Goals

Host

David Libby

Location

The National Club



Dr. Ron Denham is chair of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG), an international network of Rotarians working to ensure sustainable solutions to the water and sanitation crisis. He has supported a range of water and sanitation projects in

Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana and India, and his current mission is to encourage all 1.2 million Rotarians to become familiar with world water issues, and every Rotary club (33,000) to become involved in a water/sanitation project.

He received his education in England, where he obtained a B.Sc. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. A Rotarian for over 50 years, he first joined in 1958 in Welland. After moving to Toronto he joined the Toronto-Eglinton club in 1964. He served as president 1973-74 and, after being director of several district programs, including Vocational Service, Public Relations, and Community Service, was elected District Governor for the year 1993-94.

In recognition of his contribution to Rotary, his vocation, and to the world community, he was presented with the "Service above Self" award in 2005. He has been general coordinator of the Water Resources Task Force (or its equivalent, WASRAG) since 2004.

Dr. Denham says Rotary is committed to help achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal that calls for a fifty percent reduction by 2015 in the number of people with insufficient access to safe water and sanitation. He says, "This is an enormous challenge for humanity, and Rotary clubs are logical leaders in the challenge because they are embedded in their local communities, allowing the clubs to help define realistic solutions to local problems."

Rotary International Global Grants at Work

Since 2010, the Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton has received three Global Grants totaling CAD \$750,000 in partnership with the Rotary Club of Nakuru, Kenya. Many thanks to the 17 Rotary clubs who contributed. Toronto Eglinton members Jackie Scroggie, Norma Davis and Barbara Bocking have visited the projects at least once a year since 2010.

The first two grants were to support economic development by providing a stable supply of clean water to the rural communities around Nakuru Kenya. They built 1,200 (10,000 litre) household rainwater harvesting tanks, provided health and sanitation training, and funded small microfinance loans, mostly to women.

The following is a report from Barb's visit dated February 9-11, 2015:

The third GG, a WASH in School Project is well underway in six schools in the surrounding area of Nakuru Kenya. This project has had phenomenal support from many Rotary clubs in District 7070 and across the country, received a Global Grant from Rotary International and the support of WASRAG Canada and Backyard Brands. The focus is to introduce a **Model WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Program** into three secondary schools and three primary schools from drought and poverty stricken areas in this community.

In February Barbara visited Nakuru and was warmly welcomed by the Host Nakuru Rotary Club. She met with Nakuru Rotarians and the two project managers and was the speaker at the weekly Rotary lunch meeting. During this visit, new latrines and rainwater harvesting tanks were officially opened at two of the three schools where infrastructure has been completed, and a third school was observed where facilities are to be built. Both Barbara and her husband found it extremely heartwarming to witness a "sea" of excited primary students all anticipating the opening of their new facilities.

Each school has received a 30,000 litre **rain water harvesting tank** and the required gutters to collect water once the rainy season arrives. **Blocks of new latrines** with privacy walls and an attached hand washing station have been constructed as well. To further the implementation of improved sanitation, and in line with the UN's research on effective methods of teaching hand washing practices, each school has received a hand washing station with multiple faucets where group hand washing activities will be held.

The initiative also includes a **Menstrual Hygiene Management** component to encourage young women to stay in school. One of the latrines will be equipped with a wash station.

All of the school communities were deeply grateful for the support given them and are enthusiastically anticipating the introduction of the health and hygiene component of this project. It was decided that all schools should have the infrastructure in place prior to introduction of the Health portion. There is great enthusiasm from all parties involved with this project and within the community and a sense of accomplishment and anticipation as students and parents alike realize that new opportunities abound when schools become better places for learning.



Principal of Kongassis School with Barb and collection tank – note Rotary on plaque



Students and staff with new toilet block, rain harvesting tank and hand wash station



SPEAKEASY, MARCH 26, 2015

This is our club's major fundraiser. Congratulations to the fundraising team as all tables are SOLD OUT. Donations, however, can still be made. Thank you!

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 24th – RI President Gary Huang is in Richmond Hill for dinner

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Tuesday, March 24th – Lake Scugog Camp AGM at Metropolitan United Church
- contact: admin@campscugog.org

May 22-24th – Annual Lake Scugog Camp weekend – not to be missed, sign up now on our website (log in first)

Upcoming Speakers & Events

March 2015

- 27 Paul Garfinkel, Science and Compassion in the New Psychiatry, at The Fairmont Royal York, Imperial Room
- 31 Rotary Members and Guests Cocktails Networking, at The National Club

April

- 03 No Meeting due to the Good Friday Holiday
- 10 Mark Sakamoto, in the Upper Canada Room
- 17 To Be Determined, at The National Club
- 24 Neil McOstrich, in the Upper Canada Room

May

- 01 Kelly, Murumets, CEO, Tennis Canada
- 08 Steve Cornish, Doctors Without Borders, at The National Club

Editor of the Week
Luba Rascheff

Editor, March 27
Brian Porter

What You Missed Reporter for March 20, 2015
John Andras

Propose a Speaker – Contact
Alex Brown, Chair
alexbrown@integratedappliances.ca

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter
voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca

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What You Missed March 13, 2015

– by Rohit Tamhane



Spring-like weather had arrived and the Upper Canada Room was teeming with Rotarians and their guests. There was an unusual silence that the astute and/or well-attending Rotarian would have noticed (sooner than I), Glen “twinkle-toes” Davis was missing. Carol led the clapping so that we would stay on time. And how we missed Brigitte Bogar’s voice during O Canada!

An esteemed ex-president and monitor, Mr. Geoffrey Johnson not only counted, but foretold the future. According to his crystal ball, President Steve’s fate is slowly, yet irrevocably being sealed into a black and white, 8”x10’.

Congratulations are in order for the annual fundraiser at the Steam Whistle. There was a goal of \$10,000 support from the club that we raised and exceeded. Thank you to those that made it possible to reach \$14,000 in donations before the event! Our valued Board Member, Dina Rashid, organized a Kids Against Hunger event. Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and their families and friends helped pack nutritious and tasty meals on Saturday, March 7th. DGN Marketing generously provided us with space so that in one afternoon, over 35,000 meals were produced, packaged and shipped to aid aboriginals in need. Lastly, drivers are needed to deliver Easter Meals on April 1st. Please contact Jack Robertson at 905.847.9103 to volunteer for a truly rewarding experience of bringing vulnerable seniors a warm meal.

Our speaker was Sheldon Levy, President and Vice-Chancellor of Ryerson University. Did you know that Ryerson is the 3rd largest university in Canada, after U of T and York? There are 70,000 applicants for 6,000 first year seats, making it the most highly sought after university, with Queen’s ranking second. Mr. Levy attributes Ryerson’s success to two main strategies: first, the “City Building Strategy;” and second, “Be the Best” at something that matters to the people you serve, the community and the country. The challenge is even more daunting when space is so limited. York has 41 m² /student, U of T has 14 m² /student while Ryerson has only 4 m² /student. Wise leaders seldom re-invent the wheel, and Mr. Levy borrowed heavily from the strategy that the University of Pennsylvania used. U of Penn. led by improving the area around the university, thereby improving safety. Thus, Ryerson built parks 100 meters from Yonge and Dundas. Mr. Levy also learned by other universities failures, namely from the University of Chicago. The lesson was to integrate the community into the university. How? By mandating that a university building would dedicate the ground floor to the city, local retailers and vendors. This results in the public using the same space as the students and increases safety. Lastly, Ryerson has consciously invested in an incubator for innovation, initially in technology, that has spread to other disciplines. The result is that Ryerson is #1 in Canada for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and #5 in the world. It was truly inspiring to hear Mr. Levy speak, and it made one grateful and proud that the Rotary Club of Toronto has such esteemed speakers.

The Ace of Clubs has grown to \$1,422 and the “nest egg” remains safe till next meeting. John Farrell was lucky to get his number called and win a bottle of wine. The audience on the other hand was not so lucky; President Steve delivered his signature closing “groaner,” though this one was better than most. Yes, less than 4 months left.... Can I get a Hallelujah?!

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

