



## Speaker

National Chief Perry Bellegarde

## Host

John Andras

*John joined the club in 1988. He is a Past President (2003-2004) and is the Chair of the club's Aboriginal Service Committee*

## Location

Fairmont Royal York Hotel Ballroom



Perry Bellegarde was named Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief on December 10, 2014. He has spent his entire adult life putting into practice his strong beliefs in the laws and traditions instilled in him by the many Chiefs and Elders he has known over the years. Passionate about making measureable progress on the issues that matter most to First Nations people, National Chief Bellegarde is a strong advocate for the implementation of Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. Widely known as a consensus builder with a track record of accomplishment, he brings community people, leaders, Chiefs and Elders together to focus on working cooperatively to move issues forward.

National Chief Bellegarde is from the Little Black Bear First Nation, Treaty 4 Territory. He served as Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Saskatchewan Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations. He has also served as the Tribal Chair of the Touchwood-File Hills-Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, Councillor for the Little Black Bear First Nation and Chief of Little Black Bear First Nation.

Some of the projects that National Chief Bellegarde has facilitated on behalf of First Nations include:

- Negotiating the addition of 250 gaming machines to the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) resulting in a pathway for the long-term financial stability of the FSIN
- Facilitating negotiations between the FSIN and the Province of Saskatchewan that resulted in the 25-year Gaming Agreement
- Leading Little Black Bear (LBB) First Nation out of 3rd party management within 8 months of being elected Chief
- Facilitating LBB's re-qualification for CMHC housing after a 13-year period of no new housing
- A national multi-million dollar compensation package for First Nations veterans and their spouses
- The successful settlement of the specific claim resulting in the restoration of the Treaty lands in Fort Qu'Appelle to reserve status for Treaty Four First Nations
- The transfer of the Fort Qu'Appelle Indian Hospital to First Nations control, which resulted in the building of the multi-million dollar All Nations Healing Hospital

In 1984, Bellegarde became the first Treaty Indian to graduate from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Administration. In March 2012, he graduated from the Certified Corporate Board Training through The Directors College sponsored by the Conference Board of Canada and McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business.

National Chief Bellegarde's candidacy for National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations was based on a vision that includes establishing processes for self-determination; recognition of inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights; the revitalization and retention of Indigenous languages; and establishing a new relationship with the Crown – one that removes the long-standing 2% cap on federal funding.

National Chief Bellegarde believes in upholding Indigenous rights as human rights and does so in international forums. Most recently, he spoke at the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous People in New York. He has called on the Prime Minister to launch an immediate inquiry and to develop a plan of action on Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

National Chief Bellegarde is the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal (2012), Saskatchewan Medal (2005), Queen's Jubilee Medal (2002) and Confederation Medal (1992). He has been honoured by several Chiefs and Elders who have acknowledged him as their adopted son. He honours them by carrying their teachings forward as he works diligently toward the implementation of Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights, self-determination and a shared vision for the future.

## The Refugees are Coming!

– by Maureen Bird



The government is full steam ahead in its plans to settle refugee families in Canada in the next few months. These will be families only, from the camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey where many of them have been struggling in tents for up to four years. The United Nations High Commission on Refugees has had staff in the camps all this time to document and interview the families.

UNHCR is choosing those families who would handle best another major upheaval in their lives. Government and security officials from Canada are working with UNHCR to do all security screening there.

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But housing these refugees in army barracks and vacant hospitals is not a good solution for the long term. It is up to us, private sponsors, to move them quickly into livable accommodation in areas where we can help them obtain the assistance they need; good identification, ESL programs, job-training and acclimatization to our multicultural country.

\$40,000 is the amount we have been asked to raise to assist one family for one year. That is the limit of our liability. This private sponsorship program, unique to Canada, has resulted in a better result than merely dropping a family into a city on its own. Make a difference in the lives of one family. Contribute to our fund. Volunteer with our team.

Ian McBride, Director of AURA, one of the major groups authorized to work between the government and the sponsoring groups, will be our speaker on December 4th. Canadians can be proud of what we are accomplishing.



## Honouring Indigenous Peoples

— by Chris Snyder, Chair of HIP



HIP, which was started several years ago, is a partnership between Rotarians and Indigenous Peoples to do something about the unacceptable relationship with and conditions of the Indigenous Peoples in Canada. After extensive consultation with many Indigenous leaders, we concluded our goal should be to get Rotarians and others across the country engaged in educational initiatives with and for Indigenous Peoples and to create public awareness of Indigenous culture, issues and history

HIP is a stand-alone charitable organization. Fifty percent of our board members are Indigenous Peoples and fifty percent are Rotarians, from five districts. The Rotary Club of Toronto is a founding member and we have members from across the country. The Ontario-based initiatives we and other clubs are involved in are diverse, extend beyond the classroom and are all aimed at enhancing education and creating awareness.

They include:

- a playground in Neskantaga
- Early Years reading programs in northern reserves
- literacy programs
- a vehicle to transport students in Sioux Lookout
- providing computer tablets and dictionaries to a number of Indigenous communities
- supporting the Save the Evidence Campaign, an effort to save the Mohawk Institute, a former residential school in Brantford
- support for a children's reconciliation art program at Six Nations involving both aboriginal and non-aboriginal children
- several stay-in-school programs in Toronto
- a canoe trip for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in Peterborough
- a children's hearing program in Pond Inlet
- providing university scholarships

There are many more including many in western Canada. Most projects are in their early stages and need financial assistance. HIP encourages the creation of these projects. All must be driven by the Indigenous community and must be approved by our board. HIP puts clubs together to participate in and help fund these projects. We also have a number of other partners including Frontier College, One Laptop per Child, the Dolly Parton Foundation, the Martin Aboriginal Educational Initiative, Native Child and Family Services and Tikinagan Family Services.

The HIP website, [www.rotaryhip.com](http://www.rotaryhip.com), has a host of ideas, books, links and a blog. A list of videos is coming soon. We encourage all Rotarians to speak with someone about indigenous issues, invite speakers to come to our meetings and to join our clubs, visit Indigenous communities, go to pow wows and Friendship Centres or participate in projects.

At the 7070 District Conference, we hosted a panel of several educators and featured an interview with the Honourable Paul Martin that can be found on our website under Links.

Our goal and vision is to have every Indigenous person in Canada get the same educational opportunities and resources as non-indigenous persons and for every Canadian to become aware of Aboriginal culture, issues and history. These goals are aspirational but I invite every Rotary club, every Rotarian and every individual in Canada (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) to join in and be part of the reconciliation process and part of the solution



PDG Brian Thompson, Hon. Paul Martin, DG Michael Bell and Chris Snyder after the filming of the HIP Interview.



Tim Thompson, Chris Snyder, Suzanne Stewart, Lisa Farano, Andre Morriseau, Sherry Campbell and Suzanne's daughter following the HIP presentation at the District 7070 Conference Plenary Session



## Journeying Toward Reconciliation – by Andrée Cazabon



*Editor's Note: Andrée began her Rotary journey in 1989 when she presented to the Rotary Urban Peace Forum. Her Rotary involvement led to the docudrama Letters to a Street Child, the Pine River Institute, the Premiere of 3rd World Canada, the subsequent cross-Ontario Tour and the Reconciliation Exchanges. Andrée is a true ally of both Rotary and First Peoples and is a recipient of the Pauline Hill Making a Difference Award*

Today, we celebrate together the journey from 'truth' towards 'reconciliation.'

Collectively, we are at the doorstep of reconciliation. Courageous visionaries and everyday heroes are called upon to help bring Canada through that doorway. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report in June sounded the bell: it is echoing throughout the country and here today in the midst of the Financial District with its oldest service Club. This hopeful momentum needs our support.



*The Drum is heard again in Kitchenumaykoosib Inminuwug (KI) in 2013. Andrée Cazabon and Ruth Ann Onley look on.*

When we look back on this day it may be remembered as a milestone in our history: a day from which the next milestone of country-building evolved - the day that National Chief Perry Bellegarde addressed us in the presence of esteemed Chiefs, Dignitaries and Rotarians. If we collectively wish it, this day could have inspirational ripple effects resonating throughout the Financial District and our circles.

Here are two organizations for which I have deep respect, the Assembly of First Nations and The Rotary Club of Toronto, coming together at an opportune time of hope in Canada's history. It is a full circle to see my two initial supporters meeting under the same roof, under the same tent.

It is the first time they meet but not the first time they share a common goal of raising awareness on the gaps of living conditions and education gaps for Indigenous People.

Five years ago, this Club and the AFN embarked on a truth-telling journey, each sponsored the premieres in Toronto and Ottawa of my documentary film *3rd World Canada*.

At a time when bringing Canadians and First Nations together in the same room or shining a light on the gaps in living conditions and the impact of residential schools on today's children was unheard of, these two events were highly successful. They sent ripple effects for years. Unknowingly at the time, we were trailblazing together towards truth.



*3rd World housing conditions in K.I. There are over 250 on the waiting list for housing and funding to build 2-3 homes per year.*

The day after the premiere, John Andras, Peter Love and other Rotarians initiated the first Rotary Club Aboriginal Committee inspiring other Clubs to follow suit through the work of Chris Snyder who launched HIP - Honouring Indigenous Peoples. More ripples continuing.

Following both film premieres in 2010, I've committed ten years of my life to reconciliation, the last five in raising awareness with the film and the reconciliation trips in remote K.I. Now is the time to engage my fellow Canadians in reconciliation.

To mark this we launch the *'4 Seasons of Reconciliation'* education initiative, a five year multi-media campaign. We continue to work with the First Nations University of Canada joined by their Chair, David Sharpe a Club member.

Together, we will be reaching out to the education and private sector to encourage partnerships towards reconciliation. Today is an example of Rotary's capacity to bring people together.

**RI President**  
Ravi Ravindran

**District Governor**  
Michael Bell

## The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 – 1912

**Officers:**

President: David Hetherington  
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Vice President: Pat Neuman  
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**Editor of the Week:**

John Andras

**Editor Dec 4, 2015 Voice:**

Karen Scott

**What You Missed Reporter for November 27th:**

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?

## Upcoming Speakers & Events

### December

- 4 Ian McBride, AURA, Refugee Sponsorship
- 11 Seniors Christmas Party
- 18 Club Christmas Lunch
- 25 No Meeting due to the Holiday Season

### January 2016

- 1 No Meeting due to the Holiday Season
- 8 Alan Budson, Canon-The Anglican Church of Canada

### Events

- Dec 5 Children's Christmas Party, Fairmont

### Propose a Speaker – Contact

Alex Brown, Chair  
jandabrown@rogers.com  
416.799.5827

### Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter:

voice@rotarytoronto.on.ca

## Distinguished Service Award Winner

**Neil Phillips** – by Bill Morari



*A Stunned Neil Phillips is congratulated by President David Hetherington*

Our “Distinguished Service Award” has only been presented 4 times since its inception in 1988. If you drop by the office you will see the Plaque on the wall with the names of the previous winners, Stewart H. Press, Norm Ovenden, John Andras and Michele Guy. This Award is only very occasionally given to “Honour a Member

for their Outstanding Contribution to the Work and Development of the Club.” To be eligible the winner must be a William Peace Award recipient, and it is only presented to someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty in the name of service to the Rotary Club of Toronto and Rotary.

Neil joined the RCT in May 1999. He quickly became very involved in numerous committees, having served on or Chaired the following committees, Fellowship & Entertainment, Program, Fundraising, Community Services, 100th Anniversary Planning Committee, Environmental Sub-Committee, Honours & Awards, Governance & Legislative, Marketing and Communication committees, as well served as a Club Director of our Charitable Foundation.

In addition he was our Rotaract Liaison, in fact I think in Neil’s mind he is a Rotaractor at heart. Neil also served on the Board of Directors twice and was Club President in what was perhaps the busiest year any President of the Rotary Club of Toronto ever has had, our Centennial Year, 2012-13.

As you all know that was a very special year for our Club and Neil was instrumental in making certain the full year worth of events and festivities were hugely successful. Between all the special luncheons, the RI President coming to town and radio and television appearances he became a bit of celebrity. The amount of work, countless hours Neil dedicated representing our club was incredible. Neil was the right man for the job, at the right time.

Now most Past Presidents would ride off in the sunset for at least a little after serving their term, not our Neil, he became the District Rotaract Chair and is the District Governor Elect for 7070 immediately after his very busy year as President.

In addition, Neil has also been a driving force getting our Club involved in the Etobicoke Rotary Rib Fest, coordinating volunteers, and in turn raising thousands of dollars for our Philanthropic activities. He has participated in the Foundation Walk, volunteered at Blue Mountain Camp, Camp Huronda and Camp Scugog, where he finagled his way into the kitchen as one of the Chefs.

No one is more deserving. Neil is totally dedicated to the Rotary Club of Toronto and Rotary and has given back so much to our Club and others in the service of Rotary.

## What You Missed November 20, 2015

– by John Farrell



While the air was a little brisk, the sun was shining down as Rotarians and guests made their way to the National Club. President Elect Susan Hunter welcomed the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, as President David escorted her into the room.

President David announced that the Seniors Lunch is fast approaching. Watch for Mary Lach and the iconic silver box for your lunch tickets to “treat a Senior”. We’re also in need of 30 volunteer drivers that can help bring our Senior guests to lunch. If you can help, Jack Robertson or Maureen Bird would love to hear from you.

Bill Morari took to the podium to present the Distinguished Service Award. Neil Philips was the winner and for once he may have been at a loss for words.

We also had a new member introduced. Annie Chu has an impressive resume of work done with Rotaract. There’s no doubt she will find a home quickly with the Fellowship and Entertainment Committee!

President David introduced our guest speaker, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell.



*Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell and President David Hetherington*

Ms. Dowdeswell explained for us her role as Lieutenant Governor. The most traditional and the first thing many of us think about when we speak of the Lieutenant Governor is that they are the Queen’s Representative in Ontario. Her second role is to celebrate the achievements of Ontarians. In her one year in office she has attended approximately 700 events. That’s an impressive achievement by any measure. She wants to stress the small stories that are not getting told. She wants the world to know, “Who we are as Ontarians.” Typically when a new Lieutenant Governor comes to term, there is an overarching theme to what they’d like to achieve. In this she provided us with some insight into an ambitious theme, which is “Ontario in the World.” Her desire is to listen to Ontarians first and to learn of their challenges as well as their achievements. It is important for her to find out what Ontarians are thinking. She sees three challenges. First we must ensure there is healthy innovation and entrepreneurship in Ontario. Secondly, that we understand the fragility of our environment. The environment she considers is the basis for life on earth. Finally, we need to ensure that there is social cohesion. As Canadians, we’re a very open and tolerant society, but we cannot become complacent. We need to create spaces, both private and public, where we can all work and play without risk of discrimination.

Her message for us all is to create an Ontario we want.

The Ace of Clubs draw is now sits at over \$4500. Michael Morgan won the draw and took home a lovely bottle of wine. The jury is still out as to whether Harvey has the Ace of Clubs up his sleeve or not.

**The Rotary Club of Toronto**

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