



Today's Speaker

R.H. Thomson

Topic

The World Remembers

Host

Robert A. O'Brien

Location

Upper Canada Room, Fairmont Royal York



R.H. Thomson, one of Canada's foremost actors and directors, includes among his accolades the Toronto Drama Bench Award for his "outstanding body of work" spanning thirty years and covering theatre, film, television and the Gascon-Thomas Award recognizing his career in the arts. On stage, his theatre roles

have ranged from Marc Antony in *Julius Caesar* at Canada's Stratford Festival to Glenn Gould in the play, *Glenn*. R.H. Thomson was Artistic Director for the 1991/1992 Season of Toronto's World Stage Theatre Festival as well as the Co-Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Works until 2006. He hosted *Man Alive* on the CBC for three seasons. In 2001, he wrote and performed a solo show called *The Lost Boys*, based on 750 letters from his great uncles who served in World War I, ultimately planting the seed of the Vigil Project. The play's CBC television version delivered R.H. Thomson his second Gemini Award. Among his other performances are included his role as Dr. Banting in the award-winning *Glory Enough for All*, the long-running series, *The Road to Avonlea* and the film, *Ticket to Heaven*. In 2007, he co-created and produced *Vimy Vigil* in Ottawa for Veterans Affairs in Canada and, in 2010, with the support of Veterans Affairs and the Churchill Society, he co-created and produced the *Vigil* event from Ypres in schools across Canada as a special remembrance of Canada's war heroes. He currently lives in Toronto with his wife and two sons. Today, he describes his remarkable and ambitious new project, *The World Remembers, 1914-1918*.

NEW MEMBERS



New member, Tamara Levine, is working to promote peace, prosperity and sustainability in a complex world. Tamara has a Joint Honours Bachelors in Environment and Resource Studies and Biology from the University of Waterloo where she was the top graduating student in her faculty. She holds a Masters in Development from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex in England. She has also completed the MBA fundamentals MOOC provided by Wharton at the University of Pennsylvania.

She has over 14 years experience in international development and green growth with extensive experience working overseas with bilateral and multilateral donors. She began her career working for the Honourable Maurice F. Strong and the Earth Council Institute Canada coordinating the Canada-Brazil Water Monitoring Exchange. Since then she has been a Senior Environment Specialist for the Canadian International Development Agency based in Ottawa, an Agriculture Specialist for the Swiss Foundation for Development Cooperation based in Bern, Switzerland, and the coordinator of the Environment and Development Network for the Organization for Economic Cooperation. She has worked in over 60 countries around the world! Since 2012, she has been an independent consultant working primarily for the newly established Green Climate Fund, the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

Her true passions are children, cycling, gardening, languages, photography and teaching. Her over-arching life mission is service to others. She is a life-long learner and has over the last year learned some of the hardest and most valuable lessons of her life. She is proud to call Canada home and deeply privileged to join the amazing Rotary community.



New member Brigitte Bogar is the founder and artistic director of Nordic Opera Canada. She conducts the Toronto Swedish Singers, has performed Opera with the Concert Chorus, Toronto Operetta Theatre, Summer Opera Lyric Theatre, and has sung Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the London Symphonic Orchestra. She has lectured on music and theater.

Among her newest accomplishments is a CD recording of unknown songs by George Bernard Shaw and his mother. With degrees in Music and Theatre, she is currently teaching and a PhD Candidate in Music at York University. She is the Vice President, Conference for the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, planning and running a yearly conference with 450-plus participants in the US. As an actress she appeared at the Royal Danish Theatre.

She grew up in the countryside in Denmark with her brother. At an early age she started singing in church choirs and acting with a local theater group focusing on musicals and street theater. After high school she moved to Copenhagen, and has several degrees from Copenhagen University, where she studied Music, Theater, Greek, Latin and Math. While running a conference on Religion and Theater she met her husband Christopher, and a year later she moved to Toronto. They live in The Beaches with their rescue dog Marlowe.



Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting for the purpose of electing a Vice President and four Directors for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2015; a Treasurer for the year 2015-2016 year; the approval of the audited Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2014; and the election of Auditors; will be held during the regular lunch meeting on Friday, December 5, 2014 at the National Club. The Club's Financial Statements will be available for pick up at the attendance desk on Friday, December 5, 2014.

- Carol Hutchinson, Executive Director

What You Missed November 21, 2014

– by Mary Lach



On a cold November day, club members assembled in the Royal York's Tudor Room. President elect David Hetherington, standing in for President Steve, introduced the head table, after which Susan Howson, the Monitor, introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests.

After a number of announcements, President Elect Dave introduced two new members to our Club: Brigitte Bogar, an artistic director and accomplished artist in music and theater, and Tamara Levine who has enjoyed experience in international development, green growth and work with bilateral and multilateral donors. Dina Rashid then introduced guest speaker Wayne McConnachie, the General Manager for Kids Against Hunger as well as Presenter Fred Mandryk, the Chair of the Food Packing Program.

Kids Against Hunger is a humanitarian organization that focuses on alleviating child hunger. Its mission is to engage Canadians, especially youth, in helping feed starving children. There are about one billion people around the world that go hungry every night and a child dies every six seconds of hunger-related causes. Kids Against Hunger partners with community groups, service clubs and other organizations to respond to hunger by providing nutritious meals for the hungry, and to do so, to host Food Packing events throughout Canada. The world's leading food scientists developed this revolutionary food package. It consists of protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, all for only 23 cents per serving.

Amazingly, six weeks of food packages will transform a child's life. Kids Against Hunger food-packaging satellites operate in countries where the food will be distributed. Kids Against Hunger relies on the expertise of trustworthy partners that will get the food safely to its destination.

Kids Against Hunger is a volunteer organization. Local volunteers are essential for mobilizing the energy of people of all ages to help starving children around the world. Involvement also promotes leadership, teamwork, spiritual togetherness and community growth.

The meeting came to an end following the 50/50 Ace of Clubs draw for 500 dollars in the pot. Chris Snyder took home the wine.

Tweet and post the good news! Children's Christmas Party is Rotary's gift to kids. And, on December 5, "The History and Future of Corby Spirit and Wine!" Join us for a great talk!

Upcoming Speakers & Events

November 2014

29 The RCT Annual Children's Christmas Party, Fairmont Royal York Hotel

December 2014

2 Rotary Club President's Roast
5 Canadian Whisky Pioneers: The History and Future of Corby Spirit and Wine
12 Senior's Christmas Party
19 Members Christmas Party

Editor of the Week

Brian Porter

What You Missed Reporter, November 28

Rohit Tamhane

Propose a Speaker – Contact

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Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter

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