

Today's Program

Christopher Rutty, Health Heritage Research

Topic

The Middle Class Plague: Ontario and the Polio Years

Location

Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Concert Hall



Christopher J. Rutty is a Toronto-based professional medical historian in private practice with special expertise in the history of public health, vaccines and biotechnology in Canada. After completing a diploma in Classical Animation at Sheridan College, Chris shifted focus to science and the history of science and medicine at the University of Western Ontario during the 1980s. He then received his

PhD in History from the University of Toronto in 1995 and focused his dissertation on the history of polio in Canada. He has since written and presented extensively about the history of polio and polio vaccines.

Since establishing his Health Heritage Research Services consulting firm in 1995 <<http://healthheritageresearch.com>>, Dr. Rutty has provided research, writing and creative services to a variety of clients, most notably Sanofi Pasteur Canada (formerly Connaught Laboratories), which is marking its centenary this year. A notable current project is managing the Sanofi Pasteur Canada Centenary Facebook page that features many postings about the history of polio and polio vaccines. Chris has also published histories of St. Mary's General Hospital in Kitchener, the history of the Canadian Nurses Association, and the history of public health in Canada for the Canadian Public Health Association. He has also curated several historical exhibits, including exhibits on the discovery of insulin, the history of the Faculty of Medicine at University of Toronto, the history of public health teaching, research and public service in Toronto, and the history of vaccines and immunization in Canada at the Museum of Health Care in Kingston. A central feature of the Kingston exhibit is an iron lung built in 1937 at the Hospital for Sick Children; an online version of this exhibit is expected to launch in late October.

Chris Rutty will be joined by a special guest, Roger Ashby. Roger is host of "Roger, Darren & Marilyn," a radio personality and polio survivor.

Harper Receives Rotary Foundation Polio Eradication Champion Award

On October 18, Prime Minister Stephen Harper received the Rotary Foundation Polio Eradication Champion Award for his longstanding support and continued leadership in efforts to eliminate polio around the world. The Prime Minister accepted the award at a ceremony hosted by the Canadian Rotary Foundation in Toronto. Upon receiving the award, the Prime Minister made the following statement.

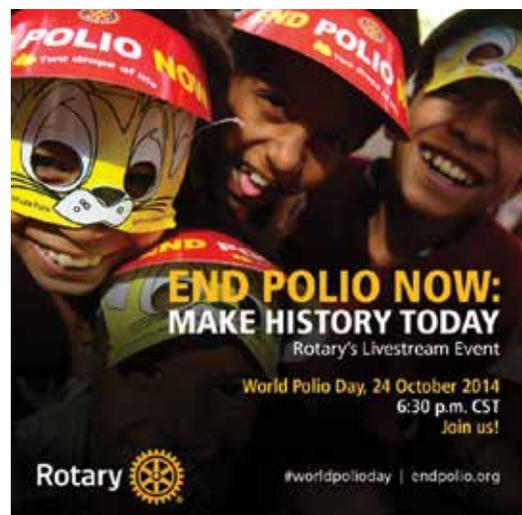


Prime Minister Harper receiving the Polio Eradication Champion Award

I am honoured to receive this prestigious award that recognizes the significant efforts and contributions that our Government continues to make towards eradicating polio. We will continue to work with our partners to help put an end to this devastating childhood disease that can be prevented with a simple vaccine.

The Polio Eradication Champion Award is the highest honour the Rotary Foundation presents to heads of state, health agency leaders and others who have made significant contributions to the global polio eradication effort. The Foundation undertakes worldwide Rotary campaigns such as eradicating polio and promoting peace.

The Government of Canada has been at the forefront of the fight against polio. Since 2006, Canada has disbursed significant funds to eradicate polio, namely through support to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), to which Canada is one of the top donors. At the Global Vaccine Summit in April 2013, Canada reconfirmed its commitment to polio eradication and pledged funds over six years to support the GPEI's 2013-2018 Endgame Strategic Plan which sets out a roadmap to eradicate polio by 2018.



Remember, donations to the Polio Plus Campaign can be made at: <http://tinyurl.com/otlehsl>



The Wine Series: **QUE SYRAH SHIRAZ**

What you've all been waiting for . . . details on the next installment in our Wine Series, to be held November 12th at The National Club.

QUE SYRAH SHIRAZ - the exploration of a grape. Be sure to join us for this bold and spicy evening. Registration is only via the online link below, and spaces are limited, so don't delay:

<http://tinyurl.com/n975svj>

What You Missed October 17 2014

– by John Andras



Coming off the escalator to the Convention Level of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel we were met by a Shelter Box tent and displays from Honouring Indigenous People (HIP), Canadian Landmines Foundation, a display on water and tables of Rotary merchandise. We knew this was to be a very special meeting. We were joined in the Concert Hall by 450 Rotarian guests from the Zone 24 and 32 Institute representing Canada, the United States, Bermuda, Russia and France. We were all gathered to hear from Rotary International President Elect (2014-2015) K. R. "Ravi" Ravindran.

Many of our guests were tempted to extend their visit to Toronto after Neil Phillips outlined the upcoming "Que Syrah Shiraz" evening at the National Club on November 12. They certainly are planning to return after hearing plans from Michele Guy and Toronto Scarborough Rotarian Mike Cooksey about The Rotary International Convention in 2018. All GTA Rotarians will have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase our city and introduce the power of Rotary to thousands of potential members.

President Elect Ravi, in his presentation, used examples from his career. His family business was lost due to political change. He rebuilt, starting a printing business in a garage. It grew to be Printcare PLC, a major international printer of 100 million tea labels per month with a worldwide clientele. Finding an underserved market, developing efficiencies, and cost containment were key to his success. He believes these lessons are also the key to Rotary International's future. He pledged that, under his Presidency, Rotary International will operate in a more efficient businesslike manner. He pledged that appointments under his Presidency would be made strictly on merit and that expenses would be monitored to cut out any waste.

He also emphasized the importance of the campaign to eradicate Polio. Using an example from his homeland, Sri Lanka, he discussed how important the vaccine drops are to the communities. During the civil war in his country a cease fire was negotiated to allow for inoculation in the middle of the conflict zone.

The gift of a Polio-free world, which is in reach, will be a profound gift. Attitudes are changing. An army of volunteers from around the world has been mobilized, united by a common goal. Rotary is proving that even the most intractable global problems can be resolved given resources, courage and persistence. "The world is watching," President Elect Ravi told us. We must redouble our efforts to get the job done. Failure is not an option. All readers will be delighted to know that I did not win either the wine or the cash and the pot continues to grow!

The Rotary Club of Toronto joins with all Canadians in offering condolences to the family and friends of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent and Corporal Nathan Cirillo, both of whom died in apparent terrorist attacks this past week. "O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

Upcoming Speakers & Events

October 2014

31 Lynn Posluns, Founder and President, Women's Brain Health Initiative

November 2014

- 7 Brigadier-General Julian Chapman, Remembrance Day Speaker at the National Club
- 14 Ray Argyll, *The Paris Game - 70th Anniversary Liberation of Paris*
- 21 John Parker
- 28 R.H. Thompson, *The World Remembers*

Events

October 24-26, District 7070 Conference, Toronto

Editor of the Week
Massood Mashadi

Editor October 31, 2014
Don Bell

What You Missed Reporter, October 24 2014
John Suk

Today's Host
Alex Brown

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

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

Club Assembly Notice

Mark your calendars for this year's Club Assembly. The date is **Wednesday, October 29th** at the National Club. We will meet in the evening starting at 5:30 pm.

As many of you know, we hold a Club Assembly every year to talk about important issues affecting our club and we discuss ideas and solutions that can help us continuously improve how our club operates. For that reason, all Club Directors and Committee Chairs are asked to be in attendance.

The cost for this great event is one lunch ticket. Please let the office know that you will be attending. And I look forward to seeing you all there.

Please tweet and post on Facebook and LinkedIn. Next week, Lyn Posluns will speak about combating brain-aging diseases that affect women. Invite friends to join us!

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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