

Rotary



Toronto-Leaside Rotary Club Your neighbour for over 75 years!

A Message from the Toronto-Leaside Rotary Club President

The 24th running of the Toronto-Leaside Rotary Club Community Corn Roast will be held on September 17, 2017 between 12 noon and 5:00 pm at Trace Manes Park. We welcome all our friends and neighbours in Leaside and Thorncliffe to join us in this wonderful family event. While many of you attend the Corn Roast annually, you may not know about Rotary and the important charitable work that we do both in the community and internationally. We are pleased to join with Leaside Life to present the "Rotary Story".

— Don Bello, President, Toronto - Leaside Rotary Club, 2016-2018

What is Rotary?

In 1905, the efforts of a young lawyer to create a small and friendly world inside a huge and indifferent city, led to his discovery that there were many others in need of friendship. Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer, and three friends banded together and called their group the Rotary Club of Chicago. The name came from their practice of rotating meetings in the members' places of business and their object was to "encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise."

Rotary is the largest service club in the world, and one of the largest non-governmental organizations in existence. It is important that the public know that there are no administrative costs attached to funds raised by local Rotary clubs. **Every dollar raised goes directly to the source charity.**

Most Rotarians contribute to the Rotary International Foundation. An impressive 91% of funds received are spent directly on programs and the foundation has received the highest level 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

In 1911, the first Canadian Rotary Club and also the first international club was founded in Winnipeg. The Leaside club known as the Toronto-Leaside Rotary Club

was chartered in April, 1940.

Today, Rotary is a global network of over 35,000 local clubs with 1.2 million members who are neighbours, friends, leaders and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad.

2017-18 Rotary Theme is "Making a Difference"

Each year, the incoming President of Rotary International chooses a theme to highlight their one-year term as President of the world's largest service club. President-elect Ian H.S. Riseley of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia now presides over the 1.2 million members throughout the world.

His theme for 2017-2018, **Rotary: Making a Difference** reflects the Rotary motto "Service Above Self" and every club under the Rotary banner can be found engaged in charitable projects at home and abroad for the betterment of their communities and the environment.

Polio Plus: Rotary's Massive Effort to Eradicate Polio

In 1985, Rotary International embarked on a global effort to eradicate polio.

In 1988, the World Health Organization adopted a goal of eradicating polio throughout the world and Rotary joined WHO as a major partner. Since 2013, the Gates Foundation has matched every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication, 2-to-1 up to \$35,000,000 per year. Rotary, with matching funds from the Gates Foundation, has raised

2.5 billion children immunized against Polio

more than two billion dollars for this project and the incidence of polio has been virtually eradicated. Rotary's role has been one of funding and providing thousands of volunteers on the ground. Rotarians have given untold hours and countless in-kind gifts to assist eradication in their countries. Leaside Rotary, like most Rotary clubs internationally, donates \$100.00 US per member, per year, to the Rotary Foundation under the "Every Member Every Year" campaign.

Rotary Planting along the Don

In 1991 Leaside and other Rotary clubs, whose areas are near the Don Valley, formed the Rotary Ecosystem Education Program, under the professional guidance of Steve Smith and Urban Forest Associates, to plant trees, shrubs and wildflowers in the Don Valley watershed.

The program was introduced to Leaside

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and area elementary and junior schools, and over the intervening 26 years, students from Bessborough, Northlea, St. Anselm's, Rolph Road, Maurice Cody, Eglinton, Bennington Heights and Thorncliffe Park, all under the guidance of students from Leaside High School, have planted over 7,500 trees.

Leaside Rotary continues to be a major participant in the program, and this year more than 250 students descended on the Moccasin Trail site. At end of the day, 350 trees were planted! In addition to the educational aspects of the planting, all students went on a fascinating 30-minute nature walk conducted by Rotarian Bob Barnett.

Rotary Contributes to our Community

- \$50,000 contribution to the new Leaside Gardens Ice Pad
- Contributed funds to help re-build the school playgrounds at Bessborough, Rolph Road and Bennington
- Funded the construction of the children's playground at Trace Manes Park
- Funded the construction of the Trace Manes Senior Centre and Tennis Club Building
- Assisted in equipping East York fire trucks with defibrillators
- Construction and financing of Leaside Memorial Gardens, on land which Rotary had previously purchased to build a community centre, and Leaside Swimming pool, in partnership with the Leaside Lions Club
- Furnished the interior of the new Leaside Public library
- Provided steps for the Leaside swimming pool
- Hosts the Community Corn Roast every September.
- Each spring the club participates in the Rotary AIDS walk, the proceeds being split between a local AIDS group and an international body such as the Stephen Lewis Foundation
- Contributed to the Toronto Club - Rotary Centennial project "Habitat for Humanity" - 10 houses in Toronto.

Leaside Rotary at Sunnybrook K-Wing

Rotary has a long standing relationship with the veterans K-Wing at Sunnybrook, stemming from the experience of Rotarians in WW2. For many years veterans have participated in our Remembrance Day ceremonies and Rotarians Peter Robson and the Hill family, Ric, Joan, Judy and Gwen and other Rotarians, have helped run the Wednesday and Thursday night Bingo. Leaside High students in the Rotary



Interact Club have helped run a Casino. Participating and helping vets at that event was an eye-opener for the students. In addition, the club helped to fund an upgraded gardening facility for the vets.

Leaside Rotary Abroad

Over the years, Leaside Rotary has made several significant and ongoing contributions overseas including sending funds to the Salvation Army Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe, supporting post-hurricane recovery efforts in Nicaragua, continual support for water programs and equality in Africa and working with impoverished villagers in Jamaica.

When a member's sister served with CUSO in northern Ghana in Bawku, a small rural

community, she found a library without books. She determined that a children's library would best foster education, especially for young girls. She called on Rotary and schools in Halifax for support and, in short order, the club shipped 50 cartons of new and gently used books and donated funds to acquire children's books locally. For this effort, the club was awarded a Rotary (District 7070) Achievement Award.

Years ago, when Hurricane Mitch ravaged Nicaragua, the club organized and spearheaded a Rotary District 7070 relief effort. This translated into hundreds of thousands of dollars of medical supplies and funded the reconstruction of the village water supply systems, irrigation projects and schools.

For many years the club was most fortunate to have Fintan Kilbride as a member. A former priest and teacher at Neil McNeil High, he was the epitome of compassion, and his selfless, charitable passion represented the true meaning of Rotary. He canvassed area Rotary clubs for funds and convinced medical equipment suppliers, pharmaceutical companies, and hospitals



~Service Above Self~

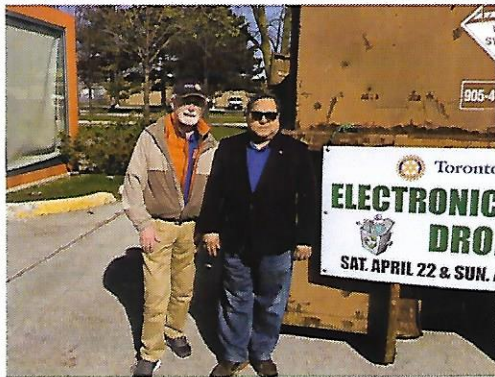
to donate new and used medical equipment and drugs to meet needs in the Caribbean and Central America. Annually he would take students to Jamaica to work with impoverished villagers.

Currently, funding is being provided to a project sponsored by the Newmarket club to the Ogutoi Medical Centre in Uganda involving the construction of a cistern that will feed an irrigation system enabling the growing and sale of produce for local farmers and the medical centre.

Rotarian Phil Russel, and his wife Marti, harnessed the efforts of Rotarians and their staff at Integracare, to rescue and send computer parts to Nicaragua.

Working with our Neighbours in Thorncliffe

In 2003, the Club embarked on major multi-year support for Action for Children Today and Tomorrow (ACTT) which operated out of the Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office (TNO). The goal of the project was to help “latch-key kids” and children from impoverished homes have the joy of friendship and learning in an after-school program. Bill Pashby, Chair of the Board at the Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office, plays tennis with a couple of Rotarians



and was well known to others for his community activism. As a feature speaker at one of our clubs lunch meetings, Bill's passionate presentation inspired the club to increase its role and scope of operations

with the TNO. This quickly led to a continuing series of donations. The Club has sent kids to tennis camp, sponsored the Thorncliffe Soccer Club teams, participated in Thorncliffe's Night Out and is currently in a 3-year program (\$5,000 per annum) to send youngsters to summer camp. For the past two years Thorncliffe Public School students have been an integral part of the Rotary Tree Planting program. Last year 250 dictionaries were donated to the Early Childhood Education program. This year the club conducted an electronic recycling day out of the East York Town Centre. It was a successful event and was well supported on local websites and Facebook. It will be repeated annually.

Leaside Rotary Working with Young People

Programs directed to young people are ongoing both at home and abroad.

The Club has been funding the Amarak Society, now operating in Bangladesh and India. The focus of this organization is on the education of mothers, who in turn educate the children, and the children educate their peers. A unique example are the newspaper reading groups. Some western Canadian Rotary clubs fund newspaper subscriptions and a literate person, often very young, will read the newspapers to small groups.

Annually, more than 250 neighbourhood children are involved with the Don Valley tree planting program.

The Club funds special needs children. For instance, this past summer we sent a camper to Camp Scugog, run by the United Church. As well, support has been provided to send worthy students on international projects.

The club contributed \$30,000 to help establish the highly successful Pathways to Education initiative in the Regent Park community. In addition, Rotary has provided:

- Ongoing support for a Leaside Rotary minor hockey league team.
- Provided substantial funding to

After Four programs in Thorncliffe and 3 downtown core schools

- Funded scholarships and prizes at Leaside High and Marc Garneau Collegiate
- Provided financial support for the establishment of a East York Youth Help Line.
- Funded the “Participation/Acknowledgement/Transformation (PACT) program, a victim/offender mediation process to help address court backlogs and youth crime.
- Provided \$150,000 support for research and development of a family vehicle transfer device, in partnership with Bloorview-MacMillan Centre
- Hosted a Christmas dinner for CNIB residents and Care Free Lodge for over forty years.

How does Leaside Rotary Fund its Donations?

In years past, the club participated in the very popular city-wide event known as Caravan. Our club ran the popular Calgary pavilion. Funds raised from this event provided the core funding for the Leaside Rotary Foundation. The club also ran a successful Saturday morning bingo out of the Knights of Columbus Hall. This was an excellent source of income, helped fund the Foundation, and allowed the club to make many significant charitable contributions. Unfortunately, as Bingo fell out of fashion, the club had to look at other avenues to raise funds. As a result, the club became increasingly reliant on the

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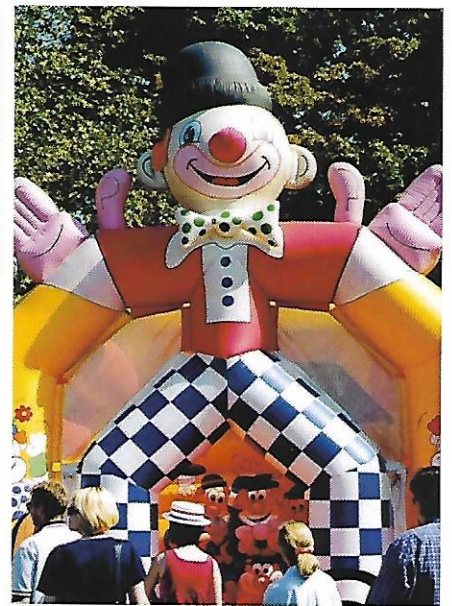
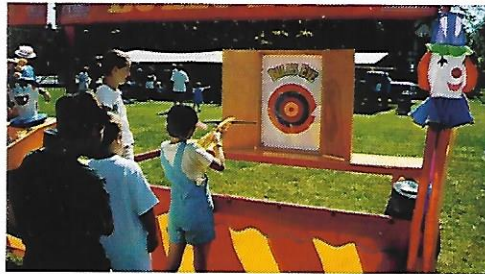
~Service Above Self~

very popular Community Corn Roast held annually at Trace Manes Park to raise funds. This event is now our major fundraising initiative.

An Invitation

If you have been looking for an opportunity to contribute to your community, and are interested in Rotary, we invite you to join us as our guest at one of our weekly meetings. The Rotary Club of Toronto-Leaside meets each Monday at 12:15pm at LONGO's Supermarket, 93 Laird Drive, in the Leaside Village Plaza.

To find out more about Leaside Rotary, contact George Hurst, georgehurst@sympatico.ca, 416-421-6491. New members are always welcome.



LEASIDE ROTARY CLUB ANNUAL COMMUNITY CORN ROAST HELD EACH YEAR IN SEPTEMBER

12:00 NOON TO 5:00PM

TRACE MANES PARK (CORNER OF MILLWOOD RD & MCRAE DR)

Members of the Leaside community look forward to this annual event each September ~ an opportunity for the neighbourhood to get together and reconnect at the end of the summer!

DON'T MISS this fun, family-oriented community corn roast, featuring fresh corn on the cob, BBQ hotdogs, desserts, music, kids games, motor scooters, an obstacle course, bouncy castles and slides, trampolines, face painting, live music & plenty of fun for the whole family!!!

**FREE
ADMISSION!**

For more information, a map and directions, please check:
www.LeasideRotaryCornRoast.com



or contact: George Hurst

georgehurst@sympatico.ca

416-421-6491

