



Next meeting:

Thurs. Aug 13, 2015
Montgomery's Inn 7:30 a.m.

EDITOR:

Leighton Reid

PHOTOGRAPHER:

John Stevenson

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

First – Is it the truth?

Second – Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Third – Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Fourth – Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 13, 2015 – District Governor Michael Bell and ADG Mary Lou Harrison visit club

August 20, 2015 – John Stevenson's photo show of Cuba

August 27, 2015 – Business Meeting

September 3, 2015 – New Generations

September 11-13, 2015 – Taste of the Kingsway

September 24, 2015 – Club Golf Tournament (tentative)



Richard Mewhinney
returns from Uganda

Update on the Ongutoi Medical Centre in Uganda...

Your international funding has been hard at work in Uganda! Our guest speaker for August 6 was introduced by Patti Wright. Richard Mewhinney is a native of Toronto and member of Rotary Club of Newmarket. He majored in economics and computer science at U. of T., and is a registered mortgage agent with Homeguard Funding. He is married with one son, and has hosted 7 international exchange students for a year at a time!

Richard has just returned from Uganda. He spoke to us about the Ongutoi Medical Centre there, with which he has been involved since 2009, and which was partially funded by this club in 2012-2013.

After 20 years of civil unrest and war, by 2005 nearly 100% of the Ongutoi area population had been displaced and was in dire need of a medical centre, especially to combat AIDS/HIV. Rotarians from Canada and around the world have contributed over \$200,000 U.S., helped by an RI Global Grant. Since 2007, over 121,000 patients have been treated at the Centre, and there have been 1,067 live births. There was an international District Grant in 2015 to acquire 2 CD4 machines, which can diagnose the T cell count on the premises in 20 minutes, thus significantly speeding up appropriate diagnosis and treatment of AIDS. Since March 1, 430 CD4 tests have been done. In future, the Centre would like to address other significant health issues in the area, such as diabetes, Hepatitis B, and tuberculosis, but they need a blood chemistry machine and other equipment to do so.

Richard has been actively involved in the Centre since his first visit in 2009. This year was his eighth visit to review its diagnostic and educational program. In his view, Rotary funding is being spent wisely and in a sustainable manner, and he is passionate about continuing the work that has begun there.

...and Bugiri WASH Project



Norma Davis came to speak to us on July 23 regarding the need for sanitation and clean water in the Bugiri District of Uganda. Bugiri is east of Kampala, and access to clean water is one of the poorest in the country. Young girls have to travel to get water, resulting in school absenteeism. Rotary clubs in Uganda, together with Rotary Eglinton are spearheading an international Rotary model WASH program to improve sanitation, including 30,000 litre rainwater harvesting tanks. They want to raise \$210,500 in District 7070 and across Canada, and asked for our support.

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ETOBICOKE ROTARY CLUBS CELEBRATE ONE YEAR SINCE THE LAST REPORTED CASE OF POLIO IN NIGERIA



ERADICATING POLIO

Courtesy file photo

As part of National Immunization Days aimed at vaccinating over 172 million children under the age of 5 across India, Etobicoke lawyer Patti Wright, past president of the Rotary Club of Toronto West (centre) joined a Rotary International team of volunteers from Canada, Switzerland, Australia and the United States to give Polio vaccinations in rural India in late February. In addition to Patti, there were 3 additional members from Toronto (Dr Raffy Chouljian and Jennifer Boyd and her fiancé Ryan Fogerty, all from the Toronto-Don Mills Rotary Club).



Etobicoke Guardian

By [Cynthia Reason](#) <mailto:creason@insidetoronto.com>

Today marks one year since the last reported case of polio in Nigeria – an achievement local Rotarians helped bring about through their fundraising and volunteer efforts in their 30-year fight to eradicate the crippling disease worldwide.

Deemed a “major milestone in global public health”, today’s one-year anniversary announcement signals the world might soon see a polio-free Africa, said Michael Bell, governor of Rotary International District 7070, which includes 54 Rotary Clubs stretching from Toronto, to Belleville, to Alliston.

“The 2,300 Rotarians in District 7070...have long supported efforts to end this crippling disease, though donations of over \$2.8 million covering the last 30 years that Rotary has been involved in the worldwide fight to eradicate polio,” Bell said in a statement.

Rotary International first launched PolioPlus, a global initiative to immunize children against polio, in 1985, and has continued in that role as a leader in the fight to eradicate polio ever since – contributing more than \$1.4 billion, and helping immunize more than two billion children against polio in 122 countries over the years.

Those efforts, Rotary reports, have paid staggering dividends, with a 99.9 per cent worldwide reduction in polio cases – from 350,000 annual cases in 1988, to just 400 cases in the entire world in 2014.

In Etobicoke, two clubs – the Rotary Club of Etobicoke and Rotary Club of Toronto West – have played an integral part in that fight against polio, both through their members’ fundraising efforts and through their hands-on volunteer work in polio-affected countries.

In February, Patricia Wright, past-president of the Rotary Club of Toronto West, traveled to India for a 10-day, Rotary International-organized trip to administer oral polio vaccines to children in the slums of Delhi and surrounding towns.

“It was such an eye-opening experience for me, watching the work that Rotarians do there...it’s mind-boggling that they give out that many vaccinations to that many people,” she said, estimating the number of vaccinations her small group helped administer at well more than 200. “These Rotarians are the ones going there every year, time after time, to do this...and the people are so grateful.”

The experience of joining together with fellow Rotarians from Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Germany, England and Ireland to do their part in the fight against polio in India, Wright said, was life-changing – and only makes her that much more proud of Rotary’s accomplishments in fighting the disease in Nigeria.

“I think going, I really got to see (the impact of polio) firsthand. It’s easy to read about it, but polio has been gone from here (Canada) for so long, that you don’t really realize it’s still an issue,” she said, noting she also had the opportunity to visit a polio clinic at St. Stephen’s Hospital in Delhi during her trip in February.

“There, we were exposed to the hideous deformations (caused by polio). We don’t see those here. So it makes me incredibly proud to celebrate this anniversary, and I can hardly wait for my next trip.”

Jack Fleming, president of the Rotary Club of Etobicoke, said he’s likewise proud of his club’s contributions to the fight against polio over the years.

“From a Rotary Etobicoke point of view, I believe that in this past 30-year period, as a club, we’ve directed somewhere in excess of \$45,000 to the polio initiative,” he said. “Each year, as people renew their memberships, we remind them about a PolioPlus as a specific effort. What it means is, almost every year, almost automatically, about \$1,500 more is raised by our club members to be dedicated directly to polio.

Beyond those club-wide efforts, Fleming said it’s also not uncommon for individual club members to make special donations of \$1,000 to \$2,000 to PolioPlus as part of their own “charitable strategies”.

“It’s all going in a good direction,” he said of Rotary’s fight against polio, noting the disease is now only present in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“We’re this close to getting this thing shut down.”

For more information or to donate to Rotary’s fight against polio, go to www.endpolio.org

And in other news....



Four young hopefuls prepare for the PGA Championship at Scarlett Woods Golf Course