



***Next meeting:***

Thurs. Mar. 24, 2016  
Montgomery's Inn 7:30 a.m.

**EDITOR:**

Leighton Reid

**CLUB PHOTO GALLERY**

Photos by John Stevenson

**RTW CLUB WEBSITE**

**BACK ISSUES** of Bulletins

**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:**

**March 22, 2016** – Board Meeting, 55  
Torlake Cres., 7:30 a.m.

**March 24, 2016** – Nick Ryall speaks  
about changes to the Trump AIDS  
walk, 7:30 a.m.

**April 7, 2016** – Jordana Lowe,  
Rotaractor, speaks about Haitians in  
the Dominican Republic and Rotaract's  
fundraising for dental care, 7:30 a.m.

**April 14, 2016** – Yasmin Mawji's  
Classification Speech, 7:30 a.m.

**April 23, 2016** – Rotary Leadership  
Institute at Seneca College

***Another Successful Rotary  
Youth Impact Awards Gala!***



Lifetime Achievement Award winner Frank O'Dea  
addresses dinner audience of over 200

## *The exciting 17<sup>th</sup> Annual RYIA*



Gala MC Colin D'Mello entertains the crowd

By John Stevenson

The charity fundraising gala was held on January 29 at the Old Mill Inn with over 200 guests enjoying the silent auction, a fine dinner and the awards presentation.

Frank O'Dea was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. A celebrated businessman, he has launched and led a number of successful not-for-profits and businesses, including Second Cup and Street Kids International.

Six other individuals and organizations from our community were also recognized with awards for their contributions in helping youth to achieve their full potential.

For details see [here](#).

### *Tokens for Change*

On February 5, together with folks from Rotary Etobicoke and ECI Interactors, we drummed up cash and support for Youth Without Shelter through the Tokens for Change initiative in Islington Subway Station. Thanks to our volunteers!

## *Trading Aprons for Ammo*



Barbara Dickson paid us a return visit on February 4 to tell us about "Bomb Girls", the WWII female workers at the munitions plant run by General Engineering Company of Canada (GECO). This time she came with fascinating old videos of staff and management at the huge Scarborough plant.

The plant was built in only 7 months and contained over 21, 000 workers. The work was extremely dangerous, but amazingly there were no fatalities, although there were some lost fingers and hearing loss. The fire brigade answered only one call. There were women engineers too, developing new and deadlier bombs, creating new roles for women. And the cafeteria staff were able to feed 1100 workers in 30 minutes, a marvel of efficiency.

The story is fully told in Barbara's new book "[Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo](#)", available at most bookstores.

## *Linda Braendel's Interesting Classification Talk*



Linda Braendel gave her classification talk on February 18, and what a colourful life she has had!

Linda Braendel came to Canada from England with her parents and older brother in 1950. They landed in Quebec and trained it to Montreal where they resided for many years.

Due to limited resources everyone in the family had to bring in money. Linda delivered early morning papers and had an evening job at a drapery store throughout her school years. These early work experiences instilled the high work ethic she has carried throughout her life. She graduated from high school at 15 with first class honours; then furthered her education by taking evening courses in shorthand, typing and accounting. Later she joined the CMA program and also took real estate courses so she could lease commercial properties. Through these educational efforts she progressed through various companies in Montreal always stepping up the ladder.

Linda married in 1962 and had a daughter Susan and later a son Patrick. In 1974 the family moved to Toronto. Her husband, Bill, passed away in 1980 leaving her to bring up their two children.

In Toronto between 1974 and 1976 she held different management and accounting positions in various industries. In 1976 she joined the Inducon group of companies, where her love for construction began. Linda continued working in the construction industry until 1986 when she started her own successful accounting services company. In 1989, John Seeback, President /Owner of Seeback Roofing & Sheet Metal Limited, asked her to help him sort out some serious accounting and management challenges his company was experiencing. Linda went in on a consulting basis and ended up taking over the Controller position, the position she holds today.

One challenge Linda faced throughout her construction career was dealing with and managing a number of experienced male employees. She overcame this and earned their respect by working beside them and showing her understanding of and appreciation for their work world.

The 1991 tightening of health and safety regulations in the construction industry brought another challenge. Linda added the new role of health and safety management to her existing duties. She wrote a Safety Policy and started the difficult process of building a formalized safety culture within an organization that had already been in operation for 56 years. Between 1991 and 2016 legislated OH&SA requirements have grown to such an extent that the 25-page Safety Policy written in 1991 has become a 350-page document.

Challenges ahead for the company and the industry as a whole include an aging



workforce. Many long service employees are retiring and even with the advances in working conditions, mechanization and cleaner applications it is hard to attract young people to the roofing business.

She has volunteered at Dorothy Ley Hospice, done community visiting and church work.

We are proud to have Linda as a new member!

### *Tyranny of the Status Quo: Fighting Hydro One*

Because of a possible strike of inside City workers (including staff at Montgomery's Inn) we held our March 3 meeting (with some members of [Rotary of Parkdale-High Park](#)) at the Grenadier Restaurant in High Park. Thanks to Paul Collier!



Bill Cheshire of the [Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations](#) spoke to us about cottagers' difficulties fighting Hydro One.

Bill says Hydro pricing for cottage and seasonal owners has been unfair, based on outmoded assumptions, and extremely difficult to change. The pricing formula was set over 40 years ago, and was based upon whether the seasonal property was the only home of the owner, or a second home. If the latter, much higher electricity rates applied.

Thus two identical cottages might be charged different rates if one was the only home and the other a second home. He said this made no sense, and did not appear to have any relation to the cost of delivering electricity.

It has been a struggle to change the formula, Bill said. He says Hydro One suffers from the "tyranny of the status quo": it was reluctant to change an existing formula. The Ontario Energy Board has ordered Hydro to present a plan to implement a fairer pricing model, dispensing with the seasonal category, over the next decade, but Hydro does not appear to have responded in a timely way, and proposed interim repricing may make cottages rates in many cases even higher. This is very frustrating for many cottagers who feel they have been overpaying on electricity for years.

For more information, see [here](#).

### *Teach a Mother, Save the World*

Gem Munro, co-founder with his wife of the [Amarok Society](#), returned to the club March 10 to update us on the work they are doing in Bangladesh.

The idea behind the Amarok society is that literacy rates in developing countries will never change until we teach mothers so they may teach children. The effect of such a program is that it goes viral, geometrically increasing literacy as students then teach other students, siblings teach siblings etc. This is especially important for girls as they are in a culture where they become married at a very young age, 11 or 12, and end up virtual economic slaves.



Gem adds that the system of dowry in Bangladesh induces parents to marry off their daughters at a young age to keep the dowry cost down. Women in Amarok schools have pledged not to let their daughters marry until they are older, and not to pay any dowry. These types of decisions are heretical in Bangladesh and expose these mothers to possible injury or death at the hands of the Taliban, so they are very brave to take such a courageous stand.

Gem showed various Amarok videos of young mothers who had succeeded in educating not only children but also others, including one grandfather. A very inspiring talk!

## ***Rotaractors Case Competition Sparkles!***

By Patti Wright

On Saturday February 27th, 2016, 5 members of the Rotary Club of Toronto West headed off to York University for the [Rotaract Club of York University](#) 3rd annual case conference. Four of the

members, Brian Spencer, Salomeh Ahmadi, Linda Braendel and Patti Wright were to act as judges and Bruce Gillies attended as a speaker and sponsor (Pepsico).

The event started at 9:30 am and ended at approx. 7:00 pm.

What an impressive event it was!!! I can't say enough how impressed I was with the organization of the event, and the skill and talent of the competitors. There were 16 judges: 4 from the Rotary Club of Toronto West, 4 from the Rotary Club of Etobicoke and 4 from Microskills.

We were divided into 3 panels and each panel judged 5 pairs of competitors. The competitors had an hour and 40 minutes to read the case, and to prepare a 10 minute presentation with a power point presentation.

The case was based on Microskills ([Community MicroSkills Development Centre](#)) located at Dixon and Islington in Etobicoke. Recently, both of the participating Rotary Clubs had provided substantial funding (approx \$250,000 in total) to expand the centre.

The case was based on Microskills looking to launch a Youth Mentorship program at the centre. As part of the case, the competitors had to look at the objectives of the program (and be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-specific), funding, staff turnover, and other programs being cut back due to funding and other issues. The winner of the competition will have a chance to work hands-on with the MicroSkills team as well as the 2 Rotary Clubs.

Each of the 3 judging panels selected their "winner" and the 3 "winners" were given 5 minutes to present to everyone in attendance as well as in front of a Final Judging panel. As a member of the

Final Judging panel, the decision was very difficult...these kids were confident and creative. Although a winner was chosen, we recommended that all 3 finalists be permitted to work with MicroSkills, as each had some very different and excellent ideas.

The event finished with a lovely dinner with the District Governor and the District Governor Elect as well as other Rotarians in attendance.

WELL DONE ROTARACTORS OF YORK UNIVERSITY!!

### *Jeanne Cornacchia is inducted at St. James's Gate*

A record turnout gathered at a fine Irish pub, [St. James's Gate](#), on March 16 to hoist a few, celebrate St. Patrick's Day one day early, and welcome Jeanne Cornacchia as our newest member.

Jeanne is an experienced business professional who has devoted nearly 30 years in support of large Canadian retail operations. She has held management positions at Eaton's, Sears and Hudson's Bay.

Over the past 20 years she has been involved with the promotion of Canadian art through her own small business venture, "Artbeat Reproductions".

Jeanne is a mother of 2 and has volunteered much of her spare time to Canadian cultural activities, such as a Director of the Art Gallery of Ontario Retail Shop and as Program Committee Chairman of the Scarborough Arts Council.

Jeanne is currently involved as a consultant to the [Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation](#) and travelled to Nepal in 2014 to oversee medical, educational and environmental projects. She has a

strong interest in supporting international mandates.

Welcome to Rotary, Jeanne!



President Brian welcomes Jeanne to the club



Only some of the huge turnout at St James's Gate to induct Jeanne Cornacchia and celebrate St. Patrick's Day – they had to bring in extra tables!



Terry Donohue and friends celebrate the Irish!