



PRESIDENT'S FINAL REPORT – June 30, 2015

Well what a year....and it is over! At times, I thought it would never end, but at the end, the time flew! I have learned so much about Rotary this year. I set so many goals for myself.....did I accomplish them all....of course not.....but I felt that I accomplished a lot.

The first goal that I set for myself was to increase membership. We have 4 new members (counting Steve who is officially joining us on July 1st). Two of these new members are women and terrific.

Another goal was to bring more structure to the meetings and to teach about Rotary every week. I created a weekly agenda, which evolved throughout the year. I tried to add interesting information to each agenda and in each newsletter to ensure that members learned something new about Rotary.

My third goal revolved around the community and our profile. I wanted to increase our profile in the community, get out there a little bit more and let the community know that we are here to help them. I wanted to have a little more hands on and maybe learn more a little bit more about the community, and a little bit more about its needs. In addition, I wanted to have more contact with other Rotary Clubs...even those west of us that are not in our district....Following this, you will see:

- 1) The Community projects that we invested in;
- 2) The International projects that we invested in; and
- 3) The list of hands on projects that we were involved in this year....the lists are extensive and we had a hands on project every single month of the year. In addition, there were numerous press releases and newspaper articles. Our profile is definitely higher!

My fourth goal was engagement. I wanted every member of this wonderful club to be fully engaged and able to accomplish and fulfill their own goals. I hope that each of you were able to fulfill your goals this year.

For me, there were so many things that I saw and experienced. I loved, and hope to continue to experience, the interaction with the other Clubs. I met so many dedicated Rotarians. My trip to India will of course be a real highlight for the year and something I will never forget. The Interact kids at ECI who have become so important to me, the Rotoractors at York and the other Rotoract Clubs who I love to work with, the district team who I worked with closely and will continue to work with, are all memorable parts of this year.

BUT my favourite part, was working with you....all of you... you are a part of my family and I hope will continue to be.

Thank you for putting up with all of my changes...I hope that you enjoyed the year as much as I did!

Patti Wright - President of the Rotary Club of Toronto West

AWARDS

We have a fabulous Club. I am so very proud of the members of this Club and I am thankful that I joined this Club. I want to thank every member of this Club for their dedication and service. I also want to thank each spouse, significant other, brother, sister, child and grandchild who have supported a member of this Club in service above self endeavours.

Rotarians do not serve others for accolades or honours. They serve because they want to. However, I believe that it is important that we recognize those who have made a little extra contribution, especially if it made it easier for others. On June 25th, 2015, at the President's dinner, I was proud to present the Distinguished Service Citation to 6 of our members to acknowledge and thank them for their extra efforts over the last year:

- 1) The first member I want to thank is very dear to me. He is either the longest serving member or close to it – It is hard to beat 50+ years as a Rotarian. Health permitting, he is there early almost every Thursday morning to help in any way he can. He is our sole representative at the Trump Aids walk and he is in charge of the Christmas treats. He is the absolute best example of what a Rotarian is. Congratulations to **Don Foster**.



- 2) The second Member I want thank has found his niche in Student exchange. Our past president Bruce Gillies managed to jump through some pretty substantial hoops to get Gustav into our Club, school and other activities. As a former exchange student, I know that Student exchange is very important to him and he and his wonderful family,

together with the Newediuk family, have housed and supported Gustav for the last 9 months. In addition, Bruce was the Chair of a very successful RYIA in January 2015 and has been active with the York University Rotoract Club. Congratulations to **Bruce Gillies**.



3) One of the most difficult positions to hold in this Club is Treasurer. The position is time-consuming and quite frankly, thankless. In addition, RYIA adds an extra element of work. Our Treasurer David has a calmness about him that makes him easy to work with and really difficult to get mad at! David puts in hours and hours of time for this Club and I am truly grateful! Congratulations to **David Crack**.



4) One of my goals this year was to get this Club on the map, raise its profile and let others know that we are here to help. To accomplish that goal, I required tremendous support for our Publicity guy, John Stevenson. John is stepping back next year in his roles and I want to express my gratitude for the exceptional support he has provided to this Club over the past year. Congratulations to **John Stevenson**.



5) It is not very often that a new member joins our Club and immediately becomes a force to be reckoned with. Last summer, the signage at Montgomery's Inn (thank you John) attracted a new member to our Club. He was inducted in October, immediately came to my rescue for the newsletter, sat on numerous committees, interacted with our members and others, did hands on projects and accepted an invitation to be President Elect for next year, all within 6 months of becoming a member. We are very lucky. Congratulations to **Leighton Reid**.



6) The last member I want to recognize has provided enormous support for me throughout the year. If I needed anything, I knew that he would be there.....any meeting I couldn't make or any external event, he was always there. He chaired the Community Committee and developed hands-on-projects. We are so fortunate that he will be our President in 2015-2016. Congratulations to **Brian Spencer**.



The Earl LaBerge Outstanding Achievement Award

The Earl LaBerge Outstanding Achievement Award is given to a member, in good standing, of the Rotary Club of Toronto West, who exemplifies the spirit of Rotary through outstanding contribution to the activities and goals of the Club.

The purpose is to encourage active participation in the club's activities and to recognize those members who have made a significant contribution through their efforts.

The award was the gift in 1998 of Rotarian Jose Goldbaum and is named for Earl LaBerge, an active and exemplary Rotarian since he joined the Rotary Club of Islington in 1959, just four years after its charter in 1955. The first recipient was Jose's father, Paul Goldbaum.

In 2006, Jose replaced the original trophy with the present impressive piece, which remains with the recipient for the year. In 2007, the club instituted a framed certificate as a permanent memento for each recipient.

This year's recipient has been a constant figure at the door every Thursday morning for several years. I looked back at my comments a year ago and one of the great pleasures of Thursday Mornings is getting a bear hug from this recipient. No matter what time I arrived on Thursday, and I arrived really early over the past year, the room was set up, and we were operational. In addition to the bear hugs, he was indeed a diligent sergeant at arms to the detriment of those who have difficulty making it on time. Of his many roles, the role that he cherished most, I think, was as Nominations Chair for RYIA. This role was fulfilled over the last many years with diligence, and perseverance. We have had some amazing recipients of our RYIA awards.

We would like to recognize **DOUG WILLIAMS** for his leadership and commitment to this Club and Rotary. DOUG truly exemplifies the spirit of Rotary through outstanding contribution to our club.

Congratulations to DOUG, our 2014-15 Earl LaBerge Award Recipient!



2014 – 2015 Community Projects Supported

PACT: **\$5,000** for Youth at risk received skills training in drywalling and painting. PACTBuild is an ongoing project for youth at all skill levels with new and advanced students working together in real work situations. Students new to the program quickly learn the basics of wall finishing and painting. After completing a minimum of six program sessions, each dedicated participant will be capable of repairing, painting or otherwise finishing any wall with professional results.

Montgomery's Inn: **\$1,800:** At the request of Montgomery's Inn for support for their programming, we covered food costs for youth trained in their healthy cooking and eating program.

York Rotaract: **\$950:** Funds to assist the York University Rotoractor Club in covering costs of the Case Competition

RYLA: **\$950**, Sponsored one Rotaractor to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly. The **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** is a truly exciting opportunity for young adults, between 18 & 30, to participate in a four day, leadership camp with like-minded individuals where you will form lasting friendships, hear from professional speakers, develop as a leader, grow as a person and have fun - at no cost to them!

Deer Park Rotary Net Climber: **\$500**, for The Deer Park School Barrier Free Playground Project - The idea behind a barrier free playground is actually quite simple. Create a playground that is accessible for all abilities. Modifications are made to play equipment, walking surfaces, and other equipment in the barrier free playground so that everyone can play together.

Glancing at one of these playgrounds, you may not notice much of a difference vs. a standard play yard. But, when you take a closer look, you will notice that every child, no matter what his or her ability, can reach the highest play level in the playground. You will also notice that the swings and bounce equipment have back supports, and the ground consists of material that adapts to anyone and everyone who would like to play in the space. Who will benefit from this project: kids from all over Toronto who may want to play in, a fully access a barrier free playground environment.

Maybelle Art: **\$500:** Donation to help cover costs of pavers for Mabelle Park. Support the Art that builds the Community!

Kids Against Hunger: **\$500:** to purchase the food products to be packed as fortified rice packages - we then donated the packages to the Lakeshore Salvation Army. Their mission at Kids Against Hunger is to significantly reduce the number of hungry children and to feed starving children

throughout the world. They ship meals to starving children and their families in over 60 countries through partnerships with humanitarian organizations worldwide.

The Queensmen: \$800, Sponsored two youth to participate in the Queensmen Choir. The Queensmen of Toronto Male Chorus is a chorus with a long history. Formed in 1949 for men of all ages, they sing for the love of music and fellowship.

Mini Olympics: \$500: We contributed funds and hands on support to Special Needs Mini Olympics held annually at Downsview Park and organized by the Catholic school Board

YMCA Summer Camp: \$2000: Our club was pleased to once again donate to their summer camp program, knowing the important role that the Y plays in providing healthy sports and social activities for many thousands of youth in our communities. We donated funds to allow disadvantaged youth to attend YMCA summer camp.

Total: \$13,500

2014 – 2015 International Projects Supported

1) ABCD : Art Building Children's Dreams- \$500 - They are a charity that raises funds to help children in rural Tanzania complete their education. They pay school fees directly, and also fund breakfast programs, school libraries, teaching resources, computer classrooms, new toilets and kitchens in schools, and other school infrastructure projects.

The vision of ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams is a world where vulnerable children can achieve their dreams.

The mission of ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams is to provide financial assistance to the schools and families of orphans and children at risk by using the children's art to raise funds for their education and for community development.

As our own Susan McCoy was going to volunteer at the project in February 2015, we gave \$500 to be used to buy toothpaste, shampoo, pens, etc...anything the kids needed!

2) Adopt a Village in Laos: \$750 - The mandate at Adopt A Village in Laos is to provide basic infrastructure to the rural villages including permanent water supplies, water filtration, construction of toilets and schools, and assistance to students in extreme cases. Each Water Filter costs \$75 Canadian

3) PolioPlus - \$825 - In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.3 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In

addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$9 billion to the effort.

4) Fistula Surgery - \$1000 - Surgeries for women in isolated villages of Kampala. Hospital teams, including surgeons, conduct visits to remote villages to encourage ladies to register for the surgery. Ladies are escorted to Kampala for presurgery tests and remain in the recovery house for one month. A new program to include vocational training will be introduced during the stay at the recovery house in phase II. Each surgery costs \$500 Canadian.

5) The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation: \$1500 - Zeke O'Connor, founder of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation, spoke to us about the devastating damage caused by the recent earthquakes in Nepal. Since the 1970's, the Foundation, set up to provide support for the Sherpa population, has enjoyed the support of Rotary. This time support is needed for rebuilding from the earthquake. Fortunately, the Kunde Hospital supported by the Foundation was not seriously damaged, but the home of Doctor Tami Temba Sherpa was levelled, and he is living in a tent. The Government of Canada will match gifts up until May 25. In addition, many of our members made personal donations

6) Bugiri WASH Program - \$1200 - In response to a need identified by Ron Denham, who has spent a considerable amount of time in Uganda over the past couple of years, the Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton, has taken the lead in the application for a Global Grant in support of the Uganda Rotary Water & Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) in Schools project. The goals are to provide access to safe water and improved sanitation for 10 elementary schools in the Bugiri District.

Only about 40% of the population in the Bugiri District has access to safe water - it is the third worse in the entire country. Women and girls are spending up to 7 hours a day collecting water from contaminated streams and ponds. As you know, this results in a high prevalence of water-borne diseases such as dysentery and cholera and a high rate of school absenteeism. In many schools in the District, the student ratio for pit latrines is 80:1.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) selected Uganda as 1 of 9 districts where WASRAG would implement WASH projects. **Uganda Rotary Water Plus** (URWP), a collaboration of all 75 Ugandan Clubs, is supervising project decisions. They paid for a thorough **Program Planning & Performance** evaluation for this initiative.

7) Amristar INDIA Toilet Project - \$1465 - Toilets for people living in the slums - Sultanwind Area Amritsar India - This project will prevent major multiplicity of water and sanitation related diseases, such as diarrhea, cholera and typhoid, reduce water and soil pollution as it will stop open defecation by the community living in the semi-urban slum. This is a semi-urban slum inhabited by poor people living in abject poverty with a scattering of middle class population. The local Rotarians interacted with many people and their discussions veered around the civic amenities. They were told that this area does not have a covered sewerage pipes and to their shock, they learned that many people do not have toilets in their houses as they could not afford to build them. They would have to

walk 1-2 Km to find barren land or fields for open defecation. There are multiple dimensions to this problem:-

1. Loss of dignity due to open defecation.
2. Sexual harassment –Lack of toilets is a singular major reason for this.
3. 40% girls drop out from Government Schools at the age of 13-14 due to lack of separate toilets or complete lack of them in Schools.

Total: \$7,240

Hands On Activity - 2014-2015

July 2014

- Volunteered at the Toronto Rib Festival
- Volunteered at the Mississauga Rib Fest

August 2014

- MicroSkills Committee meeting (ongoing)

September 2014

- Rotary Day at Taste of Kingsway on 6th
- Rotary Foundation Walk on 21st
- Arrival of our Exchange Student from Sweden

October 2014

- World Polio day @ Royal York and Islington subway stations on 24th
- Introduced students at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute to Rotary
- Rotary District Conference – packed food for Kids Against Hunger

November 2014

- Kids Against Hunger on 22nd
- Comfort from the Cold collection of used coats
- Collection of used bras to go to the Congo
- Ron Manfield put on a concert in Oakville with partial proceeds going to Rotary's initiatives against polio

December 2014

- Salvation Army Kettle
- Christmas Treats

January 2015

- RYIA on 30th

February 2015

- Tokens 4Change on 6th
- Comfort from the Cold collection of used mittens, scarves & hats
- Case Conference at York University
- Susan McCoy went to Tanzania to help with ABCD
- Patti Wright went to India to assist with polio vaccinations

March 2015

- Charter night for ECI Interact Club on 27th

April 2015

- Mabelle Arts Community Meetups – made pavers on 12th
- Trump Aids Poker Walk on 25th

May 2015

- Mini Olympics at Downsview Hanger on May 26th
- Raised the profile of the battle against Polio with a march with the Rotary Flame to ECI on the 21st
- Volunteered at the Rotoract District Conference on the 30th

June 2015

- Maybelle Arts Cultural celebration at Mabelle Park on June 6th

President's Dinner – June 25, 2015

What a special night it was at The Open Cork – Good food and Good Company – Thanks for coming!!







AND FINALLY, we had our first Exchange student for many years:

GUSTAV FRYXAA



Thank you to the Gillies and Newediuk families for acting as HOST Families!

