

Rotary International Convention

23-27 June 2018

Toronto, Ontario

Impressions and Thoughts

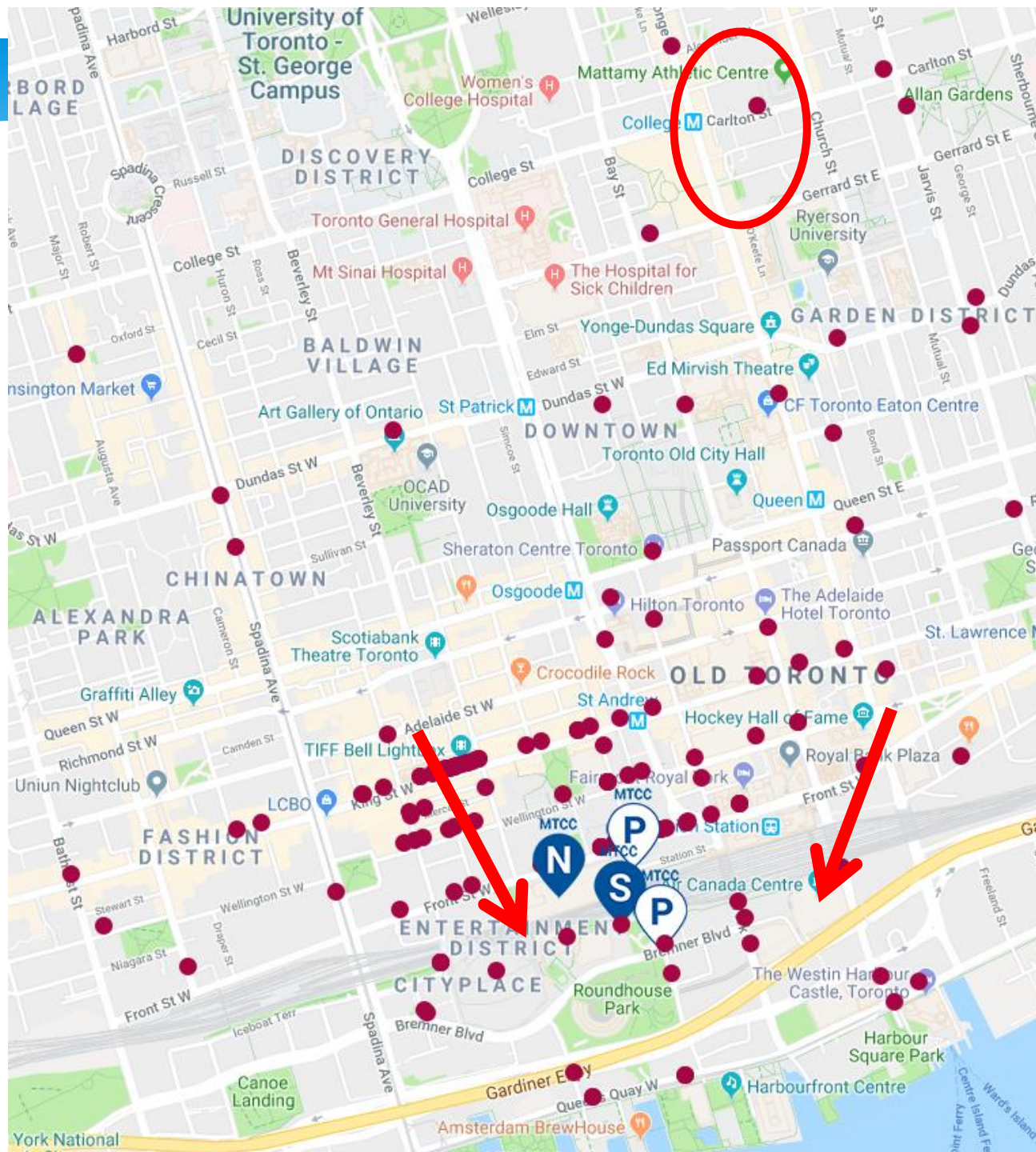
Wayne Gillis
Brian Matthews
Sharon Corcoran
Marilyn Brown
Barbara Goit
Jim Goit



Size and Scope

- * 24,000 + Rotarians
 - * Almost every country you can think of (175)
 - * \$48.5M in economic impact
- * Another 7-8K who couldn't get visas
- * Air Canada Center, Convention Center
 - * Lots of walking
- * Hotel and lodging
 - * Effective Convention bus Transport
 - * Public Transportation
- * Main Plenary Session Every Day in AC Center
- * Breakout sessions every afternoon in Convention Center
- * Events every evening optional
- * House of Friendship / Other meetings and events.





Wayne

- * Helpfulness of 100's of people attached to the event
- * How easily over 25,000 Rotarians could be absorbed into a small area of the City.
- * The Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the General Sessions, most Breakout Sessions, the Hall of Friendship Booths, the evening social events and interacting with Rotarians in between activities were all great.
- * Individual highlights included:
 - * The professionalism, humour, and warmth of RI President Ian Riseley
 - * The Breakout Session on “Unconscious Bias – From Awareness To Action”,
 - * Former US First Lady Laura Bush’s speech was interesting (and surprising) on several fronts.

- * 3 of the 4 evening “fellowship” events were really great.

- * The “Beyond Borders” reception at the Hockey Hall of Fame;

- * The “Host Hospitality” evening at Pentolopes Restaurant hosted by a local Rotary Club;

- * and the “Rotary Fest” rib fest at the CNE grounds were all wonderful experiences to enjoy existing and new friendships.



Brian



Zone Dinner at the Hockey Hall of Fame

Brian

* Helping Babies Survive - aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/helping-babies-survive/Pages/default.aspx

* International Travel and Hosting Fellowship - ithf.org




Rotary



International
Travel & Hosting
Fellowship

* Rotary Peace Fellowships- rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships



2019 RI Convention riconvention.org/en



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Sharon

- * The two Rotaract Presentations
- * The former NZ Prime Minister's general session presentation.
- * How proud I was to be a Canadian when our Prime minister made his surprise appearance on stage to receive award



Marilyn

- * Impressive opening ceremony
- * Ann Gloag, Founder of Gloag Foundation spoke on Freedom from Fistula Foundation.
- * Appreciated presentation by Laura Bush
- * Dr. Jane Nelson, Director of Corporate Responsibility Initiative Harvard Kennedy School



- * House of Friendship. Impressed with all the projects on display and the many fellowships being offered.



- * Overall I enjoyed the friendliness and the camaraderie in every aspect of the convention. It was fascinating and enjoyable to meet people from everywhere who have a common interest



Barbara Coincidences!



Jim

It's a Small World After All

- * In a crowd of over 25 thousand people what are the chances of meeting two cousins you have never met before?
- * What are the chances of seeing them several times over the next few days?
- * Met Rotarians we have much in common with (During the convention and since)
 - * Rotarians from Brazil on the subway
 - * Cycling2Serve Fellowship
 - * RI Travel and Hosting Fellowship

