June 22 - **Covid-19 Fundraising Initiatives – Rotary Club of Parkdale-High Park-Humber**

The Rotary Club of Parkdale-High Park-Humber is a small but mighty group. With only 11 members, the club has managed to continue to raise funds and support charitable initiatives, despite Covid-19, social distancing, and sheltering in place.

On May 28 the Club held an online fundraising event to support several charities that have been experiencing challenges due to Covid-19. The event, **Speakeasy 101** was conducted using Zoom technology, and was led by Master of Ceremonies, Scott Bartle.

**Speakeasy 101** featured several notable experts who shared their skills and knowledge, and entertained with stories related to prohibition and alcohol. Participants learned about cocktail making, beer making, beer pairings, wine pairings, and other libation-related topics.

Thanks to the generosity of the participants, The Rotary Club was able to raise over $3,000 for 3 charities – Fort York Food Bank, Weston Food Bank, & Shelter Box Canada. Throughout the event participants showed their expertise by successfully responding to prohibition related trivia questions.

Presentations for Speakeasy 101 included:

* William Roman - Rosewood Winery & Meadery
* Tony Aspler – Sommelier, Author, & Wine Columnist
* Dan Billard – High Park Brewery
* Reuben Virasami – Maple Leaf Tavern
* Suzanne Manville – cocktail maker extraordinaire

The Rotary Club also recognized the exceptional service of President, Cathy Borg, who was honoured with the Paul Harris Award.

Other activities related to Covid-19 challenges continue with this club, as well. John Humphries collects bottles to raise money for the Fort York Food Bank. To date, he has donated over $500 from his efforts and continues to grow his contribution.

In June, the club raised additional funds through member solicitation, applied for a matching Rotary Foundation Grant, resulting in a donation of $4,000 to the Redwood Shelter, to assist with online learning supplies & tools for children at the Redwood. <https://www.theredwood.com/the-rotary-club-of-parkdale-high-park-humber-gifts-kids-with-online-learning-supplies/>

Below are the links to speakers from **Speakeasy 101**, should you wish to follow up or visit – Feedback from participants indicate many plan to visit once the world is back to “normal.”

* William Roman from Rosewood Winery & Meadery <https://www.rosewoodwine.com/>
* Tony Aspler – Sommelier, Author, Wine Columnist <https://tonyaspler.com/>
* Dan Billard from High Park Brewery <https://highparkbrewery.square.site/>
* Reuben Virasami from Maple Leaf Tavern (Instagram: roob\_dogg\_drinks), [rjvirasami@gmail.com](mailto:rjvirasami@gmail.com)

Should anyone be interested in joining the Rotary Club of Parkdale-High Park-Humber at a meeting (no commitment, just interesting talk & various projects), they are currently meeting Thursday mornings from 7:30-8:30 a.m. via Zoom. Contact [terrietucker@rogers.com](mailto:terrietucker@rogers.com) for an invitation. When the world returns to normal, meetings take place at the Grenadier Café in High Park – what a great way to start the day every Thursday!