Weekly Update

Rotary Club of Etobicoke

District Governor: Bob Wallace

Week October 05, 2011

Board 2011 - 2012

President: Ron Miller, Vice President: Hugh Williams, Past President: Diane Irvine, Secretary: Nigel Brown, Treasurer: Don Edwards. Directors: Michael Bell, Justin Di Ciano, Carol Weber, Gary Hepworth, Alex Woda, Christine Woodman.

Speaker October 12, 2011 – Dr Austin Clarkson Milkwood Collective
(Art enrichment with students in Etobicoke)

Gary Hepworth introduced our speaker for today: Margaret Flynn is a lawyer who has been volunteering with Amnesty Canada for almost 20 years in various capacities. She is currently a member of the Executive Board, a member of an action circle that does work on human rights issues arising in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a member of the Speaker’s Bureau. She has worked in Canada & abroad in the areas of international human rights, domestic human rights, constitutional law, comparative law and labour law.

Margaret began by telling us a bit about the history of Amnesty International, a human rights movement. In 1961 Peter Benenson, who lived in the UK, heard about 2 students who were imprisoned in Portugal for toasting freedom. He began to write letters and publicised their plight. Others joined him in writing to the authorities in Portugal. They found other prisoners of conscience around the world who they lobbied for and publicised their cases. In 1962 the trial of Nelson Mandela in South Africa was covered by the group. Their mandate grew to cover broad civil and political rights: they aimed at freeing prisoners of conscience, ensuring fair trials for political prisoners, protecting refugees, abolishing the death penalty, ending political killings, disappearances and torture and, finally, to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations.

Everything was based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has grown to cover the Stop Violence Against Women campaign and the Demand Dignity campaign, which ties human rights abuses and poverty.

Website: www.rotaryetobicoke.org
The organisation has 3 million members in 150 countries and is entirely funded by private donations, so as to remain unbiased and non-partisan with governments.

Amnesty International (AI) produces independent research, on the ground investigations, interviews and observes trials. It publishes the results. And it takes action through public demonstrations, letter-writing campaigns, Urgent Action appeals, human rights education, lobbying governments, partnerships with local campaigning groups, community activities, some legal involvement, solidarity messages and greetings cards.

One example of an Urgent Action appeal was for Jenni Williams of Women of Zimbabwe Take Action, a non-violent organisation working for the improvement of the human rights situation. She had been arrested and was being threatened with rape. The campaign by members of AI managed to contact many people in the area—members of government, the prison service, the police & military and their wives & families, as well as the press. “The world was watching” and as a result, Jenni was released relatively unharmed, though she has since been imprisoned and released more than once.

The Demand Dignity campaign aims to broaden human rights and allow the cycle of poverty to be broken through protecting people’s access to fresh water, the rights of indigenous people, establishing clear rules to hold industry accountable for human rights abuses, protecting maternal health and people who do not have a secure home such as migrant workers and people living in temporary settlements and slums.

Margaret gave another example where everything has been done to help a group but their position has in fact deteriorated—and it is here in Canada. The Lubicon Cree of Northern Alberta were never involved in treaty negotiations, nor in signing Treaty 8 in 1899. They have not given up any rights to their lands, but neither do they have formal legal recognition of their rights.

In 1939 – 40 they met with federal government negotiators who promised to survey their land and establish a reserve. This never happened. In 1971 the Province of Alberta began construction of an all-weather road to allow resource development of the Lubicon lands. The Lubicon initiated negotiations to protect their rights but the federal government dismissed them as “squatters on provincial Crown land ...” During 1974 – 6 the Lubicon tried to lodge claims for their lands but provincial instrumentalities blocked them.

By 1979 the all-weather road was completed and 400 oil wells were drilled within a 40km radius of the Lubicon community. Some oil sands were also developed. The number of moose killed & trapped fell from 200 to 20 and annual income from $5000 to $400. Dependence on welfare increased from 10% to over 90%. In 1982 the Lubicon applied for an emergency injunction to prevent further harm to their culture & livelihoods but the injunction is stopped by the judge on the grounds that stopping oil exploration would cause harm to the provincial government and oil companies.

In 1985 – 6 the federal government appointed E Davis Fulton, a judge and former Justice Minister to look into the case. He reported that the weight of evidence supported the testimony of the Lubicon hunters and trappers that oil & gas development had nearly destroyed the Lubicon economy. The federal government ignored his recommendations.

In 1987 the Lubicon turned to the UN. The UNHCR asked Canada “to take interim measures to avoid irreparable damage” to the Lubicon Cree while the committee reviews the evidence. Nothing was done.

In 1988 there was a new threat, this time from logging by the Daishowa paper company of Japan that included rights to the entire Lubicon territory. The Lubicon withdrew from all actions before Canadian courts and established “passport controls” at the boundary of their territory. The barricades were dismantled by the RCMP after 6 days but the Lubicon met with Alberta Premier Don Getty and reached an agreement that became known as the
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Grimshaw Accord. But to cut the story short, things became messier still over the next 2 years.

In 1990 the UNHCR Committee condemned the ongoing violation of Lubicon rights, and in 1991 an international boycott of Daishowa began in protest at the threat to clear-cut the Lubicon territory. A sour gas processing plant was built nearby the proposed reserve, but it was already operational before a regulatory hearing began. More negotiations with the federal government failed and the Lubicon won a case against Daishowa in 1998. Despite several rounds of negotiations with the federal government between 1992 and 2003, they came to nothing. And to make matters worse still, a leaking pipeline spilled 4.5 million litres of oil into Lubicon muskeg on 29 April this year – the largest spill in the province since 1975. The results of the exploration are that river water is no longer safe for drinking, there are 20,000 First Nations people without running water and the schools are often closed because no water was trucked in. There is no sewage system either. In August this year the UNHCR Commissioner referred directly to the Lubicon Cree as being unfairly treated by the federal government. And still they wait for help.

President Ron thanked Margaret for her thought-provoking talk.

Presidents Corner

1938 – 39
George C. Hager - Rotary Club of Chicago

While Rotary International and each of its member clubs should carefully avoid any political entanglements, each individual Rotarian should strive at all times to cooperate with other individuals to every practical extent in support of peace objectives.
— Rotary Convention 1939

1939 - 40
RI President, Walter D. Head - Rotary Club of Teaneck, New Jersey

Most of us would like to have the best of ourselves live on. To anyone who wears the Rotary wheel and whose thoughts follow this pattern, I suggest a study of The Rotary Foundation as a device whereby every person of small or great substance can project themselves into the future.
— The Rotarian in June 1940.

Jottings from the Board

By Michael Bell

On Thursday evening Scarlett Heights Seniors Residence kindly provided us space to hold our Board of Directors meeting as part of their on going interest to become more involved in their local community.
At the meeting, the Board discussed and approved the following split for the Ribfest funds raised this
year. Community Services 60%, International (World Services) 20%, New Generations 15% and Vocational Services 5%.

It was also decided that there would be no funds taken “off the top” such as EREY and Polio Plus as in past years. This means that from International’s budget there will be $6,000.00 allocated to EREY and an amount for Polio Plus to be recommended by the committee to the Board. Similarly the approved budgets for Camp Enterprise ($13,000.00) and Student Exchange ($7,000.00) will come out of the New Generations funds. As there are still some outstanding receivables for Toronto Ribfest the Board has based the initial funds split based on $223,000.00. When the balance of the funds are received they will be split based on the same percentages as listed above.

The Board also received and approved the revised committee list from the Long Range Planning Committee as presented. Please consult the list of Committees below and contact the chair to express your interest in sitting on that committee.

Vocational Services Committee - Chair Gary Hepworth
New Generations Committee - Chair Opal Rowe
Camp Enterprise Committee - Chair Greg Dobson
Student Exchange Committee - Chair Debra Selkirk
Fundraising Planning Committee - Chair Diane Irvine
Long Range Planning Committee - Chair Michael Bell
Ribfest Committee - Chair Michael Bell
Community Services Committee - Chair Christine Woodman
International (World Service)Committee - Chair Bernadette Hunkeler-Brown
Foundation Committee - Chair Carol Weber
Membership Committee - Chair Gary Hepworth
Public Relations Committee - Chair Alex Woda
Club Administration Committee - Chair Justin DiCiano

Please note: The Board wishes to remind all active members in good health that it is their responsibility to actively participate on at least one committee of the club each year. An official list of committees and committee members will be distributed to club members shortly.

Don Edwards reviewed the draft year end financial statements from John Valvano and there were several questions raised that Don will consult and resolve with John. We anticipate a final (2010 - 2011) draft year end for our next Board meeting.

The Board approved the Ribfest Committees recommendation for the expenditure required to contract a Ribfest Coordinator for which they will be seeking club member approval in the near future. In addition, the Board approved an advance to the Ribfest Committee of up to $35,000.00 to cover operating expenses, to be repaid by April of the following year.

Lambton Golf & Country Club has again been chosen to host our Annual Christmas Dinner and it will take place this year on Wednesday December 7th in place of our regular luncheon meeting. Please mark your calendar’s and plan to support this annual club social event.

Also, please note that our Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday December 14th at our regular luncheon meeting.

The date for the next Board meeting has been set for Wednesday November 2nd, venue TBD.

Secretary’s Corner

By Nigel Brown

✦ I am looking for a small group of people who can fill-in for me when I can’t attend by writing-up the lunchtime meeting notes, and send them to Frederik. Lynda mentioned that in the PODS system this year, someone will be asked to do just that by the leaders. I wish the system every success!!

✦ Polio Awareness Day is Monday, 24 October, the day after District Conference. Would all members prepared to help at Mimico Go Station between 7.00 – 8.00am please contact Michael Bell. Michael added that this was another activity where Toronto club had taken the lead and will be on hand at Union Station.
Hugh asked me to mention that our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/rotaryetobicoke and our LinkedIn Group is www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4112233. Please contact Hugh for further details.

I was also pleased to report on the club float (courtesy of Gerry) that will grace the Lakeshore Santa’s Parade on Saturday, 3 December. As leader for this project, Ralph was asked to say a few words about it — please contact him for more information as to how you can help!

Happy Birthdays to Angela Barnes & Bernadette this coming week

Happy Bucks

Ralph Chiodo – Ralph was happy to report that Pasta Festa last Saturday had raised $150,000 for Trillium — a great effort!

Ken Bromley – Ken was looking forward to being happy when he didn’t find a parking ticket under his windshield wiper for the third week in a row after this meeting! (There had been some kind of mix-up at The Old Mill and they hadn’t seen his licence plate on the list)

Jim Woodside – Jim was happy to note that his wife no longer needed her crutches and if anyone wanted a pair he’d be happy to sell them at a good price!

Bernadette Hunkeler Brown – Bernadette was happy to report that at a recent dinner she’d had an ex-cabinet minister from Switzerland, a member of the club of Basel-Dreiländereck (“3-country corner”) from whom she handed over a banner, and her partner who is a member of Basel club, the oldest in Switzerland. At the dinner that night there were 7 Rotarians from 5 different clubs!

Ron Miller – Ron was happy to invite Lynda to the podium to tell us that Toronto had been successful in its bid to host the 2018 RI Convention! Congratulations! She said the Toronto club had led the bid and had been very good to work with.

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Website: www.rotaryetobicoke.org
Michael Bell – Michael was happy to tell us that the convention is estimated to bring in $32 million to the city and our club would be invited to help staff the House of Friendship, with a percentage of profits being returned to each club taking part.

**Dates to Remember**

- **International Services Committee Meeting** – Monday October 17, 2011 7.00 p.m. Venue TBD. Contact Nigel Brown (416) 237-0257.
- **Community Services Committee Meeting** – Monday, 24 October, 2011 – Venue TBA, Contact Christine Woodman Tel (416) 767-3352.
- **Board Meeting** – November 02, 2011 – Venue TBA. Contact Ron Miller (416) 763-0319.

**September Report – Allison William**

早安 Tom 先生!
对不起 Tom,
I'm sorry I'm late. I've been busy this week, since I had to finish a presentation for my class on Thanksgiving, and an art project. Even after a month and a couple of weeks, Taiwan is still really super awesome. I don't think I'll stay in Canada for very long, Asia has definitely become my home now. I feel so at home in the culture (especially since many kids here like Korean music and television) and in my city. Taipei is so amazing, I love it so much! The crowded night markets (and subways), the temples that stand beside modern day skyscrapers, the people, the mountains, everything is just so great!

I've settled into school really well, even though the only class I understand is English. That doesn't really bug me, since I much rather enjoy talking to my classmates! They are so great, and I really love and appreciate them! We've become really close, we're more like a family than a class. At lunch, they've been trying to teach me UNO (which I'm not very good at), and I plan on teaching them some card games as well. They also like to give me mini Chinese lessons—mainly they teach me slang (no swear words though, interestingly, Taiwanese people don't swear in Mandarin Chinese, they use Taiwanese.) It's recently become quite popular for the boys in my class to come up to me and ask me to say 你超帅 (Nǐ chāo shuài), which means "you are very hot/handsome." Speaking of the language, the Chinese is progressing slowly but surely. I've been trying to speak in simple sentences with my host family, and am trying to increase my vocabulary. The tones are giving me a bit of a problem, but I combate this by talking with my hands and writing out the tones in the air. My host family and classmates are being a great help. So far, I've explored a bit more of the country—I've been to the ocean around Fulong and Keelung. I love the ocean here! Unfortunately, it was raining when I went, so I didn't get to swim. I've also been to a night market a couple of times. Like I've said, they are crowded, but are great places for cheap clothes, shoes, and food. I've tried a little bit more of the local food—a recent favourite has been something called bao or bubble ice—which is basically like shaved ice. I've also been to an MTV, which is a place where you and a bunch of friends can get a big room and watch a movie. That was a pretty fun
experience. I have been to Ximending a lot-it's probably my favorite place in Taipei. Next week, I know I am definitely going to a KTV (a karaoke bar) with my classmates, as well as with other exchange students-many of whom have become some of my best friends. We all support each other, and are always willing to listen to one another. Anyways, wish me luck for the next month-and next week, I'm really nervous about the KTV...I hope everyone else is having fun and that their year will be super duper awesome!!
下次再見!
Allison (or 許艾莉, Hsu Ai Li, my Chinese name, which I now go by)

Murals Donated by the Club to the Dorothy Lay Hospice, Etobicoke.

Rotary Sponsored Breakfast Seminar - AODA

The Rotary Club of Etobicoke is sponsoring a seminar for local businesses on Wednesday, October 26th.

The seminar leader will be addressing what companies in Ontario are required to do to comply with the Customer Service Standard of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) by January 1, 2012.

Scarlett Heights Residence is putting on a fabulous breakfast for this informational and networking breakfast.

We hope you and or members of your team may be able to attend this timely event.

For more details contact - Gary Hepworth (416) 623-8229

Reported By – Nigel Brown * Pix Ron Miller