Today’s Program: Jim Leech, President and CEO, Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan

Topic: Canada’s Leadership in Pension Funding Innovation

Host: David Hetherington

Location: The Imperial Room, The Fairmont Royal York

Mr. Leech joined Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan (OTPP) in 2001 to lead its Private Capital and was appointed President and CEO in 2007. Established by the Ontario government in 1990 as an independent organization to manage the pension plan, OTPP is recognized today for its outstanding service to members and its innovative investment program.

During his career, Mr. Leech gained recognition for expertise and leadership in the private equity industry and as CEO of several public companies. With a solid reputation for building businesses and strong management teams, he has led large public companies operating and investing in the financial services, real estate and energy industries, as well as start-up technology businesses. Under his leadership, Private Capital became one of the world’s leading private equity investors. Before joining OTPP, Mr. Leech was president and CEO of Unicorp Canada Corporation, one of Canada’s first public merchant banks, and Union Energy Inc., then one of North America’s largest integrated energy and pipeline companies. During the 1990s, Mr. Leech guided two start-up technology companies to the revenue generation stage.

Mr. Leech has a B.Sc. (Honours Math and Physics) from the Royal Military College of Canada and an MBA from Queen’s University. He is a graduate of the Institute of Corporate Directors and serves on the boards of Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation, the Master-Card Foundation and was a founding director of Right To Play International. He also chairs the advisory board of the Queen’s School of Business and participates on the advisory board for The Learning Partnership, the advisory council for the Toronto Board of Trade and the Toronto Financial Services Leadership Council.

Little January
Tapped at my door today.
And said, "Put on your winter wraps,
And come outdoors to play."
Little January
Is always full of fun;
Today we coasted down the hill,
Until the set of sun.
Little January
Will stay a month with me
And we will have such jolly times—
Just come along and see.
— Winifred C. Marshall

Rotarian 2 Rotarian (R2R) Monthly Networking Evening – by Jason Phelps

What you missed...

Last week, Michele Guy provided great insight into the diversity of legal and moral situations she encounters in her law practice, and was able to demonstrate to the crowd that there are caring, supportive lawyers. We also learned that in addition to their legal knowledge, lawyers must be skilled mediators and counsellors!

In addition, Nola Kianza described the many economic opportunities that exist throughout Africa, both within the continent and abroad. We also learned that there are significant cultural and economic differences among the 54 countries. He provided insight into the variety of industries and businesses he assists through his role with the Canadian Council on Africa.

Next Month R to R – February 9, 2012 @ 6pm

Make sure you mark this date in your calendar, as our Rotaract Clubs (U of T and Toronto) will be hosting the evening, and we have an exciting “speed networking” evening ahead of us! New members, this is a great time to meet other Rotarians and our energetic Rotaractors. Rotarians, this is a great opportunity to bring potential members and guests.

The event will take place at the National Club (303 Bay St). Entry is only $5 for a multitude of delectable hors d’oeuvres.
In Memoriam: William F.C. Turnbull,  
May 23, 1942 - January 7, 2012

We were greatly saddened by the sudden death of Bill Turnbull in his 70th year on Saturday January 7, 2012. Bill joined our Club in 1991 with the classification of Music – Organ & Piano. Bill was a talented musician and until his recent illness he was our stalwart organist at Friday lunches having taken over from Edgar Goodaire. Bill was a great friend to many of our members.

Bill was born in Morpeth, England in 1942, and took his M.A. Honours from Oxford University between 1960-1964. He moved to Canada in 1967 and joined the Royal Insurance Company in 1971 and A.I.I.C. in 1974. He was married to Olivene and had two daughters, Anastasia and Alexandra. Bill had been the Organist of Wadham College, Oxford 1962-64 and he began developing a career as an organist and choir director in 1980. He became an Associate of the Royal Conservatory 1993, Associate of the Royal College of Organists in1988, and Fellow of the Royal College of Organists 1991. He has been Organist and Choir Director of his church since 1984. He also helped out at a number of other churches. Bill also joined the Professional Speakers Club in 1988 and served as its Secretary. He joined Mensa in 1989 and was a talented bridge player, partnering with Bill Dale and Norm Ovenden. An avid cricket player, Bill founded the Royal Cricket Club in 1981 and was also a keen squash player.

Bill served our Club with distinction in many different ways on many Committees throughout the years: Attendance, Community Services, Membership, and Seniors Committees, as well as International Services of which he was the chair. He helped to run the annual essay writing contest on UN Day each year and was also involved in tree planting in the Don Valley with Bill Dale and Jack Layton. His most memorable contributions were of course his musical talents. Bill was one of the TORCH singers (Toronto Ontario Rotarians Carolling Happily) with his good friend Eardley Samuels for whom he played the piano. He also played at Friday lunches and special events. Bill was honoured by his fellow Rotarians with a Club Builder award and was one of the first "Rotary Warriors." He was a great friend who will be sorely missed by many.

In Memoriam: Roy A.C.M. Phillips,  
May 18, 1918 - January 5, 2012

On January 5, 2012 Honorary member and Past President Roy Phillips passed away peacefully at St. Lawrence Place Retirement home after a long and memorable life. Roy was a true gentleman, charismatic and gracious, who radiated warmth and friendship, and who always had a wonderful smile. He was predeceased by his cherished wife of 63 years, Barbara, in 2004.

Roy was born in Vancouver, May 18, 1918 and studied science at UBC. He graduated with honours in 1939 and moved east to work for General Electric in Peterborough. Two years later, his university sweetheart, Barbara, made the journey across the country to join him. They married and had four children. Roy had a distinguished career in engineering and business that spanned five decades. After 25 years at GE, Roy became president of the Canadian Manufacturers Association in 1975, a position he held for ten years. During this time he also became involved with the Correctional Services of Canada as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Inmate Employment. In 1985, he was elected president of the Geneva-based International Organization for Standardization. As ISO president, he travelled the world, from Russia to China to Indonesia, forging new directions in international trade and policy. In 1986, he received the Order of Canada.

Roy was a prominent member of Rotary, and lived the motto of “Service Before Self.” He was President of our Club in 1987, and received the Paul Harris Fellow and William Peace Award in 1989. He was also active in his church. Roy's optimism and positive outlook will be greatly missed by all who knew him. An inspired leader in his professional life, Roy's true love was for family. As a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Roy's warmth and good nature shone through. Through all his accomplishments, he remains a role model to his extensive and loving family.
Welcome New Member Lindsay Hooper!

Lindsay was born in Toronto, Ontario but grew up in Coquitlam, BC. In an effort to satisfy her curiosity of the world, she has since lived in Montreal, Sydney, London, Toronto, Kingston and New York. She currently lives happily in Corso Italia, Toronto with her Kiwi (from New Zealand) husband, Andrew; small and lively beagle, Cady; and three week old son, Lachlan.

Lindsay studied economics and political science at McGill and law at Queen’s, in both Kingston and at Queen's Hertsmoneaux Castle in England, with a spattering of world travel and adventure in between. She currently practises as a corporate and securities lawyer at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, with a focus on mergers and acquisitions and finance. In the past, Lindsay has worked as a database and program developer, dancer, dance instructor and costume business manager.

Lindsay’s interests and passions include reading (she is an avid reader and belongs to a spirited book and dinner club), cooking and entertaining, attending arts events and performances, ultimate Frisbee, Pilates, and spending quality time with her extended family and close friends.

Lindsay also loves to meet new people and learn about new cultures, a passion she has developed in her travels. This is part of why she is interested in joining Rotary. Lindsay is looking forward to becoming involved in some of the many philanthropic activities of Rotary, to meet new groups of people both in need and within Rotary, and to learn about their lives, passions and goals. Mostly, she is looking forward to giving back to the community that she lives in.

Welcome New Member James Barnett!

James was born in Scarborough, Ontario but grew up in Whitby. Jamie, as he is often called, lives east of Toronto but works downtown on a regular basis. James is the youngest of four brothers and lives with his girlfriend, Jennifer Stinson. He has travelled the world but will forever call the GTA home.

James graduated from Brock University with a Bachelor of Applied Health Science (Honours) and a Bachelor of Education after completing the concurrent education program. He was an elementary school teacher for several years before changing careers and moving into Account Management. It was at this stage in James’ career that he decided to make the move to the non-profit sector. James was the Director of Sponsorship and Corporate Relations for the Oshawa Hospital Foundation, before moving out West to become the Director of Development for Red Deer College. More recently, he joined the University of Ontario Institute Of Technology this past August as a Senior Development Officer.

James’ interests involve anything physically active but first and foremost are hockey, tennis, and golf. His hobbies include collecting coins and cards, creative writing and hypnosis as he is also a certified hypnotist. He enjoys volunteering his time to give back to the community. James serves as the volunteer Executive Director for the Steve Death Foundation and Chairman of the Steve Death Memorial Golf Classic. All proceeds are donated to university scholarships and cancer research and equipment.

James decided to join The Rotary Club of Toronto because he wants to give back to the greatest city in the world, Toronto. He enjoys meeting new people and encourages his fellow members to introduce themselves whenever possible and he will do the same.
What You Missed on January 13, 2012 – by Bert Steenburgh

Friday the 13th… the sky ominous and grey, the snow blowing through a biting cold wind, Harvey Sullivan berating the Sgt.-at-Arms into submission – then, I am warmly greeted by a gaggle of beaming Rotarians – Marg Stanowski, Sylvia Milne, Barbara Thompson and Jackie Davies. All was well as another Friday of warm Rotary fellowship commenced.

Jamie Chubb, better half of “lawyer girl” Michele Guy played the Head Table in and was having so much fun he just kept playing as we clapped along. President Sandy presented a moving In Memoriam to our long-time member and pianist, Bill Turnbull, who passed-away so suddenly last week. He also paid tribute to Past President of our Club, Roy Phillips, a fine and gentle man who passed away in Kingston in the past week.

Don Brookes promoted the “Purple Pinkie for Polio” fundraiser being sponsored by our Club and the Rotaract clubs of Toronto and U of T. The event is a film screening at the fabulous TIFF Bell Lightbox on Friday January 27th.

Our speaker, Dr. Peter Simon, from the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) was introduced by long time member of our Club, Paul Westlake. They have known each other since university days. Dr. Simon walked us through an overview of the 125 year history of the RCM including what he termed a 40 year dark period when the institution was amalgamated with U of T starting in 1952. Our conservatory is widely recognized as one of the top music institutions in the world. Unique in having developed its own curriculum from the start, it stands apart from similar conservatories worldwide. The RCM takes credit for the fact that Canada continues to “punch above its weight” when it comes to producing world-renowned musicians. Their work using music to help high-risk students to thrive was particularly noteworthy.

Rohit Tamhane won the first draw for tickets to the Boat Show, then another of his tickets was drawn for the 50/50! But then… he pulled the Ace of Clubs and won almost $3,000.00! Ah, Friday the 13th, what a sweet day to be Rohit! In closing, President Sandy announced Agnes Walkinshaw as the latest Rotary Warrior – another very popular choice and well-deserved recognition for a great member of our Club.

Next week the “What You Missed” reporter is again Bert Steenburgh, and Voice editor is Greg Vermeulen.

Looking Ahead: January 27, 2012
Speaker: Reid Morden, Past President of CSIS
Topic: Intelligence in Today’s World – A Necessary Intrusion
Host: Harold Hetherington
Location: The Imperial Room, The Fairmont Royal York

Reid Morden was the director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service from 1988-1992. A graduate of Dalhousie University from which he received a law degree and later an Honorary Doctorate of Law, Mr. Morden started his career with the Canadian Department of External Affairs. His first posting was in Pakistan. From 1991-1994, Mr. Morden served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was named director of CSIS in 1988 and served in that capacity for four years. Later he caused a stir by defending former director Ted Finn’s erasing of 156 tapes of evidence before the Air India Inquiry.

In addition, Mr. Morden has served as President of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited in 1994 -1998, and worked in the private sector with Kroll and KPMG Forensic Inc 2000. In 2000 he received the Order of Canada. In June 2005, Mr. Morden was appointed to assist the commission of inquiry dealing with the case of Maher Arar. Today he runs the security analysis firm Reid Morden & Associates, while acting as Executive Director of the Volcker Inquiry into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Program. He is a Director of the HSLA industry trade group and he sits on the Board of Governors for Trent University as an advisor to the Schulich School of Business’ MBA Program. Mr. Morden is also a Grand Officer of the Order of the Southern Cross.