

ROTARY VOICE



Rotary Voice is published by The Rotary Club of Toronto

June 10, 2011

SERVICE

The 4-way test

of the things we think, say or do.

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill
and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial
to all concerned?

SELF

“THE empress of the year, the meadows' queen,
Back from the East, with all her goodly train,
Is come, to glorify the world again
With length of light and middle Summer-Sheen.
In every plot, upon her throne of green,
Bright blooms the rose; with birds and blossom-
rain
And perfume ecstasied are wood and plain
And Winter is as if it ne'er had been.
Oh June, liege-lady of the flowering prime,
Now that thrush, finch, lark, linnet, ousel, wren
Thy praises pipe, to the Iranian bard
How shall we harken, who, the highwaymen
Autumn and Winter, warns us, follow hard
On thy fair feet and bide their baleful time?”

— John Payne

Today's Program: Dean Connor, Chief Operating Officer, Sun Life Financial Topic: Canada's Life Insurance Industry after the Financial Crisis

Host: Keith Howard

Location: The Imperial Room, The Fairmont Royal York



Dean Connor is Chief Operating Officer of Sun Life Financial. Mr. Connor assumed this position in January 2010 and oversees a broad range of the company's operations, including its Canadian businesses, the worldwide Reinsurance business, and MFS, a U.S.-based asset management firm. He also has enterprise responsibility for Marketing and Communications, Human Resources, IT Functions and other shared business services. As well Mr. Connor is leading Sun Life's contribution to public policy discussions to improve the retirement income system in Canada.

Mr. Connor joined Sun Life in 2006. Prior to his current appointment, his responsibilities included leading the company's Canadian businesses and oversight responsibility for the Company's United Kingdom and Reinsurance operations, strategic international activities and corporate functions, including Medical and Underwriting. Mr. Connor joined Sun Life from Mercer Human Resource Consulting where he held top leadership roles and gained significant industry and international experience. He rose to become Mercer's President for the Americas, encompassing its business in the U.S., Latin America and Canada. Prior to that, he was Chief Executive Officer of Mercer's Canadian business, responsible for the firm's investment, retirement, group benefits and compensation operations.

Mr. Connor is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and the Canadian Institute of Actuaries. He holds an Honours Business Administration (HBA) from the Richard Ivy School of Business.

A Photo from the Nineteen Fifties!

This photo was taken at a Rotary meeting in Haileybury, Ontario. The date is unknown, but it was likely in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The man in the middle is a relative of one of our Rotary members – he is David Cooke's grandfather, William Sommerville. William was a dentist in this small, northern Ontario town. While you would be hard pressed to know it by looking at the photo, David Cooke's mother says William and his friends enjoyed the camaraderie of Rotary for many years. Notice the Rotary bell on the table, and that the man on the left, Dr. W.C. Arnold, is nursing a cigarette.



Save the Date!!

Friday, November 25th
12 - 30pm



**THE ROTARY CLUB OF TORONTO
CLUB 55
1912**

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What You Missed on Friday, June 03, 2011 – by John Carr

Our soon-to-be esteemed President called us to order for a full agenda and a full room. Three extra tables were needed to accommodate the regular suspects plus six visiting Rotarians, plus 24 guests. As usual, when faced with a full agenda, Peter got going early, while we were savouring our dessert. Sylvia Milne took the mike for a suspenseful introduction of our newest recipient of the William Peace Award and Paul Harris Fellows Recognition, Bill Empey. This quiet Rotarian has slugged away since '91 as Santa at several of our Club's annual Children's Christmas Party, a member for years on the Youth and Children's Service Committee, and has been a liaison Director from the board to many committees. Bill received a Club Builder Award in 2005. All present, including several of Bill's friends on hand for the occasion, were pleased to watch this recognition bestowed. David Cooke gave us a light hearted recap of Camp Scugog from the perspective of a first timer and a new member. New friends and old were the chief benefits of attending, including 12-Step friends and massage partners! And of course the sumptuous food offered and devoured by a devoted Kitchen Crew. Even though the accommodations sometimes boasted running water and electricity, David compared the weekend to a censored Survivor episode. The overall message was "Sign up for next year!" (It will be the weekend after the Victoria Day holiday.) The *Voice* editorial team was on hand and Sylvia Geist thanked this hearty crew for a job professionally done. This crew has taken considerable work out of the office, enabling our continued success. Neil Phillips promised us Salsa Dancing at the annual President's Celebration on June 16 at the St. Lawrence Hall; dress as you like, and register on-line.

Our speaker was Dr. David Williams, physician and astronaut and his topic was "Space and Remote Care Medicine." David has done three space walks, with special use of remote and assistive devices. These come down to earth as prosthetics, remote surgery appliances, and heart pumps. His career is dizzying to contemplate. Besides the technical achievements, he put on a great show for us and the crowd responded with a standing ovation. Despite the full meeting agenda, President Peter got us out on time, but only after mentioning a Space Station Restaurant that was falling out of favour because its patio had no atmosphere!

For next week: What You Missed reporter is Shannon Lundquist;
Voice editor is Maureen Bird.

Bill Empey – from the Honours & Awards Committee Photo taken by Mario Voltolina

The highest award that we can give a member is the Paul Harris Fellow and William Peace Award. We give this recognition only to members who have demonstrated long-term commitment to our Club and who have given above and beyond expectations; and we only give out one or two each year. On June 3rd, Sylvia Milne was pleased to present this award to a Rotarian that she has been working with for the last 10 years, to Bill Empey. She said she has always been able to feel very comfortable with Bill's ability to manage process, focus on strategy and deal successfully with people's feelings, even in the most difficult situations. He epitomizes Rotary's motto "Service Above Self" in everything he does for our Club.

Bill Empey joined our Club in 1991 and has always been a very active member. As soon as he joined he rolled up his sleeves to plan and manage the Christmas Children's Party as well as being Santa for many years. He has been active on the Youth & Children's Service Committee, as well as the Urban Peace Committee. He was Vice-Chair of Youth & Children's Service Committee in 1996/97 and Secretary from 2001-2003. In 2005 he was elected to the Board and in that capacity he has acted as Liaison Director to the Senior Citizen's Committee, International Service Committee, and Women's Initiatives Committee. He has also been on the Board of the Charitable Foundation. Bill was involved with and dedicated to Camp Enterprise. As a Liaison Director he was conscientious and careful, and he participated fully in each committee he was on. He was given a Club Builder Award in March of 2005. Recently Bill has spent many hours in stick handling the Committee identification of Centennial Projects – a job he has done with his usual dedication and grace. Congratulations, Bill!





Upcoming Speakers & Events

- 2011
- June 16 "A Night for Love" at the Lawrence Hall St.
- 17 David Wong, "Dragon Boat Races – June 25-26"
- 24 Mr. Tim Hudak, Leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party
- July 1 No Meeting
- 8 Presidential Changeover
- 15 Pres. for 2011/2012, Sandy Boucher "Throne Speech"
- 22 Alison Loat, Ex. Director, Samara Canada
- August 25 63rd Annual Golf Tournament

PROPOSE A SPEAKER
CONTACT—Harold Hetherington, Chair
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June Birthdays

- 2 Amar Mehta
- 3 Bert Steenburgh
- 5 Lori Brazier
- 6 Jim Norwood, Agnes Walkinshaw
- 10 Frank Jordan
- 11 Andrew Brandt, Stuart Watts
- 12 Jai Persaud
- 14 Alex Zalewski
- 18 Chand Chadaria, Hans Schafer
- 19 Melissa Tromel, Ric Williams
- 21 Tatiana Naimouncine
- 22 John Joseph Mastandrea, Henry Sun
- 29 Behz Naini, Anne Saunders
- 30 (Ret.) Gen. Rick Hillier

The RCT's 63rd Annual Golf Tournament - by Ross Amos

Our Club's 63rd Annual Golf Tournament is on August 25, 2011 at the Richmond Hill Golf Club.

First Early Bird Draw: June 24
Second Early Bird Draw: July 22

Winners receive a Dinner for Two at one of Toronto's finest restaurants.

Sigh up now!!!!

The proceeds from The Rotary Club of Toronto's 2011 Golf Tournament will go to Operation Springboard to refurbish a group home for youth with developmental disabilities. Join us, separately or with your foursome, for a day filled with fun and golf. For more information, contact Ross Amos at rossamos@rogers.com



The City of New Orleans Lives! – by Maureen Bird

Arriving four days before the Rotary International (RI) Convention, we got the real New Orleans "feel" by walking and taking an excellent tour on our first full morning. The city is not back to pre-Katrina condition, but is well on the way. We visited the upper Ninth District to see a lot of reconstruction. Rotaractors from Toronto participated in a Habitat for Humanity build. **



The above-ground "Cities of the Dead" were interesting, dating back to the earliest settlers; and the well-named Garden District, home to many movie stars, was beautiful. The French Quarter, Business District and Garden District were spared from flooding in 2005, but people were holding their breaths in May as the Mississippi was cresting inches below flood level. On our Natchez paddle boat trip, we could see rooflines at the level of the water lapping against the levees. The city boasts the oldest tramcar routes in the world, and at 40 cents for those of "mature age" it was a bargain as well as an experience! The St. Charles line is the route of the Mardi Gras parades, and the trees and power lines are well-draped with the famous beads. But the French Quarter was a real treat! The iron railings adorn every building, wedding parties dance on the street with brass bands blaring, Royal Street reeks of antiques, and words can't describe the evening life of Bourbon Street where singing and dancing on the street is encouraged

and "go-cups" of beer and alcohol are legal. And of course a trip to New Orleans is not complete without coffee and beignets at Café du Monde. Over the week we had some of the most wonderful meals ever – crab cakes from heaven, oysters barely out of the bay, po'boy sandwiches. The city can be proud of its well-earned culinary reputation.

Our Home Hospitality was provided by The Rotary Club of St. Charles Parish at Destrehan Plantation. Gerry and I and Keith and Mary Howard were included. The Cajun food (including alligator) was all cooked by club members; we toured the antebellum Plantation House, learned local construction methods and were entertained by Waylon Thibodeaux and his Zydeco band. It was a fun evening and we were back on buses before the mosquitoes arrived to spoil the party!

** See RI website http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/110523_IC11_reunion.aspx

New Orleans...My Kind of Town – by Don Bell

New Orleans conjures up all sorts of images...a good time town, great southern food, Louisiana hospitality. All true and, therefore, an appropriate place to hold the 102nd Annual Convention of Rotary International (RI). Twenty-eight Toronto Club and family members made the trip, and our experience lived up to the town's reputation. How impressive to gather in one large room with 20,000 Rotarians from all over the world. (The New Orleans convention centre was large enough to hold two conventions at once... the army of Rotarians and 20,000 microbiologists as well!) We were treated to presentations on some major rotary projects, and entertained with lots of Dixieland Jazz, country, bluegrass, and some wonderful choral voices. We heard Bill Gates speak – a man who not only has given \$350 million through his foundation to help us eradicate polio, but has also visited many of the sites in India and Africa, where the vaccine is being administered.

When we weren't at the Convention, we got together for cocktails in our various rooms and around the rooftop pool in the hotel. We were treated to jazz concerts, some great dinners, late night jazz clubs and lots of shopping opportunities. The Host Hospitality Night saw us taken to a variety of venues for a dinner with the local clubs. Maureen Bird and Gerry got to visit a plantation (see Maureen's article), while Nadine and I were taken in a bus across the Lake Ponchartrain causeway to the Abita Craft Brewery, where three of the local Rotary clubs got together and put on a dinner with some fun musical entertainment. The beer flowed. (Michele...eat your heart out!)

You may not know that our Club has been shortlisted to host the 2018 Convention here in Toronto. If we are lucky enough to win the bid, all of us will have a superb opportunity to showcase our city and our Club (and ALL the clubs in ours and surrounding districts) to the Rotary world. For those of you who have attended an RI Convention, you know the magnitude of the event and the realization that we are part of a vast international powerhouse, with the ability to undertake huge humanitarian efforts. For members who have yet to experience a Convention, you can plan to attend next year – it's in Bangkok so start saving your frequent flyer points! Or plan to volunteer if we are the hosts in 2018. Believe me, *everyone* will be involved!

Looking Ahead: June 17, 2011

Speaker: David Wong, Chairman, 23rd Annual

Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival

Topic: Dragon Boat Races, June 25-26, 2011

Location: The Imperial Room, The Fairmont Royal York

June 25 and 26 are dates when Toronto will again, for the 23rd time, hold its Annual International Dragon Boat Race Festival. Many of us may not be aware that dragon boat racing has a long history dating back over 2,500 years and is very much a part of Chinese culture. Today dragon boat racing has received renewed interest and is an annual event in over 40 countries. We are delighted that David Wong, chairman of this year's festival, will be our guest speaker.



For many years our Club participated in this annual event when our members, after training for many weeks, raced their boat on the Toronto Harbour. The Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival began with only 17 teams. This year the Festival expects almost 200 teams with over 5,500 athletes. The event values social responsibilities and has raised funds for many charitable organizations. This year the Festival has designated the Canadian Diabetes Association as beneficiary of the funds raised.

In addition to his responsibilities for the Festival, David Wong is also the 1st Vice President of the Toronto Chinese Business Association, the association which is the principal organizer of the races. After graduating from the University of Toronto, David turned his talents to real estate and has been involved in residential condominium development, marketing many commercial and residential projects in the Greater Toronto Area.

A Night for Love

It's the 2nd annual evening to celebrate the accomplishments of our Club over the past year, under the watchful eye of our President, Peter Love.

Join us for an evening of fellowship and great food. Dining is family style (no reserved seating). Attire is casual. Come and have fun!! Spouses, significant others and Rotary friends all welcome!!

DATE: Thursday June 16th RECEPTION: 6:30 pm
DINNER: 7:30 pm VENUE: St. Lawrence Hall, King Street East
ATTIRE: As you wish!!! COST: \$125 per person

To purchase tickets register at:

http://rtc.r-sourcecenter.com/event/index.asp?Event_Id=18

If you cannot register online, please contact the office and they will be pleased to register you and arrange payment. Hope to see you all there!



The Rotary Club of Toronto ~ Making the world a better place.

The Rotary Club of Toronto
Fairmont Royal York

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