



Service Above Self

THE ROTARY CLUB of WHITBY

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The Rotary RIP

The Weekly Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Whitby
August 9th, 2011 Volume 79 - Issue 6

Guests Holly and Jessica Asselin and Deanna MacDonald from Epilepsy Durham; Kevin Woods, guest of Joanne Ashley; Kyle Erickson, guest of Mike Finigan.

Announcements

Cancelled Breakfast Meetings: President Mike reminded us that there will be three meeting dates that will be cancelled as follows:

August 16th – in favour of meeting, instead, at Ontario Shores. See announcement below.

August 30th – no breakfast meeting as that is the day of our Golf Tournament. All hands on deck to play or volunteer!

September 6th – no breakfast meeting as that Tuesday is right after Labour Day. Some of us may need to get kids ready for school or just plain recover from the summer hoopla in preparation for fall!

Ontario Shores Breakfast and Tour: A reminder that next Tuesday, August 16th, there will be no breakfast meeting at the library as usual. Rather, we'll be meeting at 7 a.m. at the Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. There, we'll enjoy breakfast followed by a tour of the facilities. This will give us an opportunity to learn more about what Ontario Shores does as it will be one of the recipients of the proceeds of our August 30th Golf Tournament.

Foundation Walk: Sunday, September 11th. Valarie Wafer circulated a list so that we can

sign up as a sponsor. We're being encouraged to think of donating \$100 US as part of the EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) Program. One of our Club goals this year is to have 100% participation in this program by our members. That amount can be given as a one-time donation or in varying amounts during the year. The Foundation Walk just offers an opportunity to be an EREY participant while, at the same time, contributing to the Walk effort for the Foundation. Valarie will continue to circulate the list over the next few weeks.

Blood Challenge: Valarie continued with her announcements by reminding us of her challenge to us to donate blood, too. She found the courage to do so after our club heard a talk from the Canadian Blood Services people and makes an appointment to do so at the permanent centre at Taunton and Harmony Roads. She is suggesting that we meet her challenge by making such an appointment for August 22nd and then follow up by getting together for dinner afterwards. Talk to Valarie about these arrangements.

Meeting Make-ups: Betty Vetere told of her attending two Rotary meetings while on her trip west and north. She attended a meeting of the Canmore Rotary Club which boasts some 88 members in a town of 12,000. As well, she was able to make up at the Calgary Rotary meeting. She found these experiences interesting and fun and the Canmore Club very similar to ours.

Club Award: President Mike partly met another of the Club goals for this year by presenting an award of the month to Fred Wynnistorf to recognize all his efforts over the

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years for Bingo. Because he uses his hands for these efforts, Mike presented him with a huge stuffed white glove.

Quarterly Dues and Fees: A reminder that these are due. Everyone should have received an invoice for these from Joe Murray, our Treasurer. Marion Irwin collected several cheques this morning as Joe was away for a week's holidays. If you did not receive an invoice, please let Joe know.

Volunteer Hours: Anne Nurse is asking that, when we perform volunteer hours for one of our projects, we let her know so that she can keep track of them. Our Club goal for the year is 1000 hours of volunteer effort.

Sergeant-At-Arms

Happy Bucks led the way today for the Sergeant's report! President Mike paid up for the fine he owed from last week. Ray Richardson paid a sad (but not really) buck because, at another meeting that he and Mike attended with three others from our Club also present, all sat together but one! Ray was sad about this although he knew that, as a future District Governor, she probably had to smooch with others.

John Dale was really quite happy because the coffee he'd spilled did not hit anyone! Good shot! Fred Wynistorf's vacation in PEI was great and his grandson is now walking. He may be happy about the latter right now, but wait until he has to chase the wee lad to keep him out of harm's way or mischief. Fred may not be so happy then. In any case, both John and Fred paid their "happy bucks".

Espie Leone was not only happy, but probably also quite proud, because, left alone with four kids, two of whom were her own, while Victor was away, she survived! So, our money pot benefitted. Danielle Harder was happy enough to pay up, too, for her anniversary and the dinner that her three sons cooked for her husband and her.

Chris Butryn was very happy for the great time he and his partner had in Algonquin Park. Apparently, they were looking for forest therapy. However, the RIP editor did not quite follow Chris' explanation. So, to find out more, see Chris!

Mike Finigan's guest, Kyle Erickson, paid the last "happy buck" for his forthcoming trip to Disneyland with his family. They're sure to have a great time. We'll hope Mother Nature is kind to them with the weather.

Then, it was **fining** time! Sergeant Joanne, with Anne Nurse's helpful suggestion, fined John Dale and Tim Morgan for taking the last parking spots so that Anne had to go further afield to park.

Our Sergeant suggested that Arthur Capon was probably trying to avoid being fined today by giving her a big hug. Didn't work! Arthur paid up!

Then, for a few minutes, one might have wondered if our Sergeant was also our guest speaker as she launched into a long story about raccoons in her garage and the horrendous \$680 cost to have them removed. Well, this prompted a rash of animal stories beginning with the Smith's episode with a Mommy coyote and her 12 babies and followed by Grant Souter's \$10,000 story, that amount being the cost, so far, of trying to deal with raccoons in his trailer. What bugs Grant is that one can remove the offending animals, by law, only 100 metres away! So, guess who comes back to the trailer?!

Then, Joe Dale was led to tell of an old nun who sits on a porch of a retreat in the country with a shotgun in hand. Vans arrive from the city, open their doors, and release the raccoons from inside. Shotgun practice then ensues as the old nun picks off the raccoons one by one. Susan Reid, then, advised that she'd heard that Exlax is, apparently, a good way to get rid of raccoons.

To top off the animal stories, Mark Wafer had a dandy about his home in Florida which required

some eavestrough repairs that meant the removal of some boards as well. Imagine one's surprise and horror to find an 8 ft. snake under the boards!! It was not a happy snake!! Well, that ended the animal stories! However, your editor does not remember that any of the storytellers was ever fined for being allowed to recount these tales. Things just got carried away!

Finally, to end the Sergeant's report on a more serious note, Brian Winter paid to announce that Neil MacCarl, a sportswriter for the Toronto Star for years and the brother of one of our Past Presidents, Ralph MacCarl, had passed away on the weekend. There are some of us who would have at least known of Neil if not having actually known him a bit.

Today's Program

Once again, our guest speaker was introduced by Grant Souter. We were updated on the works of Epilepsy Durham, an organization that Grant has supported personally through his efforts for the Golf Tournament and that our Club has also supported. We heard from Deanna MacDonald, the Community Outreach Coordinator for Epilepsy Durham, who was quick to thank our Club and Grant for their help with the golf tournament which raised \$34,951.00, the most ever.

We also heard from Jessica Asselin, a young lady who has done amazing awareness work in her school for Epilepsy's Purple Day. Jessica knows firsthand about epilepsy as her sister journeys with it and experiences seizures every day. Purple Day was created as a way to raise awareness, and Jessica is doing just that. Jessica has encouraged her schoolmates to wear purple and has provided a prize for the class wearing the most purple. Next year, in high school, she plans to continue to raise awareness about this disease that robs her sister of a healthy life.

Deanna responded to several questions posed by our members. We learned that epilepsy is not hereditary; that, for the most part, medication costs are covered; and that medications need to

be changed as each epileptic's body changes as they grow older. Deanna was not entirely sure what the focus of research is at this time although she believes that it centres a good deal on finding new medications.

When asked how we should respond if we're in the company of someone experiencing a seizure, Deanna provided these facts:

- ☉ Remain calm
- ☉ Don't hold the person down. Let the seizure run its course
- ☉ Loosen anything tight around the neck
- ☉ Put the person on their left side if possible
- ☉ Let any fluids drain out
- ☉ Reassure the person during the seizure
- ☉ If the seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes, call 911

Deanna pointed out, too, that, if the seizure is severe, it will take longer for the person to recover. There can be confusion afterward, also, that may last for an hour or longer. Surprisingly, it is possible for a person with epilepsy to experience 100 or more seizures a day.

When asked if epileptics carry medications for seizures with them, Deanna explained that some do. She told of a volunteer for Epilepsy Durham who carries such meds and who has asked that, if she doesn't come out of a seizure within 3 minutes, she be given her medication.

Given that epileptics often have difficulty being hired, it was Joe Dale who asked what should be provided in a workplace so that people with epilepsy could be employed. Deanna's response suggested that the environment should be emotionally safe so that the person can feel comfortable explaining his or her journey with epilepsy to work colleagues. It is important that the colleagues know what to do if something might happen. Epilepsy Durham provides in-services, too, for companies and businesses to educate the staff and employees about epilepsy and its sufferers.

The question regarding the possibility of surgical processes helping brought the answer that

Toronto Western Hospital was the centre of excellence in this regard and that surgery was generally for those whose seizures could not be controlled by medication. Such a person would be admitted to the hospital for observation and testing over a course of several days in order to determine where in the brain the seizure occurs. It is possible to remove that particular part of the brain to reduce or eliminate the seizures.

Mention was made of the use of service dogs who are able to sense when a seizure is about to occur in a person with epilepsy. They are able to alert the owner and, if a seizure does occur, will stay at the side of its owner and bark to raise attention. This skill is particularly useful at nighttime, for example, as the dog will alert a sleeping parent when a child might have a seizure. It was interesting to learn, too, that other animals can provide service for an epileptic. Apparently, cats are useful in this way, and it was surprising to know that even ferrets can be service animals.

Deanna emphasized that epilepsy is not considered a disability. Rather, it is a medical illness. Although there is a great lack of services for people with epilepsy, things are slowly improving. There are about 12,000 people in Durham Region with epilepsy about 800 of whom were helped in 2010 by Epilepsy Durham. There is a very high diagnosis of epilepsy in Canada each year, almost as many as those diagnosed with breast cancer. It was incredible to learn that, sometimes, there can be a 22 year wait for diagnosis. This is partly due to a shortage of neurologists as well as the difficulty in the actual diagnosis as, often, time is required for observation of symptoms and testing.

As well as all the information about epilepsy itself, Deanna provided updates regarding the various events that will be taking place during the year. This included Shine a Light in Your Community at the Oshawa Centre in November, a Class Act Dinner Theatre fundraiser, Purple Day in March, Global Epilepsy Awareness Day with what are called Bunny Hop Days which take place in day care centres, also in March, and

the Durham Epilepsy Walk in April. In 2012, Epilepsy Durham will be 20 years old and has plans to celebrate this achievement. However, we'll have to wait to hear more about this as they are being kept secret at the moment.

Words from our Founder

“Whatever Rotary means to us, to the world it will be known by what it achieves.

**Message to 1914 RI Convention
Houston, Texas**

Rotary Information

I hope that the following information will be of interest to our members, perhaps particularly to some of us who are “a little longer in the tooth” in Rotary, as it seems to be a bit of a coincidence that a Canadian Rotarian had such an influence in the origins of Rotary in India, particularly in Madras (now Chennai) India, when we recall what our Club has achieved in the Madras area through the untiring efforts of the late Dr. Ken Hobbs, a past-president and long-time dedicated member of our Club.

Historic Moments: Rotary's early growth in India

By Susan Hanf

Rotary International News -- 12 August 2011

The Rotary Club of Calcutta became the first Rotary club chartered in India on 1 January 1920. Today, more than 3,000 clubs operate throughout the country, including the Rotary Club of Vapi, home to 2011-12 RI President Kalyan Banerjee.

R.J. Coombes is credited with starting India's first club. But Canadian James Wheeler Davidson is largely responsible for Rotary's growth in the country.

As a member of the Rotary International committee that explored extending the

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organization into other countries, Davidson departed in August 1928 to help establish clubs in Asia and the Middle East. His trip turned into a two-and-a-half-year odyssey that resulted in the chartering of 23 clubs in 12 countries.

Only two clubs held charters in India at the outset of Davidson's journey: Calcutta and Lahore (in present-day Pakistan). The clubs were more than 1,000 miles and a 40-hour train ride apart, Davidson noted in reports back to RI.

Arriving in Bombay in February 1929 with his wife and daughter, he was intent to start a club there.

"It was not an easy task to organize a club in this big city of 1,200,000," he mused. Three attempts had failed prior to his arrival. But in March of that year, Davidson successfully formed a club in Bombay that would receive its charter on 8 May.

He organized a club in Delhi next, before visiting Rotarians in Calcutta, where Nitish C. Laharry was serving as club secretary. Laharry would become the first RI president from India in 1962-63.

On to Madras

On 23 April, Davidson boarded a train in Calcutta for a 1,032-mile trip to Madras. He had been advised to travel by sea to avoid the excessive heat common at that time of year, but opted to go by rail to see the countryside.

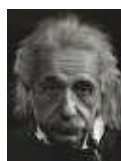
"It was a real delight to watch the change as we passed from north to south, from the temperate zone into the tropics," he later wrote. "Not only did the vegetation change, but the buildings altered some and the people appeared to take on a different appearance, the tendency to dress in white at Calcutta changed to red as we worked south."

Two days later, Davidson convened a committee in Madras, which organized a club on 10 May. (It received its charter on 19 July).

"With the organizing of the Madras club, my plans as originally formulated, have been carried out," Davidson noted. "We now have a club in each one of the main geographical divisions in India and further extension work should now be carried out by local Rotarians. I consider that the five clubs that now exist firmly establishes Rotary in India."

Today, Rotary has grown to include more than 115,000 Indian Rotarians. In addition to Banerjee and Laharry, many Rotary leaders have called the country home, including 1991-92 RI President Rajendra K. Saboo and more than 10 RI directors.

Food for Thought . . .



"Computers are incredibly fast, accurate and stupid. Human beings are incredibly slow, inaccurate and brilliant. Together they are powerful beyond imagination."

"The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them."

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."



"If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything."

"Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint."