



# Rotaract Club of Toronto Newsletter

July 2009 – December 2009

## Upcoming Events:

- Clothing Drive – February 22, 2010
- Make a Splash – Saturday, March 13, 2010
- World Rotaract Week – Begins: Saturday, March 13, 2010
- World Water Day - Monday, March 22, 2010
- Rotaract Rally – April 2010 (details coming soon – check the website!)
- Rotaract International Pre-Convention in Montreal – June 18 & 19, 2010
- Rotary International Convention in Montreal – June 20 - 23, 2010

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## Ugandan Cultural Festival

The Rotaract Club of Toronto's Uganda Festival took place on November 28, 2009 in Toronto. It was a one day event meant to raise awareness about poverty and education needs in the world and in Uganda in particular.

The audience had a chance to see the award-winning movie 'War Dance' which tells the personal story of a few kids who take part in a national dance competition with their school. This movie gave everybody a chance to realize how scarce the schools' resources are in Africa, how difficult life is in a country like Uganda and how music and dance are essential there.

After seeing the movie and a speech by a native Ugandan, our guests had an opportunity to sample some Ugandan delicacies, including mandazi, chai tea

and homemade samosas, to bid on art pieces from all over the world and to enter a draw to win one of our several prizes.

To organize this event, the Rotaract Club of Toronto partnered up with several associations related to Uganda: Helping Hands Uganda, Athletes for Africa, AMREF Canada, Lorna Pitcher, Ben Amanyongole and the Acholi community and found sponsors, such as New Bilan Restaurant, David Logan, Il Fornello, Théâtre français de Toronto, 10,000 Villages, Innis Town Hall and the Varsity Theatres.

The event enabled the club to raise \$1,700, \$1,500 of which will go to the Rotaract Club of Lira, in Uganda, to support their education projects. The remaining \$200 will partly cover the cost of the event.

Everybody had a great time at the Uganda Festival and we hope we'll be able to repeat the event in the coming years!





Above: Liz Rosenfeld, Rotaract President for 2008-2009, is awarded the Robert D. Taylor Leadership Award.

Below: Rotaractors, Rotarians and guests enjoying an evening of good food and fellowship!



## Changeover 2009

Thursday, July 9, 2009

The Rotaract Club of Toronto Changeover took place on July 9th, 2009 at the Brassaii Restaurant and lounge. It was a well attended event with club members, Rotarians and guests making up close to 40 people. The first item on the agenda was a welcome greeting made by the new Club Service Director, Vashti Jaikaran, who also introduced the previous Club Service Director, Liz Greenland. Liz in turn introduced her father, Mr. Doug Byers, District Governor of Rotary District 7070. Mr. Byers gave a very uplifting and encouraging address to the attendees detailing the 2009-2010 Vision of

Rotary International that included projects dealing with AIDS, literacy and child poverty. DG Byers encouraged the Rotaract Club of Toronto with great zeal to use this as a guideline for fundraising projects. Rotarians Michelle Guy and Albert (Bert) Steenburgh also spoke about local and international projects providing insight and support.

Liz Rosenfeld, the Past President of the Rotaract Club of Toronto then handed out the pins to the new directors, including the following: President - Lavinia Popinceanu, Vice President - Alix Rebol-

Salze, Secretary - Shannon Christy, International Service Director - Sarah Merredew, Treasurer - Anna-Liisa Sisask, Community Service Director - Maria Shibaeva and Club Services Director - Vashti Jaikaran (Absent: Professional Development Director - James Fitzsimmons).

Two awards were also presented: The Robert D Taylor Leadership Award to Liz Rosenfeld and the Jamie Maynard Club Spirit Award to Alix Rebol-

## 2010 International Recipe Calendar

Once again we published our popular Recipe Calendar, this year featuring recipes collected from Rotaract Clubs in Dominican Republic, Turkey, Russia, Brazil, the United States of America, Singapore, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Kenya, and of course our favourite recipe for Nanaimo bars!

The Recipe Calendar is filled with 12 delicious recipes. All proceeds will be donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank.

The Recipe Calendar dates back to 2006 when it was created by the Rotaract Club of Toronto to increase collaboration and

understanding between Rotaractors worldwide and to facilitate fundraising for the local charities considered most important to Rotaractors.

If you have not yet bought one of these great calendars, we have a few left! One calendar for \$15, or 3 for \$40.



*The Four Way Test*

*Of the things we think, say or do*

1. *Is it the TRUTH?*
2. *Is it FAIR to all concerned?*
3. *Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*
4. *Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

## Trick or EAT!

### **Who says you have to ask for candy at the doors?**

This year's Trick or Eat was a resounding success! Eighteen members from the Rotaract Clubs of Toronto, Don Valley and University of Toronto and York University gathered in colourful, varied costumes to collect non-perishable food items from the High Park neighbourhood of Toronto on Halloween night.

The residents were generous and well-prepared: some donated several bags of food while others mentioned that they had been expecting us all evening. We did get a few strange looks before we

explained to those giving out candy why we – such old folk – were “trick or eating,” and by and large, they went back to their kitchens or storage rooms to rummage for a few items of canned goods. At the end of the evening, we sorted the food, which filled the entire back seat and trunk of a car. The food was then whisked off to the Daily Break Food Bank to benefit those in need during the coming months.

In total **450 pounds** of food was collected!



Rotaractors from the Rotaract Clubs of Toronto, Don Valley, University of Toronto, and York University pose with all the loot collected for the Daily Bread Food Bank.

## Rotary Children's Christmas Party

The Rotary Children's Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 5th at the Fairmont Royal York, in beautiful downtown Toronto, Ontario.

The event was a great success, with over 500 kids and adults coming to partake in the event. Fun activities included face-painting, a fake snowball fight with Toronto Police officers, music by a live band, clowns and a great lunch consisting of chicken fingers, fries, and macaroni and cheese.

The party is Toronto's oldest running Christmas party for children, and was celebrating 80 years this year.

Alix, Amber, Andrei, Anna-Liisa, Chialing, Dana, Lavinia, Sarah and Shannon were present and did a great job volunteering, including face-painting a lot of kids! Good job everyone and thank you to all who volunteered at this event!



2009-2010 RI Theme:  
The future of Rotary is in *your* hands.

## Rotary District 7070 Conference, October 16 – 18, 2009



*Rotaractors enjoying the Gala dinner at the Rotary District 7070 Conference.*

*Seated, L-R: Sarah, Shannon, James  
Standing, L-R: Anna-Liisa, Vashti, Graham, Liz G., Amber*



Rotary District 7070, which had its beginnings in 1957, is one of Rotary International's outstanding Districts. It encompasses the areas from the Mississauga border to the west stretching east to Picton, and extends from Alliston in the north to the shores of Lake Ontario in the south. It is comprised of fifty four local clubs, with a membership of over 2100 Rotarians, all committed to "Service Above Self". Each one is dedicated to helping others in whatever way that he or she can.

Fellowship and friendship are the cornerstones on which we build our Rotary clubs, and indeed our District. We 'work' hard to make Rotary fun and rewarding!

Each year, a new District Governor is elected, and in 2009-2010, Doug Byers of the Rotary Club of Whitby Sunrise is our District Governor. One of the responsibilities in each District Governor's year is to preside over a District Conference and Doug presided over the 2009 District Conference held October 16th through 18th, 2009 in Collingwood at the Intrawest Blue Mountain Resort. The Blue Mountain Resort facility and Collingwood lend themselves wonderfully to learning and sharing, as well as fellowship activities that allowed us to renew friendships and forge new ones.

Rotaractors from all clubs in the district discovered why being a Rotarian or a member in the large "Rotary Family" is in "in the spotlight" in 2009 while enjoying the crisp fresh air, the splendid colours of the falling leaves and a District Conference brimming with activities!

Amber, Anna-Liisa, Graham, James, Kevin, Lavinia, Liz G, Sarah, Shannon and Vashti of the Rotaract Club of Toronto learned new skills, discovered hidden talents, celebrated successes and heard about Rotary International's new initiatives and the many opportunities to enhance service to others. The Sunday morning has been hosted by the Rotaract Club of Toronto which awarded Oscar-style prizes to the best Rotaract projects in the district. The selection process hasn't been an easy task - it comprised a combination of rolling dice and having Rotary members choosing the best project while blindfolded.

Each of the three days have been filled with hours of personal satisfaction, pride and sheer fun. Everyone had a weekend to remember!

## Rotaract District 7070 Mini-Conference, November 14, 2009

The Rotaract District 7070 Mini Conference was held on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Bahen Centre, on the University of Toronto Campus. In total, 21 Rotaractors from the district attended.

Speakers included Virginia

O'Reilly, Rotary 7070 New Generations Representative, and Deb Lewis, Rotaract Alumna and owner of CityEvents, who spoke about successful event planning, and District Governor Doug Byers.

There was talk about planning

a District-wide Rotaract project, as well as breakout sessions.

The conference ended with Rotaractors going out to a local pub to eat, and singing the night away at a local karaoke bar.



## Foundation Walk

Trenton was the setting for the Rotary District Foundation Walk. Close to 400 Rotarians, Rotaractors, exchange students, family and friends walked along the Highway of Heroes. The day was a little soggy but the rain definitely did not dampen the mood.

Attendees were treated to mini history lessons along their journey by host club members and Canadian Forces experts. While participants pounded the pavement, the grand total of funds was calculated.

In the end while participants enjoyed home cooked chili and apple pie, it was announced that over \$120,000 had been raised. Next year the lucky host club will be Alliston as they collected the most pledges out of the entire 7070 District.

## Rotary Hearts for Youth Challenge

On a sunny, summer Saturday, members of our club raced their way through a west end neighbourhood of Toronto.

The first annual Hearts for Youth Challenge was organized by the Rotary Club of Parkdale/High Park. All monies raised were going back into several local and community projects.

Teams of 4 answered quiz questions and drew cards at numerous stops along the route. To win this

event one needed a good pair of sneakers and lot of luck. Queens, Kings and Jacks meant more points so all participants were eager to pull the highest card possible from the deck.

In the end, our absolutely amazing team of Graham, Vashti, Alix and Liz G did cross the finish line first. After that it was time to soak up the sunshine and enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch in the beautiful setting of High Park.



## Bits N' Pieces

*District Rotaract Representative Elected!*

*Congratulations to Vesna Tateossian, of the Don Valley Rotaract Club, who was elected DRR for the 2009-2010 year!*

### **Clothing Drive!**

*Don't forget to collect gently used clothing for the clothing drive!*

*All clothing will be donated to the Yonge Street Mission, who will pick up the clothing at our meeting on February 22, 2010*

## The Weekend to End Women's Cancers

The Weekend to End Women's Cancers took place September 12-13, 2009. Thousands of women and men came together in Toronto to walk 60 kilometres in two days, or 30 kilometres in one day, in a bold display of courage and commitment.

Through the effort of walkers, crew members, and volunteers over \$11.6 million were raised to support critical breast and gynecologic cancer research, treatment and care, benefiting The Campbell Family Institute at The Princess Margaret, Canada's leading cancer research hospital and one of the top 5 cancer research hospitals in the world.

Alix, Lavinia, Pat N. and Anna participated as volunteers at the closing ceremony for this event. It was a fun day of cheering all walkers across the finish line.



*Alix, Pat (Rotary-Rotaract Liason), Anna and Lavinia at the Weekend to End Women's Cancers*

Rotaract Club of  
Toronto

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**Come Join Us!**

Meetings are held  
bi-weekly on  
Mondays @ 7:00pm

Meeting Location:  
Duke of Westminster  
pub

77 Adelaide St. W.  
(First Canadian  
Place) Toronto,  
Ontario M5X 1A6

Next 3 Regular Meetings:

Monday, February 8/10

Monday, February 22/10

Monday, March 8/10

## Club Life!

### November 2009 Membership Drive

The first Membership Drive for the 2009 year was held on November 5th, 2009 at the Vdara Restaurant and Lounge.

A total of 12 guests were present, with 9 being potential members/volunteers.

Introductions were made and contact information exchanged. Copies of the most recent Rotaract Newsletter were handed out and our upcoming Ugandan Cultural Festival has been heavily advertised. Attendees were excited at the prospect of attending this event and our upcoming meeting at the Duke of Westminster.



Rotaractors, guests and potential new members enjoying an evening of fellowship.



### Rotary R2R "Mix and Mingle"

On October 8th, the Rotary Club of Toronto's Jayson Phelps and Mark Petznick hosted the R2R "Mix and Mingle" networking and fellowship forum at The National Club.

The R2R networking forum is a monthly meeting which Paul Harris, the Rotary founder, established as a basic tenant of Rotary almost a hundred years ago; since then one can only guess at the volume of business exchanged by the 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide.

The evening was filled with great fellowship, hors d'oeuvres, and above all a group of Rotarians and Rotaractors eager to get to know each another! Liz G., Amber, Kevin, Graham and Lavinia had great fun sharing little known facts about their lives with fellow Rotarians.

Within the Rotary Club of Toronto, several Rotarians were asked what volume of business they gave and received from Rotarians, their replies averaged from \$80,000 to \$100,000 per annum - that's outstanding!

#### *Upcoming Guest Speakers:*

*February 8, 2010: Mr. Rocco Rossi, Mayoral Candidate in the 2010 City of Toronto Elections*

*February 22, 2010: Doug Byers, Rotary District 7070 District Governor*

*March 8, 2010: 2008/09 GSE Team*

*March 22, 2010: Mr. Giorgio Mammoliti, Mayoral Candidate in the 2010 City of Toronto Elections*