



# TORONTO EAST ROTARY CLUB

Website: [toronto-east-rotary.org](http://toronto-east-rotary.org)

April 18 2007

## NIGHT OF A THOUSAND DINNERS

Steve Mastoras opened up his Whistlers upstairs dining lounge to the many Toronto East Rotarians and many more guests. They had come to the annual special event to raise funds to help remove landmines in those countries which have been subjected to the horrors of war in the past 50 years or so,

Landmines insidiously threaten life and limb of people in those countries for many years after the war. This was the message we heard from Mariangeles Najlis after dinner. Mariangeles has seen first hand the fields in Bosnia and Afghanistan rendered useless by landmines. She has done so as a soldier in the Royal Regiment of Canada.

Mariangeles described how much of the limited arable land in Afghanistan has been rendered useless by landmines. In a great many cases landmines were laid in layers. Anti-personnel mines in some layers and anti-tank mines in others. It depended on what those laying them wanted to target. Detecting them time consuming and dangerous. Disarming them is just as dangerous. And having removed them is no guarantee of safety since they can and have been easily replaced.

Such was the fate of Calai. A small town lying on the banks of the Okavango river that separates Namibia from Angola. During the fierce war that raged in Angola for so many years, first one side would capture it and lay down fields of "protective" mines. The other side would recapture it and lay down its set of mines. After two or three changes of ownership, Calai became uninhabitable and is now a ghost town.

There is a long list of countries where mines are a constant threat to life. In the following countries there are removal projects in place. Rotary clubs and districts rank highly in the various supporting agencies and organizations

For TERC the night was extremely successful—we raised over \$2,000. Much of this came from the gentle prodding sale of raffle tickets to win old rugby socks by our own ineffable Mike Phelan. Mind you his salesmanship was helped by the presence of his father Bill and his shillelagh visible for all to see. We all know that can be wielded.



## SGT. MARIANGELES NAJLIS

BA - York University

Mariangeles Najlis was born in Managua, Nicaragua. As a teenager she came with her family when they immigrated to Toronto where she still lives.

Mariangeles joined the Royal Regiment of Canada, a Toronto-based militia unit in 1991. Since then, she has been an active member of the Canadian Forces Primary Reserves. Participating in a number of operations and projects.

Mariangeles' military record includes

- Operation Palladium Rotation 2 (Bosnia 1998) - Significantly this was the first time female infantry soldiers were permitted to work in their field in overseas deployment ops.
- Operation Abacus (Y2K contingency planner for 32 Canadian Brigade Group, GTA 1999–2000)
- Soldier Modernization Programme (SIREQTD, Department of Research and Development Canada 2000–2004)
- Operation Athena Rotation 0 (Afghanistan 2004).
- Participation in numerous training exercises in Europe, the United States, the Caribbean and Canada.

Her civilian interests in Peacekeeping, Conflict Resolution and Emergency Management led to her working in post conflict regions such as Afghanistan and Sudan, where she worked in conjunction with local and international organizations.

## LANDMINE PROJECTS

**T**oronto East joins with thousands of other clubs to raise funds for landmine projects. Here are some of the projects District 7070 has funded over the years and the consequent outcomes.

2001 BiH-034-03 \$44,925

Location: Velika Kladusa

Donor: Rotary Clubs in eastern 7070 and CIDA

Following clearance of two contiguous 8330 square metre minefield portions in north-western Bosnia and Herzegovina, local inhabitants can now use that roadway to safely interact with their neighbours and market their produce.

2006 MOZ-058 \$58,675

Location: Chibabava, Sofala Province

Donor: Rotary District 7070 participation in N1KD

Clearance of a 45,000 square metre minefield located in the Nhaboa Primary School. The locale was used as the enemy entry point into the village during the civil armed conflict. Currently, the area is often used to access the local school. The clearance will benefit approximately 500 families.

2005 MOZ 053 \$26,393

Location: Jangamo

2004 MOZ-035 \$63,864

Location: Macuane-Txohossane, Bilene-Macia, Gaza

Donor: Rotary District 7070, N1KD

A 30,000 square metre minefield originally laid in 1989 during the civil war in Mozambique. Once this area was cleared, the government made fertile land available to 757 families and provided wood and building materials so that the people from this village could rebuild their homes. The local government has now planned an agricultural development project for this area that will employ 1305 people from local communities.

2003 MOZ-023 \$44,987

Location: Mavila, Zavala, Inhambane

Donor: Rotary District 7070, N1KD and CIDA

This 20,000 square metre minefield was located very close to the centre of a busy town with bus stops, markets and other commercial areas close by. More than 1000 families live in this town and were at risk.

2003 MOZ-027 \$93,370

Location: Nhphuro-Goonda, Chibabava, Sofala

Donor: Rotary Clubs, N1KD and CIDA

This 40,000 square metre minefield impacted on the lives of 2192 people living in this area. During the war, mines were placed in this agricultural land to protect a former military camp. Now it has been returned to agricultural use.

## Landmines

From How Landmines work Kevan Bosner

This PMA-2 landmine was found hidden under snow and foliage in Rajlovac, Bosnia.

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/landmine2.htm>



Landmines create the dotted lines through this desert scene.

Mines are often laid in groups, called mine fields, and are designed to prevent the enemy from passing through a certain area, or sometimes to force an enemy through a particular area. An army also will use landmines to slow an enemy until reinforcements can arrive. While more than varieties of mines exist, they can be broken into two categories:





MIKE MEETS OUR HOST



WE THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO DIAMOND MINES



THE NEXT ROTARIAN GENERATION



HOW WILL I BURY ALL THAT FOOD

## PAST PRESIDENTS

| YEAR | NAME & DESIGNATION        | YEAR | NAME & DESIGNATION      |
|------|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1964 | Bill Phelan (PHF)         | 1967 | Bill Phelan (PHF)       |
| 1966 | John Lytle                | 1967 | Walter Kohlmeier (d)    |
| 1968 | George McCracken          | 1969 | Harold Black            |
| 1970 | Harold Black              | 1971 | Ed Hearn (d)            |
| 1972 | Archie Allen (d)          | 1973 | Kevin McCullagh         |
| 1974 | Ken Steele (d)            | 1975 | Jack Webb               |
| 1976 | Herb Smith (d)            | 1977 | Herb Bond               |
| 1978 | David Huehn (d)           | 1979 | Aklex Findlay (PHF)     |
| 1980 | Keith Hutchinson          | 1981 | John Carrie (PHF)       |
| 1982 | Jack Embrey (PHF)         | 1983 | Stan Bradshaw (d)       |
| 1984 | Ken Hutchinson            | 1985 | Chuck Noguchi (PHF) (d) |
| 1986 | Wes Lyle/Sam Campbell (d) | 1987 | Michael Mead (PHF)      |
| 1988 | Tom Andrews               | 1989 | Bill Phelan (PHF)       |
| 1990 | Mike Phelan (PHF)         | 1991 | Hugh Fraser (PHF)       |
| 1992 | Alan Seymour (PHF)        | 1993 | Brian Smith (PHF)       |
| 1994 | Frank Del Ferro           | 1995 | Bruce Knight            |
| 1996 | Jeff Harrison (PHF)       | 1997 | John Ryall              |
| 1988 | Alex Munroe (PHF)         | 1999 | Bob Woolner             |
| 2000 | Art Belanger (PHF)        | 2001 | Virginia O'Reilly (PHF) |
| 2002 | James Hawtin (PHF)        | 2003 | Elmar Moser             |
| 2004 | Maureen Barrey            | 2005 | Doug Budden (PHF)       |

## OFFICERS

| BOARD RESPONSIBILITY  | CURRENT                 | FUTURE                  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| President             | Tom Andrews             | Rod Roblin              |
| Vice President        | Rod Roblin              | Tony Matthews           |
| Secretary             | Virginia O'Reilly (PHF) | Virginia O'Reilly (PHF) |
| Treasurer             | Jeff Harrison (PHF)     | Jeff Harrison           |
| Club Service          | Mike Mead               | Mike Phelan (PHF)       |
| Vocational Service    | Glenda Davis            | Glenda Davis            |
| International Service | Tony Matthews           | Sabu Varghese           |
| Community Service     | Maureen Barrey          | Trevor Hitner           |

### ~:THE FOUR WAY TEST~:

Is it the Truth?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?