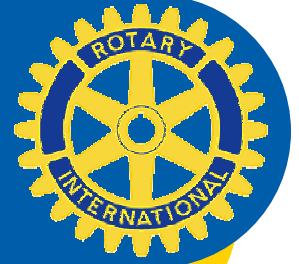


Toronto East Rotary Club



Volume 45 May 27, 2010

May 20th Meeting



This week's reporter
Elmar Moser

President Steve chaired the meeting and welcomed all.

The invocation was offered and Jack Embrey led the Toast to the Queen and Canada.

After lunch Ray White introduced his guest Joe Runza, owner of Downtown Body Shop.

Bob Wasson reminded the meeting about details of the Club's Fundraising event, being the Golf Tournament on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at Sleepy Hollows Golf Club. Every Toronto East Rotary member is expected to sell one Foursome and find a sponsor who will sponsor a Golf hole.

Bob also provided information about the Club's car rally to take place on Saturday, June 5, 2010 and invited anyone who had not yet signed up.

Ray White addressed the group to discuss the Toronto East Rotary Ribfest to take place on July 1 at Whistler's. Last year's inaugural event was a tremendous success and raised approximately \$20,000. Ray noted that Elmar Moser had agreed to take on the Chair, Corporate Sponsorships. Any Rotary member who has a possible lead and would like Elmar's assistance is invited to get in touch with him.

President Steve introduced our guest speaker Andrew James, a Toronto East Rotary member who had recently joined the Club, to present his Classification Talk. Andrew's Classification is Legal Writer.

"I've had three formative experiences in my life. The first was living around the world at a young age. I was born in London, Ontario, but my father was in the oil business and he took us Australia and Indonesia. Seeing how things were around the world at a young age had a strong effect on me. I've always felt comfortable with immigrants, because they don't take what we have here in Canada for granted. Maybe that's why I married an immigrant. We have two young children, a boy and a girl.

While living in Indonesia, we were starved for news about Canada. So it was a surprise to read in TIME magazine a whole article about Toronto citizen's group stopping the Spadina Expressway from being completed. It taught me at a young age three important lessons:

- 1. The potential strength of collective action*
- 2. The concept that a city doesn't have to be built around cars.*
- 3. That Toronto was one of the few cities where such a protest could happen.*

It took me another 15 years to actually end up in Toronto, but I always loved the city.

My parents moved back to Canada, and I finished high school in Calgary before going on to university there. I attended law school at Dalhousie University, and articulated with a downtown law firm (now one of the Miller Thomson offices) in Vancouver. And that's where I had my third major formative experience. I learned that law was basically about the client with the deepest pockets winning, no matter how big the other side was. If the objective of a legal system is to resolve conflicts in a fair, affordable, fast manner, then the current system was almost complete dysfunctional.



It was disappointing to see that the purpose of lawyers wasn't to help their clients resolve disputes equitably, but to push their clients interests as hard as they could and attempt to run roughshod over the other side. In retrospect, this is obvious, but it just didn't seem "fun" to me. So I decided against law as a

career.

One thing I did enjoy research, and seeing the evolution of legal principles. After being called to the bar in B.C., I made an unsuccessful foray into music as a songwriter-performer. But to hedge my bets, I also took up legal writing. Career-wise, this is where I found a home. I now write what is recognized as the "bible" of Ontario family law, along with books and looseleaf services on municipal law, condominium law, directors and officers, fiduciary duties and the Canada Pension Plan. I live 100% on the royalties from those books.

Another passion is politics, perhaps fueled the Spadina Expressway story mentioned above. I have run as a Green Party candidate in the last provincial and federal elections, and am now running for Toronto City Council in Ward 30. Along with environmental issues, I also advocate (where appropriate) major reform of the legal system.

Matt Matthews closed the meeting by leading the group in singing the National Anthem.



Sorry Matt!

Club News

June 5 Car Rally

Bob announced that members would meet between 8 and 9 on Saturday morning and have breakfast. They would be given an envelope with instructions. The car rally will be like a travelling scavenger hunt. The rally will finish at Marian and Aaron's farm for a social evening and barbeque.

July 1st, Ribfest

Ray has already had discussions about the Ribfest and is going to organize a planning meeting. Items needing particular attention are: fundraising/corporate sponsorship, public relations and the raffle. Elmar Moser is going to chair the sponsorship subcommittee and the goal is to raise \$10,000. Virginia is going to work on public relations together with Paris Quinn of The Mirror. Armando has volunteered to look after the permit necessary for the raffle and will liaise with the city.

September 28th, Golf Tournament

Bob indicated that Jacqueline was going to co-chair the golf tournament this year. Sponsorships are needed together with prizes for the live and silent auctions. His goal is to raise \$40,000 this year, up from \$27,000 last year.

October 15th, Argos Night

Steve talked about the arrangements for Argos Night. It is a Friday evening this year and the club is working together with the Toronto Twilight and East York clubs. We need to sell 100 tickets. There will be major exposure on the jumbotron for Rotary.

November 6th, Arts/Crafts Show

Karen indicated that the show would be held at Eastminster Church, at the corner of Jackman and the Danforth and that there was room for 50 tables of artisans and crafters. It would be great to have a sponsor for the event. The church is excited about the prospect and may hold a small musical event in the auditorium to complement the show.

Best Wishes To:

- 19th Rod Roblin
- 20th Brian & Maureen Smith
- 22nd Armando Calderon
- 27th Marcha Davidson

