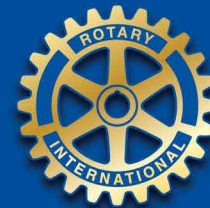


ROTARY VOICE



The Rotary Club of Toronto

Volume 107 | Issue 12 | November 8 & 15, 2019

NOVEMBER 8, 2019 – REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCH

Guest Speaker

Eric McGeer

Host

Harold Hetherington, *member since 1997*

Topic

Memories of the D-Day
Dodgers

Location

The National Club, 303 Bay Street



Eric McGeer is an academic who studied at the University of Toronto and the University of Montreal. He obtained his doctorate in history from the University of Montreal in his chosen area of study, the Byzantine Empire. He lectured at the University of Montreal, Dumbarton Oaks research Centre, Harvard University, University of Toronto and York University. In addition he taught at St. Clément's girls' school here in Toronto on the subjects of Latin and history.

More recently Eric's interests changed to military history and particularly to the study of Canada's involvement in World War One and World War Two.



REMEMBRANCE OF AN EXCEPTIONAL ACT OF HEROISM

- by Robert O'Brien



Remembrance is not only an act of reflection and respect, but it can also be the discovery of past exceptional acts of heroism deserving of special recognition. On October 12, 1941 Sgt. Elmer Muttart from Cape Traverse PEI was First Pilot of a mission in a Halifax bomber from England to Bremen Germany. The plane was struck and disabled by a Messerschmitt at 10:15pm that night. Sgt. Muttart directed his crew of seven to bail out. With the crew having evacuated, Muttart - the only Canadian

onboard - stayed with the plane to divert it from the local town of Wons. He crashed into an empty farmer's field and saved the lives not only of his crew but the townspeople.

Sgt. Muttart's death was not reported to the family for more than

NOVEMBER 15, 2019

Speakers

Peta Hall and David Carter

Host

Maureen Bird, *International Service Committee*

Topic

Peter Naylor's Legacy
Project

Location

Imperial Room, Fairmont Royal York



David Carter, Peta Hall, Atorkor instructor Enoch and Peter Naylor

Today we celebrate the legacy of a great Rotarian - generous, modest and kind. His final legacy project was \$250,000 for a solar power system for Atorkor Vocational Training Institute in Ghana.

Peta Hall grew up in Zimbabwe, and came to Canada 45 years ago. Some 10 years ago she began returning to Africa, to volunteer in Ghana. In 2011 she began living in Ghana, to enable and oversee the building of the Atorkor Vocational Training Institute; Rotary assisted with providing some equipment. The school now has over 500 students. She met Peter Naylor through her friend Ruth Crawford who asked her to tell Peter about AVTI and its development. Peter decided to bring solar power to AVTI, the Medical Clinic and the village of Atorkor.

David Carter was the Energy Engineer from RESCo responsible for the evaluation, design and implementation of the solar energy system installed at AVTI. This involved three trips to Ghana, first to assess then two more to complete.

Read more of bios: <https://rotarytoronto.com/stories>

two months and was held quietly close to the heart of the family. Then two residents from Cape Travers, Pieter and Daria Valkenburg, researched the story. As a result of their efforts, on October 12, 2019 a full day of special ceremonies were held in Harlingen and at Wons where a permanent commemorative plaque was unveiled. Members of the families of the surviving crew and local townspeople including an eyewitness to the event all expressed their profound gratitude for the heroism of a remarkable Canadian who died so that others might live.

The Rotary connection was that Sgt. Muttart was brother of Mrs. Helen Coutts and brother-in-law of late Past President Elgin Coutts. Elgin's son Donald, Elmer Macdonald who was named after Muttart and Robert O'Brien representing Coutts Crane were in attendance. It was a well-deserved recognition and remembrance of heroism and valour.



Club members who had served, circa 1990

Over 100 years since Armistice Day. Over 75 years since the D-Day landing. We must never forget. Those still with us who have served in the military are:

JACK ROBERTSON - Pilot Officer and Navigator with the Royal Canadian Air Force

JOHN AUSTIN - Royal Canadian Army, Private with Advanced training in Camp Borden. His Father was a veteran of the First World War.

JIM BELL - Canadian Army Special Forces serving both in the Royal Canadian Fox Battery of the Second Regiment of the Horse Artillery and eventually becoming a bombardier and serving 13 Months in Korea.

SALEEM KASSUM - Flying Officer British Royal Air Force and served in Singapore during the Indonesian confrontation of Malaysia

HARRY FIGOV - 2nd lieutenant in the South African Army

Let's Be Personal - Anny-Sandra Hamel



I officially joined this club five years ago. I say officially because I was really introduced to many of you back in 2006 when my late husband, David Wilson, became a member. Over the years, David would get our daughters and me involved in various activities like the Kids Christmas Party or the International Rotary Convention in New Orleans. Unfortunately, David passed away in December 2011.

You will not be surprised if I tell you that the first people to show up at our door (besides family), food in hand, were Rotarians. In the months and years following David's departure, many of you kept in touch, reached out and checked in on Marissa, Arianne and me. Thank you!

In the summer of 2013 I went for a little 750 km walk in the north of Spain to heal my heart, my soul and to think about our future. At the time I had 2 opportunities to get involved. I could become a candidate as a school trustee for the French Public School Board OR I could join Rotary. Needless to say, it has been the right decision for us. Arianne was a Rotary exchange student in Argentina two years ago and she is now studying at Carleton University in International & Global Studies. Marissa will be graduating in the spring from Queen's University in Environmental Science.

I am very proud of the young women they are becoming.

Grieving made me understand that what is important is to stay connected. Creating a web of friendship knowing that if you fall that safety net will not let you hit the ground. This is what Rotarians do for one another and also for others in the community. We try to build safety nets for those who find themselves in a less fortunate place than we are. We lend a hand so that others can hang on. This is why I joined this club.

Finally, as many of you know, I remarried last fall to a wonderful Irishman Thomas Patrick Sheehan (TP) and now that my young ladies are gaining independence, so do we, and it's wonderful!

Merci!

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? Saturday, November 23rd

We have enough hosts but still need more people to be guests. Just bring one food item and a bottle of wine. Locations will be kept local to you as much as possible.

Contact Pat Neuman, pneuman@welcomewagon.ca

RI President
Mark Maloney, Decatur Alabama

District Governor
Beth Selby, Rotary Club of Cobourg

The Rotary Club of Toronto Club 55 - 1912

President: Kevin Power

Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation:
Susan Howson, President

Editor of the Week:
Maureen Bird

Editor November 22, 2019:
John Andras

Upcoming Speakers & Events

November 2019

- 15 Honouring Peter Naylor's Legacy Project
- 22 University of Toronto Debating Club
- 29 Betty-Ann Heggie, Author, Gender Physics

December 2019

- 6 Seniors Christmas Party
- 13 Club Christmas Party
- 20 NO MEETING
- 27 NO MEETING

Events

Saturday, November 16, Robin Hood Army
Saturday November 23, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
Friday, November 29, Robin Hood Army
Sunday December 1, Children's Christmas Party
Friday December 6, Seniors Christmas Lunch

Propose a Speaker - Contact

Bert Steenburgh, Chair
BSteenburgh@oxfordproperties.com
Tel: 416-868-3673

Send articles to

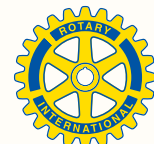
therotaryvoice@gmail.com

Editor-in-chief: Maureen Bird

LET'S BE PERSONAL

October 8th - Sylvia Geist

October 15th - Rohit Tamhane



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