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2010 ROTARY YOUTH IMPACT AWARDS GALA

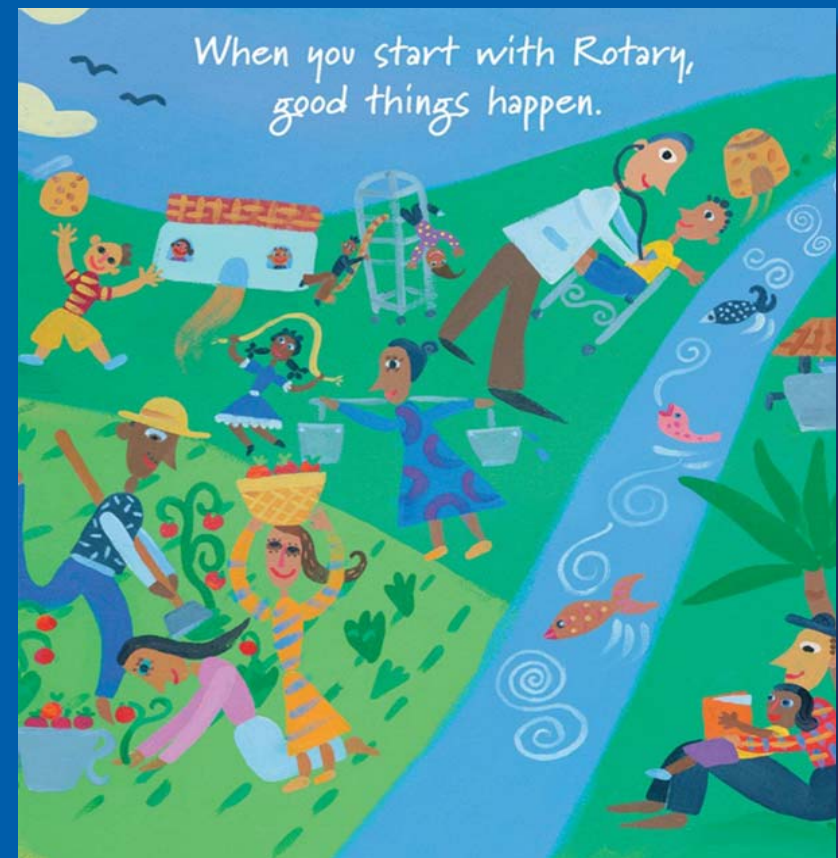
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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Club of
Toronto West

www.YouthImpact.ca

**11th ANNUAL ROTARY
YOUTH IMPACT
AWARDS
GALA 2010**

Friday, January 29th, 2010
The Old Mill Inn
21 Old Mill Road
Silent Auction begins 5:30 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5:30 pm Reception and Cash Bar – Brule Rooms B and C
- Silent Auction , Brule Room A (all bids close at 9:00 pm)
Our silent Auction Partner – Westmount Gallery
- 7:00 pm “O Canada”, Grace (*see Rotary Grace on reverse*)
Toast to the Queen
- Dinner (*see menu on reverse*)
- Master of Ceremonies: Nick Maiorano
Pianist: Rotarian Ron Manfield
- 9:00 pm Silent Auction Closes
- 9:15 pm **Youth Impact Awards**
Junior Youth - Sophia Gran-Ruaz
Senior Youth - Olga Lesau
Individual - Dominic Kahn
Business - Toronto Argonauts
Community Organization - ProAction Cops and Kids
- 9:30 pm **Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient**
Zeke O’Connor
- 10:00 pm Raffle Draws (winners must be present)
- 10:30 pm Auction items to be paid for and picked up

Please bid generously this evening. We have assembled a wide variety of auction items for your enjoyment.

All proceeds from tonight’s Gala goes to support youth activities locally and internationally, with the assistance of Rotary Clubs Worldwide.

A heartfelt thank you for your support.
The Rotary Club of Toronto West

Dinner Menu

STARTERS

Purée of Carrot, Celery & Spy Apple Soup
with Essence of Cardamom & Clove

Market Salad Greens
Tiny Tomatoes, Shaved Cucumber & Carrot Ribbons
Champagne-Herb Vinaigrette

ENTRÉE

Slow Low Roasted Prime Rib of Corn Fed Beef
With Natural Jus

OR

Grilled Atlantic Salmon Fillet
With a sauce of Fresh Tarragon, White Wine and Cream

*Both entrée selections served with a Symphony of
Green & Yellow Beans and Glazed Carrots with Caraway & Dill
Roasted New Potatoes with Rosemary & Thyme*

DESSERT

Traditional Italian Panacotta
Spiced Wild Berry Compote & Crispy Pistachio Pastry

Coffee or a Selection of Fine and Herbal Teas

WINE WITH DINNER

Reserve Du Vieux Moulin (Red)
Reserve Du Vieux Moulin (White)
Colio Estates, Ontario

ROTARY GRACE

Oh Lord we stand for every race
From every creed from every place
To give thanks and say our grace
For food, for health
May peace embrace the world through Rotary

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Sophia Gran-Ruaz

Youth Award Recipient (Under 18)

Frustrated that she was too young to volunteer, Sophia started her own charity when she was 11 years old called “Snug as a Bug, Kids Helping Kids”. The purpose was to provide care packages to children and teens staying in local shelters. The packages provided children with comfort during a difficult time.

The charity began slowly but Sophia never wavered. To date 10,000 children and teens in 9 shelters across the GTA have received a package. Sophia is now working on her sixth year and will be making 3,000 more care packages to be delivered in February, 2010.

The charity is a full time job, and

requires Sophia to solicit donations from over 60 companies, organize thousands of items into age and gender appropriate categories and then plan and organize a packing day where over 50 volunteers come to pack what she had organized over the previous 12 months.

She has been told that she is an inspiration and although she does not meet the children who benefit from her packages, the many letters of gratitude from the shelters speak volumes of her works’ impact. When asked, Sophia has said that she plans to continue her charity for as long as companies continue to donate, and if they should stop, she plans to start something else.

Olga Lesau

Youth Award Recipient (Over 18)

Olga Lesau attends York University majoring in International Business Administration. At The Etobicoke School of the Arts she sat as President of the charity club and approached numerous organizations about collaborating on a fund raising initiative to build an elementary school in the Masai Mara region of Kenya through Free the Children, a charity founded by children’s rights activist Craig Kielburger.

With Lakeshore Arts, a not-for-profit arts charity, the idea of “Art4Hope” was born in the fall of 2007. A ticketed and timed art show & sale allowed participants with \$50 to walk away with original artwork by over 80 mystery artists from 5 local high schools. Under the guidance of Program Director, Kathleen Burke, Olga took on a leadership role which

involved 6 months of planning all aspects of this successful event that raised over \$3,000 in one hour.

Her volunteerism includes: Vice President of Student Council at The Etobicoke School of the Arts; Youth Coordinator of the Art4Hope Benefit Show & Sale; Youth Ambassador of the UNESCO Youth Advisory Group; 5th World Congress Youth Advisory Board, Founder of “Etudiants Francophones” at York U; President of “Cards Without Borders”; Clan Leader - 4th World Youth Congress 2008. In Olga’s own words: “There is no boundary to human capacity”. She understands the impact that the smallest act of generosity can have on another and how far reaching the impact can be.

Dominic Kahn

Individual Award Recipient

Dominic Kahn has been rowing for 33 years and coaching for 24. He is a 2-time National Champion and has coached on Canada’s National Rowing Team. He is currently the Head Coach for Bayside Rowing Club and Ryerson University. Some of his former athletes have won Olympic and World Championship medals.

Because rowing was only available to children attending private schools in Toronto, he decided to do something about it. At the age of 27, he founded Bayside Rowing Club in 1993. In 1994, Dominic launched a new rowing program for youth at-risk: where inner-city school kids had a chance to get out of the city, practice and compete in a rowing league - all

for free.

Over the last 16 years, more than 5,000 Toronto kids have come through this program. And most notably several of these inner-city youth have gone on to graduate from elite schools like Princeton, Harvard and Yale.

In 2009, Dominic re-launched the program as the “Eric the Red Rowing League for Kids” with a new style of boat and coaching techniques. In this inaugural year, over 550 kids participated from Regent Park, Flemingdon Park, Crescent Town, St. James Town and Parkdale. He plans to launch this program across Canada and the United States over the next 5 years.

Toronto Argonauts

Business Award Recipient

The Toronto Argonauts are the oldest professional sports franchise in North America and are the proud winners of 15 Grey Cup championships. While many people recognize the Argonauts as Toronto’s franchise in the Canadian Football League, this business organization has also done much to give back to the community, particularly through its programs targeted at youth, which have been very successful.

The Argos Foundation was created by the Argonauts to help youth in our city. In August 2005, the Foundation launched the “Stop the Violence” campaign in response to increased gun violence in the GTA and beyond.

But the Argos did not stop

with just one program. The Foundation unveiled “Huddling Up Against Bullying”, “Leveling the Playing Field” programs and a “Youth Mentorship” program, which is specifically designed for incarcerated youth. The team visits 60 schools and 35,000 students in the GTA a year and since inception, the Argos have spoken to over a ¼ million students.

The youth mentorship program is highly regarded. Team members visit incarcerated youth in youth detention centres. Most programs like this usually have a rate of recidivism between 60 to 80%, but the Argos’ program has seen a higher success rate with only a 25% rate of recidivism.



ProAction Cops and Kids

Community Organization Award Recipient

At ProAction Cops & Kids, we believe that establishing a positive relationship between cops and kids at risk will strengthen our community today and for the future. By funding programs that bring local cops and kids together, we help create an environment of mutual understanding and respect. ProAction Cops & Kids is the largest private funder of Toronto Police programs for youth at risk. There are chapters in Durham Region and Hamilton.

Since 1991: ProAction has funded nearly 1,000 programs with over \$4,000,000. Over 300,000 youth have participated in the programs run by more than 6,000 Toronto Police Officers. Officers who donate their

time nurturing these relationships and programs can be found camping on weekends with ProAction kids, playing ball on local courts with teams of at-risk youth and spearheading after-school activities designed to keep kids engaged, optimistic and motivated.

To qualify for ProAction funding, officer-initiated programs must involve both youth and officers and they must promote improved relationships between police officers and at-risk youth. When these criteria are met, a program or project can be implemented, ensuring that we are making important steps to guide youth to a brighter future.

ETOBICOKE THE GUARDIAN ZEKE O'CONNOR Sears LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Zeke O'Connor was born in New York City in 1926, became a Landed Immigrant of Canada when he came north to play professional football for the Toronto Argonauts in 1952, and became a Canadian Citizen in 1975.



Zeke has had a distinguished career in several areas. As a football player, he was a member of the University of Notre Dame Football Club (the fighting Irish) from 1944 – 1947 which became NCAA Champions in 1946 and 1947. He played professional football for 6 years having played with the Buffalo Bills, Cleveland Browns, Detroit Lions, The New York Yanks, and Dallas Texans. He also played with

the Toronto Argonauts for two years and was a Grey Cup Champion in 1952.

He spent 30 years with Sears Canada in Public Affairs and National Marketing.

It was during his years with Sears that Zeke met Sir Edmund Hillary while on a camping trip in Northern Quebec's La Verendrye Park where they were both testing camping equipment for Sears-Roebuck. This was the beginning of a long and very unique relationship between the two men.

Sir Edmund persuaded Zeke to visit Nepal for the first time in April/May 1973. He was the Canadian representative and guest of Sir



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Edmund and the 1953 British Everest Team visiting Nepal on the 20th anniversary of their Conquest of Mount Everest. This trek was to the Everest Base Camp area. After this visit Zeke stated: "I was hooked! I knew that I would return to Nepal again and again."

In a book describing The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada, Gelaine Camelon states: "If you were to meet rugged 6'3" Sir Edmund Hillary, the famous mountaineer, or broad-shouldered 6'5" Zeke O'Connor, former offensive end of the Toronto Argonauts, you would undoubtedly think of these two men as towering giants. They are. And their physical stature can only be matched by their humanitarian activities, which are also of gigantic proportions"

In 1974-75 Zeke founded the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada to assist Sir Edmund with his work for the Sherpa people of the Solu Khumbu area of Nepal, which is in the eastern Mt. Everest region. During his more than 30 years as Founder-President, his Canadian

organization has raised more than five million dollars for Nepal to build schools, hospitals, medical clinics, provide medical scholarships, train village health workers, build water pipelines, bridges, trekking paths during flash floods and to fully fund the Kunde Hospital and Sagarmatha National Park reforestation programs. More than one and a half million seedlings have been planted in Sagarmatha National Park. This conservation work started in 1979 and continues today.

In addition to the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada, Zeke is Chairman of King Mahendra Trust of Nature Conservation Canada, a Governor of Canada Sports Hall of Fame, Governor of Variety Clubs of Ontario, Past President of the Sports Federation of Canada, he sits on the National Advisory Board of the Canadian Special Olympics and is Founder of the Nepal Special Olympics.

ROTARY YOUTH IMPACT AWARDS GALA 2010

Every year the Rotary Club of Toronto West recognizes and honours individuals, organizations and businesses who have had a positive impact on youth in the Toronto Area Community through:

- A record of meritorious service to youth
- Practical experience in youth development activities
- Demonstrated leadership in promoting the importance of helping youth

In 2000, the Rotary Club of Etobicoke Sunrise initiated The Rotary Youth Impact Awards to recognize and encourage individuals and organizations who work to help the youth in our community.

Annually, in late January or early February, the recipients are recognized at a gala banquet and auction night to raise funds in support of Rotary's work with youth in the community and around the world.

In 2004, the Rotary Club of Etobicoke Sunrise merged with the Rotary Club of Toronto West which now continues this wonderful tradition.

Since its inception 11 years ago, the event has raised in excess of \$240,000 from the sale of tickets and corporate sponsorships and from the proceeds of the auctions and raffles that are part of this event.

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

2000 - MURRAY DRYDEN

Founder, *Sleeping Children Around the World*

2001 - DIANE DUPUY

Creator, *Famous People Players*

2002 - GEORGE CHUVALO

Heavyweight boxer, founder - *Fight Against Drugs*

2003 - MICHAEL "PINBALL" CLEMONS

CFL star, community advocate

2004 - SILKEN LAUMANN

Four-time Olympian, motivational speaker

2005 - MOLLY JOHNSON

Singer / Founder, *Kumbaya Foundation*

2006 - TED WOLOSHYN

Host, *News Talk 1010 CFRB/philanthropist*

2007 - VICKI KEITH

Marathon Swimmer, *Penguins Can Fly Y-Knot Program/Variety Swim Coach*

2008 - THE HONOURABLE JAMES BARTLEMAN

Lieutenant Governor, literacy advocate

2009 - SUSAN HAY

Global News Host, Youth support through Toronto's Ronald McDonald House and many other charities

WELCOME

Our Club

The Rotary Club of Toronto West, formed in 1997, is the culmination of several mergers over the past 55 years. The Rotary Club of Islington, chartered in 1955 subsequently merged with the Rotary Club of Rexdale (chartered in 1986) in 1997 to become the Rotary Club of Toronto West, which later merged in 2004 with the Rotary Club of Etobicoke Sunrise (chartered in 1987).

Our membership is a cross section of the business and professional community, with an increasing complement of active young men and women.

The friendly, dynamic environment of our club provides an excellent means for professional networking. We believe in strong fellowship, principally through our weekly meetings, where we explore and discuss a broad range of interesting topics. Deeper friendships, and mutual respect is fostered through committee participation.

Club activities provide opportunities



to engage in a variety of events and fundraising activities. We work within our community, contributing our efforts, experience and funds raised to support projects both locally and internationally.

The object of Rotary is to encourage the ideal of Service above Self through: firstly, the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for Service; secondly, high ethical standards in business and the professions, the recognition of worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society; thirdly, the application of the ideal of Service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life; fourthly, the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of Service above Self.

Ron Manfield – MPC Music

Ron Manfield is the current President and an active member of the Rotary Club of Toronto West. He has played at many Rotary Club functions in Ontario over the years.

Ron is an accomplished pianist, having studied music in Montreal and turned professional in his early teens.

Soon after, Ron went to New York City to further develop his creative skills both as a writer and a performer



that cemented his life-long commitment to the music industry.

He has played his versatile repertoire on the piano lounge circuit across Canada and the South Western United States. Ron has also been publishing music for a number of accomplished musicians under the MPC Music label since 1978.

We are pleased to once again be able to enjoy Ron's musical accompaniment this evening.



Tropicana Community Services, a Toronto-based multi-service organization, provides all youth, newcomers, people of Black and Caribbean heritage and others in need with opportunities and alternatives that lead to success and positive life choices.

Services include:

- Saturday Tutoring Sessions
- Chess & Steelpan Lessons
- Camp Tropicana (March Break and Summer sessions)
- Employment Services
- Involve Youth: a youth engagement program in 5 of the city's designated neighborhoods
- Youth START (Success Through Aggression Replacement Training): provides instruction on enhancing pro-social skills, anger control and decision making for youth
- Defy Your Label: provides positive reinforcement to young girls in an effort to help them deal with negative labels and societal pressures
- Tropicana's Scarborough Youth Resource Centre (SYRC): a drop-in centre for youth 12 to 24 years of age
- Individual and Family Counselling
- And many more!



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