



Bulletin of the Ottawa International Y Service Club

Area President Home Club 2013-2015

Area Canada & Caribbean World Service Award 2015

Area Canada & Caribbean Bulletin Award 2015

February 2015



“Yes, my dear wife, I am glad to say, continues in the pink. I’ve just been seeing her off on the boat at Southampton. She is taking a trip to the West Indies.”

“Jamaica?”

“No, she went of her own free will.”

P. G. Wodehouse, *Uncle Dynamite*, 1948, p. 6

Welcome back!

Nine of our members joined delegates in Jamaica for the first ever Canada & Caribbean Area Convention in the Caribbean. They started out hoping that they would have 40 people attending. There were **60**. At the January dinner meeting we shared memories and impressions through words, pictures and videos. Our tree volunteers were treated to a Caribbean meal from

Mugena. So we all got a chance to sample roti, braised cabbage, rice and peas, and jerk chicken while sipping tropical juices. Thanks to Dave Hall for organizing the food.

Seham commented on the wonderful fellowship and especially enjoyed matching faces to names encountered *via* messaging. Marni noted the incredible support of the Kingston, Jamaica Y, and the respect and love of senior Y's Men for youth.

Of special note: The text of the nominations of David Hall for the Ernie Bell award was shared at the meeting, and has been forwarded digitally to those interested. This top award in the Area was presented to Dave at the Area Convention.

The Ottawa Club also had citations for the top club bulletin, and the best club program for world service in the Area. What a group!

Seham joined us by Skype. Computer gremlins targeted Natasha's PowerPoint this time. But we all had fun reminiscing about island hospitality and hearing about the incredible dynamics in the revitalized clubs in Jamaica.

Thanks to Marni, who turned up with a carrot cake to mark birthdays in the Hall family and a card for Dave, who just had a birthday.

February is Time of Fast month.

Do you have all the tools you need?

1. Project summaries on the new projects approved at the 2014 International Council meeting, and on projects still running. The youth development project in Jamaica (12-06) is our special emphasis, and this is its third, and perhaps final, year.
2. Pledge forms, if you will be participating in the 24-hour fast, February 20-21 or a similar 24-hour period before February 28th.
3. Cards on which you or your friends can record skipped meals and the approximate value (great back-up when you are approaching potential 24-hour fast sponsors).

If you don't have hard copies or the digital files, contact Dave Hall.

Planning meeting, Tuesday, February 10th. We will need to do some face-to-face work on details for the visit of Candy Lin and her mother from Taiwan, last preparations for the dinner meeting, and rough plans for future meetings and events. Please come. The more you put into the club, the more you will get out of being a member.

Company's coming! Try to leave some gaps in your schedule Family Day weekend, February 14-16. When Candy Lin and her mother visit, it would be good to have hosts to show them around Ottawa.

Dinner meeting, Tuesday, February 24th, with Christine Earnshaw from the Parkdale Food Centre. Christine comes with a background in international development and education. As chair of the Good Food Committee for the Parkdale Food Centre, she can give us a different spin on building cooking skills and introducing unfamiliar foods. What do you think of when you hear the term, "food bank"? What do you know about Community Food Centres Canada (CFCC)? There is another community food centre within two hours of Ottawa that was started before Parkdale made the transition from a food bank outlet. Where is it? [There may be a prize or two if you can show you did some digging for information before the meeting.]

Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable. ~ Kenyan Proverb

About Time of Fast. The Time of Fast Global Project Fund (TOF) is an annual International Y's Men's fund-raising programme which began as monetary assistance made available to areas of developing countries by arrangement with the World Alliance of YMCAs (WA).

TOF is now a popular program where Y's Men members all over the world, traditionally give up at least one meal (usually during the month of February) and donate the cost of that meal to the TOF fund which in turn makes the money raised in this way available to projects sponsored by both Y's Men and the YMCAs all over the world. From its inception in 1972 to date, TOF has raised about US\$ 4 million for development projects and disaster relief.

The involvement of Y Service clubs began at the International Convention in **Jamaica** in 1972. Delegates visited a YMCA project that needed support, and the idea emerged that individual members could make a

difference just by contributing the cost of a meal wherever they lived. How contributions are raised has evolved over the years, but the idea of raising money and expressing solidarity with those in need by going without is still the basis.

About Ernie Bell and the Ernie Bell Award.

From the Maritimes Region Manual:

ERNIE BELL AWARD (the Highest Award for a Y's Man in Area Canada)

This award was donated to the Area in 1974 when the Charlottetown Alpha Y's Men's Club wished to honor the memory of one of its long-standing and devoted Y's Men in the person of Ernest V. Bell, who over the years through his devotion to Y'sdom and its ideals, had been an inspiration to all who knew him.

Y's Ern Bell's life work in Y'sdom was Philately and it was through him that

the Bishop's Fund, now known as the Brotherhood Fund, was born. Y's Ern was Y'sdom's first International Philately Director and although stamps and Y'sdom were synonymous with Y's Ern, his personal involvement and interest in all aspects of Y'sdom were second to none. [It has been traditional in "formal" situations to address a member of the Y Service movement as Y's, followed by the first name.]

CITATION

This award is to be presented to a Canadian Area Y's Man from time to time who, in the opinion of a panel of judges, has best exemplified over the years Y's Ern Bell's high ideals, devotion and dedication to Y'sdom.

Dave's nomination is the first for Area Canada & Caribbean, with testimony from home club, Central Canada Region, and Caribbean Region. Dave joined the Y Service Club in Charlottetown, PEI. The club was large—70 members—and as a newbie he didn't get to know Ernie Bell well. He remembers Ernie Bell as a quiet man who focussed totally on stamps. In the early 1940s the stamps gained in international popularity and became an established way of bringing clubs together.

What means the most to Dave about this presentation? When Dave represented Area Canada as International Vice-President, he encouraged Earl Foster and Joan Wilson to apply for Brotherhood Fund grants to attend the International Convention in Sydney, Australia. Fast-forward to last

month: Joan, as Area President, and Earl, as Area President-Elect and the previous Ernie Bell winner, were there for the presentation and had been part of the selection process.

Congratulations, Dave!



Area President-Elect Earl Foster, Charlottetown Club, right, presents the Ernie Bell Award to Dave Hall.

"Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that will never be again. And what do we teach our children? We teach them that two and two make four, and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them: Do you know what you are? You are a marvel. You are unique. In all the years that have passed, there has never been another child like you. Your legs, your arms, your clever fingers, the way you move. You may become a Shakespeare, a Michaelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like

you, a marvel? You must work, we must all work, to make the world worthy of its children." ~ Pablo Casals, cellist

More about Jamaica and the Area Convention.



Presentation of Area World Service Award accepted by Marg Hall for the Ottawa Club.



Presentation of Area Bulletin Award to the Ottawa Club, accepted by Marni Crossley.



Stephanie Spence, Seham Rabaa, and Dr. Sandra Hamilton, host extraordinaire.



One of the villas at Silver Sands.



After about an hour's work cleaning up the beach and horsing around.



"I really enjoyed the trip and would go back again." ~ Mark Nesbitt

There are a few people we haven't seen in a while. Think of those whose lives have gotten complicated or are about to change, students working towards "reading week" and exams, and those who make this club what it is just by being themselves. We care about you.

Marilyn