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February 2023

RCO Annual General Meeting!



RCO's AGM took place at the Hall on January 24th. Our newest member, Swanel Bryan-Clarke was formally inducted, 3 motions were passed, and the slate for the 2023-24 Board was announced. There are still 2

openings for next year's Board, President-Elect and Director. If you're interested in nominating yourself for either position, please contact Ingrid. Minutes for the AGM will be sent out.



Tues Jan 31st at the Mill Creek Restaurant

It was great to be back in-person at

LTOS 2023! 48 Scotch lovers convened at the Mill Creek. Piper Joe piped us in and Scotch expert extraordinaire Rob Foote took us through 3 Whiskeys: Auchentoshan 3-Wood, Royal Lochnagar 12 and Bunnahabhain 12. See the photos on page 2!

Family Day at Island Lake – Volunteers

Needed! On Monday Feb 20th, RCO will once again be manning a booth at Island Lake to give out free S'Mores and



other goodies, as part of the Family Day festivities. The RCO booth last year was very busy and we're hoping for a good turnout this year. Volunteers are needed to cover 1-hour shifts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact

Amy if you can help out. Thanks in advance to all who volunteer!

Valentine's Day is Coming!



Important Dates

February 14 – Valentine Social! Guests and significant others welcome. Hope you can join the fun!

February 20 – Family Day at Island Lake

February 22 – CryNot Webinar

February 23 – Industry Luncheon

February 25 – Coldest Night of the Year walk to support the Orangeville Food Bank

February 28 – Business meeting followed by a Ribfest meeting

No February Birthdays & Only 1 Anniversary

February 14 – Ingrid Sproxtton & Howard

Best wishes!

Industry Luncheon February 23 11:30 a.m. at the Orangeville Agricultural Society (OAS/Fairgrounds) 5th Sideroad, MONO. This year's speaker is [Josh Nye, Senior Economist with RBC](#). Tickets are \$125. Contact Ingrid ASAP if you'd like a seat (8 are available) at the RCO table!

Cheque Presentation to Choices Youth Shelter

Erin Goodyear spoke at the January 10th meeting and was also presented with a cheque for \$832.10. The funds were 50% of the proceeds from the Rotary Catch-the-Ace lottery, that RCO participated in last year. The other 50% of the CTA proceeds were donated to Hospice Dufferin.



Community News

CryNot Webinar on Feb 22nd National Human Trafficking Awareness

Day In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Day, CryNot presents *I Don't Want to Know*—a conversation about sex trafficking—what you need to know and why. Register at <https://crynot.ca/>.

Coldest Night of the Year #cnoy23 On February 25th, the Rotary in Orangeville team (members from RCO and RCOH) will be supporting the Orangeville Food Bank by joining thousands of Canadians across the country walking and fundraising to support and serve those in our community, who are experiencing homelessness and hunger. Our fundraising goal is \$2,500, to date we've raised \$1,100. Click [here](#) to join our team and/or donate!



More News We've received an update from Bonnie about Ile a Vache, see report and photos on next pages. Also, click on the month to view the D7080 bulletin for [January](#).

RCO Little Taste of Scotland Pics!



Report from Ile a Vache

From: Bonnie Melichercik <bonniemelichercik@gmail.com>

Date: January 28, 2023 at 4:02:55 PM EST

Thought I would update with you what is happening in Haiti these days....This is the letter I sent out with our tax receipts.

Update for 2022:

This yr. has been the worst yet since the earthquake in 2010. And to be honest I don't think that even measured up to some of the difficulties that have occurred this last couple of yrs. The country has been in turmoil due to the gov't losing control to gangs and causing serious unrest in the country. In the past when there was a disaster many countries came in to aid the gov't and people with food, health and housing. No support has been happening, in fact many groups have left the country leaving them in even worst circumstances. Beatings, robbery and kidnapping happened often.

Food, gas and other day to day life goods prices have been out of control. If available at all. Stores were closed for weeks and when they did open they were only open for a few days a week and with little goods. People stood for hours and then would not get any supplies.

Our friends on Ile a Vache have suffered with some families near starving. We aided food purchases as much as possible, but our dollar did not go as far as usual. Many boats came in with aid with support but have to stop during the hurricane season leaving long stretches of tough times. There was no internet for weeks. We often did not know what was happening and how people were and how they were suffering. With stores being closed and no internet there was no way to send aid even if we wanted to.

The good news is that our fish farm/ ducks has had generous support for food supply... They have been thriving and growing well. The chickens we have are still free range. Chicken food is too expensive/poor quality at this point to continue. We have hopes for this to change in the future and get this up and running again. Producing eggs for sale and strong healthy chickens.

We were granted thousands of seeds for expanding our community gardens. The seeds given will grow melons (several varieties), sweet potatoes, beans, tomatoes, corn, peppers etc etc. over 20 different vegetables and fruits were given... We also expanded our banana tree population, along with mango, lemon, orange trees and avocado's etc.. We will continue to expand this garden yr. after yr. Our goals are to have enough food to support our community along with going to other villages to sell our goods. We hope to not only help with nutrition of the locals, but have it be a viable business supporting several families through employment. There is a hotel which is opening soon who we hope to supply their fish, fruit and vegetables to along with a gov't run fish plant opening to sell our fish.. When we get our chickens up and running again, that will be another source of nutrition and income at the hotel...We are allowed to apply for seed every yr. from the donor group and also, we plan to harvest seed from our plants this season making it easier to expand. We have a sailor who is good to us and takes them down to the island for us.

I have made contact with another group on the island and they have offered their agronomist to aid us with our chicken and garden needs. Educating and supporting where needed.

Bruce's boat sustained damage during the hurricane In the mean time we will rely on other sailing friends to take the sails, medical aid and other goods when they have space. As always, our Haitian friends are resilient, optimistic and have faith better times are ahead. I admire how little they have and how little they want. Family, Faith and Community are most important. They are so grateful for all your support, Thank you...Mesi....

Below are photo's of the duck eggs, banana tree saplings, fish growing well garden expansion.

And sweet Olgy and Olgene, twins born to Wagner's daughter, who wanted to finish school, not have twins....so Wagner and his wife are raising the babies with support from clients of mine for formula, immunizations etc. one of my friends tried to adopt them but rules are you cannot adopt specific children internationally. So instead of putting them in an orphanage we got support to help the family keep them...

