



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA;
Pardeep Ahluwalia, President

March 5, 2019

Editor: Robert Shaw Wood

PROGRAM: Birket Foster -Chesterville Rotary Club's customized approach to water supply and infrastructure development for First Nation Communities

DUTIES. Grace: **Susan Diening**; Reception: **Brian Foster**, (substituting for **Victor Mazzola**); Past Presidents' Draw: **Mike Traub**; Greeters: **Ali Pahlavani, Brian Foster**; Meeting fee payment/attendance: **Carol Bell Thompson**.

The meeting (32nd of the Rotary year) **begins**

Following the Anthem with **Rod Holmes** at the piano, and a Grace this week acknowledging the role of Rotary in society, **Brian Foster** recognized John Graham, Beth Kirkwood, Sandra Lanois-Bazinet, and our speaker, Birket Foster as our guests for the day. John was the guest of **Carol Bell Thompson** and the others came with our speaker. **Rod Holmes** provided the keyboard accompaniment to the Welcome Song. The PP Draw winner this week was **Alan Bowles**.

General Announcements

-**Merv Letts** shared with us the presentation he is making to other clubs to encourage their participation in both the Mums and Cash Calendar campaigns. Key points he will be making concerning the calendars are: the very positive role of outside partners, such as hockey clubs; their role in securing advertisers; and the opportunity for them to submit photos for consideration. As for Mums, he will invite other clubs to focus on sales and less on delivery as we will be looking for our own members to do multiple delivery trips in order to keep more of the proceeds within our Club. Mums delivery this year will take place between October 2nd and 6th.

-**Bob Harrison** spoke to the issue of this year's Rotary awards. Nominations are particularly sought for two awards that are for non-Rotarians. One is the Ruth Martin Award, which is intended for organizations or individuals who have provided significant "well-being" services over time. The other award would be to a member of a Rotarian's family- not the Rotarian him- or herself- who has provided services to the Rotary Club of West Ottawa itself which we should acknowledge. The closing date for these nominations, as for the others, is March 19. **Bob** also took the opportunity to refer to **Merv's** announcement on Mums and told us that his car was a Morris Minor, which would restrict his ability to help deliver Mums.

President's Announcements

-**Caroline DeWitt's** birthday was that week.

-An inbound Friendship Exchange group of Russian Rotarians from District 2220 will be in the Ottawa area April 18-22 and will be in need of local hosts. In turn, an outbound mission of Rotarians to Russia is being planned for June 11-24. Anyone interested in participating in either of these ventures should contact Fay Campbell, District Chair for Friendship Exchanges, or **President Pardeep**.

-closing day for RCWO Award nominations is March 19. See **Alan Bowles** for details.

-The District Foundation Dinner and Training Assembly will take place in Cornwall April 6-7. **Brian Foster** has already signed up to attend.

-The Board decided to cancel Visitors' Day this year. Instead, an RCWO Showcase Day will be held on May 7; at this event, the Club will showcase the community support work that the Club does locally and internationally, as well as showcase the professional activities and expertise of Club members. This will provide an opportunity for Club members and guests to recognise the community activities of the Club, and the potential networking opportunities which exist through Rotary membership.

Presentation:

Joe Redhead introduced our speaker, Birket Foster, CEO and founder of MBFoster Associates, a software development company, and Chairman of Storm Internet Services, a regional Internet Service Provider in northern Canada. He had originally come to make his presentation at a meeting in late 2018, but a very spirited Club discussion had erupted at that meeting over the future of the Mums campaign and he had graciously agreed to postpone his talk until now. Birket is Past President of the Chesterville Rotary Club. Earlier in 2018, and in association with other Rotarians from the Chesterville and other Rotary Clubs, he began to plan the outlines of a generic scalable and repeatable project to provide drinking water and/or other infrastructure to First Nations communities and would now tell us how the planning is developing

Birket told us that the idea for the concept emerged from a high school reunion he had attended. He calls it Emergency Operation Things (EoT), which would embrace the provision of drinking water, wastewater handling, communications and power in remote communities, typically as a customized response to an emergency, but also as base infrastructure to pre-empt trouble. He explained the concept as a “shelter box on steroids” approach to development needs. RC Chesterville was interested and other Rotary clubs have also shown interest. Local involvement in the design of the system and training to ensure sustainability of operations would be imperative in every application.

Birket clarified during the questions that followed that he is now developing an inventory of sites for development. Rotary funding is planned only for the needs assessment process. If properly done the assessment should unlock plan implementation funding from other sources. The planning as described by Birket, the proposed partners and the equipment being considered made an impressive sounding package. See <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/1100/Stories/the-eot-project-of-rotarians-in-chesterville> for additional info. **Joseph Redhead** observed that the identification of promising sites should be weighted towards local communities that are motivated to assist.

Birket was thanked by **Gaye Moffett**

Happy Dollars.

Tammy Whelan was nominated by **President Pardeep** this week to collect.

-**Gaye Moffett** was happy enough celebrating the 25th anniversary of her company to contribute \$25.

-**Ken Murray** was happy that **Tammy** had invited him to sit in on a board meeting of her organization - LiveWorkPlay. He had been very impressed by all the entrepreneurial ideas that were floated about by Board Members on wellness themes.

-**Fred Christie** was happy to be back at Club meetings, but said he would soon be caught up with big time Canadian and US income tax issues that would soon occupy much of his time (as it would yours and mine...)

-**Carol Bell Thompson** has tickets ready to be sold for the Music for Humanity concert on Saturday April 13. The proceeds, as **President Pardeep** clarified, would go towards the Rotary End Polio Now campaign.

Meeting ends

President Pardeep then closed the meeting with an overview of the next meeting’s program and reminding us of the year’s theme, Be The Inspiration, and to invite likely acquaintances to get to know us at a meeting. showing, The March 12 meeting will be a club assembly so we will not have a guest speaker

Meeting Photos

By **Mike Traub**. temporarily inaccessible at the Club Runner site

Cash Calendar

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the week of February 27 – March 5, 2019:

1766 \$50 Jessica Drew, Stittsville, ON

3535 \$20 Yasmin Vinograd, Ottawa, ON

1890 \$25 William Neelin, Ottawa, ON

3588 \$50 Maria Stevens, Stittsville, ON

3520 \$25 Curry Wood, Nepean, ON

3455 \$50 J and M Shearer, Ottawa, ON

1127 \$200 Linda & Wayne Kenney, Kemptville, ON

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Club Assembly

Greeters: **Carol Bell Thomson, Mike Traub** Reception: **Rami Alsaqqa**
Grace: **Eugen Achihaei** PP Draw: **Ken Murray** Editor: **Don Butler**
Meeting fee/Attendance: **Linda Flynn**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Nick Pelletier, Northern Youth Abroad

Intro: **Ken Murray** Thanks: **Marilyn Letts**
Greeters: **Nigel Lever, Mary Wattie** Reception: **Brian Foster**
Grace: **Doreen Ide.** PP Draw: **Ron Scott** Editor: **Rod Holmes**
Meeting fee/Attendance: **Linda Flynn**



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