



Spinofff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Pardeep Ahluwalia, President

March 3, 2020 Editor: Don Butler

PROGRAM: Ken Sparks, RC Ottawa Bytown: Guatemala stove project

We begin

At midday President **Pardeep Ahluwalia** had rung the bell and invited us to the buffet. Key meeting roles were filled by **Navin Parekh** on reception, **Cletus Peters** and **Stuart Picozzi** greeting, **Ron Scott** sold Past Presidents Draw tickets, **Dave Morton** marked attendance and collected meeting fees **Brett Brooking** would be photographer and **Don Butler** scribe. At 12:35 **Pres Pardeep** called the 30th meeting of the Rotary Year to order. We sang "O Canada" accompanied by **Rod Holmes** on keyboard and **President Pardeep** said a grace on the benefits of Rotary and on observing Rotary principles.

Navin Parekh introduced guests and visitors: our speaker Ken Sparks, Jacob Gerow, guest of the **Heylands**, and David **Achihaei**, son of **Eugen** and **Luana**. Also, with us was Norma Bannerman, guest of **Brian Hartley**. Again with **Rod Holmes** on keyboard, we sang our guests a warm welcome. **Ron Scott's** PP Draw had two prizes- cards for Tim Hortons and for Tops Car Wash- for which our speaker pulled tickets held by **Peter Fisher** and **Jean Begin**.

General Announcements

1. **Doug Heyland** told us that cards were circulating for us to sign wishing speedy recovery from recent surgery to **Andrew Young** and **Frank Cranton**.
2. **Merv Letts** told us that promotion for the Rotary Golf tournament would start early with preliminary sign-up sheets circulating at this meeting.
3. **Mike Traub** asked us to start buying tickets for the Music for Humanity fundraiser and take some for sale to others. **President Pardeep** added that tickets could also be bought on eventbrite.ca
4. **Larry Chop** presented a banner from RC Barbados South which he had visited during his recent break from winter
5. **Caroline DeWitt** also presented a banner- this one from RC Central Port of Spain, Trinidad with which our Club has partnered in donating to a local school. She showed us a thank-you card done by students of the school

President's Announcements

1. Week's birthdays: **Susan Dienen**, **Baxter Willis**, **Caroline DeWitt**.
2. RCWO evening meetings on third Tuesday of the month starting April 21; 6 pm for 6:30 dinner. Same format, cost and menu as lunchtime with possible addition of a cash bar.
3. Mentoring: sign-up sheets will be circulated for prospective mentors to a) RCWO members and b) Rotaractors and for Club members seeking mentoring. Or contact **President Pardeep**, **Ken Murray** or **Graeme Fraser**. What expertise can you offer?
4. RI Convention Hawaii. Early registration discount until March 31.

Presentation: Guatemala Stove project

Johnny Marquez introduced former RCWO member Ken Sparks to tell us about the Guatemala Stove Project (GSP), the stoves themselves, the people using them and the Canadian involvement.

Ken started by telling us that fellow RC Ottawa Bytown member Anabelle Salas regretted not being with him because of a conflicting engagement. He then launched into project details and showed pictures taken on a recent volunteer trip.

-Stove recipients were mostly Maya, an indigenous people found in neighbouring countries as well as Guatemala where they constitute 40% of the population. GSP works near Quetzaltenango which is also known as Xela in K'iche', the language of the local Maya subgroup. (The Aztec language place names reflect the historical importance of the Aztecs and related cultures in primarily Maya Guatemala)

-The traditional Maya 3 stone fireplace filled the house with smoke equivalent to smoking 20 packs of cigarettes per day. This shortens lives and damages eyesight of people with little access to health care

-The GSP stove's chimney keeps the house air clean and the stove needs only half the of the wood of the traditional design. As most of the indigenous people cook with wood, firewood harvesting and/or purchasing consumes significant family resources and takes 2% of the forest annually so more efficient stoves also provide significant lifestyle and environmental benefits.

-GSP worked with CEDEC, a local NGO, which coordinated materials delivery, hiring masons and consulted with the local community to identify who should receive a stove. CEDEC arranges the annual visits of the GSP volunteers. GSP provides the \$300 to pay for the locally sourced stove materials and guidance of a local mason.

-GSP started in 1999 with 20 stoves and since then has built 7118 stoves and each stove serves an estimated seven people.

Ken recommended we visit Guatemala and showed pictures of the dramatic mountain scenery and the towns. The GSP volunteer trip takes place at the beginning of February. He and Anabelle had started in Guatemala City, the capital, and then moved to historic Antigua Guatemala, the capital until devastated by an earthquake in the 1700s. The volunteers then moved west to Quetzaltenango. From there they divided into four groups and went to work in Totonicapán. Ken and Anabelle were now looking to raise \$75,000 to do 250 stoves. They have raised so far \$8000 and have talked to three area Rotary clubs about involving them. GSP is a Canadian charity and can give tax receipts

Larry Chop asked how the cost of the stove compared with local incomes and **President Pardeep** said \$300 was high (average income of poor Guatemalans is under \$200/month). **Gaye Moffett** asked who chose stove recipients (CEDEC) and **Ed Balys** asked about tourism to which **Rob Shaw Wood**, who had been posted to our embassy there, noted that Guatemala is part of the 'Ruta Maya' popular with tourists interested in archeology (the Tikal site is world famous). Answering **Don Butler** on stove efficiency Ken said the stove had been tested by Guatemala's University of San Carlos (**Johnny Marquez** had taught there) and certified by the Oregon, USA DEQ.

Jill Yarnell thanked Ken with our usual memento and donation to End Polio. **President Pardeep** added that Guatemala was beautiful to visit adding that tours to Antigua required good walking shoes for the cobbled streets. (See also <https://guatemalastoveproject.org/> for more details)

Happy Dollars

Doreen Ide was chosen to collect:

- **Nigel Lever** thanked us for the sympathy card sent on his mother's passing. He was happy about being in the ocean four times since January and was now heading back to Florida. He would see us in June.

-**Brian Foster's** condo had sold for \$58,000 over asking and he was getting ready to move to Alberta.

-**Peter Fisher** would be off to Florida's Sanibel Island by March 10 with his wife, daughter and granddaughter.

-**Stu Picozzi** had recently visited the park with his granddaughter and learned that trees marked with a red circle were where the fairies lived.

-**Carol Bell Thompson** was thankful for the hand sanitizer on the tables. Their price seemed to be rising with \$4.99 bottles now offered on Amazon for much more.

Meeting Ends

President Pardeep reviewed the program and duty responsibilities for the March 10 meeting, a Club Assembly, at which **Caroline DeWitt** would tell us about draft district budget, **Dirk Keenan** would update us on planned program developments from the Future Directions Committee and **Caroline DeWitt** would tell us about her visit to RC Central Port of Spain. **Caroline** also answered **Pardeep's** call for "anything else?" telling us **Ron Scott** had agreed to take over the Cash Calendar.

Pardeep then reminded us that Rotarians are People of Action who make a difference, that we should Be an Inspiration and Connect the World and to invite member prospects to a meeting. He then adjourned our meeting.

Cash Calendar

Winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the current period will be published in a later Spinoff

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Club Assembly

Greeters: **Norm Thomas, Chris Wanna** Grace: **Joan Heyland** Reception: **Anup Subedi**

PP Draw: **Joan Heyland** Editor: **Joseph Redhead** Photos: **Larry Chop**

Meeting fee/Attendance: **Mary Wattie**

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Jill Yarnell, Classification Talk: Education

Intro: **Ken Murray** Thanks: **Joe Redhead**

Greeters: **Blair Armstrong, Marcia Armstrong** Grace: **Eugen Achihaei**

Reception: **Luana Achihaei**

PP Draw: **Jim Maxwell** Editor: **Rob Shaw Wood** Photos: **Inna Flyazhenkova**

Meeting fee/Attendance: **Mary Wattie**

