



# Spinoфф

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA;  
Pardeep Ahluwalia, President  
Online meeting 19 May 2020 Editor:  
Roy Miller

Program- Dr Lisette Canton: Ottawa Bach Choir- Juno nomination; adapting to COVID-19

## Intro

**Gaye Moffett**, our meeting host started admitting RCWO members and guests on Zoom around 12:33pm. She then turned the meeting over to **Pres Pardeep Ahluwalia**. At 12:40pm **Pres Pardeep** called the Rotary year's 37<sup>th</sup> meeting to order using an online ship's bell. The Ottawa Bach Choir's rendition of "O Canada" was amazing leaving us in awe. Afterwards **Marcia Armstrong** gave a sobering reflection noting the lack of human contact the past 10 weeks because of COVID-19 and listing tragedies such as the loss of loved ones to the virus, the shootings in Nova Scotia the Canadian forces losses in the Mediterranean and from Snowbirds. She then quoted Jan Richardson's "...see what shimmers in the storm" and continued that what shimmers for us are people such as those stocking shelves, providing health care and who work to keep us safe. **Pres Pardeep** then welcomed to the meeting our 2 guests, **Dr Lisette Canton** and **Wilmer Pulido**. (A special note by the editor- these online meetings do not succeed without **Pres Pardeep** navigating thru the online technical difficulties with panache.)

## Announcements:

**Pres Pardeep**-No birthdays this week.

**Caroline DeWitt** started by saying how nice it was to see Rotarians. Then she called for support to the Program Committee with suggestions as to presentation topics and speakers **Pres Pardeep** echoed **Caroline** saying ideas from club members would greatly help **Gaye** and her program committee with the great work they are doing.

**Pres Pardeep** informed club members that next week will be **Brian Foster's** last week because he is moving to Alberta and is sorry to see him leave. **Brian Foster** confirmed that he hopes to be on the road on June 3rd. and that after May 26 he will be attending meetings of the Rotary 7040 Passport Club. **Pres Pardeep** interjected that **Brian** is welcome to continue attending RCWO virtual meetings.

**Pres Pardeep** again reminded the club of donating meeting fees to the individual members preferred charity.

## Presentation

**Gaye Moffett** introduced our guest, Dr Lisette Canton. **Gaye** recalled that Dr Canton had been guest speaker at RCWO a few years ago and, as was our practice back then, we sang her a custom-composed introduction. Dr Canton is a choral and orchestral conductor of several choirs including the internationally acclaimed Ottawa Bach Choir (OBC) which she founded (and which **Gaye** serves as president). Among her many duties, Dr Canton oversees the graduate program for choral music at York University in Toronto. Furthermore, The Ottawa Bach Choir had just received the 2020 Outstanding choral recording award from Choral Canada.

Our guest thanked the club for having the opportunity to be a speaker again and values the Paul Harris award she was awarded by the club. She updated us on developments for the OBC. The Choir is a Juno nominee, but due to COVID-19, Juno Award winner announcement will be suspended until "appropriate". The Choir had been invited to play a prestigious role at the 2020 BachFest in Germany but that also was canceled and has been

rescheduled for 2022. The Bachfest COVID-19 has impacted usual artistic events so the Choir started to create virtual performances.

At the request of the Bachfest the Choir produced O große Liebe: <https://youtu.be/UlvwffekTBA> for the Good Friday St John Passion worldwide transmission from Leipzig. It was followed by “O Canada: [https://youtu.be/QloH\\_8jBoRA](https://youtu.be/QloH_8jBoRA)”. Dona Nobis Pacem: [https://youtu.be/vTAq\\_vaovuc](https://youtu.be/vTAq_vaovuc) was produced at the request of the Governor General who is a member of the choir to honour front line health care workers across Canada

These virtual performances were created by each singer recording their voice at home, Dr Canton recording herself conducting and then a technician synching it all together. Also, our Governor General, who is a member of the Choir, sent copies of the Dona Nobis Pacem virtual performance to front-line health care workers across Canada. Dr Canton was then delighted to share with us the two productions which were awe inspiring. She hoped that this music brought us joy and happiness in this time and provided the Club with the links (see above) Pres **Pardeep** thanked Dr Canton for sharing these wonderful virtual performances.

Answering **Don Butler** and **Andrew Young** she said it took over 25 hours to stitch together 27 separate voice and instrumental recordings to one harmonious whole and that a baroque trumpet had been used

**Marcia Armstrong** realized she should have mentioned in her Reflection the hardships the artistic community is currently facing.

**Caroline DeWitt** was thankful that Dr Canton decided to attend this meeting and showcase some of The Ottawa Back Choir’s virtual productions.

**Pres Pardeep** was thrilled with the Choir rendition of “O Canada “

**Andrew Young** the Choir quality lived up to his memories of past performance.

**Pres Pardeep** had enjoyed listening to the Choir over the past few days.

**Don Butler** has known Dr Canton and the Choir for quite a few years. He was “blown away” the first time he heard the Choir and is still. He was pleased to see Dr Canton again and thanked her for coming.

Dr Canton reiterated she was appreciative of the support and officially gave RCWO permission to use the Choir’s rendition of ‘O Canada”

On that happy note **Pres Pardeep** proceeded to **Happy Dollars** and reminded people to keep track of their Happy \$ pledges.

(Editor note: during meetings of May 5 and 12 **Bea Osome** drew attention during Happy \$ to the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Florence Nightingale, expressed thanks to health care workers and complimented panelists discussing *Business during Covid 19* on their presentations.

Spinoff apologizes for omitting mention of **Bea’s** contributions)

**Jen Soucy** while folding laundry really enjoyed the renditions and is happy her garden is planted.

**Susan Dienen** had 2 dollars- one to ask Dr Canton if RCWO would be able to use the Choir’s rendition of “O Canada”; the second in appreciation for Brian Langill’s support of the Cash Calendar even after he left the club.

**Bill Rolph** and wife are now 6 weeks in their new accommodations, and it was an amazing experience to start over; not an exercise for the faint of heart. His new address was given to **Rod Holmes**.

**Marcia Armstrong** asked donations in support for the Multi Faith Housing Initiative annual Tulipathon walk happening next week with all proceed going to assist less fortunate renters in paying their rent.

**Andrew Young** Brian Langill also supported the Mums campaign.

**Ron Doll** found an alternate source for chai latte since Starbucks was closed and is now having his latte at home. He will continue this when Starbucks re-opens. He pledged a second dollar for Patio season now being open. Bored, **Ron** has now decided to write his memoir.

**Fred Christie**- Inquired when the border will open. **Baxter Willis** said border will be closed to June 21.

**Sucha Mann** was in India for 2 months and continued his environmental initiative by committing to fund 5000 reusable bags for Punjab schools. Also, as temporary foreign farm workers find it difficult to come this year **Sucha** is looking to volunteer as a farm worker and have any pay come to a Rotary charity

**Caroline DeWitt** noted other clubs might help find a farm for **Sucha**. **Ron Doll** suggested RC Kemptville

**Susan Diening** suggested Youth Now Farm, but **Pres Pardeep** informed her that the farm no longer exists. The damage from the 2018 tornados had made it unviable

**Pres Pardeep** was happy to see sunshine and spring finally arriving. The flocks are finally blossoming.

**Ron Doll** asked **Susan Diening** about the Foundation walk. Susan presently has 5 cheques and the walk is proceeding slow but steady.

**Pres Pardeep** ended the meeting by reminding everyone that we need to be strong because when this crisis is over, many people will need our support. And of course, the virtual bell rang its familiar tone.

The full unabridged meeting can be viewed at [📄 200519 - RCWO Zoom recording.mp4](#)

### **Cash Calendar**

Information on winning entries will be published in a later Spinoff

Tuesday, 26 May 2020 12:30pm

Club Assembly: final Reports from Cash Calendar and International Service Committees

Chair **Pardeep Ahluwalia**

Editor: **Ginette Thomas**

Reflection: **Don Butler**

ZOOM meeting host **Gaye Moffett**

<https://zoom.us/j/97064414990?pwd=N2J1ZVNUQWtBVWtvMzdUUUVIHnzZrQT09>

See **President Pardeep** message of May 24, 2020 for log-in details