



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA;
Pardeep Ahluwalia, President
June 30, 2020 Editor: Graeme Fraser

On line meeting: Program: ChangeOver- **President Pardeep Ahluwalia to President Caroline DeWitt**

Who would have thought....?

Who would have imagined in 1957, when this club was formed, that 63 years later our ChangeOver meeting would take place on what at the time was a TV screen? And further to that more than 55 people in attendance would be able to watch each other and make verbal comments if they felt the urge. Who in their dreams would have thought that we could imagine the President's pin being sent from one part of the city to another using a transporter, pure magic? And who would have suggested that people participating in this grand event would be watching from around the world including Trinidad and Tobago, the Netherlands, and the United States among others?

Zoom ruled the day as once again we met virtually for the 12th online meeting.

A Presidency ends.

This was to be the last Rotary meeting that **President Pardeep Ahluwalia** would chair as he handed the chains of office to **Caroline Dewitt**. **Pardeep** was the third president in the history of the club to have served two terms in a row as he was preceded by **Jean Begin** and our first president **Carter Storr**. So, this was a celebration of his two years at the helm and the welcoming of Caroline into that same role.

Our meeting starts

President Pardeep selected for us a version of O Canada which reflected the diversity of our country, its evolving culture, and its varied history as the anthem was sung by numerous artists all in their language of choice.

Moment of Reflection **Carol Bell Thompson** shared with us the video "Up here, in Canada" that celebrated everything Canadian which was apropos as the next day was Canada Day. It was a great way to remind us of what makes Canada Canada all with a bit of a wink. Well done.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37nGeXn2K9c&fbclid=IwAR1leBMlbv0hQLcGmQzi9-eeGouUgxSBRJjlmvrSCP4uE7bJXiHO3igQ5c4>

Guests at today's meeting included past member Wilmer Pulido, Past District Governor Jerry Lambert, District Governor nominee Fay Campbell, Simmy Ahluwalia (wife of and the one who gently guides **Pardeep**), former RCWO member Brian Foster, now with D7040 Rotary Passport Club; past RCWO member and Ottawa city counsellor Jean Cloutier.

And **Caroline DeWitt** had a large group of friends and relatives present including: her daughter Dawn DeWitt in the Netherlands, her brother Jerome in Florida, her nephew David in Essex, England, Lorry Seagrim (sister-in-law) from the Rotary Club of Borrego Springs, California, Caribbean Rotarians Anthony John-Baptist, president of -Rotary Club of Central Port of Spain, Trinidad and Past President Nicole Matouk (RC Central Port of Spain are partners with RCWO in a school support project). and Joan and Robert Reade who are neighbors in Ottawa.

Birthdays : **President Pardeep** offered greetings to absentee **Peter Fisher** who would be officially older today. Perhaps he was out celebrating by hitting a poor defenceless tennis ball?

Presidency is transferred

The president's pin, which **President Pardeep** had been wearing for the past two years was shown to be transported from **PP Pardeep's** house to **President Caroline DeWitt's** house purportedly using technology shown in Star Trek. The pinning was then performed by incoming **District Governor Hadi Mortada**. (Note: Per Star Trek transporters convert a person or object into an [energy](#) pattern -a process called "dematerialization"- then "beam" it to a target location, where it is reconverted into matter - "rematerialization"). **President Caroline's** jacket is still being manufactured so that ceremony will have to wait until we meet again in person.

President Caroline then took the microphone to give her first official address to the Club. First she thanked colleagues who nominated her, including our past presidents and the members of the executive and then Club members who supported her election. She graciously accepted the Presidency and thanked Past Presidents including **Pardeep** and **Jean Begin** for their tips on club leadership! Further she thanked the Board of Directors 2019-2020 and the incoming Board members 2020-2021 (listed below). She also took the opportunity to thank the Cash Calendar Committee which she had chaired and supporters who gave their time and effort for a highly successful year. She gave special mention to Ron Simpson, our professional photographer.

The outgoing board comprised

- PP Jean Bégin**
- PE Caroline DeWitt**
- Ali Pahlavani**
- Linda Flynn**
- Alan Bowles**
- Marcia Armstrong**
- Henry Akanko**
- Eugen Achihaei**
- Joe Redhead**
- Graeme Fraser**
- Chris Wanna**

And the new board for 2020-2021 is:

- President Caroline Dewitt**
- Past President Pardeep Ahluwalia**
- President Elect Chris Wanna**
- Linda Flynn (Treasurer)**
- Dave Morton (Secretary)**
- Henry Akanko**
- Graeme Fraser**
- Larry Chop**
- Robert Shaw-Wood**

Her speech continued including highlights:

“., I am ..grateful for the opportunity to continue on this Rotary journey.”
Her Rotary connections began in Port of Spain, Trinidad when a family member told of his Rotary connections.working with marginalized children. His advice to me was ‘join Rotary’. Fast forward to Ottawa where, after she retired, .Joseph Redhead suggested I attend West Ottawa as his guest. She did “ – was inspired - forming friendships and working on projects. ... and here I am.” .
In the current pandemic environment she said this Rotary year would be like no other year as we connect virtually to collaborate - a new normal.
She was reminded that 75 Years ago, Rotarians had participated in the development of the UN Charter and demonstrated their shared vision on global cooperation

She reviewed Rotary Guiding principles: The Four-Way Test and Service above Self expressed in The Avenues of Service and our values service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership. And reminded us of Rotary International’s seven areas of focus to further peace, health, education economic growth and a healthy environment

Growing Rotary offers us opportunities to connect with young professionals, Rotaractors, implementing new membership models. A new generation of young people can bring new and creative ideas on providing service in their communities. Our new normal must recognize our diversity in thought, culture and beliefs.
Rotarians helped build the polio eradication infrastructure which is enabling a strong response to COVID-19 And Rotarians continue to build capacity in 50 countries in the fight against infectious diseases – for instance – malaria,and HIV AIDS.
Connecting virtually reduced Rotary’s carbon footprint immeasurably. We are experiencing the effects of smaller carbon footprint which may lead to support for regulatory frameworks leaving the planet safer and cleaner. Our virtual RI Convention saved approximately 100,000 tons of carbon emissions

President Caroline then asked us what we can do in this changed meeting space to keep our members engaged. Can we find the spark that brought us to Rotary?. The world is changing rapidly and unlikely to return to the way things were pre-Covid. Our 2020 -21 RI President Holger Knaack suggests that we need to adapt to this change and cannot without that spirit of service.

President Caroline concluded with the thought that If the pandemic has taught us anything it is our caring for each other. The connections continue to foster locally and reach out globally. Let us embrace the Rotary spirit, the energy of our younger generation and their digital world of new ideas.

Happy Dollars.

- President Caroline Dewitt** was happy that the speeches were done.
- Ken Murray** was thrilled- relaxed?- at the arrival of his first order of CBD oil.
- Roy Miller** was relieved that he could finally get a dentist to treat a severe toothache he has had for several months.
- Fred Christie** was happy again in the States with ones he cares for and that he had settled all financial affairs with **Linda Flynn**.
- Inna Flyazhenkova** was happy that solving her computer problems enabled her to zoom with us. Last meeting she was unable to communicate and was thrilled that her friend and Rotarian mentor from Russia, was in attendance in our meeting. Unfortunately, this meant that her husband Roy had to throw in even more money.
- Ginette Thomas** conveyed her congratulations to **President Caroline** and also thanked **Jean Begin** for all of her help in mentoring as she got more involved in Rotary.
- Dave Morton** was pleased to be off of the board of his condominium, and we are thrilled to have him on the board of our Rotary Club.
- Denzil Feinberg** was doubly pleased as he had got a refund from Air Canada for his cancelled flight out west, all within an hour and that he was expecting a refund for or a cancellation of an erroneous parking ticket at Mooney’s Bay.
- Sucha Mann** was encouraged that **President Caroline** put an emphasis on the environment for her upcoming year and then told us an unrelated story about a robin’s nest and the recovery of his lost mailbox key.

PP Valedictory

Past President Pardeep expressed his sincere thanks to his wife Simmy for her support throughout his tenure as president. He described the last two years as “rather tumultuous” with issues regarding fundraisers and dealing with the pandemic. He noted the loss of a lot of good friends this year; long time Rotarians **Jack Troughton, Russ Hicks, Bud McGinnis** and **Keith Fraser** who had given so much to the Club.. He said that it was a pleasure and a privilege to serve as president but he questions the Club’s collective wisdom in allowing him to quarterback. **Past President Pardeep** then spoke for us all in saying we are behind **President Caroline** in her upcoming year and wish her great success.

Meeting ends

Past President Pardeep for the last time closed the meeting with his reminder “We will need to be strong when this current emergency ends. At that time, there will be many people and communities in need of help as we enter the new normal of post-COVID-19 life; as Rotarians, we will be there for them! We are Rotarians, and we are People of Action! And we are proud of the difference we can, do and will make! “

Corrigendum re KidzAid- Spinoff June 23

Acknowledgement of Club donation through the International Service Committee - **Clive Talbot / Navin Parekh** to KidzAid Trust, South Africa should have read that the ISC had decided to ask Board for \$3000 in the coming Rotary year but, as there were unexpended funds in the current year, the ISC asked for and received \$1000 now which has been sent and the remaining \$2000 will be requested in the coming Rotary year.

Cash Calendar

Information on winning entries will be published in a later Spinoff

Tuesday, 07 July 2020 12:30pm
The RCWO's Year Ahead 2020-21
- Comments from conversations with Past Presidents
- Comments from the PE Questionnaires
Chair:**Caroline DeWitt**
Editor: **Roy Miller**
Moment of Reflection: **Caroline DeWitt**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kej78VGbaU>
See **President Caroline** message of July 5, 2020 for log-in details