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ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Caroline DeWitt, President

September 1 2020 Editor: Graeme Fraser

Program: **Gaye Moffett** will share Program Committee's suggested changes to running the *Speaker Series*.

Our first meeting of September was once again virtual as faces slowly popped up on our screens for the Zoom gathering. Many people don't call this September but instead they refer to it as "the **Larry Chop** raccoon month" as an exhausted raccoon stares at us from our refrigerators or office walls.

President Caroline Dewitt started the meeting with an introduction focussed on the Rotary monthly theme for September which is Basic Education and Literacy. The RCWO has supported and continues to Promote Education and Literacy through several programs - the 4 Way Test Award, Interact Club at Woodroffe High School, Julia Hill Award, Pallister Scholarship /Award, (HIP) Helping Indigenous People, RYLA, Dictionary For Life and Free Reading Program - an online tool. Also, several of our members participate in reading and literacy programs in their communities.

There followed a rousing version of O Canada and then **Doug Heyland** offered his reflection on Canada with a review of the many travels he has had.

We welcomed four guests today which included Keith Nixon, District Governor Elect Fay Campbell, new member **Girija Dube** and former member Brian Foster. There was but one birthday to celebrate and that was **Eric Armstrong** who might be misbehaving on September 7.

Today's toast was offered by **Graeme Fraser** who referred to the March issue of the Rotarian which spoke about Bill Gates and his foundation in regard to Polio Plus. He tied this in with the announcement that there will be a virtual Music for Humanity type of event in partnership with the Plattsburgh Rotary club and the Passport club of District 7040 on October 24. Brian Foster, a past member of our club and currently a member of the Passport club, has been working feverishly to pull this all together. Four different performers have agreed to play and scripts are being prepared for the two MCs. There are NO tickets to sell but instead we would encourage people to spread the word and the event will ask for donations. Chris Cochrane, Passport Club member and District PR Chair, is an expert in these sorts of events and is putting the whole production together at no charge. This event has the added advantage that because it will be all pre-taped one can watch it at their convenience, and it will remain online for at least several weeks.

President Caroline had several announcements of which the highlight was the presentation by **Ken Murray** to **Warren Creighton** of the certificate that made him an honoured life member of our club. Warren joined West Ottawa in 1969 and was president in 1975-76. He has been a very active member whose contributions have been extensive all the while adding his wonderful sense of humour to any interactions we have had with him. West Ottawa Rotary owes **Warren** a tremendous debt for all that he has done for the club. His recognition was well earned and overdue.

President Caroline reminded us once again to register for the district conference which takes place virtually October 16th to the 18th. They are also looking for silent auction items and sponsors, so please consider that as well.

President Caroline then told us a little bit more about the Paul Harris society. A Foundation Moment comes from Rotary International via our DG Hadi Mortada. A Paul Harris Fellow recognition is to honour and thank individuals for their US\$ 1000 donation in one year to the Rotary Foundation.

She once again suggested that one might donate their meeting fees to the club or to a charity of choice but of course there is no pressure to do so.

Ken Murray informed us of the latest Dictionary for Life distribution from the Bushtukah warehouse to numerous other Rotary clubs (some as far away as New Brunswick) so that they could deliver them to schools. 1400 books were picked up with the assistance of **Linda Flynn, Jean Begin, Dave Morton, Denzil Feinberg, Ken Murray, Lynne and Graeme Fraser**, and Don Flynn.

The program today was run by **Gaye Moffett**, chairperson of the program committee. She presented the changes that will take place to how speakers will be selected for our weekly meetings. **Gaye** gave a clear and thorough explanation while using slides to spell out how all members will be expected to be responsible for a meeting program.

Details of this presentation which would include expectations and guidelines will be sent to every member shortly. A schedule will be formulated by **Andrew Young** and ample notice will be given to members so that they can prepare for their responsibility.

This is designed to be stress-free and with that in mind members could opt out or switch dates with other members.

A large variety of suggestions was offered for potential speakers which included everything from using your neighbors, to people within one's network, to people within the community or even to the members themselves whether they upgrade their classification talk or speak on something else that might be close to their heart. The program committee would review the potential speaker and topic to ensure that it fits with the Do's and Don'ts that have been laid out.

Gaye's presentation of the committee's work was thoughtful and logical and suggested changes that were long overdue. These changes to the existing way that the program committee had been run obviously sparked some interest as there were numerous questions and suggestions.

Happy Dollars

Ron Doll shared with us a story about a lady falling asleep and snoring on a zoom meeting. Be warned.

Pardeep Ahluwalia shared a happy story.

Susan Diening told us that there are still Rotary masks available and if you're interested contact her.

Clive Talbot told us that the \$2000 that the International Service Committee had sent for kids aid in South Africa was well received and timely.

Roy Miller was thrilled that his tooth has finally been fixed as Covid had delayed the procedure which had prolonged his discomfort.

This was followed by a discussion regarding the taping our meetings for the sole purpose of the editors being able to properly document what had occurred. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the upcoming board meeting.

President Caroline then reviewed the program for the September 8 meeting concluded this meeting.

Tuesday, 8 September 2020 @12:30pm

Alex Munter, CEO of CHEO- the impact of COVID -19 on children including their mental health

Chair: **President Caroline DeWitt**

Toastmaster: **Susan Diening**

Editor: **Roy Miller**

Meeting at Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444180906>
See **President Caroline** message of Sept 630 for log-in details