



# Spinofff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA  
Caroline DeWitt, President

September 15, 2020 Editor: Rocco Disipio  
Online meeting

Program: Rotarian Samuel Watts, CEO of Welcome Hall Mission in Montreal, "Improving the impact of Community Based Non-Profits".

### Meeting Begins:

As members gradually log into this week's meeting, our 11th meeting of this Rotary year and 23rd on-line meeting we are greeted by **President Caroline DeWitt's** smiling face. Promptly at 12:32 she Rang the Bell to begin the meeting and reminded Members and Guests that Rotary's September Theme is Basic Education and Literacy. Our Club supports and promotes Education and Literacy through many ongoing programs. Members are treated to the National Anthem performed by the Canadian Brass.

Birthday Greetings: **Past President Jim Maxwell** celebrates on September 19 and he has big plans for a party of two with his wife Diane. Happy Birthday **Jim**. We hope your party is lots of fun.

Guests: In addition to our guest speaker, Samuel Watts, Susan Dalati of Toastmasters, DGE Fay Campbell, and from the Shepherds of Good Hope, CEO Deirdre Freiheit, and Donor Relations Manager Meighan Hartley and Board Chair Margaret Tansey joined us for this Rotary Meeting

### Toastmaster:

**Nigel Lever** delivered a very compelling toast on how the Rotary magazine illustrates the changes in Rotar. He reminded us that CHANGE is necessary to stay relevant in Rotary. Who would have thought the effects of COVID would have us meeting and enjoying Virtual Meetings? With the average age of our Club approaching 70 years old Change is necessary to attract and retain younger members. Some 20 plus years ago when the then all Male Rotary Club decided to admit women into Rotary. **Nigel** thanked visionary **Russ Hicks** for taking the proactive step of having the West Ottawa Rotary Club admit Female Members. In closing he Toasted 'Rotary magazine', as it is now called, for challenging us to seek change. Thank you, **Nigel**, for a thoughtful and inspiring toast.

### President's Announcements:

- with the onset of COVID we are in a severe drought with respect to Soc and Rec Activities. Thankfully, **Ron Doll** to the rescue. **Ron** has organized a wine tasting event at the Domaine Perrault, 1000 Perrault Road, Navan, Ontario for Sunday September 27 from 2 to 4 or so. Presently there are 7 signed up and 3 spots remain. To join in the fun please e-transfer \$37 to **Ron**.
- succession planning is currently taking place for the job of Club Treasurer, a position that requires basic accounting skills. We also need a Club Duty Roster Coordinator. Full job descriptions are available. Should you have the skills and aptitude for these positions please contact **President Caroline**.
- Club Members would be involved in two service projects which **District Governor Hadi Mortada** hopes to make District projects:
  - 1) in support of the Ottawa Riverkeeper volunteers were to meet at Jacques Cartier Park Sunday, September 20 at 9:00 a.m. to participate in a shoreline clean-up until 11:00..
  - 2) **Sucha Mann** reminds us of a tree planting opportunity on September 26 from 9:00 to noon at Billings Park. Once again District Governor Hadi Mortada would like to make this activity a District Project. Come, join in on the Shoreline Clean up and Tree Planting!
- **DG Hadi** still wants our contributions for the rebuilding of a Hospital in Beirut which focuses on caring for Children.
- sign up for this year's virtual District Conference. Registration is easy.
- 2021 will be a very busy year as our three major Fundraisers resume: Mums For Thanksgiving, Rotary Cash Calendar and Music For Humanities.
- don't forget about possible donations to the Club Service fund, the Rotary Foundation and/or other charities from the money not spent on week weekly meeting fees.

### Foundation moment

**Brett Brooking** played a Video which showed that the Rotary Foundation raised \$408 Million in 2019. \$7 Million have been directed towards COVID relief. Other projects include libraries built in Rwanda and safe havens for Women and Children in Puerto Rico. We were also reminded that through the efforts of Rotary and Others we are 99.99% polio free.

### Guest Speaker Samuel Watts,- "Good Work Done Better"

**President Caroline** told us Samuel, a Member of the Rotary Club of Westmount, began his career in sales and management at Dominion Textiles. His focus has been on turning good teams into high performing teams. In 2016 he transitioned into the not for profit sector and is the CEO of Welcome Hall Mission in Montreal. With a \$25 Million budget, 150 full time employees and over 800 volunteers, Welcome Hall Mission provides personalized services to

those experiencing poverty, homelessness and exclusion. Samuel lives in Montreal with his Wife, a Corporate Lawyer, and two daughters,

Samuel, started by telling us he is a frequent visitor to Ottawa since his youngest daughter is a Student in Ottawa and he owns a condo in Ottawa. As he says in his book *Good Work Done Better*, Samuel maintains that the current model of Community Based Care is reactionary and applies patches to needs as opposed to providing permanent solutions to the problems. By fully understanding the source of the problem(s) then we can better deal with fixing things on a permanent basis. Samuel illustrated with an anecdote about a man saving a succession of children struggling in a fast flowing river rather than going upstream to stop children from falling into the river. We must move upstream to the source of the problem and solve it. We measure funding and fundraising rather than problem solving. If we fund many activities it may mean the problem is not being solved. We should not donate because an organization has needs but because the organization meets the needs of the people it serves. Charity managers should be competent and not just available volunteers. Focus should be on outcome, not activity. Media should stop promoting random acts of charity but rather highlight coordinated problem solving

All levels of Government should work in a concerted effort to solve the problem but this is not currently happening. Each level of Government has its own agenda and plan not necessarily coordinated with other levels

Finally he concluded that as Rotary clubs should not try to do many things BUT pick a few things and do them well. Engage in meaningful activities.

Questions: Answering **Don Butler** Samuel clarified that he had meant that Rotary should, elevate the value of the dignity of the people it serves.

Answering **Ron Doll** Samuel said Ottawa food banks need to get upstream and reduce demand. Food banks were supposed to be temporary and become redundant when the problem situation ended. But while they exist they should focus beyond client need for food. What is now the "Welcome Hall Market" in Montreal allows clients to take a cart and choose what they want for a true grocery store experience with its benefits to client dignity and self-worth.

**Sucha Mann**, a volunteer at the Shepherds of Good Hope, asked how that organization could be improved and Deirdre Freiheit answered that they were becoming a housing provider- 200 so far- and had set up a management evaluation team. They try to be complementary to The Mission and the Salvation Army to improve their overall effectiveness.

Again to **Sucha Mann** Samuel responded while a basic guaranteed income has worked very well in other countries it is very difficult to implement in Canada as we have too many levels of Government that do not work well together. Finally, Susan Dalati asked how RCWO could be more outcome focussed.. Samuel stated that one cannot be effective by doing too much. Focus on 3-5 causes.

**Doug Rowlands** thanked our guest speaker by noting his talk was both uplifting and sobering and will give our Club something to think about. A donation will be made to End Polio on to mark our guest speaker's visit

#### **Happy Dollars:**

**Susan Diening** donated \$5.00 and reminded us to pay the \$10 per mask ordered from Rotary. She also asked us to visit Facebook for details of the District Conference.

**Bill Rolph** is looking for a few volunteers to help transport 30 or so small boxes in storage. Either a Wednesday or Friday would work for Bill.

**Nigel Lever** enjoyed his 14 year old Grand Daughter's Birthday in Northern Quebec where he berry picked and spotted a Moose and Wolf.

Finally **Hadi Mortada** reminded us that October 24 is Polio Day and we will be marking it perhaps with a flag

**Hadi** also told us that our late fellow Club member, **Jack Troughton**, had left a Major Gift to the Rotary Foundation.

#### **Induction:**

**Girija Dube** who has been a guest for a number of months was formally inducted into the West Ottawa Rotary Club. **Girija**, a retired teacher, and mother of two hails from New Delhi, India. She joined an international airline where she met her Husband and went to Germany and finally Ottawa. Although retired, **Girija** often does supply teaching for the Ottawa Board of Education. She is a very close friend of **Pardeep** and **Simmy Ahluwalia**. **Graeme Fraser** welcomed her to the club and noted her classification is Education-Retired. She will be mentored by **Pardeep** and will join the Dictionary for Life and Community Service Committees.

At about 1:37 **President Caroline** rang the bell to end this week's meeting. Let us all stay safe and enjoy a good week

Tuesday, 22 September 2020 12:30pm  
Associate Professor Ian Lee, Spratt School of Business: *Economic impact of Covid-19*  
Intro: **Caroline DeWitt** Thanks: **Rob Shaw-Wood**  
Editor: **Rob Shaw-Wood**  
Toastmaster: **Jean Begin**

Meeting at Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444180906>  
See **President Caroline** message of Sept 20 for log-in details