



Spinofff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Caroline DeWitt, President

*April 6 2021 Editor: Robert Shaw Wood
Online meeting*

Program: Paul Elsley, Rotary Club of Kingston: “From Challenge to Opportunity: Finding Silver Linings during the Pandemic”

Meeting Video

<https://youtu.be/sQhwJcGrOGY>

THE MEETING BEGINS

President Carolyn DeWitt opened the 38th meeting of this Rotary Year, our 49th meeting on-line, at 12:35 PM. We were treated to a multilingual version of the National Anthem that featured individuals and groups singing specific lines in a total of eleven languages commonly found in the country.

The **invocation** this week was offered by **Baxter Willis**, in which he expressed thanks for our blessings and asked for divine inspiration to help us stay focused on Rotary values and ethics, while remaining optimistic and committed to service notwithstanding the challenges we all face.

Jeremy Klein was our **toastmaster** of the day. He spoke of an article in the March Rotary magazine on the need for waste water treatment in rural areas. This is often overlooked, in Canada as elsewhere, as governments tend to focus on large cities. Rotarians have a role to play in overcoming this inertia by identifying specific problems and making approaches to responsible government officials. We toasted action for rural sanitation and clean water

President Carolyn announced our guests for the meeting: our presenter, Paul Elsley, former member Brian Foster and Anna Van Adrchem Rochon RC Ottawa South

Birthday greetings were extended to **Miriam Fraser** and **Roy Miller**, while **Jim Maxwell**, **Victor Mazzola** and **Jen Soucy** were acknowledged for celebrating anniversaries this month of their joining RCWO. In the case of **Jim**, it is his 29th April with the Club

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. April is Maternal and Child Health Month at Rotary. RCWO has been an active participant in efforts to improve maternal and child conditions, through such initiatives as Polio Plus, incubators to Harare, and our help to RC Cornwall Sunrise in supporting treatment of tropical diseases in rural Ghana
2. As noted last meeting **Pardeep Ahluwalia, Keith Henry, Rod Holmes, Doreen Ide, Hadi Mortada, Cletus Peters, Doug Rowlands** and **Jill Yarnell** all received Paul Harris Fellow recognition this year, in most cases not their first.
3. **Henry Akanko** was again thanked for getting our Rotary Clock in Westboro back on time.
4. RCWO and the Professional Engineers of Ontario will probably postpone their planned Ottawa River clean-up on April 24 at the Britannia Beach Park because of the COVID shutdown
5. The District Governor's message to us today reiterated the importance of the Rotary Foundation in matching money to human work to do good. Financial support must always be matched by personal commitment.
6. We are encouraged to donate meeting fees to the Rotary Foundation, local charities and food banks, and to other foundations.
7. Members are encouraged to approach businesses they support to encourage them to consider advertising in the 2022 Cash Calendar.
8. Contact **Ken Murray** or **Johnny Marquez** ASAP to nominate club members and other individuals for consideration for RCWO awards.

THE PRESENTATION

Our speaker for the day was introduced by **Graeme Fraser**. Paul Elsley is a father of two young daughters. He was a teacher in Port Hope Ontario who retired in 2011 and moved to Kingston and in short order both joined Rotary and formed his own charity to feed needy children on weekends, supplementing existing programs that provided food during school days. He is also involved in two foundations, is President of the Kingston Rotary Club, chartered in 1921, and co-chairs the club Centennial Committee.

Paul began by reporting that some Rotary clubs have chosen to become relatively disengaged because of the pandemic. This has been a mistake as community and member needs have become more acute. Health care, food security, and business viability are all threatened at this time so service organizations are more needed than ever.

In this situation, the Kingston club's Centennial Committee has decided to focus activities this year less on centennial celebration but rather on efforts to respond to the pandemic.:

-food security supply project supporting 550 families

-COVID mask production

-member care (e.g. delivering groceries to older members reluctant to risk infection in crowded shops)

-supporting mass vaccinations by assisting at the clinics to register and guide clients through the process

More generally, the goals of the Centennial Committee for the club are: enhance collaboration among the six clubs in the region; expand Rotary's profile in the community; increase fundraising, and increase membership.

The club set up a steering committee to oversee progress on these objectives. Ongoing communication is encouraged among the six Rotary clubs so that each is aware what the other clubs are doing. A new website announces club projects and enhances club profile in the community. Twitter and Facebook accounts have also been established, and the major TV and newspaper media have been targeted for special attention by nominated "point people" with the result that Rotary messages now appear at least once per week in the media.

Ambitious goals have been set for fundraising and specific new activities were identified for attention. These efforts have been very successful, as more than \$700,000 has been raised during the pandemic. The 2021 cash calendar itself raised \$30,000.

The club has become more proactive in member recruitment. At least one new member has been added every week, for a total of 18 since January. A new Rotaract club has been established as well.

Questions: Answering **Susan Dalati** on their success with recruitment. Paul described how they identified promising candidates within partner organizations and approached each with a low pressure promotional campaign, Then follows an invitation to attend a club session together with their proposed mentor. After joining, each recruit is celebrated individually during the course of their first meeting.

To **Jim Maxwell** about the incredible success raising funds. Paul clarified that each Rotarian has been asked to contribute one thousand dollars as a special contribution to COVID relief efforts. More than \$100,000 has been raised in this manner. The club also reached out to local foundations and government agencies, including the United Way, for donations, and approached wealthy individuals on a case-by-case basis. One person donated \$50,000.

Pardeep Ahluwalia thanked Paul for his insightful presentation and for his remarkable success in meeting the goals the Kingston Club had set for itself. He commented that we should seek to benefit from his example as we begin the process of responding to the District Strategic Plan. (see <https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050214/en-ca/files/page/documentation/rotary-district-7040-strategic-plan-adopted-d/210109---d7040-strategic-plan---bilang.pdf>)

HAPPY DOLLARS.

Once again, your happy Sergeant at Arms **Rob Shaw-Wood** took on the task of managing the flow of happy comments at the same time as he had to write them all down as merry scribe for the proceedings.

Bob Harrison told of wife Arlene's participation in project organized by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) to accumulate kilometers walked by members and their families towards a 30,000 km virtual world tour from Ottawa to Kabul for an April 24 zoom meeting with Afghan counterparts to support their call for women's interests to be protected in the current peace negotiations with the Taliban (see <https://www.cfuw-ottawa.org/resources/Background%20Stop%20-%20Walk%202021.pdf>). She can count towards her tally any kilometres clocked by **Bob** and by their two daughters. The walk began on March 8 and **Bob** estimates the family is currently in Paris.

Brian Foster announced that he had a planning session with **Graeme Fraser** and Chris Cochrane, RC District 7040 Passport, for the proposed Polio Day concert in October and is very encouraged it will be a great success. He also asked if anyone could provide him with the email address for "Amy" who spoke to us perhaps 18-24 months ago as the representative of an indigenous association. This might call for some sleuthing through back issues of Spinoff to make progress on that one? About time all this weekly scribbling paid off! However, **PP Pardeep** thought he had her coordinates in his files, and would look for them.

Hadi Mortada was pleased to report that purchase orders have now been placed in respect of the hospital rebuilding project underway in Beirut that we had contributed to. He also opined that **Shaw-Wood** needed a haircut because he routinely overlooked his raised hand during these sessions.

Sucha Mann confirmed that the city-wide lockdown will preclude April 14 for his planned clean-up of Britannia Beach. **DG Hadi** advised that proposed alternative, May 15, would conflict with District Rotary Foundation Walk. The two agreed to discuss the issue separately. . (Ed note: An April 8 message from **Sucha Mann** advised the event will now be May 29.)

Mary Wattie announced that the Board of Directors for the Ottawa Rotary Home is now looking for a minimum of two new directors for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. They would prefer individuals with an accounting, business, medical or law background. Anyone who is interested should contact, Miriam Fraser, Mary or Jean Begin.

Joan Heyland reported that RCWO have identified two students (one male and one female) for Global grant Scholarship consideration by the District. The applications will be submitted by April 15 and interviews will take place on May 1.

Tom Belton told us that April 6 is the third anniversary of the Broncos tragedy in Saskatchewan. He had visited the scene of the crash some time ago and called on us to 'remember Humboldt'

Doreen Ide, thought that **Sarge Shaw-Wood's** hair might not become a problem given the stay-at-home orders in play if he slapped on some Brylcreem (remember that stuff? "a little dab'll do yah.") and become (remain?) debonair. **Denzil Feinberg** did best at remembering how the jingle went, and then we moved on.

Graeme Fraser was pleased that he would be playing golf later this week. He then advised us that we needed to keep Paul's presentation in mind as we look to make progress on our own strategic plan. (It's a good thing that Shaw-Wood wrote it all down so well for the record eh?) A plan committee will be formed, to be chaired by **Sue Dalati**. Members are invited to participate. **Graeme** will shortly email us a copy of the District plan which is to guide our work. Finally, he suggested that axle grease should work as well as Brylcreem or Dippity Do.

Jim Maxwell informed us that **Bea Osome** is back from Kenya and currently in quarantine. She suffered some family tragedies while there from COVID, but has completed three new water wells, and found a Rotary Club in Kenya to act as host club for a project to build toilets that will be the subject of a District matching grant application this month.

CLOSING REMARKS

President Caroline noted our speaker next week will be Dr. Paul Cappon to provide an update on the COVID vaccination process.

Tuesday, 13 April 2021

Dr Paul Cappon, Covid Vaccine Advisory Committee, OMA "Covid Vaccine Update"

Intro: **Gaye Moffett** Thanks: **Don Butler**

Invocation **Jen Ahde**. Toastmaster: **Josh Gray**

Editor: **Rocco Disipio**

Meeting at Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444180906>

See **President Caroline** message April 11 for log-in details

Tuesday, 20 April, 2021

Benoit Gélinas, National Capital Commission "Mud Lake"

Ecology, history, ornithology, fragility, and vegetation management

Intro and Thanks: **Larry Chop**
