



Spinofff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Caroline DeWitt, President

April 20 2021 Editor: Don Butler
Online meeting

Program: Ms Camille Tremblay, National Capital Commission “Mud Lake: plants & wildlife”

Meeting Video

<https://youtu.be/qeyjHTY2m3A>

We begin

PE Graeme Fraser, standing in for **President Caroline DeWitt**, started this 40th meeting of the Rotary Year noting we are living in interesting times. He mentioned Russia threatening Ukraine, the forthcoming budget and the fact that we are still receiving vaccinations. Would we have believed a few years ago that we could attend meetings for over a year wearing sweatpants?

Guests : From the National Capital Commission (NCC), Camille Tremblay (our guest speaker) , Mike Muir, Land management and Benoit Gelinias, Public and community relations; Former member Brian Foster; Youssef Mani who will become a member; virtual guest, **Larry Chop**'s friend, Gertrude the wild turkey from Mud Lake; Helen and Ian McConnachie

A technical problem prevented the playing of the national anthem so we went straight to Toastmaster **PP Pardeep Ahluwalia** who told us about the Rotary Peace Centre to be set up in the Middle East and the interviews to be held soon for Rotary Peace Fellowships. He also told us that **DG Hadi Mortada** had asked PDG Nabil Oudeh to set up a District peace committee. He then invited us to toast Rotary peace promotion activities.

Next came **Henry Akanko** with an **invocation** based on an article the March issue of *Rotary* on immunization over the last 2000 years. Immunization has prevented over 10 million deaths since the 1950s and reduced the incidence of polio by 99% since the 1980s. Rotarians are now using the tools developed for Polio Plus to support vaccination against Covid 19. World Immunization Week, the last week of April, promotes vaccination to prevent disease.

Presentattion

Taking the floor **Larry Chop** started by complimenting **Acting President Graeme** on his first go at handling the technology on which our on-line meeting is based. **Larry** then told us our speaker, Camille Tremblay, holds a master's in environment and has been working for the National Capital Commission since 2010. In her current role as Biologist for the NCC branch handling Ontario Urban Lands and Greenbelt, she manages various projects, including the Mud Lake vegetation management

program. Camille oversees a biodiversity monitoring program and provides expert advice on natural resource management and conservation issues. She supports scientific research and community-based initiatives on NCC lands.

Camille told us the NCC is a Crown corporation responsible for a long-term planning for public lands and the steward for nationally significant public places and a partner for conservation. It is the largest landowner in the capital area. She said Mud Lake was important as an ecological preserve special for its variety of habitats and species. These included different trees, shrubs, 44 rare plants, 269 bird species and various reptile for a total of over 1000 species, some at risk, It is a bio-diversity hotspot and on an important flyway for migratory birds. A black bear had once settled there but was trapped and moved to a less populated area. Threats include invasive plant species such as buckthorn, Norway maple, dog strangler vine are being met with active control measures in which volunteer help is welcome. 450 volunteer hours have helped remove 9500 kg of invasive plant material.

Visitors are welcome but must leave dogs and bicycles outside the park. A leisurely walk through the area takes 60-90 minutes. Camille and her NCC colleagues responded to comments and questions from **Larry, Bob Harrison** and **PP Pardeep** noting that they could not save the ash trees from the borer, that crowding was heaviest on Saturday afternoons and that a walk around the lake would necessitate crossing a muddy area.

Larry thanked Camille and her colleagues saying the Club would mark their presentation with donation to End Polio

Camille emailed us afterwards saying those interested in volunteer opportunities could register on the NCC website and mention they are interested in helping out with the Mud Lake Vegetation Management Project. A coordinator will make contact when NCC activities resume. See the NCC website volunteering section <https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/volunteers>. The volunteer coordinator email is volunteer_benevoles@ncc-ccn.ca

Announcements

- Birthday Greetings to: **Joe Parkinson, Brett Brooking, Cletus Peters** and **Doug Rowlands**
- Check email for a message from **DG Hadi** on some great examples of what a \$500 annual donation to The Rotary Foundation can do.
- **Larry Chop** was offering training that evening on using ClubRunner
- **Susan Diening** needs help in selling ads for the Cash Calendar. Even suggestions as to potential advertisers to be approached would be useful
- The Foundation Walk will be on May 15. Do it and send pictures.
- Birth announcement! Interact Club of Ottawa Neighbours ICON -Supported by **Jill Yarnell** and **Wilmer Pulido**. Four high energy grade 12 students who want to do useful things for the community. ICON is arranging a raffle to benefit the Food Banks and running a writing competition for HS students in D 7040.. 2 prizes: one participation in RYLA and one participation in Adventure in Citizenship.
- RI Convention June 12-16. Register before May 8 US\$ 49.; May 8 and after US\$ 65
- Help develop the RCWO Strategic Plan, we need to survive and thrive, Read **PE Graeme Fraser** message of April 12 and the District 7040 Strategic Plan with that message and submit ideas a/o join the Club SP Committee **Susan Dalati** will chair

Happy Dollars with **Rob Shaw Wood**

- **Rob** started us with a quote re birthdays from Golda Meir "Turning 70 is no sin but it is no joke either"

- **DG Hadi** arrange Foundation Walk, after May 15 if necessary, so as to be safe and in compliance with Covid restrictions.
- **Larry Chop** on behalf of Gertrude the turkey and in recognition of a great presentation by Camille Tremblay and colleagues
- **Miriam Fraser in** appreciation of **Larry Chop's** ClubRunner training which she recommends
- Amen from **Fred Christie**
- **Brett Brooking** alerted us to a scam message purporting to be from **Frank Cranton** asking for money. **Brett** is happy to celebrate his birthday getting a Covid 19 shot and thanked **PP Pardeep** again for organizing the "booze up " (whisky tasting) the previous Friday.
- **PP Pardeep** aghast at the term "booze up" rejoined that it had been a "sensory awareness training camp". He thanked the participants and said that the event had contributed \$250 to the Club foundation.
- Bob Harrison** also thanked **PP Pardeep** for an enjoyable event
- Brian Foster was happy that his daughter and partner in Whistler where Covid 19 P1 variant (Brazil) "really bad" got the Moderna vaccine even though well under the qualifying age.

Close

Acting President Graeme gave info on the programs of the next two meetings and added that Mayor Jim Watson and the Hon Hugh Segal would also be speaking at soon upcoming meetings. He urged us to use these programs to attract guests to check us out and closed with cautions to be careful but enjoy spring and closed the meeting.

Tuesday, 27 April 2021

Prof. Ian Lee, Sprott School, Carleton University "Analysis of the Federal Budget"

Introduced & Thanked: **Caroline DeWit**

Invocation **Rami Alsaqqa** Toastmaster: **Marcia Armstrong**

Editor: **Don Butler**

Meeting at Zoom

See **President Caroline DeWitt** message April 25 for log-in details

Tuesday, 4 May , 2021

Prof. Fred Goodwin, Carleton University, "Why is the United States such a divided country?"

Introduced & Thanked: **Ron Doll**
