



Rotary Opens Opportunities  
Le Rotary ouvre des opportunités

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ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA  
Caroline DeWitt, President

*June 8, 2021 Editor: Graeme Fraser*

**Program:** Classification Talks: **Dawn DeWitt** and **Tom Belton**

**Meeting Video:** <https://youtu.be/wDmSos79nzs>

**President Caroline DeWitt** opened the 47th meeting of this Rotary year as we paused from enjoying the heat outside of a summer that clearly had arrived. We then enjoyed a version of O Canada performed by the Three Tenors.

**Susan Dienen** offered her **invocation** by saying “Our era offers a new slate with social media and we must write upon it. Let us write truth. Let us write fairness. Let us write friendship. Let us write solidarity. Let us write peace. Let us write joy. Let us write thankfulness for what we accomplish.”

**Fred Christie** gave us an informative **toast** about the Rotary Youth Exchange that sees students give up a year of their education to spend that time with various families in a different country. They would often return having not only learned a new language but gaining greater maturity and priceless experiences.

Guests: Lorraine Seagram a Rotarian from Palm Springs, and Brian Foster, an ex-RCWO Rotarian who is a member of the Passport club. And we welcomed back to Canada our seasonal member PDG **Tony Watkins**.

Birthdays were celebrated by **Trish Buller**, **Nigel Lever**, and **Stu Picozzi**. All have confirmed that they will be one year older.

**President Caroline** reminded us again of the Four-Way Test. She also pointed out that June is Rotary Fellowship month and you can find out more information on this on the Rotary International website.

**Caroline** again informed us that she had received a certificate of appreciation from The Rotary Foundation for our financial support of the “End Polio Now” campaign, and in fact, it was delivered to her by **DG Hadi Mortada**. WOW, what service?

June 29 will be our Awards and Changeover meeting and expect it to run from 12:30 till 2 PM. This is where you will get to see who within our club and the community at large will be receiving awards. This is not an event to be missed and one worth bringing your friends to.

**President Caroline** reminded us again that our two major fundraisers; the Rotary Cash Calendar and the Mums for Thanksgiving are going full steam ahead in the planning and preparation phases.

**Ron Doll** spoke briefly about a small BBQ as a social event is being planned for June 26 with a rain date of June 27. Currently, due to COVID, only 10 individuals would be allowed so get your name in quickly. This will take place outside at **President Caroline's** residence and would be either a late lunch or early supper

depending on what those interested decide. You have until June 22 to express interest if you would like to socialize with some other members and get a bite to eat as well. Is 'normal' returning?

**President Caroline** gave us great news regarding our contributions to the annual program fund of the Rotary Foundation to which the club has donated \$16,450.

We have also donated \$3425 to the "End Polio Now" campaign. Well done West Ottawa!!!

We were lucky to have two classification talks today as we learned more about our own **Dawn DeWitt** and **Tom Belton**. **Graeme Fraser** introduced **Tom** who filled us in on his career within the concrete block industry. His work experiences were varied and extensive and included working in numerous firms including his own start-up. He also touched on briefly his experiences with Rotary (He joined our club for the first time in 2007) and Kiwanis. He told us a little bit of his time with the charity "Sleeping Children around the World" and some of the exciting adventures he had while visiting sites in South and Central America and India for that group. These were highlights in his life. Further he said has continued his involvement with Parkinson's research and is very active on his lake association. Clearly his life has been and still is very full.

Not often do we have a classification talk by one of our members who is introduced by not only a fellow member, but their mother, and the current president of our club. Clearly a thrill for both of them.

**Dawn DeWitt** presented her talk from The Hague through the wonders of technology and Zoom. She told us about her time growing up in Ottawa and being very active in sports and music while still excelling at school. She explained that her time at Queens University opened her eyes. Specifically living at a residential co-op that included many international students. This sparked an interest to travel and to try out new experiences; and to follow up bachelor's in economics by studying in the Netherlands for her Masters. Internships and full-time employment followed at high profile firms such as General Electric and Exxon before finally settling in to a role that she clearly relishes. She works for a group that has a mandate to support the defence and security of a billion people. It is an organization that is somewhat private sector and somewhat public sector. Because there are security elements to where she works, we will not list here the name of the organization.

**President Caroline** offered the thanks of the club to both **Tom** and **Dawn**, two people we are lucky to have as members.

### **Happy Dollars**

Was run this week by **Ron Doll**, filling in for our Sergeant at Arms **Robert Shaw-Wood**. Ron has clearly been keen to try on this role and he approached it with zeal. (How often do you get use the word "zeal"?)

**Denzil Feinberg**, challenged by **Ken Murray** about his drab dress, wore a bright yellow shirt today and counter-challenged the rest of us to aim at wearing the brightest shirt to our future zoom meetings. So bring your garish, gaudy and or dramatic tops to our meetings.

**DG Hadi Mortada** threw in his happy dollars to let us know that he is watching lumber futures as he has plans to put a second story on his house.

**President Caroline** trying out a new career as a trapper as she is trying to say goodbye to a groundhog in her backyard. Stay tuned to see if she wears new furry fashion in the future.

**President Caroline** then wrapped up the meeting and sent us out into the muggy weather.

**Tuesday, 15 June 2021 12:30 pm**

Club Assembly- Club Foundation and Committee Reports: International, Community, Finance and Youth.

Invocation: **Miriam Fraser** Toastmaster: **Ron Doll**

Editor: **Don Butler**

Meeting at Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444180906>  
See **President Caroline** message of June 13 for log-in details

**Tuesday, 22 June 2021 12:30pm**

The Hon. Hugh Segal: *Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI) and why Canada should implement it.* Introduced & Thanked: **Larry Chop**