



Rotary Opens Opportunities
Le Rotary ouvre des opportunités

Spinofff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Caroline DeWitt, President

June 29 2021 Editor: Don Butler

Program: Awards and Changeover

Meeting Video: https://youtu.be/P_NrDvr4Q5Q

We Start:

President Caroline DeWitt welcomed us to our 50th and last meeting of the Rotary year and 61st online. After O Canada by The Tenors **Linda Flynn** gave us an **Invocation** reminding us that we who serve needed to try new things, that we had Rotary with us for fellowship and cooperation in service and that we could be thankful to look forward to the meals we would share in future. **Rich Fisher** reminded us of the search for his nephew, 3 year old Jude Fisher lost for three days north of Kingston and called on us to **Toast** the OPP Sydenham which conducted a successful ground and air search to find him.

Awards

Johnny Marquez, Awards Committee Chair, told us that because there had been no awards last year the Committee had received Board approval to propose awards for 2019-20 and for 2020-21.

After **Johnny** reviewed the criteria for the Paul Harris Fellow Award for non-RCWO members, **Bob Harrison** told us that Stu Schwartz was being named for the PHF award for community building, anti-bullying work, support for youth, and as a leukemia survivor, promoting bone marrow and blood donations.

Fred Christie told us the two next awardees would be recognized another time because they were busy protecting their Eswatini orphanage from the current unrest.

Susan McLatchy received a PHF for applying her passion for curling to organizing a bonspiel against a breast cancer. In 20 years this bonspiel raised over \$600,000 against breast cancer. **Linda Flynn** added that Susan is still busy with community service making 350 masks against covid and supporting a school breakfast program.

Ruth Cull was named as a PHF recipient for her service as Mollypenny the therapeutic Clown who has been calming the fears of children facing treatment at CHEO for years. An OR nurse since 1974 and volunteer clown for over since the late 90s, Ruth and Mollypenny are part of the CHEO treatment team.

A PHF Award for RCWO members was conferred on **Linda Flynn**, who joined in 1996, left, and rejoined in 2005. **Linda** has taken many leadership roles in the Club. At the Montréal

Rotary International 2010 conference she discovered Dictionary 4 Life and adopted it for her year as RCWO president 2010-11. Starting with three schools this program now delivers to eleven schools and ten other District RCs are also involved. Linda has also handled the demanding role of Club treasurer for five years.

Another PHF went to **Don Butler** for his over ten years of contributing to Spinoff, the Mums fundraiser and other Club activities.

PP and **DGD Pardeep Ahlulwalia's** impressive list of Rotary service activities since he joined in 2016 earned him a PHF: Chair of Cash Calendar, Board member, two years as Club president, leadership roles in several District 7040 Committees and now District Governor Designate for 2023-24.

President Caroline outlined the extent of service meriting conferral of Honoured Life Membership which is the highest Club award to a member. She then summarized HLM Awardee **Len Baird's** service over his 60 year membership which included presidency, chairmanship of several committees, fundraising, Club social activities and more. She then told us a bit about HLM Awardee **Fred Sirotek**, the last living Charter Member. **Fred** accepted the Award telling us how he left the Club for a few years while living in the US and considered other organizations before coming back to our Club.

Dirk Keenan reviewed the criteria for the Ruth Martin Community Service Award and then told us about Jenn Hayward cited for the 2020 award for her comedy benefit shows for the Elizabeth Fry Society, her courier services for charitable events and other activities in support of social enterprises and community empowerment. Accepting, Jenn told us that as Rotary does good in the world it is a good ally for the Indigenous people who need allies.

Ken Murray told us that Myrna Hay, the 2021 Ruth Martin Award recipient, has been a volunteer at the Manordale Public School for over 60 years helping with meal programs and being "everyone's grandparent" at the school. She makes the school a better place for everyone. Manordale principal Hanif Jamal and MPP Lisa MacLeod briefly joined the meeting to add their support for Myrna.

Ken then told us about the Family and Community Service Award this year to the Ottawa Tool Library. The OTL welcomes gifts of tools and provides training in how to use them as well as lending them out. Bettina Vollmerhausen, OTL Executive Director, received the Award.

Bob Harrison listed some of the volunteer service in planning, execution and effective leadership by **Dave Morton** that merited his conferral of the Lloyd Loynes Award for Volunteer Service. These include 10 years as Community Service chair aiding a variety of community organisations such as summer camps, food banks and disability support groups. He has also included in his busy schedule filling "heavy duty" Club Board positions like Secretary and Treasurer. Outside of Rotary **Dave** has encouraged company colleagues to support a variety of community charities.

Looking Back

President Caroline reviewed how our Club adapted to the pandemic and how far we have come since our uncertainties on how to proceed in spring 2020, We persevered and continued many Club activities despite challenges. She went through our membership list giving positive observations about each of us. We had met the 19 challenges including membership posed to our Club by Rotary International. She commented on the recent donations to the Rotary Home and the Food Bank

Close

President Caroline touched on the program for the next meeting, first of the new Rotary year. Noting that incoming **President Graeme Fraser** had served also in 2011-12 she invited him to say a few words. **President Graeme** said it was getting late and decided to save his remarks until another meeting. He then declared this meeting adjourned.

Tuesday, 6 July 2021 12:30 pm

Bob Harrison, final report of the "International Services Committee for 2020-21"

Introduced & Thanked: **Pardeep Ahluwalia**.

Scribe: **Jill Yarnell**

Meeting at Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81365346181?pwd=Tml3emVBa01pNmZOYllWamZiRjNEZz09>

See **President Graeme** email of 4 July for log-in details