

Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Graeme Fraser, President
Jan 11 2022 Editor: Don Butler

Program: Shaun Hopkins: Storybook Ottawa

President Graeme Fraser welcomed all to the 26th meeting of the Rotary year quoting Gloucester from Richard III to say that if the “winter of our discontent’ from covid was not quite yet “made glorious summer” it would be soon.. After his acknowledgement that we were meeting on unceded Anishinabek land there followed O Canada sung by Walk off the Earth accompanied by guitar and ketchup bottle flutes and salad tools. Surprisingly effective.

New member Robin Spencer

President Graeme welcomed **Robin** to our Club on transfer from RC Ottawa South He is an RC Past President and a Paul Harris award winner, and his classification will be professional photography. He is assigned to the International Service Committee.

Guests: President Graeme welcomed today’s speaker Shaun Hopkins, former WOer Roger Wilson and DG Fay Campbell

Presentation

Linda Flynn told us Shaun Hopkins had management experience in NFPs, banking and consulting before he founded Shaun Hopkins Seminars in 2002. She hoped to hear more about the Seminars but today he would tell us about Storybook Ottawa which she thought complemented Dictionary for Life and Ottawa Reads

Shaun took the mic and told us how he had been a member of other Rotary clubs and that his father had volunteered him as a child to support service organization activities in Smiths Falls. He thanked us for our donation to Storybook Ottawa
He said Storybook Ottawa had gotten started when he and his wife had asked the principal of a local primary school attended in the past by her family members how they could support it. They learned that the school had pupils from several countries and 25% had mother tongues other than English. Learning to read was difficult for many. The homes of few of these pupils had books so Shaun and his wife decided to give each pupil a book of their own in an attractive bag at Christmas. They had continued this practice and over ten years a culture of reading developed. Pupils read to their siblings and other family and were doing better in the standard tests for reading.

In 2021 Shaun and his wife set up Storybook Ottawa/Livre de Conte Ottawa as an NFP to distribute books to schools in low-income neighbourhoods. From research to support their application for charity status from CRA they learned that these neighbourhoods average 1/3 of the income of the high-income areas, have twice the unemployment, more immigrants, and other educational disadvantages. 25% of the pupils in these schools do not meet Ontario standards for reading skills. Books in the home are part of the solution. As few as 20 books make a difference. Storybook Ottawa identified over 26 such primary schools, French and English, in Ottawa and are now working with three of them to which they supplied 714 books this year. They were looking to raise \$10,000 this year but with the WO donation and others they had raised \$17,000 and can now plan to provide books to another two schools in the spring. In addition to donations, they buy enough books that publishers like Scholastic give Storybook Ottawa significant discounts

Books are chosen from winners of children book awards such as Newbery and Caldecott. Pupils can choose the book they want from a sheet giving information on four books.

As a closing thought Shaun asked us to consider how much more successful a child would be in life having books of their own.

At question time, answering **Don Butler**, Shaun stressed that every child, rich or poor, in a school received a book. DG Fay Campbell thanked Shaun for the presentation saying he should be a Rotarian. She suggested that our Club might consider “adopting” one of the schools identified by Storybook Ottawa. Shaun replied that he had been a member of two Rotary clubs previously and was talking with Graham about joining West Ottawa. **Tom Belton** thought it was a great program and asked about donating. - Storybook Ottawa has charitable status and its URL is <https://storybookottawa.ca/donate>

Linda Flynn thanked Shaun and commented that basic education is a Rotary priority so there might be future opportunities for us to work more closely with Storybook Ottawa.

Birthdays: With a pitch for the WO Charitable Foundation (CCF) **Jean Begin** wished Happy Birthday to **Bill Rolph**, **Bob Harrison** and prospective member Jenn Hayward

Announcements:

President Graeme

-told us our Club is #2 in the District for donations to Polio Plus.
- we don't know how long we will be meeting only virtually but get ready for in- person meetings again. Get the booster. And donate meeting fees to Rotary or other charity while you're at it

- our black, wheeled meeting box at the St Elias Centre is being fixed by Nigel **Lever**'s team.
Thanks **Nigel**.

- let **Marcia Armstrong** know if you want tickets to the Wine Draw in April. Proceeds will help fund pollinator gardens. More info at <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfWestOttawa/>

-Cash Calendar proc 7eds and registration tickets should now be given or sent to **Caroline De Witt** or other committee member. It is hoped to start the cash draws in a few weeks and all the registrations should be in before that. Registration tickets from

unsold calendars should be marked "Unsold" and returned as well but it is not necessary to return the calendars.

Happy Dollars

Ken Murray officiated.

PDG Hadi Mortada had emerged from isolation after contact with a known covid positive and was happy not to have gotten sick.

Fred Christie will give his meeting fees for the next 3 months to Storybook Ottawa.

Larry Chop said he had ordered from <https://www.canadianshieldppe.ca/products/rapid-antigen-test-kits> to have a test kit if/when the need arose.

Pardeep Ahlwalia is going to Barbados and got a number of rapid tests from Switch Health (<https://www.switchhealth.ca/en/>) which offers lower prices for Aeroplan holders.

DG Fay was just back from her son's wedding in Cancun where she had tested negative prior to departure and tested again on arrival in Ottawa where she now must isolate for five days or until the Ottawa test results come.

Ed Balys was impressed by Shaun's presentation. He will give books to his grandchildren and will urge Club generosity to Storybook Ottawa. He asked how to give to Happy \$.

(For Happy \$ and other donations Click on the ["how to" guide](#))

Ron Scott told us that his son, who had spoken to us about sport management a while back, had just celebrated the birth of a child. It will be Ron's 11th grandchild.

Carolyn De Witt had been visited by daughter **Dawn**

Linda Flynn had been caught by a scam and was happy that hours on the phone with Visa and the RCMP in North Bay had resulted in the return of her money.

DG Fay could sympathise having also been caught by a scam. She had also succeeded in getting her money back from her bank.

*(If these two can be caught, it can happen to anyone. **Spinoff** would like to know some of the details, so we know what to watch out for)*

Doreen Ide had celebrated her 61st wedding anniversary. *Congrats, **Doreen***

President Graeme was happy to have finally met Shaun Hopkins. He commended the Storybook Ottawa website to us as informative and easily navigated.

Final note

President Graeme told us a little about Honoring Indigenous Peoples (HIP)

<https://honouringindigenouspeoples.com/> whose director would speak to us next meeting. Then, after urging us to keep safe, he ended the meeting.

18 January 2022 12:00 for 12:30

By Zoom

John Currie, Executive Director, Honoring Indigenous Peoples

Intro and Thanks: **Bob Harrison**

Spinoff: **Don Butler**

Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81365346181>
See **President Graeme** email for log-in details