



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA **Graeme**

Fraser, President

June 7 2022 Editor: Don Butler

PROGRAM: **Onyiye Abu** Classification Talk

President Graeme Fraser welcomed members and guests to the Rotary Club of West Ottawa meeting, our 48th of the Rotary year. He acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people and we deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place.

After an eloquent call for people to join the diminished team of editors for Spinoff, **President Graham** told us about a man hired to paint a boat. The man took a little extra time while painting to also repair a small hole which he thought not worth mentioning to the owner. This small act of kindness turned out to have significant consequences and illustrates the value of seizing opportunities to help, serve and be kind. Listen to the video. Message: make a difference

Brett Brooking ran a video of O Canada played on a piano

Guest: Roger Wilson

Presentation:

President Graeme now told us **Onyiye Abu** joined us in May last year but few of us have actually met her so this was our chance to get to know her a little better.

Onyiye took the mic and started by telling us that it felt good to have **President Graham** check with her to see if she was OK after the brief storm.

She had been a real estate agent in Nigeria and a law practice so had been doing pretty well and thought if they didn't like Canada they would just go back.. She got Canadian real estate qualifications and she now worked for Royal LePage. She had won two real estate awards in Ottawa. She volunteers. Liking service, she has always supported Rotary which led her to join us. She loves to cook and has been invited to share some of her recipes on TV. She is a member of the Nigerian Canadian Association of Ottawa (their picnic is in July. Check out NCAO on the web)

Q&A

Josh Gray: Compliments on the talk and hopes try some of **Onyiye's** cooking **Don Butler:** Which is her African language? Ibo. How did she choose Canada? She had been going to come as a student and check Canada out but ultimately came with her husband under the Federal Skilled Workers immigration program. They liked Canada and have been here 6 years now.

Theresa Jamone: Committees? She thought Community Service but had no contact yet. **Susan Diening:** Teaching Ibo to the kids? A little. The family language is mostly English. **Susan** thought it important for talking to grandparents during visits to home country. **Caroline DeWitt.** Favorite recipe? Jollof rice. Rice with tomato sauce and spices. **Pardeep Ahluwalia:** Like **Onyiye, Pardeep's** partner, Simmy, had come thinking she would go home if she didn't like it. That was 38 years ago.

Tom Belton: had shared a room with a Nigerian while at school. A wonderful experience.

Bob Harrison: Nigerian community in Ottawa? Yes. It had been very helpful in finding the Abus housing and getting them established when they first came to see if they could tolerate winter. They found that they could get used to it just like the rest of us.

Bea Osome: Welcome to Ottawa's best Rotary club. Do you have a Christian name? Ans; Full name is Onye Chukwu which means "gift of God"

Henry Akanko: reminded her of the 4-Way Test and asked for an "honest" answer to the question of which of Nigerian and Ghanaian jollof is best. We were not surprised when **Onyiye** gave the nod to Nigeria. **Pardeep** suggested a cook-off at which he would volunteer to be a taster. The debate between Nigeria and Ghana on this subject is longstanding. Football games between the two countries have been called "Jollof Derbys" and **Henry** referred us to <https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20210607-jollof-wars-who-does-west-africas-iconic-rice-dish-best> for more info. Fun stuff.

On this friendly note **President Graeme** thanked **Onyiye** for her presentation and looked forward with relish to the prospective jollof cook-off.

Birthday: on behalf of the Club and its Foundation **Ron Doll** offered birthday congratulations to **Stuart Picozzi**

Announcements

-**Larry Chop** told us about building a pollinator garden at the Rotary Home on May 28 and showed us pictures of **Marcia Armstrong** and partner Andrew, **Jen Ahde, Jean Begin** and himself at work on it.

-**Larry** is working to bring a speaker from the Rotary Home soon as many of our newer members do not know the history and purpose of the home.

- a reminder of the Mud Lake tour with **Larry** June 8 at 9 AM.

- **President Graeme** told us RC Perth is closing after 75 years which reminds us to keep recruiting. Bring a guest to a meeting. In addition to bringing in new members we have to keep them involved in our projects. Brag a bit. Tell people why our club matters. The community service committee decided to use the remaining \$8000 of its budget for donations to seven community organizations. The \$2500 raised by the 'shave-off' earlier this year will be given to Rideauwood in memory of **Jen Ahde's** brother

- on June 2 **President Graeme** and **Lynne** and a number of other Club members with family attended the lighting of the beacon at City Hall for the Queen's jubilee. It was a great event organized and MC-ed by DGND Theresa Whitmore (RC Orleans). One of the highlights was

Garth Hampson, “one of our own”, singing O Canada and God save the Queen. - Paul Harris pin +3 for **Bob Harrison**. Congrats **Bob**

- If you’d like to have a go at writing Spinoff, you’d be welcome. Contact **Don Butler**

Happy \$

-**Bea Osome’s** church is providing meals and other support to members of Samaritans Purse (interesting outfit. See:<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/media/fact-sheet-samaritans-purse/>) from the US in Ottawa to help clean up after the storm.

- **Pardeep Ahluwalia** Happy that he and Simmy had recovered easily from Covid and had returned from their road trip to find no damage from the storm.

- **Jean Begin** Sad to report that Myrna Hay, recipient of 2021 Ruth Martin award, has passed away

- **Caroline DeWitt** Happy that storm damage to her house minor and soon repaired. Also reported that Garth Hampson had told her thar RCWO had been known as the “Singing Club” and that he looked forward to singing with us again.

-**Denzil Feinberg** thought our Club should do something nice for Garth Hampson perhaps involving the songs of Tom Lehrer which Garth likes. He was grateful for all the compliments given to partner June for which, in appreciation, he would give \$100 to the Red Cross for Ukraine relief.

- **Rich Fisher** volunteered to do ‘Spinoff next meeting (Ed note: thanks **Rich**)

Closing

President Graeme said it was good to actually see **Bea Osome** on Zoom rather than hear her over someone’s phone. He and **Pardeep** gave an overview of the next meeting, **Pardeep** adding that the Healing Forest initiative was part of the reconciliation work with Indigenous communities.

Meeting adjourned

Cash Calendar winners

<http://www.ottawarotarycalendar.com/2022-winners.html>

14 June 2022 12:00 for 12:30

Zoom meeting

Peter Croal, P. Geol, Environmental Consultant
“Healing Forests in Canada”

(see <https://www.nationalhealingforests.com>)

Introduced and Thanked: **Pardeep Ahluwalia**

Spinoff: **Rich Fisher**

Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81365346181>

See **President Graeme** email for log-in details