



Spinoff
ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Marcia Armstrong, President
Meeting September 26 2023
Reporter: Don Butler

This meeting was hybrid

Program: **Emilie Gendron** – Classification talk

Meeting Video <https://youtu.be/AOpRt8EEfsY>

Meeting enablers:

- Communication links **Brett Brooking**; Payments **Dave Morton**; Attendance **Mary Wattie** and **John Kersley**
- Per Duty Roster-
Greeters: **Don Butler and Fred Christie**
Set up: **Bruce Fry. PP Draw - Bob Harrison**

Meeting opens:

President Marcia Armstrong started this 13th meeting of the Rotary year with her reminder that we gather on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people who have lived on this land with respect and reciprocity for millennia.

She reminded us that September 30th *Truth and Reconciliation Day* 4 days later would be the public commemoration of that part of our history which is a vital component of the reconciliation process. The orange shirt worn on Sept 30 had been chosen by the indigenous peoples to underline the message that Every Child Matters.

The O Canada video this time featured a female soloist with orchestral backing.

Guests: none today

President Marcia then handed out perfect attendance pins to **Lynne Fraser, Graeme Fraser, Brett Brooking, Fred Christie, Susan Diening, Linda Flynn,**

Rod Holmes, John Kersley, Gord Leverton, Jim Maxwell, Ken Murray, and Roger Wilson. DG Pardeep Ahluwalia also had perfect attendance but was not available to receive a pin. Recipient attendance ranged from one year to 40 years by **Rod Holmes**. Congrats **Rod**.

Also, **Linda Flynn** and **Ron Scott** received long service pins for 27 years of Rotary service and later **Chris Wanna** for 25 years. A long service pin had been presented to Jon Kersley a week before and others had been presented at Awards Night

Presentation

Introducing **Emilie Gendron**, **President Marcia** noted how much **Emilie** had already participated in Club activities and passed the mic to her to tell us about herself.

Emilie gave a well organized talk accompanied with a slide presentation which is sent with this report. She laced it with humour and interesting insights into growing up in small-town Ontario. Your reporter thoroughly enjoyed it.

She is the daughter of anglophone mother and francophone father. She grew up in Verner, Ontario about 70km east of Sudbury. She had been keen collector of dolls and was interested in genealogy, At age 14 her father pressured her to find jobs and she had a succession of jobs most of which she disliked but which gave her a wide range of experience. In grade 12 she studied French literature and, pressed by her father, she applied for and won a large bursary to study French literature at Ottawa University. After two years she found herself tiring of French literature and was accepted into a U of O program to study common law in French.. In due course she got an internship with Arbique and Ahde where she works today. Her focus is on Wills and Estate law and on real estate. In both areas her previous interest in genealogy has proven helpful, particularly in title searches.

She has learned 3 important lessons.: a) courses of action about which she is initially nervous or scared often turn out to be courses she should follow.

b) she has found that using her imagination to make situations better rather than dwelling on the negative aspects.

c) the advice of others should be considered but taken with a grain of salt.

Q&A

-She has found her knowledge of common law in French to be a real advantage in her work. **Bruce Fry** added that Ontario had 500,000 francophones

-**Andrew Young** was reminded by **Emilie's** presentation of the movie Legally Blonde whose main character is an effective and successful female lawyer.

President Marcia endorsed this as a compliment to **Emilie** on what she had told us.

-Answering **Past President Graeme**, **Emilie** had been surprised to learn that while knowing all the answers is nice it is more important to have the mental and physical stamina to look into problems thoroughly and find the answers.

President Marcia thanked **Emilie** for her presentation and agreed with her message about not being afraid to go outside one's comfort zone.

Announcements

Ron Doll on the Soc and Rec visit to the Agriculture and Food Museum on Saturday Sept 30 had about 8 signed up and needed another 7 participants for the guide. Otherwise, it would go ahead self-guided. The lunch venue had been changed.

PP Draw. The \$25 were won by **Bruce Fry**.

President Marcia and Roger Wilson of the International Service Committee had both received emails from ShelterBox about the urgent need for emergency shelter as a result of earthquakes in Turkiye and Morocco and the floods in Libya and other disasters. **Brett Brooking** showed a picture of an SB tent set up with the accompanying equipment and ran a short video on SB and its partnership with Rotary.

PP Graeme Fraser told us that our District had more than qualified to participate in the fundraising competition for The Rotary Foundation described in **Graeme's** email of September 20.

Bob Harrison thanked the Club for the support and expressions of sympathy he had received at the death of his wife Arlene August 31 and at the funeral September 16.

Meeting ends

President Marcia thanked everyone for joining in today and adjourned

Cash Calendar winners

- <https://www.ottawarotarycalendar.com/2023-winners.html>

Next Meeting

Hybrid

Tuesday October 3, 2023

“Doors open” 12:00. Meeting proper starts @ 12:30

Program: **Jennifer Broad** – Classification talk

Intro and thanks: **Marcia Armstrong**

Spinoff: **Don Butler**

In person at St Anthony Banquet Hall

Duty Roster:

Greeters: **Barbara Hill-Holland, Larry Chop.**

Banner Set-up: **Ron Baker, Nigel Lever.**

Past President's Draw - **Doug Heyland.**

Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 813 6534 6181

See **President Marcia's** email for log-in details