



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Marcia Armstrong, President

January 9, 2024 Reporter: Ginette Thomas

Program: Gord Leverton – Classification Talk

This meeting was hybrid

Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Kq4bbxpWDQ>

Meeting enablers

Communication links: **Brett Brooking** , Payments: **Dave Morton**;
Greeters. **Gord Leverton**; No banners this week – we have to find them!

President Marcia Armstrong welcomed us to the 1st meeting of 2024, and the 26th meeting of the Rotary Year. She acknowledged that we meet on the traditional unceded lands of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation and reminded us to always be mindful of their story in the history of Canada. Let's learn about it, understand it, and then act to bring about change.

We were at the meeting: 32 members and 4 guests in-person at St Anthony's, and 26 members and 1 guest joining on Zoom. **Henry Sim**, RCWO's mystery member, made his virtual presence known from Victoria BC via a postcard that he sent to **President Marcia**.

President Marcia recognized guests: Ahmad Madhom, Past President RC of Amman Jaresh, Jordan; Tony Watkins from RC, former member Jake Maarse; Jennifer Rose, CFUW Kanata; and Kay Hogan, spouse of **Yves Lafontaine**; Ana Ideias and Robyn Oliviero, who are being inducted as members today, so guests for only a few more minutes! Welcome everyone!

We all enjoyed a lively video rendition of O Canada that demonstrated the creative use of ketchup bottles to serve as musical instruments!

Inductions:

PP Graeme Fraser introduced Ana Ideias and Robyn Oliverio as 2 new members being inducted to RCWO today. They are proposed by **Emilie Gendron** who herself became a new member just a few months ago!

Ana Ideias' classification is Real Estate, Residential Seniors; her mentor is **Mary Wattie**; and, she is assigned to the Awards Committee and the Public Affairs Webmaster Committee.

Robyn Oliverio's classification is Mortgage Brokerage; her mentor is **Larry Chop**; and she is assigned to Youth Service Committee. They are also both assigned to the New Members Committee.

They were toasted by members and guests online and in-person and warmly welcomed to RCWO. Photos available at this link: <https://rcwo.org/PhotoAlbums/2024-01-09-induction-of-robyn-oliverio-and-ana-ideias-both-proposed-by-emilie-gendron>
OR?

<https://www.facebook.com/100067116702220/posts/pfbid022mqMVik34pN89LoNvEhWeUz6vpxw5qkLakWp3JCFLkvQsicQxKQQJo28nx9XVsCAI/>

Ahmad Madhom, visiting from Jordan presented his Club Banner to **President Marcia**, The RC Amman Jaresh in Jordan, established in 1993, is in District 2452 which spans 3 continents and 9 countries: Cyprus, Georgia, Armenia, UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Sudan. When he travels, he visits as many Rotary Clubs as possible to keep that connection. His family just moved to Ottawa as his wife was appointed as Jordan's new Ambassador to Canada. He is originally from Vancouver.

Classification talk: Gord Leverton – Commercial banking:

President Marcia introduction:

Gord joined Rotary in 2001 and joined RCWO in 2020. He has quickly involved himself in the Club. He Co-chairs our Rotary Foundation Committee and arrives early at the weekly meetings so he is usually helping with the set-up. And for members who cannot be there to do their set-up duties, he offered to do it for them if they donate \$25 to our Rotary Foundation!

Background:

Gord was born in Picton Ontario, went to school there and enjoyed scouting so much in his youth, especially winter camping, that scouting became a lifelong passion. He pursued a rewarding career in banking and entertained us with his many adventures as he moved to different branches in Ontario, not only honing his skills in accounts and lending, but also connecting with the people who worked in these communities.

Career:

His first job was with the Bank of Montreal in Kingston. New staff were rotated through positions learning every task in the branch from teller to accounts. This comprehensive training gave him invaluable skills that helped shape his career. He was approached for many advancement opportunities and even switched to a position at the Royal Bank at their downtown Toronto branch. His career brought him to many communities across Ontario, and he enjoyed getting to know his new job and staying involved with scouting in these communities. But it was his transfer to the Niagara region that he described as the highlight of his career. His family spent many enjoyable years in St Catharines.

Rotary:

In 2001, **Gord** was introduced to Rotary when his manager asked staff to get involved in service clubs. He was hooked from the very first meeting! He felt like he had found his tribe, that this is where he wanted to be. He singled out 2009-2010 Rotary year, his Presidential year, as his best year in Rotary. He participated in the Rotary Leadership Institute course and then went on to be a facilitator for that course. He went to the Montreal International Convention and also volunteered at the Toronto meeting at the Friendship House. He had so much fun that year and since 2020, when he moved to Ottawa, and he is grateful for the fellowship and friendship that Rotary has brought into his life.

Conclusion:

In his own words, he had a great career. He enjoyed negotiating with the bank and the clients to find some common ground so they could lend them the money they needed for their project. That was the fun part of the job! It was never a routine job. His humour and wonderful stories shed a heartwarming insight into the life of a banker. His parting words: “hope you treat your banker a little better”!

Q&A

In answer to **Larry Chop**, his move to Ottawa in 2020 was precipitated by his wife's failing health - his son lives in Ottawa and shares with her care.

President Marcia thanked **Gord** for his inspirational talk about his passion for his career in banking and his dedication to Rotary.

Announcements

Rich Fisher, on behalf of the RCWO Foundation, offered wishes to the January birthdays to: **Ron Baker; Jean Holbert-Leighton; and Bob Harrison.**

PP Graeme Fraser asked members to vote on the 2024-2025 slate of Board Officers that was proposed in December. (See Linda Flynn message 1 December) With a show of hands, in person and online, he declared that the slate had been approved by the Club.

Past President Draw: **Ron Scott** drew the lucky ticket and newly inducted **Robyn Oliverio** was the winner of a \$25 Indigo gift certificate plus a pair of very stylish Rotary socks donated anonymously.

Happy Dollars

Gord Leverton is happy to be here today and thrilled with the birth of his 2nd grandson in December!

Jim Maxwell's son and daughter-in-law welcomed the 400th child to their home for abandoned children in Eswatini – they are grateful for Rotary's support for the apprenticeship in heavy maintenance program, skills that are direly needed.

Jake Maarse is happy with the ice and snow, but he encourages everyone to stay positive and be careful. He demonstrated safety ice picks to save yourself if you fall through the ice.

Andrew Young is very happy that Dorothy's emergency surgery to replace a heart valve was quick (she was discharged later the same day) and she is doing very well!

Denzil Feinberg is also happy for the emergency health care that he received for a serious, gaping gash in his leg which was stitched up quickly. He is recuperating nicely.

Meeting ends

Next week we will hear from the Prognosticators, an annual tradition at the beginning the year: **Rocco Disipio** will prognosticate on Real Estate; Linas Pilypaitis of BMO on Financial Investments; and **Gavin Schnobb** on Sports. Don't miss it!

President Marcia closed with: "We are finished for today. See you next week!"

Cash Calendar winners

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

Next Meeting
Hybrid
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
“Doors open” 12:00. Meeting proper starts @ 12:30

The Prognosticators: Linas Pilypaitis-finance, Rocco Disipio- real estate, Gavin Schnobb-sports
Intro & Thanks: **Larry Chop**
Spinoff: **Don Butler**

Duties
Greeters: **Sucha Mann**
Banner setup: **Linda Flynn**
Past President's Draw: **Anup Subedi**

In person: St Anthony Banquet Hall
Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81365346181> Meeting ID: 813 6534 6181