



# Spino-ff

## ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Marcia Armstrong, President  
July 2 2024 Reporter: Don Butler

**This meeting was hybrid**  
(In person Nepean Sailing Club)

Program: Dr Chris Burn – Permafrost melting and its effects

In-person: 36 members 12 guests

Online: 13 members 1 guest

**Meeting Video** <https://youtu.be/GynzddfPrk0>

**President Marcia Armstrong** welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Rotary year 2024-2025 and acknowledged we meet on the traditional lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. She called on us to honour and learn from their respect for this land.

**President Marcia** then welcomed a delegation of Brazilian Rotarians: Rodrigo Capinzaiki, Sergio & Leila Andrade, Gilberto & Viviane Xavier, Volney Delfino Da Silva accompanied by Simmy Ahluwalia from the Passport RC. She also welcomed Beryl Puddifer, RC Ottawa and our new District Governor Teresa Whitmore from RC Orleans. Bonnie Khanna was also a guest of Surinder Khanna.

**O Canada** was not available on video at that meeting so **Gaye Moffett** and guest speaker Dr Chris Burn led the meeting in singing it.

**Awards**

Two recipients had not been able to attend the Awards meeting 25 June, so they were honoured at this meeting. Awards Committee Co-Chair **Bob Harrison** described the Lloyd Loynes Award which recognizes outstanding hands-on volunteer service to the club or community and **Tom Belton** cited recipient **Miriam Fraser** for dedication as Co-Chair of the Community Service Committee and through her support of local organizations like the Caldwell Family Centre. She also contributes to the Rotary Cash Calendar Committee and supports the Montgomery Legion and Ottawa Triumph Club.

**Bob** told us about the Paul Harris Fellow Award which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing community welfare and promoting understanding among diverse groups. **Gaye Moffett** then read the citation of recipient Dr Chris Burn, a Chancellor's Professor at Carleton University and specialist in permafrost environments and climate change. His research has profoundly impacted policies affecting northern communities. His active engagement with these communities and agencies ensures that his research addresses practical concerns and benefits those directly affected by environmental change.

He has supervised numerous graduate students, launched Canada's first Master's program in Northern Studies thus helping to develop future leaders in the field.

Chris started with the honour he felt receiving an award alongside a Fraser family member, given the Arctic adventures his mentor, renowned Canadian Arctic researcher J. Ross Mackay, had told him about sharing with our late Club member **Keith Fraser** on a 1951 expedition. Fraser and Mackay had formed a strong bond working in a remote area with no maps or GPS.

Chris then shifted to climate change, focusing on its impact on permafrost in the Canadian north. He thought a line by poet Coleridge citing the "secret ministry" of ice described the role of permafrost as a foundational element for the northern environment now less stable due to rising temperatures. This instability leads to issues like landslides and road damage.

Using maps and data, Chris illustrated the warming trends in the Yukon, noting significant temperature increases and the consequent rise in maintenance costs for infrastructure. Chris's talk gave a comprehensive view of climate change's immediate and long-term impacts on the northern regions, especially the Yukon, He finished with a quotation from Shakespeare on climate change

Q&A Asked about adjusting to rising sea levels in Nova Scotia. Chris said loss of some coastal assets like a railway might be postponed but eventually it would have to be accepted

**President Marcia** thanked Chris and told him of our donation to Polio Plus to recognize his presentation

### **Banner Exchange**

**President Marcia** facilitated a banner exchange with the visiting Brazilian Rotarians. Rodrigo Capinzaiki expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality and told of the special connections made during their visit. They exchanged banners with three different clubs from Brazil and presented pins in lieu of one missing banner.

### **Announcements**

**Larry Chop** reminded members about updating their orders for Mums For Thanksgiving.

The Past Presidents' Draw saw **Stu Picozzi** walking away with a prize.

**Fred Christie** announced the July birthdays, celebrated by **Linda Roehrl, Hadi Mortada, Larry Chop, Luana Achihaei, Graeme Fraser, Chris Wanna, Clive Talbot**, and himself. **Fred** encouraged members to consider making a contribution to the West Ottawa Club Foundation in celebration of their birthdays.

On behalf of **Ron Doll**, **President Marcia** reminded everyone of the upcoming **Soc and Rec** event at the River House on July 13th.

The meeting concluded with **President Marcia** thanking everyone for attending and looking forward to seeing them next week.

**Calendar winners**

<https://rcwo.org/>

**Next Meeting - Hybrid**

**Tuesday, July 9 2024**

Nepean Sailing Club, 3259 Carling Avenue,

Luncheon at noon. Meeting at 12:30

Program: Tahseen Ali, Autism Ontario East Region

Intro and Thanks: **Lynne Fraser**

Spinoff: **Don Butler**

For log on info for Zoom see invitation

