



Spino-ff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

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Marcia Armstrong, President
September 3 2024 Editor: Don Butler

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

Program: Diana Karapetyan- participation in Adventure in Citizenship

In-person: 32 members 1 guest

Online: 18 members 2 guests

Meeting Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtbpCe03TO8_g

President Marcia Armstrong welcomed us to the meeting at the Nepean Sailing Club and acknowledged that we met on the traditional lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people who can teach us about living in harmony on the land. She recognized guest Bachir Bastien of the Ottawa RC and on-line guest Deborah Scarpelli.

O Canada video sung by a woman with instrument backing showed Canadian scenes

President Marcia then invited announcements:

Rocco Disipio called for volunteers to help with Mums for Thanksgiving delivery October 3,4 and 5. Mums delivered by West Ottawa members mean more funds for our Club programs than if partners do it. So do as many routes as you can.

Dave Morton called for people to join the West Ottawa team to enter the trivia challenge for charity at the Westboro Legion on Friday October 4. Potential winnings of \$750 for the charity of our choice. Doors open 6pm question start at 7:30. See poster.

Phil Powell Smith introduced our guest speaker, Diana Karapetyan, president of the Interact Club of Ottawa Neighbors (ICON) which our Club sponsors, Diana represented our Club in the 2024 Adventure in Citizenship program, a prestigious Rotary initiative founded in 1951 by the Rotary Club of Ottawa. Over 150 senior high school students from across Canada spent four days in Ottawa experiencing tours, lectures, discussions and social events designed to enhance their understanding and appreciation of Canadian citizenship

Presentation: Adventures in Citizenship 2024

Diana began by discussing the initial group chat that allowed participants to connect before the event, making it easier to form friendships upon arrival. Diana mentioned her role as an informal tour guide at the University of Ottawa, where she helped fellow participants navigate the campus, adding a personal touch to the formal tours.

One of the standout moments for Diana was the guest speaker John Heckbert, Executive Director of Operation Come Home. She appreciated his ability to connect with teenagers, making the presentation both informative and relatable. Another highlight was the visit to the Canadian Museum of History, where participants enthusiastically shared their knowledge, turning what Diana expected to be a routine tour into a lively exchange of ideas. A visit to a maple syrup operation in the Outaouais and a French-Canadian dinner surprised because she had had a completely different perception of French culture in Canada and she had learned a lot

Diana also described her participation in the talent show, where she performed an Armenian traditional dance. To her surprise, over 200 people joined her on stage, demonstrating the program's supportive and engaging environment. She humorously noted how another participant, whom she nicknamed "Mozart,"

because of his whistled selections from a Mozart opera, became her rival in a friendly competition to take selfies with every attendee.

The program also included group discussions on Canadian politics and citizenship, which Diana found intellectually stimulating due to the high caliber of participants. The final night featured a dance where she noted the enthusiastic participation of everyone, including fellow Rotarians.

Diana concluded by expressing her deep appreciation for the Adventure in Citizenship program, noting that it set a high standard for the environments she aspires to be part of in the future

Following Diana's presentation, **President Marcia** invited **Hugh Williams** to share his reflections as a former co-chair of the Adventure in Citizenship program at RC Ottawa. He praised Diana's presentation and reminisced about the unforgettable moments, including a fellow participant's stunning whistling.

Phil Powel Smith then thanked Diana saying her experience with Adventures in Citizenship would stay with her in life and our Club and ICON were proud she had represented us

Diana's slide presentation

<https://www.canva.com/design/DAGPtj0mx3o/aHGpICMVFjCAXV9P69n1vA/edit>.

Past President Draw: Diana drew the number and **Susan Diening** won

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Why Rotary

President Marcia invited members to share their "Rotary Why" stories—why they joined Rotary. She asked each table to choose a videographer and those at the table would take turns telling their stories for 15-20 seconds recorded by the videographer on their phones. **Theresa Jamone** would chair those online doing the same which would be recorded as part of the meeting recording. These recordings would be assembled later.

Theresa started and told us she had attended Club meetings in 2021 as a guest, learned about Literacy committee and the Dictionary for Life program

and others such as environment and women's and children's issues wanted to get involved.

Henry Akanko grew up in a Rotary household and saw first-hand the work of Rotary and followed his dad to some of the Rotary events and projects. At university he joined Rotaract and joined West Ottawa 11 years ago as this Club worked for him. In Rotary he can do 2 things that are dear to him: support initiatives within the community and contribute globally through the work that we do with a common vision about improving humanity. Every meeting he gets to be with like-minded people.

Rod Holmes told us that the pastor of his church brought him into our Club in 1961 probably because the Club needed a piano player.

Bachir Bastien joined a Rotary club in Taiwan in 2020 to give back. He had been there 12 years and had received much support. A friend had suggested Rotary and he realized he did not have to become rich to give something for that support. We give three things when we give to society- time, energy and money. He had time and energy and could give those through Rotary.

Doug Rowlands told us he had been active in youth sports and the Red Cross and had been guest Kiwanis meetings so had some experience and knowledge of social service. Posted to Ottawa by his company he found it very different from Alberta and looked for a way to get involved in society here. A director of his company found a Rotarian with a railway background like his who helped him apply to join this Club in 1961. Posted to Vancouver he lost contact with Rotary but did not forget. Back east he rejoined Rotary first in Gananoque and then West Ottawa again in 2003

Jean-François Pinsonnault on giving us a presentation last fall learned about some of our projects and met some interesting people. He did some research and decided to join us.

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At this point **President Marcia** called for **Happy Dollars**

Larry Chop was happy at our sale of almost 5000 Mums for Thanksgiving. He called for volunteers so deliver them. Non drivers are needed as well as drivers as deliveries go better with two

Bob Harrison had visited a relative in Timmins. He has been visiting on an off for over 60 years and was struck by the growth in farming over the years

Susan Diening remarked on her PPDraw win and moved on to update us on the readiness of the Cash Calendars. She reminded us the Club Foundation Walk would be in two weeks and to get pledges from other people in addition to contributing ourselves.

Fred Christie was planning a visit to Rideau Hall but wanted to go with someone else.

Peter Fisher told of delivering Mums last year and being told by a recipient that the Rotary Home had saved their marriage. Nice things happen during Mums delivery

Graeme Fraser is going again to Action Zone training in Toronto. I.a. participants will compete to raise money for the Rotary Foundation. We will be asked for donations.

Closing:

President Marcia wrapped up the meeting with a few trivia questions related to Rotary history, She told us the meeting on September 10th would be chaired by **Jean Begin**. Meetings after Sept 10 would have to be elsewhere while the Nepean Sailing Club was closed for roof repairs. New venue would be advised

Calendar winners

<https://rcwo.org/>

Next Meeting - Hybrid

Tuesday, September 10 2024

Nepean Sailing Club, 3259 Carling Avenue,

Luncheon at noon. Meeting at 12:30

Program: Heather Norris and Adriana Johnson, Ottawa Network for Education

Intro and Thanks: **Bob Harrison**

Spinoff: **Don Butler**

For log on info for Zoom see invitation

