



ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Marcia Armstrong, President

January 21, 2025

Editor: Don Butler

This meeting was hybrid

**(In person at New Desi Zaiqa Restaurant
Carlingwood Shopping Centre)**

Program The Prognosticators for 2025: Investment, Linas Pilypaitis; Real Estate, Rocco Disipio; and Sports, Gavin Schnobb

In-person: 40 members 6 guests

Online: 21 members, 4 guests

Opening

President Marcia Armstrong opened the 27th meeting of the 120th Rotary Year by welcoming members and guests,. She acknowledged the Algonquin Anishinaabe territory and shared updates from the recent board meeting, including the creation of a \$5,000 Emergency Contingency Fund and the finalization of the peace pole installation at All Saints Anglican Church for September 21, 2025 (World Peace Day).

Members were reminded to mark May 3 for the club's second mental health event and June 17 for Awards Night at the St. Elias Centre.

Board

decisions <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HqEX4mNJb9TWhByQcWI23GT8H3ss6wBY/edit?usp=sharing&oid=111879991175892666046&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Guests included Linas Pilypaitis, our speaker on investment from BMO Nesbitt Burns with colleagues Derek Ralph, Patrick Kelle and Caroline Beattie on-line; then also Yapo & Christine Bessekou from Luxembourg, and Gabriel Karkaji.

O Canada: female solo with piano and drums and video showing Canadian scenes.

Program

Larry Chop sketched the format: 10 minutes for each speaker and questions after all three. He then introduced Linas Pilypaitis, with a brief CV and noting that Linas had been a West Ottawa member before joining another club closer to home. He said speakers Rocco Disipoo and Gavin Schnobb would follow.

Investment -Linas Pilypaitis

Linas began by reviewing his 2024 predictions, highlighting strong performances in corporate earnings growth and falling interest rates, which exceeded expectations. For 2025, he predicts:

- **Interest Rates:** Three cuts each by Canada and the U.S., with Canadian rates dropping to 3.25%. He emphasized watching the 10-year U.S. Treasury rate, as exceeding 5% could signal rising inflation risks.
- **Investments:** Focus on diversified portfolios, with growth sectors like artificial intelligence and value stocks such as TD Bank and Manulife. Linas recommended discounted bonds for tax efficiency and speculated on a recovery in lithium stocks, citing Patriot Metals' new partnership with Volkswagen.

- **Risks: Concentration in the S&P 500 and geopolitical uncertainties, including potential trade wars. He urged members to avoid Canadian telecom stocks due to market saturation and low growth prospects.**

Linus suggested investment approaches for conservative, value and speculation and named a few stocks to consider of each type.

- **See <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z93PmKaBQjeI9Mjh889fzdKRTLeOmmim/view?usp=sharing>**

2. Rocco Disipio - Real Estate

Rocco reviewed 2024's 3.8% national home price increase, driven by lower interest rates and loosened mortgage rules. Key takeaways for 2025:

- **Ottawa Market: Predicted a modest 1-2% price increase, with higher activity in the second and third quarters. Interest rates for five-year mortgages could fall to 3.9-4.15%.**
- **Challenges: Affordable housing remains elusive due to high construction costs and rents. He also forecasted a decline in real estate board membership, driven by low transaction volumes and platform changes that have frustrated seasoned realtors.**
- **With a federal election campaign at home and an aggressive stance on trade from the new US administration, Canadians will be understandably nervous.**
- **Advice: Sellers should target spring and summer, while buyers may find better opportunities in winter months.**
- **See Rocco's full report sent with this.**

3. Gavin Schnobb - Sports

Gavin reviewed his predictions 2024. He was right about the NFL then and this year is predicting the Buffalo Bills to win the Super Bowl with Josh Allen as MVP.

NHL: Gavin was wrong last year but this year sees the Edmonton Oilers poised to break Canada's 32-year Stanley Cup drought, defeating the Carolina Hurricanes. He named some likely awards winners.

- **Other Highlights:**
 - **NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder, led by Canadian star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, to win the championship.**

- **Baseball: Jays disappointing and management mess-ups suggest continuation. The Los Angeles Dodgers are predicted to dominate again. World series back to favorite teams.**
- **Golf: Brooke Henderson continues to shine as a Canadian golf star.**
- **CFL RedBlacks back to respectable and watchable**
- **PWHL Montreal's Victoire to win the championship**
- **Gavin concluded with a hopeful outlook for Canada's men's soccer team, expecting strides on the international stage despite management challenges.**

See Gavin's report attached

Q&A

Buy a little bitcoin? Linas currently owns none but it is becoming an adopted standard he suggests a small exposure. No more than 5% of a portfolio.

Yield curve to get steeper or two level off at 5%. Linas: anything over 5% indicates a bond mark that inflation will return.

Bell dropped to half its value on the market. What is wrong? Linas: Bell cost-cutting late. Proceeds from sale of MLSE should have been used better.

Nvidia stock rose fast and then levelled off this year? Linas: Nvidia on his list of stocks to own. He believes upcoming earnings report will be positive and share price rise will resume

Announcements:

1. Awards and Recognitions:

- **Beryl Puddifer won the Past Presidents' Draw.**
- **Lynn Fraser received a Paul Harris +1 Award for contributions to the Rotary Foundation.**

2. Community Initiatives:

- **Peace Pole Installation: Scheduled for September 21, with funding from the International Services Committee.**

- **Mental Health Event: The second event will be held on May 3 at St. Paul University.**
- 3. Cash Calendar:
Members were reminded to submit ticket stubs before the first draw next week.**
- 4. Soc and Rec Don't forget the hike with Dave Morton Feb 16 with fellowship afterwards at the Royal Oak. See reminder sent out today for details**

<>4.

Happy Dollars:

- **Jake Maarse expressed joy over skating on the Rideau Canal and proposed a fundraising skating event for the Club foundation at Brewer Park, highlighting its Rotary-built facilities.**

Closing:

President Marcia reminded members of next week's classification talk by Wendy Piper, who will share updates on the Canada-Cuba Care Connection.

Next Meeting - Hybrid

Tuesday, January 28 2025

(In person at New Desi Zaiqa Restaurant

Luncheon at noon.

Program starts 12:30

Wendy Piper Classification talk- Canada Cuba Care

Intro TBA

Spinoff: Don Butler

For log on info for Zoom see invitation