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ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Jean Bégin, President

February 20, 2018

Editor: Joseph Redhead

PROGRAM: THE CLUB'S ASTUTE FORECASTERS: CAMERON ROSS, ROCCO DISIPIO AND CAROL BELL THOMPSON

GATHERING

The weatherman announced that spring will be here in a few weeks by offering up rain along with a temperature of about 2 degrees. But the greeting of arrivals was definitely not gloomy, as **Norm Thomas** and **Navin Parekh** greeted members and guests with warm smiles and firm handshakes. **Brian Hartley**, lover of golf, registered guests, and **Mary Wattie** ensured that all and sundry parted with their lunch payments. **Bill Morris** initially sold tickets to this week's Past Presidents Draw until **Linda Flynn** arrived to complete this duty. **Bill Morris** and **Robert Shaw-Wood**, ever present for room preparation, partnered to do the Cash Calendar Draw.

THE MEETING

As usual **President Jean** invited us to the buffet at 12:05 and, adhering to her uncanny ability to maintain a schedule, rang the bell at 12:30 thus bringing the year's 30th meeting to order. **Rod Holmes** led us in the singing of our National Anthem, and **Alan Bowles** was called upon for the second time in two meetings to provide the invocation. **Alan** used the occasion let us know that a prominent Canadian newspaper had only days previously published an article about the important work that Rotarians were doing in respect to the effort to eradicate polio. Our collective Amens followed.

Brian Hartley introduced two guests, namely Peter Gilman, an honoured life member of the Club, and Bach Dang, a guest of **Sucha Mann**. **Rod Holmes** played our Welcome Song and we serenaded our guests. Immediately after, **Linda Flynn** conducted the Past Presidents' Draw, with the \$25 prize going to **Clive Talbot**.

The Induction of Brian Foster followed, with **President Jean**, **Ken Murray** and **Jim Maxwell** presiding. **Brian's** decision to join the club was the result of his meeting **Jim Maxwell** at the Friday Luncheon Discussion Club, where they are both members. **Brian's** Classification will be Research Science, considering his field of study at the PhD level was in Medicinal Chemistry, and that he served for many years as a research scientist with Health Canada and lectured in the department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the University of Ottawa. **Brian's** mentor will be **Jim** and he has been assigned to the Music for Humanity committee. **Brian**, wearing a tie in the Campbell Clan tartan, announced his lineage for all to take in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brett Brooking affirmed that the next shoe sorting will be Saturday February 24. Volunteers are invited to sign up to help.

Dave Morton read a Thank You letter from the mother of a physically challenged daughter; the club provided financial support in the sum of \$750.00.

President Jean announced that Rotary would be 113 years old on February 23rd, that **Frank Cranton** was celebrating a birthday on February 26, and that a Strategic Planning Session of the Dictionary4Life committee would be hosted by **Linda Flynn** on February 21st. She concluded her remarks by reading a letter from Alan Gregory who has a "best friend" in the person of **Keith Fraser**, who was instrumental in getting the former to join Rotary four decades ago. Alan was happy to be able to make the donation that the Club received 10 or so days ago and wished the Club and **President Jean** continued success.

THE PROGRAM

Jen Soucy provided a very brief introduction of our three speakers, as they were all club members. **Cameron Ross** would lead off on Financial Markets, **Carol Bell Thompson** would cover real estate in the Ottawa area, and **Rocco Disipio** would regale us on his views on sports teams and athletes that would have the greatest success in 2018.

Cameron focused his talk on three market zones, presenting the market groupings of North America, Europe and Asia. He sees continued synchronization of world growth without any contraction occurring in the top 45 countries. He is in agreement with many that optimism should prevail, with P/E's remaining at average levels, rising earnings in most industries, and upwards trajectory for the stock markets in the USA, Europe and Asia. He believes that the probability of deflation/recession is of the order of 10% and that we should expect growth in most markets. **Cam** sees risks for Canada because of the tax cuts introduced by the Trump Administration and its America First stance. He expects tensions to be high in the South China Sea area because of expansionist moves by China, and forecasts that India's population will exceed that of China's by a good margin in a few years. He presented graphs that show that women's participation in the economy is rising at a good clip in Japan, and that Toronto must be considered a top city for a correction in the housing market. Vancouver is considered by UBS to be the fourth most vulnerable to a housing correction.

Carol then took the podium for her real estate presentation. She noted the following: house prices have increased about 6% while condo prices are up about 3%; we are into the best sellers' market since 2011; the average time on market is about 70 days; and that there was heightened buying in December 2017 in anticipation of the new rules on buying by foreign entities coming into effect on January 1. For those wondering how real estate agents are faring financially when there are more than 3000 registered agents, **Carol** advised that many of these people are not truly actively involved in assisting clients with sales and purchases. Many will be employed in businesses that deal in real estate and secure licences as a means of staying connecting with the agent fraternity. She sees inventory increasing, but still believes that the spring will eventually be categorized as a seller's market. New entrants to the housing market will be challenged by the more restrictive mortgage rules introduced in 2017.

Rocco closed out the presentations by the Astute Forecasters. He advised that he was able to be very positive about his many pronouncements because he had consulted with knowledgeable family members and friends active in the major sports of interest, these being curling, football, soccer, baseball and basketball (of course, he did not good out on a limb in the case of cricket, and he did not cover golf or tennis).

His forecasts for hockey and curling at the Olympic level: no gold medals at the Olympics for Canada's men (Gold to Sweden) and women (Gold to US) hockey teams; and, same forecast for our curlers (female team led by Holman will win Bronze). In total, our Olympic haul will be 9 Gold, 9 Silver and 10 Bronze.

For hockey at the NHL level, Tampa Bay will win the Eastern Conference Title playing against the Pittsburgh Penguins, while Winnipeg will lose the Western Title to the San Jose Sharks. The match up resulting from these two competitions will be won by the Lightning. And, for all those really interested in holding **Rocco's** feet to the fire, these two forecasts will be mentioned – Nikita Kucherov will be awarded the Hart, Art Ross, Maurice Richard and the Top Goal Scorer trophies. John Klingberg will win the James Norris Trophy and not Eric Karlsten.

In the case of football, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers will defeat the Toronto Argos in the Grey Cup.

For the NFL, the Philadelphia Eagles will become the first team since the 2004/2005 season to repeat as Super Bowl Champions.

For basketball, **Rocco** will go with the forecast of John Majic, a master tactician who has taken many teams to provincial titles. The Toronto Raptors are expected to win the East Conference, but lose to Golden State.

For baseball, the Yankees will be World Series Champions.

And, lastly, soccer supremacy at the world level will go to Brazil, which will beat France. In Europe, Manchester City will triumph in the English Premium League, while Liverpool will prevail against Paris St. Germain. At home, Toronto FC will defeat Portland Timber, with Diego Valeri winning the MVP award.

HAPPY DOLLARS

Denzil Feinberg, collected Happy Dollars:

* **Clive Talbot** was pleased to announce that today was the 15th anniversary of his and Patricia's arrival in Canada, and that he hopes that the removal of Zuma from the Presidency of South Africa will stick.

* **Joe Parkinson** was very happy that he was selected to receive a hearing implant.

* **Keith Fraser** is pleased to have attained 59 years as a Rotarian, about two-thirds of his life. Grateful for the fellowship and opportunity to serve, he offered up a delightful poem, called *Dry Animals*:

*All animals are strictly dry.
They sober live and briefly die,
While sinful, gin-full, rum soaked men
Survive for three score years and ten.
Though some of us, who know some tricks,
Stay pickled 'til we're ninety-six!*

* **Sucha Mann** was happy that his wonderful swim partner was able to be his guest today. He considers Bach, who arrived in Canada from Vietnam as one of the "Boat People", as a font of wisdom.

* **Carol Bell Thompson** offered up Happy Dollars in honour of **Keith Fraser**, announcing to all that she would drink to **Keith's** health on any occasion to ensure that he lives for many more years.

CLOSING

With no committee meetings to announce and no other business, **President Jean** adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.

CASH CALENDAR WINNERS

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the period, February 14 - 20, 2018:

3206	\$25	Irene Ranzani, Austin, Texas, USA
0720	\$25	Randy Wilkinson, North Augusta, ON
1607	\$100	Hanna Ellacott, Kanata, ON
1457	\$25	Mark Joseph Johnston, Ottawa, ON
0461	\$50	Denae Moores, Owen Sound, ON
3398	\$25	Jenn Anne Terry, Ottawa, ON
2067	\$50	Cameron Fisher, Banff, AB

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Sue Garvey - Cornerstone Shelter update

Intro: **Larry Chop** Thanks: **Dave Morton**

Greeters: **Stuart Picozzi, Chris Wanna** Invocation: **Roy Miller** Reception: **Ken Murray**

PP Draw: **Alan Bowles** Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie** Editor: **Graeme Fraser**

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Harry Binks - Dreams Mountain Foundation

Intro: **Gaye Moffett** Thanks: **Ed Balys**

Greeters: **Ed Balys, Phil Bronsther** Invocation: **Victor Mazzola** Reception: **Mike Traub**

PP Draw: **Fred Christie** Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie** Editor: **Don Butler**

