



# Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Jean Bégin, President

June 13, 2017

Editor: Jack Troughton

Program – June 13, 2017: Peggy Taillon, President, Bruyere Foundation: The Hera Mission and adopting Devlin

## Getting Started

The usual group of friendly, talented and efficient members were on hand. We were greeted by **Sucha Mann** and **Lynda Flynn** while **Robert Shaw Wood** ensured we had lunch tickets and **Jim Maxwell** sold Past President Draw tickets.

## The Meeting

**President Jean** called the meeting to order and asked us to rise for the National Anthem with **Rod Holmes** at the keyboard. In the absence of **Deborah Wyatt**, **President Jean** said grace. **Marcia Armstrong** introduced two guests: Shawn Zahrawi, a former member who is returning to us and Dienne Rowan-Campbell, a guest of **Joe Parkinson**.

**Mary Wattie** won **Jim Maxwell's** PP Draw prize of an insulated bag which converts to a handy all-purpose bag. You may see it at the club BBQ.

Birthdays, we miss you. Happy Birthdays to **Stu Picozzi**, today, the 13th and to **Doug Heyland** on the 15th.

## General Announcements

**Linda Flynn** asked us to sign a get well card to **Adeline Mushi**. **Linda** also asked us for desserts for the BBQ- a repeat of the idea that proved to be so successful at our 60th anniversary. For the BBQ desserts **Linda** asked us to sign up either in the circulating folder or to use the link in her e-mail reminder to the volunteer page on the Club Runner site which is set up to register dessert offers. Let's do it.

Bob Harrison reminded us that tickets are on sale for our year-end awards meeting on June 27 and all tickets must be purchased before that. Next meeting, June 20, may be your last opportunity to buy tickets so mark your calendar and open your wallet; we need you there.

## President's Moment

**President Jean** brought us good news about **Blair Armstrong**: he has regained the ability to swallow which news was greeted with applause. He is expected to be at the Civic for a week or so and then to Bruyere rehab. Keep improving **Blair**. -Rotary International has announced that registration is open for the 2018 Convention in Toronto on June 23 - 27. Register at <http://www.riconvention.org/en/toronto/register>. -The deadline for contributions to the Rotary Foundation for this Rotary year is June 30th. That means that contributions must be delivered to Mary Wattie by next Tuesday, the 20th, in order for us to get credit for this Rotary year. When contributing, please specify whether it is for the Annual Fund or PolioPlus. We are having a good year; let's make our 60th special. -At the current RI Convention in Georgia, it was announced that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary have agreed to continue their joint effort to eradicate polio. The Gates foundation will, through another 3 years, match Rotary contributions 2/1 up to US\$100 million. Rotary's goal is to raise US\$50 million. "Our quiet, mighty mouse", **Joan Heyland**, has searched for and helped chose our RI scholarship candidates, served on our 60th Anniversary Planning, chaired our Membership Committee and would do just about anything asked of her. In appreciation she was presented with the President's Rose.

## The Program

**Gaye Moffett** introduced our speaker. Peggy Taillon is a former Executive Director of Ontario's Mental Health Implementation Task Force and was Vice President of the Ottawa Hospital and is now President of the Bruyere Foundation

Immediately, Peggy Taillon took us back to 2007 when, in need of a break from a high pressure job in Ottawa, she visited the Asembo Bay Women for Development on the shores of Lake Victoria in

western Kenya with a friend active in development. The Asembo Bay group tries to address the problems caused by AIDS, Malaria TB and poverty. The group, hard pressed in caring for AIDS orphans and other effectively parentless children asked for help in caring for with baby about to be born to a 14-year-old mother traumatized by a pregnancy she neither expected nor wanted and incapable of taking care of the baby. Peggy had been thinking of adopting a child work and saw this as her moment and volunteered. She and the mother met and when Devlin was 11 days old, his mother gave him up. Little did Peggy know of the pitfalls of Kenya's adoption laws. For one thing adoption by single women was prohibited. By 15 months of persistence and hard work, her case reached the court. The judge announced that he intended to deny the adoption request. Peggy made an impassioned reply that caused the judge to relent and permit the adoption thus creating a precedent in Kenya law. What a beautiful story.

The winners of the Cash Calendar draws after June 5 will be posted in a later Spinoff

(See the CTV W5 report at <http://heramission.org/index.php/news/2-canadian-woman-s-quest-to-adopt-son-help-people-of-kenya-sets-precedent>)

When the adoption went through Peggy founded Hera Mission of Canada to support the activities of the Asembo Bay women. (Hera means 'love' in the Luo language they speak there.) Today through the Hera Mission, Peggy is working to raise \$20,000 to create irrigation in Western Kenya in response to severe drought conditions.

**Joan Heyland** thanked Peggy for her incredible story and wished her well in continuing her journey with Devlin.

**President Jean** reminded us that we are Rotary Serving Humanity and not to forget to ask ourselves, of the next person we meet, "Would I like to spend more time with them?" Invite them to Rotary.

### **Tuesday, June 20, 2017**

Dr. Zul Merali, CEO, Mental Health Research, The Royal

Intro: **Jim Maxwell** Thanks: **TBA**

Greeters: **Larry Chop, Peter Fisher** Reception: **Doug Rowlands**

Payment: **The Letts Team** Grace: **Susan Dening**

PP Draw: **Nigel Lever** Editor: **Cam Ross**

### **Tuesday, June 27, 2017**

#### **Awards and Change Over Meeting**

5:30 Drinks 6:30: Call to order

Intro: **Andrew Young** Thanks: **Rocco Disipio**

Greeters: **Anup Subedi, Jeremy Klein** Reception: **Henry Akanko**

Payment: **Len Baird, Brian Hartley** Grace: **Navin Parekh**

PP Draw: Bob Harrison Editor: **Rod Holmes**