



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Jean Bégin, President

March 14, 2017

Editor: Joseph Redhead

Program March 14, 2017

Dr. John Bell, Senior Scientist, Ottawa Health Research Institute

Oncolytic viruses and immunotherapy in cancer treatment

Intro: John Ouellette, VP, Ottawa Cancer Foundation Thanks: **Merv Letts**

Gathering

More than 40 members braved falling snow to attend this 33rd meeting of this Rotary Year.

Andrew Young greeted us warmly and lunch payment was received by **Clive Talbot**. **Blair Armstrong** recorded the names of guests.

Graeme Fraser handled Past President draw duties and **Carol Bell-Thompson**, violin in tow, sold tickets for our 15th annual Music for Humanity concert.

President Jean Bégin opened the meeting on schedule and we sang the national anthem **Rod Holmes** accompanying as usual on the keyboard. Grace was said by **Cletus Peters**.

Blair Armstrong was his humorous self with his introductions of numerous guests, these being: Mr. McGregor, Mr. Sam Monsur and Mrs. Joan Hunter, all of the Rotary Club of South Ottawa; Dr John Bell, our speaker, and John Ouellette, VP of the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation; Ms. Debbie McCann, guest of **President Jean**; Ms. Nicole Fodor and Ms. Virginia Spencer; both guests of **Dirk Keenan**; and last but not least, Mr. Rami Al Saqqa, **guest of Hadi Mortada**. We serenaded them with our Welcome Song.

Past Presidents Draw

Graeme Fraser ran the draw with **Peter Fisher** being the lucky winner of a \$25 gift certificate from Tim Hortons. For those wondering how this card will be used, **Peter** will most probably spend some of his winnings on Timbits which are consumed by his tennis buddies on Sunday mornings.

Announcements

President Jean told us

- the sad news of the passing of Joyce Fraser, wife of **Keith** and mother of **Graeme** and Miriam. Members were invited to sign the condolence cards circulating amongst the tables. We would be advised about the funeral arrangements.

- **Carol Waters** had fallen down a flight of stairs while on walk-about in Australia and although she had suffered no broken bones, she aggravated an old neck injury and suffered gashes in a leg, sufficient to require sutures. She will need a neck brace and leg cast for some eight weeks. Forced to slow down from her usual quick pace, she is recovering well due to care delivered by family members, close friends and medical personnel.

- members needed to note in the circulating folders the desserts they would be donating to the 60th Anniversary dinner April 28.

-**Tom Stollman's** birthday was this week.

Joan Heyland informed us that we had received an application for a Global Grant Scholarship from a female student at Carleton U interested in a Peace Fellowship

Joan Hunter of the Rotary Club of South Ottawa announced that her club would be selling roses as Mother's Day gifts at the rate of \$40.00 per bunch.

Bill Rolph reminded us about the importance of supporting our Music for Humanity concert, a lovely evening of classical music performed by students from the University of Ottawa and the Ottawa Youth Orchestra. This concert will be held on Saturday, April 8th at the First Unitarian Congregation on Cleary Avenue.

Alan Bowles asked us to submit our nominations for the various club awards in June and reminded us that the March 31 deadline for award nominations is fast approaching.

Brett Brooking announced another shoe sorting event at Dymon in Kanata.

Program

Deviating from the usual introduction by a Club member **President Jean** invited Mr. John Ouellette of the Cancer Foundation to introduce Dr. John Bell whose work the Foundation supports.

Mr. Ouellette informed us that every two hours someone in our community is diagnosed with cancer. At his question a surprising number of us raised our hands indicating we have family members or acquaintances touched by cancer. Mr. Ouellette advised us that the incidence of cancer was rising, but so too was the survival rate. The focus of the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation was to put patients and their families at the centre of care and to fund local research into improving treatment. It attracts top medical professionals to our community such as Dr. Bell whom Mr. Ouellette introduced as a world-leader in the field of oncolytic viruses which attack cancer cell and leave healthy cells unharmed. Dr. Bell is a recipient of the Order of Ottawa and many other local and national awards for his work, and has received funding from the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation which he and his team have been able to leverage to create a Centre of Excellence here in Ottawa. For more info see http://www.nce-rce.gc.ca/NetworksCentres-CentresReseaux/NCE-RCE/BioCanRx_eng.asp#about

Dr. Bell explained some of the techniques that are used to treat cancers, including use of oncolytic viruses and training the body's immune system. Immunotherapy using activated T-Cell Therapy is used in the USA to attack cancer cells, but this technology is not yet available in Canada. Dr. Bell's laboratory in Ottawa currently performs the whole suite of research, discovery of treatment products their manufacture then subsequent testing, with the cycle being continually repeated as progress is made. Dr. Bell was enthusiastically thanked by the room for his impressive presentation and answered a few questions

Carol Bell-Thompson was interested in knowing the criteria used for selecting patients for treatment. Dr. Bell replied that the number is very small and only patients with three to six months to live are given the treatment. To **Peter Fisher** on what attracted him to Ottawa, Dr. Bell gave credit to his wife. Dr. Bell's journey took him from

Hamilton, to London, to Montreal and finally Ottawa, arriving here some 25 years ago. Answering **Cameron Ross** Dr. Bell said nanotechnology in treatment is coming. On finding oncolytic viruses Dr. Bell said a centre in Texas had built a large data base of potentially useful viruses To **Sarvesh Upadhyaya's** question about humankind playing God, Dr. Bell replied that we still had to strive for cures to diseases, but that we had to be careful as the potential for bioterrorism is a real threat should some products fall into the wrong hands.

Merv Letts thanked Dr. Bell and gave him our thank you gift and informed him of our \$25 donation in his name to Rotary's Polio Eradication Campaign

Happy Dollars

Bill Morris got Happy Dollar collection going by making the first deposit, expressing glee at seeing a bald eagle in his back yard.

Cameron Ross announced that he was pleased to be the new Golf Committee Chair. He asked for volunteers and informed us committee meetings would henceforth be held at his bar where food would be provided free.

Jen Ahde was pleased to have run into a long-time friend of her mother's when she attended the District 7040 International Service Committee meeting in Cornwall on March 11.

Marcia Armstrong was happy to have visited her granddaughter in Calgary the previous week.

Meeting End

President Jean then closed the meeting, announcing that the International Service, Calendar and 2012-2016 ERA committees would hold meetings following adjournment.

60th Anniversary Dinner April 28

Don't forget to buy tickers

Cash Calendar

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the week, March 8 - 14, 2017

2954 \$25 Bruce Laur, Port Elgin, ON
782 \$20 Sharon Hurd, Regina, Sask
3158 \$50 Rod Holmes, Nepean, ON
1210 \$50 Sandra Byrne, Ottawa, ON
4112 \$25 Jonathan Heyland, Vancouver, BC

881 \$100 Marilyn Dixon, Holtwood, PA, USA

| 719 \$50 Jill Thomas, Ottawa, ON

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Club Assembly: updates from International Service and TRF Committees
also, time permitting: **Chat and Chew**

Greeters: **Ron Scott & Joe Wattie** Reception: **Tom Stollman**

Lunch Payment: **Joan Heyland & Larry Chop** Grace: **Dave Morton**

Past President's Draw: **Nigel Lever** Editor: **Don Butler**

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Christina Lubbock, elocution consultant: *Voice Matters*

Intro and Thanks: TBA

Greeters: **Hadi Mortada & Dirk Keenan** Reception: **Denzil Feinberg**

Lunch Payment: **The Letts Team** Grace: **Andrew Young**

Past President's Draw: **Bud McGinnis** Editor: **Gaye Moffett**