



# Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Jean Bégin, President

November 8, 2016

Editor: Graeme Fraser

## November 8, 2016 Program

### Ceremony of Remembrance: Veterans and other Club Members

**Speaker: Lt Col (ret'd) Dan Mackay:** *Lillian Freiman and poppies for Remembrance Day in Canada*

### Remembrance Ceremony

Remembrance Day has always been important to our Club. This meeting started, as usual, with a sombre and moving ceremony begun by veterans- Club members and guests- marching in while **Doug Heyland** on bagpipes played the lament.

The veterans: **Keith Fraser, Russ Hicks, Roy Miller, Merv Letts, Joe Parkinson** (all of the RCAF), **Frank Cranton** (RCMP), **Linas Pilypaitis** (RCN), and guests Peter Dalton, (R C Signals), Dan Mackay (Canadian Army) and Justin McNeill (RC Dental Corps).

**Keith Fraser** then recited *In Flanders Fields* followed by **President Jean Bégin's** homage to the fallen. After two minutes of silence **Merv Letts** displayed another of his many talents by performing the Last Post and the Rouse on trumpet. **Rod Holmes** led us in singing *God Save the Queen* and **Pardeep Ahluwalia** read the Ode of Remembrance followed by the Club singing *O Canada*.

### The Meeting

Of the many that it takes to run our weekly meeting noted were **Bob Harrison** and **Navin Parekh** collecting money for our lunch; **Denzil Feinberg** and **Phil Bronsther** greeting us as we entered and **Marcia Armstrong** doing double duty on reception and offering grace (Your editor apologizes for not obtaining the list of guests in attendance today.)

**Ron Scott** ran the Past President's draw for a Tim Hortons gift card which was won by an unidentified guest. Who is likely now off somewhere sipping on a medium double double and munching on a chocolate dipped donut (mmmmmm).

### Canada's 'Poppy Lady'

**Don Butler** then gave a focused and brief introduction of our speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Dan McKay (retired). Col. McKay then shared with us his fascination and reverence for Lillian Freiman and her involvement with the poppy campaigns that we see today as an annual event. We all knew of the Freiman department stores but it is safe to say that few of us knew about A.J. Freiman's wife's philanthropy and organization skills early in the 20th century earning the recognition which was so rare at that time for a Jewish woman.

When the Great War broke out, Freiman set up 30 sewing machines in her home and organized Red Cross sewing circles to send blankets and clothing to the soldiers overseas. This sewing circle would become a Disraeli Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire. In addition, she co-founded The Great War Veterans Association, which would become the Royal Canadian Legion. Later, she was the first woman to become an honorary life member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

In 1919, the Vetcraft Shops, which employed returning servicemen to make furniture and toys, was created with Freiman's influence. When John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields* became famous, many campaigns were introduced to have the poppy adopted as a symbol of remembrance and a means of raising funds for veterans. In 1921, Freiman crafted the first Canadian poppies in her living room. In 1923, the Vetcraft Shops took over the poppy making. She was a member of the National Poppy Advisory Committee and chaired Ottawa's annual poppy campaign nearly every year until her death.

Freiman was also active in leading relief efforts to cope with 1918 Spanish influenza epidemic. She helped Jewish war orphans from Ukraine immigrate to Canada. She was a founder and fund raiser for the Canadian Hadassah- a Zionist women's organization. She was active in numerous other organizations promoting the welfare of children, the handicapped, amputees and other social causes. When she died in 1940 Her funeral was attended by

the Prime Minister ,the mayor of Ottawa and a Royal Canadian Legion honour guard. In 1957, her Victorian-style mansion on Somerset Street was converted to the home of the Ottawa Army Officer's Mess.

**Dave Morton**, garbed in a jersey covered in poppies expressed the gratitude of the club for shining a light on this remarkable woman who had done so much not only for Ottawa but Canada as well and whose legacy lives on today.

### **Announcement:**

**Brett Brooking** requested volunteers for the shoe sorting event November 12th in Kanata.

### **Scottish Rotary Curling visit**

**Eric Armstrong** gave a full report on the Scottish Rotary curlers' visit to our area the previous week. These curlers appear every four years and are always a different group and our District reciprocates by sending Rotarians to Scotland two years later. **Eric's** report can be read in full on our website. **Eric** recognized the contribution of these members and partners to help make this event once again a great success:

-Accommodation hosts: **Blair** and Betty'Don **Armstrong**, **Frank** and Diana **Cranton**, **Rocco Disipio** and Anna Jasiak, **Linda** and Don **Flynn**, **Joan** and **Doug Heyland**, **Doreen** and Peter **Ide**, **Merv** and **Marilyn Letts**, **Nigel** and Mary **Lever**, **Ken** and Glenda **Murray**, **Mary** and **Joe Wattie**, and **Eric Armstrong**.

### **Cash Calendar Winners**

-Dinner party hosts: The **Ides**, **Watties** and **Armstrongs**. And to all the other hosts who contributed to the dinner parties they attended by bringing food and refreshments.

-Transportation: Driving to Vankleek Hill: the **Letts**, **Levers**, **Watties** and **Armstrongs**.

-Driving to Brockville: the **Crantons**, **Heylands**, **Letts** and **Armstrongs**

- Music: **Rod Holmes** – especially for learning and playing *The Flower of Scotland*

- Piper: **Doug Heyland**

- Curlers (RCWO ) **Len Baird**, **Ron Doll**, **Dave Morton**, **Linda Flynn**, **Frank Cranton**, **Merv Letts**,

**Rocco Disipio** and **Eric Armstrong**. RCWO alumni curlers were Brian Kelly and Steve Blondeau.

- Curling pins: **Joe** and **Mary Wattie**

- Curling ice: Courtesy of **Blair Armstrong**

- Co-Coordinator: From the RC Kemptville – Dave Pelletier

- Special thanks to: **Jean Begin** and **Fred Christie** for attending to Scottish curler Ian Stevenson who became ill while curling.

And finally to RCWO Members who gave a warm welcome to the Scottish team at our meeting last week

### **Meeting End**

As we were running late Happy Dollars would wait until next week and **President Jean** wrapped up the meeting by reminding us to watch for potential members.

Winners of the draws for the period, October 25 to November 7, 2016 will be published in a later Spinoff

### **Tuesday November 15, 2016**

The Rotary Foundation

**Ron Scott**

Greeters: **Jen Soucy & Doreen Ide** Reception: **Hadi Mortada**

Lunch Payment: **Henry Akanko & Ken Sparks** Grace: **Andrew Young**

Past President's Draw: **Alan Bowles** Editor: **Don Butler**

### **Tuesday November 22, 2016**

Doug Norris, VP of Environics Analytics: *Applying the Census information*

Intro and Thanks TBD

Greeters: **Jen Ahde & Frank Cranton** Reception: **Marcia Armstrong**

Lunch Payment: **Victor Mazzola & Brian Hartley** Grace: **Pardeep Ahluwalia**

Past President's Draw: **Joe Parkinson** Editor: **Rocco Disipio**