



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Jean Bégin, President

September 6, 2016

Editor: Cameron Ross

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Lorraine Bentley, Option Bytown: *27 years of building community*

The club met on yet another sunny day this summer. Members were met by **Dave Morton** and **Marilyn Letts** as they entered the main hall at St. Elias. **Joe Redhead** and **Bill Rolph** collected payment and distributed lunch tickets for the bowl. Everyone collected their steak stir-fry lunch and found seats quickly, especially those with Spinoff duties. Someone commented that the Spinoffs have seemed more flavourful recently, and I noted that as maybe a good thing.

Cletus Peters took the names of our visitors, of which there were quite a few. One was quite noticeable in her brightly decorated Rotary exchange-student jacket. Anna Strasser and her friend, Rana Bozkir were guests of **Gaye Moffett**. **Gaye** and Anna previously met while Anna was part of a Rotary student exchange from Austria. She was kind enough to speak at the podium about the benefits of Rotary exchange. There were four other guests in attendance, including our guest speaker Lorraine Bentley.

After singing the anthem and our welcome song, **Carol Bell Thompson** gave grace. **Graeme Fraser** had sold PP Draw tickets and then read out the winning numbers. Half of the crowd stopped looking for their ticket when **Bob Harrison** stood up to collect his restaurant gift cards.

A lineup of speakers collected in front of the flags and banners. In honour of **Ron Doll's** creative Top-10 announcement, I have ranked their announcements in similar fashion:

- The best announcement was from **Ron "Doll-man"**. He highlighted the benefits of helping with the Dictionary for Life campaign in a format reminiscent of David Letterman. It is a very impactful program for the Grade 3 students it reaches many of whom have never owned a book. For volunteers: it is an easy, inexpensive, and fun way to help out our local community.
- The second best announcement, and I may be biased here, was **Ken Sparks** talking

about the upcoming Golf Tournament. It is this Thursday, September 15th and it is not too late to sign up. This is another fun and easy way to help the community. All proceeds go to help underprivileged youth initiatives. How often do you get out to just have fun with the other Rotarians?

- Coming in at number three, **Doug Heyland** announced that 5000 calendars had been finished and are available to be picked up. There were copies to see on each table, everyone at my table was very impressed by the beautiful photos of Ottawa sights.
- **Carol Waters** improved her announcement for the Mums campaign. 5300 flowers have been sold, and now attention has turned to how we deliver them. Unfortunately, Meals on Wheels is no longer partnered with the program, so we really need more delivery drivers September 29-October 1.
- Sorry, **Brett Brooking**, your announcement made the bottom of the list. Mostly because the Shoe Bank sorting date you organized has now passed and is thus less important for this newsletter. It has been well received, and I'm sure it will happen again soon. No experience necessary!

The club wishes a very happy birthday to **Eric Armstrong** and **Ali Pahlavani** this week, and a get-well-soon to **Keith Fraser** who is in the hospital for a pacemaker. **Graham Fraser** provided an update that **Keith** is doing well.

Our main speaker, Lorraine Bentley, is from Options Bytown which provides permanent housing to those needing it in downtown Ottawa. After being introduced by **Sucha Mann**, Lorraine argued that access to housing promotes inclusion in the community, and told us there are thousands of people currently in need. The organization currently maintains four multi-unit buildings and

facilitates support services and peer-support activities. Units are barrier free, ie. no abstinence or job requirements, and the rent is geared to each tenant's financial capacity. They maintain a 60/40 men-to-women ratio, and have one building that is strictly for female tenants. Lorraine told us of some of the success stories coming from the charity, and then showed a video showing testimonials to the many benefits. **Henry Akanko** thanked Lorraine and gave her the usual mementos.

The lunch agenda ran quickly today, so we were ahead of schedule for Happy Dollars collection. Luckily, since Rotarians were exceptionally happy today. All the nice weather must be helping:

- **Linas Pilypaitis** was happy to be back from 17 days of enjoying wine in Italy.
- **Jen Soucy** was happy to have her three kids back in school.
- **Don Butler** was happy at **Joe Redhead's** discovery that high school kids can get volunteer credit for helping with Mums campaign deliveries and their parents might be ready to drive them. Members should ask friends with kids in school if they are interested.
- **Carol Waters** was happy that **Suan Cross** is back.
- **Bill Morris** was happy to have caught 50 lbs of salmon while fishing in the Queen Charlotte Islands.
- **Russ Hicks** was happy that he has fought off recent health problems and will keep doing so.

- **Blair Armstrong** was happy that he is celebrating both his 59th anniversary and his son **Eric's** birthday, both on the same day.
- **Denzil Feinberg** was happy that Rotary generosity shone when he asked for help finding a wheelchair. A special thank you to **Mike Traub** for hooking him up.
- **Jim Maxwell** was happy to be back from tracking ancestors in British Columbia.
- **Alan Bowles** was happy to be back from a week at Disneyland with his grandkids.
- **Henry Akanko** was happy to be back at school and work.
- Anna, our guest, was happy to have been part of such a welcoming lunch.

The calendar committee and the chairs of committees met after the meeting adjournment. Thanks for reading.

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the week, August 30 – September 5, 2016. All winners this week are from Ontario.

2963 \$50 Nic Van Adrichem, Kemptville
1065 \$20 Margot Nicholls, Russell
2194 \$20 Sue Burt, Thornbury
4707 \$50 Duncan Campbell, Oxford Mills
4128 \$25 Jane Ebata, Stittsville
4014 \$25 Vanessa Ripley, Manotick
1005 \$200 Jane DiRaimo, Greely

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Ginette Thomas: Classification Talk

Intro: **Marilyn Letts** Thanks: **Bob St Eloi**

Lunch Payment: **Rob Shaw-Wood & Claudette Léger-Paillé** Greeters: **Joe & Mary Wattie**
Grace: **Navin Parekh** Reception: **Joe Redhead** PP Draw: **Fred Christie** Editor: **Don Butler**

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Peter Fisher: Four-Way Test winners

Intro: TBD Thanks: TBD

Lunch Payment: **Ken Sparks & Bill Morris** Greeters: **Jim Maxwell & Clive Talbot**
Grace: **Chris Martin** Reception: **Mike Traub** PP Draw: **Bob Harrison** Editor: **Rocco Disipio**