



# Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA;  
Pardeep Ahluwalia, President  
September 11, 2018 Editor: Don Butler

## PROGRAM: 'Sage' member Suren Gupta- *Working in four countries*

### Gathering

Weather was starting to remind us that autumn is near as we came into the St Elias basement room to be greeted by **Ron Doll** and **Bill Morris**. **Ron** also did the Reception job while **Keith Fraser** sold Past President Draw tickets and **Mary Wattie** handled ticket sales and attendance. **Past President Graeme Fraser**, chairing in the continued absence of **President Pardeep Ahluwalia**, opened this 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rotary Year at 12:30 with the call to sing O Canada using the now correct "in all of us" replacing "in all thy sons". Music Master **Rod Holmes** led us on the keyboard.

### The Meeting

After the anthem **Hadi Mortada** used his grace to remind us of the September Rotary Theme, "Literacy and Basic Education". 17% of the world's adults are illiterate and **Hadi** touched on Rotary measures against illiteracy and concluded with a reminder of Rotary principles. **Acting President Graeme** welcomed back **Bill Rolph** who had been absent for a while and then noted that we were seriously honoured today with a number of PDG visitors and asked **Ron Doll** to recognize our guests and visitors. They included IPDG Susan Bellor and husband Ken, PDG Bette Miller, PDG Katie Burke, PDG Edmond Lanthier and wife Susie. Also with us were Nand Tandan, guest of **Suren Gupta**, and Marcel Lacasse, guest of **Fred Sirotek**, and Bill McIntyre again. Helped by **Doug Rowlands**, **Keith Fraser**, with a characteristic witty anecdote, ran the PP Draw. **Blair Armstrong** won a multi restaurant gift card.

### Announcements

- **Joseph Redhead** told us that he was 19 runs short to complete Mums deliveries and asked for some new volunteers or if existing drivers could do additional runs.
- IPDG Susan Bellor had several things to tell us:
  - o She was looking for someone to handle Rotary Foundation matters.
  - o She had nominated a number of award winners including with us today PDG Edmond Lanthier for Service Above Self, PDG William Gray for the Donald MacRae Peace Award, PDG Katherine Burke for the TRF Meritorious Service Citation.
  - o Susan then told us about a person who had helped her through her progression from Rotary DGND to the present and also helped in other Rotary work such as translation and was today able to announce that the RI Board had approved Susie Lanthier as the 2017/18 recipient of the Excellence in Service to Humanity Award.
- **Acting President Graeme** now took the floor and added his congratulations to Susie Lanthier. He then
  - o Told **Brian Foster** he would receive a new name badge to replace the pink one
  - o Gave birthday greetings to **Ali Pahlavani** for today and **Rob Shaw-Wood** for the 13<sup>th</sup>
  - o Told us Sabrina Martin had advised she is still receiving chemo but she has a new teaching job and thanks the Club for its support.
- **Brian Foster** took the opportunity to announce that he is taking over

the Mums Warehouse job from **Doug Rowlands** and that **Caroline De Witt** would run the Mums Front Desk. Both **Brian** and **Caroline** would need help and a sign-up sheet was being circulated.

## Program

Before yielding the floor for **Gaye Moffett's** introduction of **Suren Gupta**, our 'Sage' speaker, **AP Graeme** told us that **Suren** had planned to retire from Rotary a number of years ago and he, **Graeme**, was proud that he had helped to persuade him to stay on.

**Gaye Moffett** told us that **Suren** had first joined Rotary in Montreal in 1968 and then, after trying a number of clubs, had joined West Ottawa in 2000. Then, as **Suren** was going to tell us his story, she thought it best to stop and let him do it.

**Suren Gupta** said that because he had had about 10 different careers, he could not cover them all when he spoke to the Club in 2012 so would finish the story now. After getting a MA degree in pol. sci., he started his career in journalism in India. Invited to an international conference in Tokyo in 1954, he went there and stayed on as a free-lance journalist. His writings resulted in a scholarship at a Quaker research centre near Philadelphia, after which he got a job with The New York Times. He resigned there to accept an offer as Advisor/Researcher at the Permanent Mission of India at the United Nations. In this role he was involved, among others, in India's participation in the resolution of the 1956 Suez Crisis following Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal. Canada had been instrumental in sending UN peace keepers to the Sinai as part of the resolution. **Suren** was also involved in setting up the IAEA. His work there resulted in his moving to Mumbai as Editor of Publications at India's Atomic Energy Commission. His monthly periodical, Nuclear India, received accolades from the U.S. AEC and from a Canadian nuclear publication whose editor assisted him in moving to Canada in 1966. He got a job at Bell Canada as executive speech writer, and later, as Director of Regulatory Research developing a close understanding of the USA telecoms sector. After taking an early retirement from Bell, he worked for about 10 years for NTT (Japan), first in Tokyo and later from Canada, as Senior Policy Advisor drawing

on his understanding of the USA telecoms world. He finally retired in 2003.

Responding to questions **Suren** told **Merv Letts** that he did not know the Indian general **Merv** had met while serving in Sinai with UN peace keepers. **Clive Talbot** thanked **Suren** saying he had told an "astounding story" and shown what a 'great idea' it was to have the 'Sage' member talks. **AP Graeme** thanked **Suren** again for not retiring from Rotary.

## Happy \$

**Mike Traub** was the collector this week from

- **Ken Murray** who thanked the PDGs and other guests for coming
- **Brian Foster** happy at receiving his new badge (**A.P Graeme** had temporarily misplaced it)
- **Cletus Peters** enjoyed his holiday in Newfoundland.
- **Edmond Lanthier** happy to be here with his PDG colleagues
- **Navin Parekh** not happy at losing his golf clubs in a course drainage ditch
- **Bea Osome** happy about an honour she is about to receive
- **Frank Cranton** happy that he and Diana are moved into their new home
- **Mary Wattie** was preparing for her father's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday
- **Mary Lever** and Susan Bellor had enjoyed **Navin's** golf story
- **Brett Brooking** thanked those who helped at the recent shoe sorting
- One of the non-PDG visitors was

happy to have sold his house in one day

## Close

**Acting President Graeme** reviewed next week's program with two student speakers for the 4 Way Test Awards presentations. He closed with the reminder that Rotarians should be an inspiration to others. If we meet someone who seems to hold Rotary values let us invite them to a meeting.

## Cash Calendar Winners

The winners September 12-18 are:

1444	\$50	Aaron Spaans	Nepean, ON	1439	\$50	Fred Williams	Nepean, ON
1930	\$125	Brittany Osler	Ottawa, ON	675	\$25	Jessica Sauve	Ottawa, ON
2927	\$25	Zhengbo Jiang	Ottawa, ON	492	\$20	Barbara Doherty	Ottawa, ON
1299	\$50	Sylvia & Dan Kolar	Carleton Place, ON				

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

**Peter Fisher:** 4 Way Test Award winners

Greeters: **Barry Wellar, Denzil Feinberg** Grace: **Jennifer Ahde** Reception: **Ron Doll**

PP Draw: **Ken Murray** Editor: **Graeme Fraser**

Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Mary Wattie**

**Tuesday, September 25, 2018**

No Meeting

MUMs Delivery

**Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

Peter Meek "The Modern Phenomenon of Craft Beer"

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

Greeters: **Andrew Young, Ed Balys** Grace: **Suren Gupta** Reception: **Eugen Achihaei**

PP Draw: **Fred Christie** Editor: **Roy Miller**

Ticket Sales/Attendance: **Doreen Ide**