



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Jean Bégin, President

September 13, 2016

Editor: Don Butler

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Ginette Thomas: Classification talk

Greeted by **Mary Wattie** with **Rob Shaw-Wood** and **Claudette Léger-Paillé** collecting our payments and **Cletus Peters** receiving guests and visitors and **Fred Christie** supplying Past Presidents Draw tickets, we gathered in the hall under the church for our 10th meeting of the Rotary Year. At 12:30 **President Jean** called the meeting to order and we sang O Canada, with **Rod Holmes** accompanying, and heard a thoughtful grace focussed on peace from **Navin Parekh**. **Cletus** told us Denise Wanna had been there but had to leave and then invited **Frank Cranton** to tell us about his guest. The **Crantons** had met retired police officer Lindsay Todd and his wife on a visit to New Zealand and the Todds were doing a return visit. Led by **Rod** again we sang them the Welcome Song.

President Jean told us **Rob Shaw-Wood** and **Jim Maxwell** were celebrating birthdays and we wished them happiness in song. Less happy was **President Jean's** news that **Art Saper** had resigned for personal reasons. Hope you can rejoin us some time, **Art**.

Fred Christie now had our day's speaker draw the winning number for the PP Draw Indigo gift certificate and a happy member can now add to his library. **Doug Rowlands** followed and read us a letter of appreciation from the Rotary Home for WO support making possible the extension of respite services to adults as well as to children. Changing the subject **Doug** thanked us for volunteering enough help to unload the Mums trucks Sept 29 but told us he was still looking for front desk and warehouse support at the Mums warehouse. If you have the time 29 Sept-Oct 1 please let **Doug** (or **Don Butler**) know.

Brett Brooking showed us pictures from the most recent Shoe Bank sorting session and told us about fitting a woman whose only shoes had been stolen with shoes and winter footwear. The next shoe sorting session will be October 12

Ken Sparks made a last pitch for participation in the September 15 Golf Tournament telling us there was still room.

Bob Harrison called our attention to the folder circulating to buy another ShelterBox for earthquake victims in Italy

And then it was time for **Marilyn Letts** to introduce **Ginette Thomas** for her Classification Talk.

Marilyn had met **Ginette** quite a while ago. She told us **Ginette** had had a number of positions with the federal government mostly involved with indigenous health policy. She had worked in a wide variety of places including Montreal, Yellowknife, Greenland and other international locations. She has two children and two grandchildren and is enjoying the work with Rotary particularly such things as the happy reaction she gets when delivering Mums for Thanksgiving. Right now **Ginette** is working on her PhD.

Ginette started by acknowledging and thanking the indigenous peoples on whose traditional land we were meeting. She thinks recognition of the indigenous peoples at events like this will become more customary in Canada. She had learned a lot from indigenous people over the years and was grateful for their sharing of themselves and their culture both in Canada and in gatherings with indigenous peoples in Australia, New Zealand, the USA and other countries.

Ginette's work in the field of indigenous health prompted her consciousness of the difficulty of reconciling the persistent health and social inequalities of indigenous communities with the promises of federal policies and funding initiatives. As a policy wonk, she has worked on these policies and they are just not working. She believes that the societal supports are and institutions are not there for the indigenous people. Which led her to the academic work she is doing now in researching at Carleton University the high rates of tuberculosis in the first nation and Inuit communities. She showed

us some graphs of the general downward trend in tuberculosis in Canada since the 1940s. The indigenous rates were higher than the Canadian average but the trend was downward until the 90s when, unlike in other communities, indigenous rates fluctuated up and down. Why?

Further, although Canada's national average for TB is one of the lowest in the world, the rate for indigenous communities is 10 times the national average and, for Inuit communities it is 100 times. **Ginette** is researching this because with the state of medical competence in Canada this problem should not exist. But the medical approaches are not working with these communities. Research shows a direct link worldwide between TB and poverty with risk factors such as inadequate, crowded housing or being homeless. **Ginette** wants to work on solutions to the social problems linked to TB.

A lot of hands went up for questions and comments. **Jim Maxwell** told us how drought in Swaziland had compounded the poverty with starvation adding TB- increasingly the drug resistant variety- to the already high rate of AIDS in the country. **Merv Letts** told of the high rates of TB he had seen in the low income areas while working in UAE. People were living 14 to a room. Answering a question **Ginette** speculated that the high rate of TB amongst women in poorer countries might be because women usually are care givers to the sick. To **Ed Balys Ginette** briefly described the year-long supervised treatment needed to deal with the infection. If only suppressed the disease can flare up again if the immune system is compromised. Commenting to **Don Butler** on the use of BCG to prevent TB **Ginette** noted that for a while it was used less as its effectiveness is not high but it is now coming back. **Jean Bégin** and **Merv Letts** both added that it was still used for medical personal after testing to ensure the person has not already

been infected. Further comments were contributed by **Ken Sparks** and **Jim Maxwell**.

Bill Morris collected Happy \$ only from **Denzil Feinberg** who, on behalf of himself and June Wells, donated \$100 to RCWO for Dictionaries for Life in appreciation of the timely loaned wheelchair via **Mike Traub** of Riverstone Retirement Communities.

President Jean drew our attention to the revisions to the Club policy on attendance and make-ups which had been projected on the screen. This included a list of some of the activities qualifying as make-ups such as the writing of two Spinoffs.

Doug Rowlands asked Calendar Committee members to meet for a briefing on a program developed by **Brett Brooking** to record sales.

Hadi Mortada advised that Mums could be collected for delivery from the warehouse from Thursday afternoon September 29.

Len Baird told us the West Ottawa Rotary Marathon Social Bridge is starting up again for its 2016 -17 season. Interested Rotarians and friends should contact Len at 613 224-6239

And with that and the reminders that we are Rotary Serving Humanity and that we should invite people to Rotary if we ourselves enjoy spending time with them, **President Jean** adjourned the meeting

Here are the winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the week, September 6-12, 2016. All winners this week are from Ontario.

1963 \$50 Margaret MacLellan, Kemptville
1539 \$25 Adele Lamouroux, Ottawa
3007 \$20 Kim Peters, White Lake
1664 \$50 Phil McNeely, Orléans
4505 \$25 Mike Johnston, Amherstburg
1940 \$50 Paula Tetreault, Nepean
3310 \$100 Javad Abdoli, Kanata

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Peter Fisher: Four-Way Test winners

With speakers from the Woodroffe HS Interact Club

Intro: **Jen Soucy** Thanks: **Peter Fisher**

Lunch Payment: **Ken Sparks & Bill Morris** Greeters: **Jim Maxwell & Clive Talbot**

Grace: **Chris Martin** Reception: **Mike Traub** PP Draw: **Ken Murray** Editor: **Rocco Disipio**

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Alan Bowles *Celebration of a Club member*

Intro: TBD Thanks: TBD

Lunch Payment: **Len Baird & Anup Subedi** Greeters: **Ron Scott & Bob St Eloi**

Grace: **Ron Doll** Reception: **Graeme Fraser** PP Draw: **Linda Flynn** Editor: **Ginette Thomas**