



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA

Jean Bégin, President

September 27, 2016

Editor: Ginette Thomas

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Jack Troughton *A Glimpse of the Rotary Life of Honoured Life member Russ Hicks*

Intro and thanks: **President Jean Bégin**

This 12th meeting of the Rotary year was a special one as we honoured the achievements of a member of our club for his legendary accomplishments. A large number of distinguished visitors joined us to share this momentous occasion with us.

Greeters: **Ron Scott & Bob St**

Eloi. Reception: **Graeme Fraser**. Lunch

Payment: **Len Baird & Anup Subedi**. PP

Draw: **Linda Flynn**

At 12:30 **President Jean** called the meeting to order. **Rod Holmes** guided us in the singing of the national anthem followed by **Ron Doll** who read an inspiring grace.

The introduction of the large number of guests for today's meeting was done in three parts:

- **Gaye Moffett** introduced **Russ's** family who were seated at his table: his lovely wife Eleanor; his son Charles Hicks and daughter-in-law Sheila; his stepson Bruce Beamish and wife Kate; and his stepson Brian Beamish and wife Rowena.

- **President Jean** welcomed visiting Rotarians: from RC Cornwall Sunrise Past District Governor Ariane Carrière, PDG Bette Miller with husband Dale and PDG Katie Burke; from RC Massena, NY, PDG John Murray and wife Helen, PDG Carter Montross and wife Barbara and PDG Peter Bashaw; District Treasurer PDG Edmond Lanthier from RC Hull and wife Susan; Dwight Brown from RC Kanata Sunrise; PDG Linda and James Bradley from RC Ottawa; from RC Stittsville, Carolyn Clarke, Leo Maiorino, and Jas Michalski; and PDG Bill Hodges with wife June from RC Montreal Lakeshore.

- **Graeme Fraser** then introduced the rest of the guests: Neil and Leslie Simpson, Chilliwack BC; Felix Acevedo, guest of **Victor Mazzola**; Susan

Hopkinson from RC Nepean-Kanata; ADG Fay Campbell of RC Orleans; Patrick Johnson; and Arlene Harrison, Patricia Talbot, Pat Henry and Patricia Troughton, partners of respectively **Bob, Clive, Keith** and **Jack**.

We sang our welcome to the guests in the usual West Ottawa manner with **Rod Holmes** leading us on the keyboard.

Linda Flynn asked **Russ Hicks** to pull the name for the Past Presidents' Draw. **Larry Chop** was the happy winner of the big box of chocolates.

A glimpse of the Rotary Life of Honoured Life member Russ Hicks

President Jean now introduced **Jack Troughton** to tell us about **Russ** and Rotary.

Jack's tribute to **Russ's** Rotary career evoked fond memories for all who have known him for a long time, and a sense of pride in everyone who believes in the Rotary vision.

A natural storyteller, **Jack** opened with a story illustrating **Russ's** personal drive, leadership and spirit of "community above self" of a true Rotarian. The death of a toddler 20 years ago in the Bel-Air housing project in Ottawa drew Rotary attention to the need to address the violence, drugs and crime there. Rotary paid for an apartment from which social workers could better serve the community and established Scout and Beaver groups, a playground and a Homework Club to better serve the project's youth.

Then **Russ** took the lead in winning a grant from the Rotary Foundation to pay for 48-foot trailer to use as a community centre. A Rotary Community Corps of Volunteers was formed to

deliver on projects and programs. Bel-Air became a vibrant community and over the years, the violence, drugs and crime decreased.

Russ's has served Rotary as RCWO President, District Governor and District Foundation Chair. He championed changes that helped Rotary evolve into an organization that embraces ethnic diversity and gender equality. Mary Rozenberg was inducted as the first woman member the month after **Russ** finished his term as President.

During the Cold War **Russ** served in the RCAF. He also became the first RCAF Exchange Officer with the US Navy in Florida, where he flew operational missions during the Cuban missile crisis. After the Berlin Wall fell, **Russ** backed RCWO sponsorship of new Rotary club in Erfurt in the former East Germany to help spread Rotary ideals. RCWO sent an inscribed bell along with RCWO member **Peter Paul Kraft** to the inauguration.

When the ice storm hit in 1998, causing damage and power outages in our Rotary District, **Russ** led the application which won a \$200,000 grant to mitigate the effects of the disaster.

Russ started a number of new Rotary clubs including Ottawa Stittsville; Kanata Sunrise; South Nepean; and Orleans. He also mentored these clubs as they started to grow. These efforts earned him the moniker "Mr. Rotary" and Rotary International President D.K. Lee sent a letter of commendation to **Russ**, which then District Governor Peter Bradshaw read to our Club. He is an Honoured Life Member and during his 43 years as a member

Russ's outstanding service also earned him:

- 4 Paul Harris Fellow Awards
- RCWO's Lloyd Loynes Award for Volunteer Service
- Rotary International's Avenues of Service Award
- The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service
- The Club Builder Award, and
- The District Foundation Award.

Jack ended with the story of the Rotary clock. At the 2005 Rotary Convention **Russ** saw a company promoting Rotary street clocks and thought to install one in Westboro. He got City of Ottawa permission, arranged for electricity supply and repairs and the Rotary clock on its 12-ft pedestal has become a Westboro landmark. The clock's image has been used for promotion and we hear that people meet by arrangement "at the clock".

Jack closed by asking everyone to join him in recognizing "a principled, hard-working and

dedicated Rotarian." And so we did - with a standing ovation.

Russ went to the mic and voiced a sincere thank-you for this tribute.

President Jean thanked **Jack** and read us some of the messages of congratulations to **Russ** from people unable to attend including PDG Ben Coe, PDG Arnold Lawrence, PDG Bill Gray, DG Nabil Oudeh, DGE Susan Bellor, DGN Martha Weaver

After birthday wishes to **Peter Gilman, Ermina Karabasic** and **Paul Leduc**, **President Jean** presented a bouquet of roses to **Russ's** wife Eleanor and thanked her for her invaluable support.

Announcements:

Brett Brooking encouraged everyone to pick up calendars at the back of the room, and reminded us that the next Shoe Sorting event will take place on Wednesday, October 12.

Carol Waters said that the Mums campaign was going well as the delivery day got day nearer, but that more people were still needed to help with delivery.

Susan Hopkinson of RC Nepean-Kanata asked for help to billet high school students participating in the Adventure in High Tech October 16-20. Commitment involves providing the students with breakfast and driving them to Villa Lucia. Ride-sharing can be arranged.

Eric Armstrong reminded us that the Scottish Rotary Curling team will be in Ottawa November 1, and that he needs curlers for 20 postings for the area. Contact him to help

Jim Maxwell told us he forgot 26 calendars at the last meeting and thanked **Bill Rolph** for picking them up.

Neil Simpson from Chilliwack BC presented his club banner to **President Jean**.

Bill Morris collected Happy Dollars from:

Peter Fisher showed us a plaque inscribed "Heist of the Year Award". **Warren Creighton** had given it to **Peter** in 1972 on his marriage to Edie Noble,

a lovely staff person at the Talisman Hotel (the meeting location then)

Larry Chop that no rain fell on his recent wonderful Baltic cruise.

Fred Christie because his step-daughter survived successful brain surgery.

Keith Fraser congratulated **Jim Maxwell** on joining Rotary 25 years ago.

Mary Wattie back after her trip to Vancouver and hiking in Whistler.

Linda Flynn after 3 wonderful weeks at a cottage and celebrating a special birthday with chocolates and champagne on a dock.

Susan Diening after a lunch and a visit with Julius Frank.

Russ's daughter-in-law Sheila happy to be here and to thank everyone on behalf of the whole family.

Cletus Peters recalled how, as Cletus's patient, Russ kept insisting that he join Rotary. He is happy he did, becoming, as he said, "one of the first black members" of our Club.

Ed Balys told of many years playing music at Rotary and recalled that **Russ** could play

anything on his mouth organ, as long as it was in the keys of C or G!

Leo Maiorina from the Stittsville Club thanked **Russ** for starting his club, and many more visitors stood to express their thanks and congratulations.

President Jean thanked everyone for joining us today, especially the PDGs and their spouses, and the members of the various clubs to which **Russ** had contributed. She asked that PDGs assemble after the close for a group photograph and adjourned the meeting. A Dictionary for Life Committee meeting would follow

Winners of the Cash Calendar draws for the two weeks, September 13-26, 2016

4576 \$25 Janet Wilson, Stittsville, ON

2080 \$50 George Papadopoulos, Ottawa, ON

3235 \$125 Jennie Stephenson, Ottawa, ON

1852 \$25 Pat Connor, Manotick, ON

1962 \$50 Shawn Lavigne, Pickering, ON

3339 \$50 Nicolas Barbeau, Stittsville, ON

2408 \$25 Jenny McKibbin, Kenora, ON

1563 \$20 Bette Block, Yellowhead County, AB

1577 \$50 Nora Templeton, Kemptville, ON

1828 \$25 Bob Fenwick, Oakville, ON

3758 \$50 Read Abstracts, Ottawa, ON

4893 \$25 Shawn Mason, Prescott, ON

1093 \$25 Provide Contact Information

1922 \$100 Provide Contact Information

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Iain Christie: *Future of Aerospace in Canada*

Intro: **Fred Christie** Thanks: **Victor Mazzola**

Lunch Payment: The **Letts Team** Greeters: **Toni Grande & Bill Rolph** Reception: **Jim Maxwell**

Grace: **Claudette Paillé-Léger** PP Draw: **Suren Gupta** Editor: **Jack Troughton**

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

TBD

Intro: TBD Thanks: TBD

Lunch Payment: **Suren Gupta & Brian Hartley** Greeters: **Tom Stollman & Alan Bowles**
Reception: **Fred Sirotek** Grace: **Victor Mazzola** PP Draw: **Chris Wanna** Editor: **Rod Holmes**