



Monthly Newsletter - April 2026

Your source for club events and news

In-Person Meeting with Ontario Bar Association

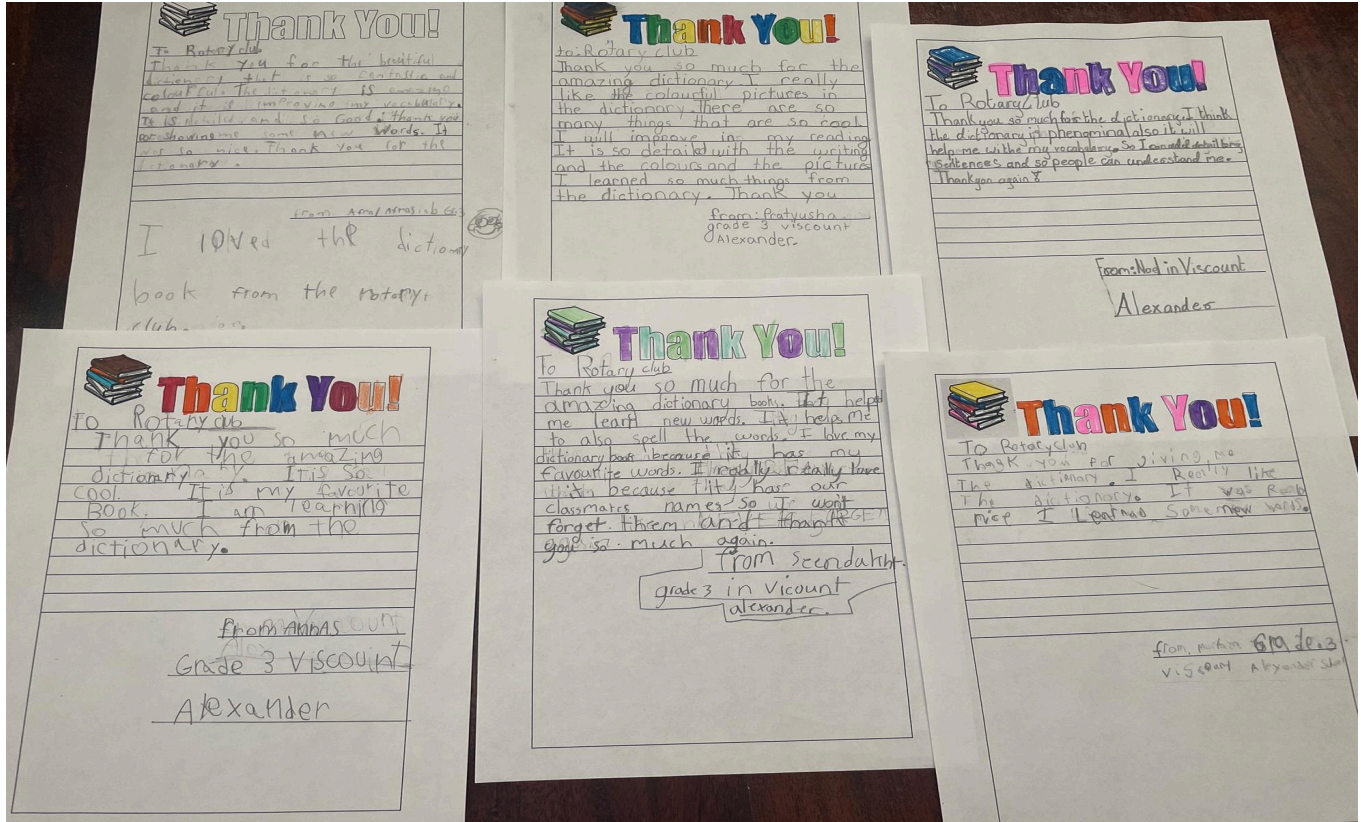
At our club's monthly in-person meeting on April 13th, we welcomed Brenda Hollingsworth, Second Vice-President of the Ontario Bar Association who gave an engaging presentation on the Rule of Law, highlighting its importance in daily life and its role in protecting democratic values and the public interest. Thank you Brenda for coming to our meeting!



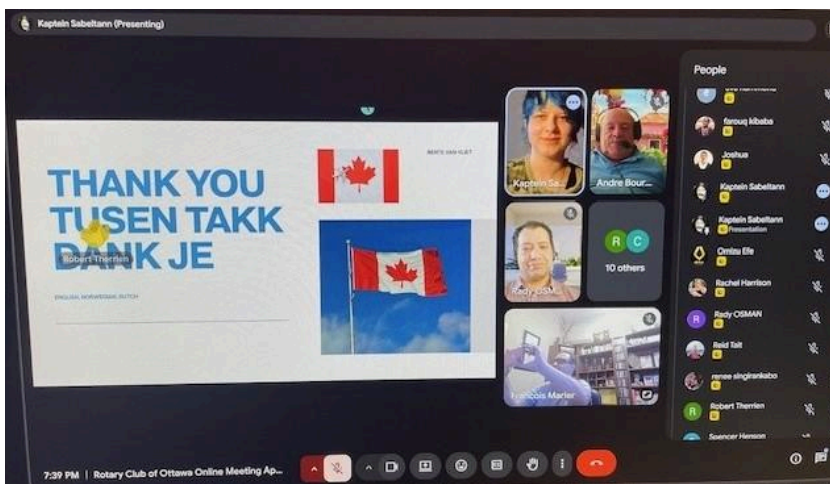
Dictionaries for Life - Thank you Letter from Students

The Community Service Committee is pleased to share the delightful thank you letters that we received from some of the students at Viscount Alexander Public School. Every year, the Rotary Club of Ottawa delivers dictionaries to third grade students at four area schools, including Viscount Alexander PS. These books are distributed under the [Dictionary4Life \(D4L\) Program](#). D4L is an international literacy project which was started by the Rotary Club of Battersea in the UK. This year, our club plans to provide approximately 120 books to students at 4 local schools. We would also like to acknowledge the leadership and support provided by the Rotary Club of West Ottawa

over the past many years. Our colleagues at the Rotary Club of West Ottawa are responsible for coordinating the purchase, transportation and distribution of the dictionaries for participating clubs from District 7040 and 7810 (Thank you!).



Online Meeting - Presentation by Bente Van Vliet, our Inbound Exchange Student



On April 27, our inbound exchange student, Bente gave us a presentation on her year in Canada so far. Bente is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Algard in Norway and arrived in Ottawa in August 2025 and will be heading back home in early June. Bente spoke about her amazing experiences, all of the people she met, her host families, the places she visited and her thoughts on Canada and Ottawa. She thanked our club for allowing her to have the best year of life and to discover alot about herself.

Fellowship - Bowling Night



On April 23, a group of club members met at Daniel O'Connell's Pub and listened to the great Irish band and then played a game of bowling at West Park Bowl. It was even Ruedy and Esmeralda's first time bowling and we were joined by Andre, the Brazilian exchange student. What a fun time!

Please join us for future club fellowship activities.

Adventure in Citizenship Corner - AIC 2026: Building on Past Success

By Faris Ouattara



As many of you know, for over 70 years, Adventure in Citizenship (AIC) has been successfully providing opportunities for more than 150 senior high school students to deepen their understanding and appreciation of Canadian citizenship.

Each year, AIC has celebrated memorable moments that define the program. Some of these key highlights continue to be integrated in the 4-day event such as the visit to the House of Commons, a fun French-Canadian cultural evening, an impressive talent show and a moving conclusion to the program with the Citizenship Ceremony.

In 2026, we are building on this strong foundation with a few new and renewed initiatives. This year, the program will feature a meal provided by a local Indigenous business, Madahoki, a return of the thought-provoking and inspiring Meet and Greet with Members of Parliament, and a creative session where students can reflect and express their learnings through art. We are also excited to have participation from youth flying in from at least one of the northern Territories.

As we prepare for the event, we sincerely want to thank the volunteers who have, are, and will dedicate their time and energy to AIC 2026. Your efforts will help continue this proud legacy and make this year another inspiring chapter for young Canadians.

Check out our newest 1 minute promotional video that was shown at the District 7040 Conference this month: <https://youtu.be/daAYA9YxPxc>

This year's Adventure in Citizenship Week is being organized by members of the Adventure in Citizenship Committee, including: Laurel, GERALYN, Margot, Sherri, Reid, John, Carina, Mari-Anne and François



Save the Date - Year-End BBQ & Club's 110th Anniversary

We are planning for our year-end BBQ to be on Saturday, June 6th at Vincent Massey Park. This is a special year as our club turns 110 years old on May 1st. Attendance will be free of charge and more details to come soon.

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REMINDER Membership Engagement - Fill out the Survey

We want to hear from you, and also help you get involved!

- [Club Survey](#) on meeting times and format. Let us know how you like club meetings, and give us your thoughts on some creative ideas.
 - Join the Fellowship Committee - we have 1 member planning to join, and would love to welcome 1 more! We meet once a month online to plan events.
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Volunteers Needed - Type 1 Diabetes Walk on June 20th

We are in need of 6-8 club members to volunteer running the BBQ at the Type 1 Diabetes Walk that raises money for research. The commitment would be from about 10:00am to 1:30pm on Saturday, June 20th at Andrew Hayden Park. Details of the walk can be found here: [Ottawa/Gatineau - Breakthrough T1D Walk](#)

Please contact Francois Marier at frmarier@rogers.com if you are interested in volunteering.

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Meet Your Fellow Club Members

In this monthly feature, we spotlight fellow Club members so you can get to know them.

John Heckbert



John Heckbert is the Executive Director at Operation Come Home, a local community agency that helps youth in the homelessness system. Throughout his career, John has worked exclusively within non-profit organizations and has been active with Ottawa-based social service organizations for the past 12 years. In that time, John has served as a staff member, a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels, a member of non-profit boards, and a public spokesperson for project step, an organization that works to prevent harms to youth from substance use.

John has two children, Johnny (12) and Lukas (10) with his wife Johanna. Originally from Toronto, John came to Ottawa in 2011 after his wife accepted a new position at Carleton University. John is also a graduate of the University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto. When not active in the community, John enjoys soccer, fishing, cycling, running, and trying to keep up with his children.

Unite for PEACE

*Inspiring Stories & Live Performances
for a Better World*

Presented by Rotary Zones 28 & 32

**Wednesday,
May 20, 2026** **Time,
7:00 pm ET**

Join us for a high-energy hour of inspiring stories, music, and a message of peace, showcasing the work of Rotary.

REGISTER NOW

Rotary **Zones 28 & 32**

Rotary **UNITE FOR GOOD**
Club de Montréal

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In order to contribute to the humanitarian crisis happening in Lebanon, the Rotary Club of Montreal is willing to **double your Paul Harris points** for every \$ you donate to this cause.

So for **250 CAD**, for example, you'll get **500 PH points**, **500 CAD** you get **1000 PH points** and you secure your PH pin.

You can visit the website unite4leb.com and choose the project you'd like to contribute to.

For donating, you can send an e-transfer to the Rotary Club of Montreal by email to rotaryclubmontreal@gmail.com with your Name, Rotary ID, Club name and ID and to which project you'd like to donate and the club will transfer the money to the chosen project in Lebanon.

You can donate directly on the website of unite4leb.com too but then you'd have to send us an email with proof of donation and the other information mentioned above.

Note that if you donate directly on the website, the money will go to LA Cedars Rotary club in USA and they will transfer the money to Lebanon. That club is a registered charity in USA but not in Canada.

Every dollar counts, let's Unite for Good and prove we are people of action, together we'll have bigger impact!

Thank you for your generosity.

P.S. If you donate to the Rotary Club of Montreal, it will be a direct donation to the club and not its welfare fund, so no tax receipts will be issued, only double of the PH points.

Rotary **PEOPLE OF ACTION**

FELLOWSHIP INTEGRITY DIVERSITY SERVICE LEADERSHIP

News from around Rotary International



[Progress report: Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia | Rotary International](#)

[Care close to home | Rotary International](#)

[So you want to end polio? | Rotary International](#)

[World Cup mania envelops Rotary | Rotary International](#)

Club Events for May

Due to the Adventure in Citizenship program happening in May, we have limited other events.

[May 11: In-Person Club Meeting](#)
12:00-1:00pm at Jack Purcell Community Centre with Ally Buck of Shelterbox Canada

Club Executive Meeting Update

The Club's Executive Board met on April 9 and discussed the following items:

- Ontario Not-for-Profit Act
- Fundraising
- Membership engagement
- Peace projects proposal
- Committee updates

Interested in Joining a Committee?

Our club has several committees and we need you, the club members to roll up your sleeves and join one to see the impact of Rotary's work. Our committees include:

1. Community Service Committee - Robert Therrien, Chair
2. International Service Committee - Ché Weist, Chair
3. New Generations Committee - André Bourdon, Chair
4. Fellowship Committee - Sherri Daly, Chair
5. Adventure in Citizenship Committee - Laurel Hubber and Geralyn Klassen, Co-chairs

We are also looking to restart a Membership Committee and a Fundraising Committee.

Let us know if you want to join any of these.

“
ROTARY AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE REDUCED POLIO CASES BY 99.9% SINCE 1988.
”

WORLD POLIO DAY
IS 24 OCTOBER [rotary.org](#) | [endpolio.org](#)

Rotary

The graphic features a yellow background with a purple border. It contains a quote about polio reduction by Rotary and its partners. At the bottom, it promotes World Polio Day on October 24th, with logos for Rotary and Polio.