
Monthly Newsletter - February 2026

Your source for club events and news

In-Person Meeting with Volunteer Ottawa



At our in-person meeting on February 9th, Jesse-Lee Wallace, Executive Director of Volunteer Ottawa came to speak to the club. Thanks to Sherri for inviting her to speak and to those who came out and your great questions for Jesse-Lee.

Her very informative talk focused on Volunteer Ottawa's mission, the challenges faced by community groups and charities, and how a club like ours can help out. It can be something simple like volunteering as a group or something more sustained like partnering with another small organization with a common goal.

For more information, club members can visit their website and search for volunteer opportunities that are constantly updated:

[Become a Volunteer - Volunteer Ottawa](#)

Melanoma Information

We'd like to again thank Steven Fine, the Rotarian from the United States who spoke at our January online meeting about melanoma. Here are links to more information that he shared with us:

Melanoma Education Foundation: <https://www.skincheck.org>

Educational Video: 31-Minute Early Self-Detection/Prevention Video: <https://bit.ly/3hipmFK>

Ottawa Food Bank Volunteering and Donation

On February 13th, members of the Rotary Club of Ottawa were proud to give back by volunteering at the Ottawa Food Bank. Our team spent the day sorting boxes of food to help ensure families in our community have access to essential meals when they need them most.

In addition to volunteering our time, we were honoured to donate \$2,000 to support the Food Bank's ongoing efforts to fight hunger across Ottawa.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and to the Ottawa Food Bank for the incredible work they do every day. Together, small actions make a big difference.





Adventure in Citizenship Corner - February Update on Plans in advance of the 75th Anniversary of AIC

By Faris Ouattara

The Adventure in Citizenship (AIC) Committee is moving into the final stretch of planning for this year's program, confirming near-full registration, core funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage and key venues for the 75th anniversary edition of [Adventure in Citizenship](#).

Call for Volunteers: Help us make the 75th our best year ever!

AIC 2026 runs from Saturday May 23 – Wednesday May 27 and volunteers are needed in a range of roles throughout the 5-day program. Club members interested in volunteering are invited to contact co-chairs Geralyn Klassen and [Laurel Hubber](#) or volunteer coordinator [Sherri Daly](#). Volunteers are needed for both daytime and evening programming.

More details to come in March as plans continue to take shape!

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Club Participation in Coldest Night of the Year Walk

Look out for a story next month about our Club walking in the annual [Coldest Night of the Year event](#) on February 28th. We are raising funds for the Ottawa Mission and to help those experiencing homelessness. Our team of 6 Rotarians will walk 5 KM that day. If you and your friends and family would like to donate to help us reach our goal of raising \$1000 for the Ottawa Mission. We are now at \$740 in donations. Donate here: <https://cnoy.w-ith.me/RotaryOttawa>

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We Want to Hear from You!

The Club's Board and the Fellowship Committee will be contacting the membership over the next few weeks. We really value your input, so please watch for:

- **Monthly Meeting Survey:** we want to know what is working and what suggestions you have about when, where and how we meet.
- **Phone Check-in:** we'll be reaching out to members who are having trouble attending and getting involved. We want to know about the challenges your face, how we can help, and ensure you are aware of upcoming opportunities.

Online Meeting - Canadian Hard of Hearing Association



On February 23, our guest speaker for our monthly online meeting was Carrie Hartwick of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association.

This was a very informative presentation on hearing loss and how common it is today, the signs of hearing loss, consequences of not getting checked, and how to go about it. Carrie told us about all of the technology now available to those with hearing loss.

The [Canadian Hard of Hearing Association](#) advocates for those with hearing loss and brings them together through various programs, including mentorships, scholarships, and providing hearing loops in stores. There is a young adult network and fostering inclusive communities for seniors. Thank you Carrie for your time.

Meet Your Fellow Club Members

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

Donald Omizu



Donald Efe Omizu is a dedicated IT professional with over 10 years of experience across information technology, security management, and frontline support services. He holds a BSc in Information Technology (UK) and an MSc in Enterprise Information Systems (UK), including other IT certifications. As General Manager of Shield Security Services, Donald oversees teams providing safety and protection across diverse environments, including homeless shelters and community facilities. His work is grounded in trauma-informed, culturally sensitive practices, reflecting a deep commitment to dignity, respect, and public service. Donald is also open to exploring new opportunities where he can leverage his IT expertise and leadership experience to make a meaningful impact.

Beyond his professional career, Donald is an active member of the club's Fellowship Committee, where he contributes to strengthening member engagement and building meaningful connections within the club. He values creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages collaboration and participation among members. Through this role, Donald supports initiatives that bring members together and strengthen the sense of community within Rotary International.



*District Conference 2026 Conférence de district
24-26 April/avril 2026
Kingston, Ontario*

See this link for information to register for the next District Conference. It promises to be a very informative conference and members are encouraged to attend.

[Welcome / Bienvenue | District 7040](#)

[Rotary Club of Ottawa Website](#)

March 23: Online Club Meeting



7:00-8:00pm we will hear from Rotarian Mark Prasuhn, the Director of the WPBS station in Ogdensburg, NY (part of District 7040). Look for a link from Maria.

News from around Rotary International



[Rotary International launches new peace center in India | Rotary International](#)

[In Lithuania, 'befrienders' ease loneliness | Rotary International](#)



March 26: Thirsty Thursday

Join our monthly fellowship get-together at 7:00pm at the Senate Tavern at 640 Bank Street

Club Executive Meeting Update

The Club's Executive Board met on February 12 and discussed the following items:

- Working Group on compliance with Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- Membership engagement - calls and survey
- Peace projects proposal
- Club's 110th anniversary in 2026
- Public relations and fundraising
- Committee updates

Club Events for March

March 9: In-Person Club Meeting

12:00-1:00pm at Jack Purcell Community Centre



March 21: Ottawa 67's Game

Members of the club are attending the Ottawa 67's game against the Kingston Frontenacs, the 67's last regular season home game.