

Monthly Newsletter - May 2026

Your source for club events and news

Rotary Club of Ottawa - 110 Years of Service

In May 2026, the Rotary Club of Ottawa proudly celebrates a major milestone: 110 years of dedicated service to our community. Since its first regular meeting at the Château Laurier in 1916, where the Club's founding members and executives laid the groundwork for its mission, the Rotary Club of Ottawa has grown into a cornerstone of service, fellowship, and impact across the capital region.



The first Executive of the Rotary Club of Ottawa, 1916.

left to right E.F. Gilmour, director
H.W. Chamberlain, director
T.E. Cledinnen, president
G.D. Kelly, vice president
G.S. May, director



1979 Easter Seal Mailing Campaign
Ballroom of the Château Laurier Hotel



1984 Easter Seal Campaign
with
Governor General & Mrs. Schreyer

I am deeply honoured to serve during this historic milestone year as President, and to support the ongoing commitment of our members in serving Ottawa and its surrounding communities. Together, we continue to advance Rotary's core areas of focus through meaningful action in Community Service, Fellowship, International Service, Youth and New Generations programs, and Adventure in Citizenship. A key focus of our service continues to be the support of women and children, both locally and globally.

This year has been especially significant as we continue to sustain and strengthen the Adventure in Citizenship program, a unique and enduring Rotary initiative that has inspired young leaders since 1951.



THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON. LOUIS ST. LAURENT, PRESENTS EACH STUDENT WITH A CERTIFICATE OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP.



As this Rotary term comes to a close on June 30, 2026, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all Board members, committee chairs, and club members. Your dedication, leadership, and service have made a lasting difference in our community. You exemplify Rotary's guiding principle of "Unite for Good", demonstrating how collective action can create meaningful and lasting impact.

Rotary uniquely empowers us to bridge communities, transform compassion into action, and turn ideas into tangible results. Together, we continue to build upon the strong foundation established by those who came before us. We embrace innovation while remaining firmly rooted in Rotary's values and principles. In doing so, we ensure that our work—locally and globally—reflects our shared commitment to a more inclusive, compassionate, and hopeful future.

It has been a privilege to support the Club this year. I look forward to remaining an active member and continuing to contribute wherever I can in the years ahead.

Rady Osman, Eng., Ph.D
President, Rotary Club of Ottawa (2025-2026)

In-Person Meeting with Shelterbox Canada



On May 11, we had the pleasure of welcoming Ally Buck of [Shelterbox Canada](#) who gave us a presentation on its work around the world. Did you know that Shelterbox Canada was founded by Rotarians to provide shelter, essential items and technical assistance to help vulnerable people displaced by disasters?

We are proud to be a Rotary Club that has made donations to Shelterbox Canada in the past.

Thank you Ally for coming to speak with us.

Adventure in Citizenship Corner - AIC 2026: Thank you to our volunteers

Our club's flagship program is taking place on May 23-27 and we'd like to thank the many club members and others who volunteered their time to make the 75th edition of this amazing program another big success. A full report will feature in the June issue of our club's newsletter.



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

Community Service Committee Project Update - Making a Difference!



Clifford Bowey Public School is a specialized school within the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) serving children aged 4 to 21 with complex physical and developmental needs. Last year, a new set of playground swings was installed at the school. This upgrade has brought immense joy to many students on a daily basis; however, approximately 30% of the student population use wheelchairs and are unable to access or enjoy the new swings. The Rotary Club of Ottawa is pleased to contribute towards the construction of a wheelchair-accessible swing which would allow students who use wheelchairs to safely experience

the joy of swinging alongside their peers, promoting inclusion, dignity and a sense of belonging.



Year-End BBQ & Club's 110th Anniversary

All club members and their families are invited to our year-end BBQ.

When: Saturday, June 6th from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Where: Vincent Massey Park

What we will do: Socialize, have a BBQ, play lawn games like bocce and croquet

What to bring: hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers with all of the condiments as well as drinks will be provided. Club members are asking to bring a side like a salad, fruit or dessert to share.

RSVP: Please contact Sherri Daly at dalybsh@gmail.com to confirm your attendance

REMINDER: Volunteers Needed - Type 1 Diabetes Walk on June 20th

We are in need of 5-6 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. Even if you can only do part of that time, please sign up. 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.

Meet Your Fellow Club Members

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

Angela Kelly



Angela Kelly has been happy to call Ottawa home since 1972 when she moved here to begin her first teaching job. Over the years, she taught French and German in many high schools and eventually ended her career in education as Principal of Lisgar Collegiate...which is where she first made contact with Rotary through the school's newly formed Interact Club.

Once she retired, Rotary provided many opportunities to continue working with young people: Adventure in Citizenship, New Generations, Operation Come Home, the Rotary exchange program and the Dictionaries for Life program. Being counsellor for eight international students brought its own rewards since the continued contact with these students and their families is still opening doors around the globe.

Having arrived in Canada as a young child of an immigrant family, she lived the immigrant experience of learning a new culture, dealing with financial insecurity, acquiring language skills and eventually going down the road to becoming a Canadian citizen. Our Rotary club's partnership with the Christ Church Cathedral community to sponsor

two families from Syria during that war has remained the most meaningful project for her.

Having come from "away" and studied abroad explains why the desire to travel, meet new people and experience new cultures has always been a large part of Angela's life. She and her husband, Patrick, have spent many happy times crisscrossing the globe. Closer to home, Angela's life-long love of music has taken many forms...concert goer, volunteer at the Jazz Festival, member of four choirs over the years, including a virtual international one during COVID, and owner of far too many records and CD's. Her favourite place is outdoors, whether on land or on the water, enjoying nature's smells, sounds, colours and peace.

Danmo Yang



After graduating from university in Montreal, Danmo moved to Ottawa in 2023. She currently works as a solutions engineer at Compugen Inc, a Canadian IT services provider. Alongside her professional career, she is also pursuing an MBA with a strong interest in leadership and community impact. Danmo is passionate about community service and has supported technology-focused charitable initiatives, including work with Computing for Humanity, helping improve digital access for medical research. Outside of work and school, she enjoys staying active at the gym and playing the violin at Parkdale Orchestra.

[Rotary Club of Ottawa Website](#)

News from around Rotary International



[Rotary to scale proven water and sanitation initiative in Haiti | Rotary International](#)

[Rotary projects around the globe May 2026 | Rotary International](#)

[A monumental club project in South Dakota | Rotary International](#)

Upcoming Club Events in June

There is no in-person meeting in June.

June 6: Year-End BBQ

11:00am-1:00pm at Vincent Massey Park

June 22: Online Club Meeting

7:00-8:00pm Outgoing President Rady Osman will do a handover to the incoming President Robert Therrien.

Club Executive Meeting Update

The Club's Executive Board met on May 14 and discussed the following items:

- Ontario Not-for-Profit Act
- Fundraising
- Membership engagement - survey results
- Member Renewals for next year
- Committee updates