

# Monthly Newsletter - September & October 2025

Your source for club events and news

## Welcome to Canada Bente

We welcomed our International Youth Exchange student, Bente Van Vliet in Ottawa on August 23rd. Bente is from Ålgård, Norway. Bente is attending Lisgar Collegiate in grade 12 and is settling to life in Ottawa. She will be hosted by three families and attended our club's meeting on September 8th where we wished her a happy birthday as she recently turned 18 years old. The Rotary Club of Ottawa is proud to continue a long tradition of sponsoring International exchange students. During Bente's year in Canada, we sent Sofia Walsh on an exchange in Flensburg, Germany.



## Club Members attend Ottawa Pride Parade

Several members of our club were part of District 7040's contingent to march in the Ottawa Pride Parade on August 24th. While we did not get to march due to the parade's cancellation, we enjoyed the fellowship and opportunity to meet other Rotarians, including District Governor Graeme Fraser.



## Basic Needs Drive for Operation Come Home



Thank you to those who volunteered on September 20th for our Basic Needs Drive with Operation Come Home. We had 8 Rotarians collect donations of both basic needs (like shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant) as well as cash from the public at the Shoppers Drug Mart in the Glebe. These donations will go to vulnerable youth who are in need and often cannot afford them. Thanks to John Heckbert, club member and Director of Operation Come Home for partnering with us.

## Learn about your Club's Committees

### International Service Committee:

The objective of the International Service Committee of the Rotary Club of Ottawa is to help people in need focusing on women and children in developing countries. Approved projects include providing education, training, clean water, and disaster relief in disadvantaged communities. The International Service Committee also partner with other Rotary clubs and organizations to ensure greater support in reaching as many people as possible. To join the International Service Committee and be part of its worthwhile efforts to help women and children in need, don't hesitate to contact its Chair, Ché Weist, at [cheweist@gmail.com](mailto:cheweist@gmail.com)



### Community Service Committee:

The Community Service Committee engages in volunteer activities, and supports local community projects, primarily in the downtown core. These projects and activities focus on women and children, in line with the Ottawa Rotary Club's priorities. In the past few years, our club has supported the following organizations by providing volunteers and/or cash donations: Ottawa Food Bank, Operation Come Home, York Street Public School, Heron Emergency Food Bank, Immigrant Women Services Ottawa, Parkdale Food Centre, Ukrainian Canadian Social Services Ottawa, Dictionaries 4 Life, Minwaashin Lodge - Oshi Kizis Indigenous Women's Shelter. The Community Service Committee is looking for members. If you are interested, please contact Robert Therrien at [robnkar@rogers.com](mailto:robnkar@rogers.com) or 343-262-8969.





### **New Generations Committee:**

The general mandate of the New Generations Committee is to encourage youth and vocational activities particularly as they relate to good citizenship, international awareness and co-operation. We are mostly involved in three areas:

- 1) Provide guidance and support the activities of the Interact Club at Colonel By Secondary School;
- 2) Provide guidance and financial support to the Rotaract Club of Ottawa (students and young professionals 18 to 30 years old);
- 3) Assist candidates in the Rotary International Youth Exchange programs including inbound, rebound and outbound students. We provide sponsorship and guidance to the selected candidates and we have responsibility in selecting and overseeing host families during the exchange year

Picture from last year of Colonel By Secondary School Interact Club and with our exchange student this year.



### **Fellowship Committee:**

The Fellowship Committee has the mandate to plan social events to promote engagement and build a sense of community amongst club members. We now also schedule speakers for meetings. This year we hope to increase participation in events by 20% and provide speakers for 50% of the in person and online meetings.

Plans and activities you can expect:

- Thirsty Thursdays - gathering at a pub @7pm on the 4th Thursday each month
- A monthly activity planned to meet members' interests, provide variety and make the most of the season. Some examples are:
  - history hike; volunteer opportunities (in conjunction with Community Service Committee) like our recent Essential Needs Drive that raised ~\$2,200 for Operation Come Home; marching in the Pride Parade
  - future plans include members hosting events like a wine & cheese in their homes

Have an idea, a speaker you can suggest? We are always open to feedback and new members ([dalybsh@gmail.com](mailto:dalybsh@gmail.com)).



### **Adventure in Citizenship Committee:**

Adventure in Citizenship is a dynamic and thought-provoking 4-day program for youth aged 16-18 which takes place at the end of May and will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year in 2026! High school students from across Canada come to the nation's capital to learn about the privileges and responsibilities associated with citizenship. The 2026 program is being co-chaired by Laurel Hubber and Geralyn Klassen and our first planning meeting is tentatively set for the end of October. If you would like to help with program planning, volunteer for specific tasks or simply know more, please



reach out to Laurel ([laurelhubber@yahoo.ca](mailto:laurelhubber@yahoo.ca)) or GERALYN ([geralyn.klassen@gmail.com](mailto:geralyn.klassen@gmail.com)) and/or check out [the webpage](#). We'd love to chat!

## Our

year computer science and mathematics student at the University of Ottawa. She first learned about Rotary through the grade-twelve scholarship program. After attending a meeting and learning about Rotary's mission, she fell in love with the community and vision. Diya says she wants to "save the world" by intersecting humanitarianism and technology.

Moreover, she loves travelling to experience diverse cultures and partake in humanitarian projects. If you give her the chance, she will read all day, dance all day, and spend the night learning everything about anything.

Diya is extremely excited for the Rotaract year ahead. She has an amazing group of individuals who are interested in serving our community, growing professionally, and learning from guest speakers. Some topics of interest include the following: 1) creating "essentials" packages for homeless shelters 2) raising awareness and money for health-oriented initiatives 3) serving our international community through collaboration and joint projects 4) supporting Rotary in their endeavours.

[Rotary Club of Ottawa Website](#)

## News from around Rotary International



Rotary projects around the globe  
September 2025 | Rotary International

Leveling the playing field for women  
| Rotary International

## Club Executive Board Meeting

The Club's Board met on September 11th and covered the following items:

- Updates from Committee Chairs
- Treasurer update
- Financial audit update
- Approval of revisions to certain bylaws to provide a financial report at mid year and year end

## Partners News



The Interact Club is for high school aged students. My name is Izza and I'm thrilled to join the Interact Club as a new executive this year! I'm looking forward to collaborating with the team to plan meaningful community service projects and fun, engaging fundraisers. One of my goals is to bring fresh ideas that make our events more inclusive and exciting for all members. I also hope to help encourage more students to get involved and make a positive impact in our school and local community.

My name is Hannah and I joined the Interact Club last year because it seemed like a good way to help out and meet new people. Two plans (from a list of many) that we have for this year are to raise money for our school's breakfast program through a bake sale or other means, and to do a clothing drive; either winter or spring clothing.

Hello, my name is Inara, and I'm a Grade 11 student and one of the executives at Colonel By's Interact Club. I joined the Interact Club because I wanted to make a positive impact on both my community and my school, while also meeting new people along the way. For this school year, we've got some exciting plans in the works, including a Halloween costume drive, participation in the Sox Box campaign to support local homeless shelters, and spreading positivity by posting encouraging notes on students' lockers. I'm excited to work with everyone to bring these ideas to life and contribute to making our school an even better place.



The Rotaract Club of Ottawa is for university students and young professionals and meets twice monthly on Sundays from 6:00-7:00pm. Check out their [Instagram](#) page. Diya is the Club President this year and a third-

- Recognition of Paul Harris Fellows, induction of new members and inviting the District Governor to the October Board meeting.

## **Club Events for September & October**



September 25: Thirsty Thursday  
Meet at 7:00pm at [Daniel O'Connell's Irish Pub](#), 1211 Wellington St. West



October 5: Fellowship Walk on Local Trail  
Meet at 10:00am at [NCC parking lot P20 on Anderson Road](#)

October 6: In-Person Club Meeting  
12:00-1:00pm at Jack Purcell Community Centre



October 23: Thirsty Thursday  
Meet at 7:00pm at [Daniel O'Connell's Irish Pub](#), 1211 Wellington St. West

October 27: Online Club Meeting  
7:00-8:00pm Look for the meeting invitation

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Our Club member, Renee, is organizing a Gala for [EmpowerEd Refugee Children](#) to help refugee children living in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda for the 2026 school year.

**Date:** November 15  
**Place:** [825 Canterbury Ave](#)  
**Time:** 6 pm to 10 pm  
**Cost:** \$50

Last year, our Club supported the Charity through the International Service Committee, and some members attended or donated to the fundraiser dinner.

If you are interested in attending the event, this is the link <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/empowered-2025-annual-gala-for-the-refugee-children>

If you have any questions, you can connect with Renee at [singira@gmail.com](mailto:singira@gmail.com)