



The  
**WHEEL**  
OFFICIAL BULLETIN of the  
ROTARY CLUB OF COBOURG



**SERVE TO  
CHANGE LIVES**

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Theme: Serve to Change Lives



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Theme: Serve to Change Lives

## Rotary Club of Cobourg Friday, 28 January, 2022

President: Roger Tessier, Secretary: Jennifer Stadtke, Introducer: Brian Read, Speaker: Dr David Asher, Bulletin: Tony Farren.

President Roger opened the meeting at 12:00 with 61 participants.



Mark Burgess played a vocal recording of O'Canada.

There were no visiting Rotarians but we were delighted to welcome a number of guests.

Deborah Burgess introduced Colleen Cairns

PP Lynda Kay brought Jennifer Darryl

Carol Farren introduced Bill Prawicki

Kim Read came with Rhonda Cunningham, Diane Saunders, Chris Rose, Wendy Curtis and Cathy Timlin.

Peter Dounoukos introduced James Spragge and Sean Graham

Suzanne Seguin was joined by hubby Gerry Brown.



**Ken Rumball:** Ken served as Engineer for the Town of Cobourg from 1958 through 1995. When he joined he was the sole engineering employee but under his leadership it grew to be able to handle most tasks in house including the water treatment plant and the two waste water treatment plants, and expanded to include roads and sewers. Needless to say that the staff grew as well. On his retirement he focused his considerable energies on Rotary, serving for many years as the treasurer of Rotary Foundation committee. He has also served and is still serving as treasurer of the Rotary Club of Cobourg Robert S Scott Charitable Trust. The trust and the role of the RSSCT is there to assist Rotary with its fundraising efforts by providing tax receipts for those portions of the donations that flow through the Trust. These funds are then directed back through the club to help the Rotary Club of Cobourg meet its charitable commitments.

**Committee Reports:** Mark Burgess was pleased that we had sold a total of 430 dinners for the Rotary Ribfest night. Our previous best was 386 dinners sold.

**Happy Bux:** PP Lynda Kay was \$25 happy that Inner Wheel President Barb Johns and RSSCT treasurer Ken Rumball presented a cheque for a sizeable donation. Thanks to Cheri and Brian Milner for making this possible.

Katherine Smith was \$25 happy that Canada has selected our Snowboarding Olympic team and they include some of the snowboarders that Katherine trained.

PP Mike Parker was \$20 happy that when it snowed last Monday all the neighbours came out together and helped each other move and clear the snow.

Speaker: Brian Read introduced Dr David Asher, a senior fellow at the conservative leaning Hudson Institute in Washington, DC, to speak on the Origins of Covid19. Dr Asher comes well qualified – he holds a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University and was a College Scholar at Cornell as an undergraduate. His work has focused on US foreign policy in Asia, economic and financial policy towards US state adversaries, strategic law enforcement and high technology development. Most recently in 2020 he served at the State Department under Mike Pompeo, advising and supporting investigations into nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. He spearheaded a task force looking into the origins of Covid 19 and the role of the Chinese government. He is neither a medical researcher nor scientist.



Much has been stated of the origins of Covid 19 – that it was a lab accident or that it was a naturally occurring virus from the wet markets in Wuhan but no definitive proof has ever been established that it was either one or the other. More than likely it was somewhere in between. The difficulty lies in what is known as gain of function research that focusses on enhancing the pathogenicity or transmissibility of potential pandemic pathogens. These look at altering the genetic makeup of pathogens to make them easier to transmit to humans by altering their spike proteins so that they will bond with receptors in the nasal passages and throats of the infected hosts. Dr Asher very properly decried the Chinese government coverup after the first few infections occurred in Wuhan but also admitted that the US government does much the same thing. Not wanting to be left out, Canada on a much smaller scale has a BSL4 lab in Winnipeg from which two pathogens were stolen and transported to China. Dr Asher suggested that we should all push for greater transparency in bioweapons research – similar to what is currently done for nuclear in order to protect all nations from future threats.

All of that is well and good but I am not sure that transparency or the lack of it is even the crucial tipping point here. I am wondering why so-called civilized nations would even council such aberrant behavior in any other nation. The only purpose of genetically modifying these pathogens is to kill human beings. If you are going to have a lab that researches infectious pathogens then ultimately something will happen that will release these into the outside world. Something to think about.

Many thanks to Brian Read for obtaining this speaker for the club and for narrating the question and answer periods. Dean Pepper graciously thanked the speaker.

**Rotary Draw:** Pucker up losers. If your name is not on the list below you have lost.

**\$50 #63** Thelma Jacobsen

**\$100 #56** John Farrell

**\$200 #27** John Rumball

**\$400 #110** Jeff Dyke

**\$2000 #134** Liz Liboiron

Next Week: Community Services budget

Thot of the Weak: This is inspired by Harriet Tubman – American abolitionist, civil war spy, nurse, suffragist, and political activist.

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember within us we have the STRENGTH, the PATIENCE, the PASSION to reach for the stars and as Rotary says “The means to change the world”. All of our little individual parts add up.”

See you all next week. Stay safe and keep your chin up.