



# The WHEEL

OFFICIAL BULLETIN of the ROTARY CLUB OF COBOURG



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rotary Club of Cobourg  
P.O. Box 882  
Cobourg, ON K9A 4S3  
Charter 997 (1921)  
Club #4638  
District 7070  
[www.cobourgrotary.ca](http://www.cobourgrotary.ca)



**Roger Tessier**  
Wellington, Ontario  
2021-2022 President  
Rotary Club of Cobourg

[www.cobourgrotary.ca](http://www.cobourgrotary.ca)  
Theme: Serve to Change Lives



**Ron Dick**  
Oshawa, Ontario  
2021-2022 District Governor  
District 7070

[www.rotary7070.org](http://www.rotary7070.org)  
Theme: Serve to Change Lives

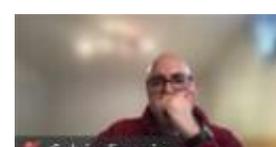
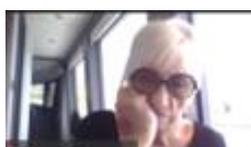


**Shekhar Mehta**  
West Bengal, India  
2021-2022 President  
Rotary International

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)  
Theme: Serve to Change Lives

## Rotary Club of Cobourg Meeting Friday March 4, 2022

There was no possible way to conceal the excitement. Every member glued to their monitor. Anticipation surrounding the announcement as to which Past President would run today's meeting had reached a palpable and perhaps unprecedented fever-pitch. What would the reaction be, when President Elect Deborah Burgess announced the identity of today's Acting President, following six days and 23 hours of almost unbearable waiting?



After O'Canada, brought to us by Rotarian Mark Burgess, Acting President, Past President Michael Parker called the weekly meeting of the [Rotary Club of Cobourg](#) to order.

- Secretary: Jennifer Stadtke
- Bulletin Editor: Bill Spencer
- Speaker: Rob Mikel



Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: Introduced by President Elect Deborah Burgess: Colleen Cairns  
by Secretary Jennifer: Peter and Virginia McLaughlin and  
Don McIntosh

by Past President Lynda Kay: Speaker Rob Mikel  
by Past President, Deputy Mayor Suzanne Seguin: Gail  
Raymond, and Town of Cobourg Councillor Emily Chorley  
By Past President Michael Parker, Braedan Stone

### **President's Report:**

Past President Michael encouraged us to read "The Rotarian" magazine. The most recent issue has a nod to late Past District Governor Bill Patchett on page 27, and the quality of the magazine has improved in recent times.

President Elect Deborah oversaw the induction of Colleen Cairns, with the assistance of Past President Michael Parker and Past President Lynda Kay.

Colleen grew up in Gatineau, and spent part of her teaching career in Toronto and Kingston.

Recently

relocated to Grafton, her interests include fitness, technical writing and dog walking. Colleen is proud that her father was a Rotarian, and she is currently writing a book, illustrated by her sister-in-law .



*Rotarian Colleen Cairns, President Elect Deborah Burgess*

Past President Michael invited Rotarian Brian Milner to tell us about his gliding interest and



accomplishments. Brian grew up in England, and joined the Air Cadets there at the age of 14. In 1964, when he came to Canada, he had over 1,000 flights in his log book, and to this date, he has flown 75,000 miles and holds a number of Canadian records. In 2012 Brian flew a distance record, from

Pennsylvania to Virginia and back twice, spending 14 hours in the air, covering 2,071 km. Also, in 2012, Brian spun into the top of a mountain in Pennsylvania, suffering a broken back. He was trapped in his glider for 6 hours, surrounded by rattlesnakes, before being rescued.

Past President (Northumberland Sunrise), Vice President (Cobourg), Peter Dounoukos, told us about his experiences at the Northumberland Sunrise Rotary Club. We learned the club was formed in 2000 and Peter was President in 2010-11. That was the year our President was Bill MacDonald. Northumberland Sunrise had 35 members when Peter was a member, and met at Dalewood Golf and Country Club Wednesday's at 07:00. Peter provided examples of valuable advice he received from Past President Michael Parker, during the year Peter was Sunrise President.

President Elect Deborah reminded us about the Arthur's Pub get togethers Wednesdays and Fridays from 17:30-19:00.



### **The Rotary Club of Cobourg Secretary Jennifer's Report**

#### **Rotary Anniversary:**

**Rotarian Dan Broome**

1 year

February 26<sup>th</sup>

## **Birthdays:**

Rotarian Martyn Homer	February 27th
Rotarian Mitch Dixon	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
Treasurer Michael McAllister	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
Rotarian Garry Liboiron	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>

## **Happy Bucks:**

Past President Suzanne Seguin was sad that she forgot to wear her Rotary pin at a recent YMCA public announcement.

Past President Morgan Hubbell was placed on notice (in absentia) by Past President Michael, that he will need to put up some happy bucks in celebration of his 62 years of practice as a Doctor of Chiropractic. He will be expected to pay even more, for the joy he gets practicing with his granddaughter, Sydney Leguard, and Rotarian Stephanie Tannahill.

Rotarian Darryl Stogryn shared his heartbreak over the suffering by his friends and colleagues who are in the theatre of the Ukraine conflict.

## **Speaker:**

Past President Peter Delanty introduced Rob Mikel, a native of Cobourg. The family home Rob grew up in was the original Cobourg Collegiate Institute, on King Street East. Rob is employed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and is also an author. He was very pleased to be invited back to speak to our Club, on the heels of his last invitation received 40 years ago.



The subject of Rob's presentation was the history of the property we know today as the recently closed Brookside School. Judge George Mackenzie Clark, a successful lawyer, local politician, staunch Conservative, and personal friend of Sir John A. Macdonald, purchased the future site of Brookside School in 1869. His wife was the daughter of William Weller. Initially this purchase totaled 180 acres, but it was immediately subdivided into smaller parcels and sold. Judge Clark retained 24 1/2 acres, upon which he eventually constructed Strathmore. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, Strathmore was recorded on site in 1878. Judge Clark subsequently sold this

property to Charles Donnelly of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1904. Strathmore became the summer residence of this wealthy American family for nearly a decade. After Mr. Donnelly died in 1906, his estate suffered severe financial setbacks and complications between the executors of the will and the



family. This eventually resulted in the property being assumed by the Trust and Guarantee Company of Pennsylvania. In 1918, the estate was sold to Stephen Haas of Toronto. Strathmore continued as a family summer residence until the early 1940s. In November of 1943, the Strathmore estate was leased to the Ontario Government and became a girl's training school. The provincial government leased the McCook and Rowe estates located at this site, and the Cobourg Training School complex gradually took form. In 1947 the Ontario Government purchased the latter two properties. In 1950, the Cobourg facilities were altered so as to provide a training school for junior boys, as the site was deemed inadequate for the girls training school program and it officially became known as the "Ontario Training School for Boys, Northumberland County" at that time. The early detainees were there more because of poor circumstances within their family homes, than due to criminal behaviour. Four years later, the training school was renamed Brookside School in an attempt to remove the stigma associated with the term "training school." In

NO GIRLZ  
ALLOWED

1968 Brookside School became part of the Correctional Services Branch of the Provincial Government.

The Brookside property has many possibilities going forward. The existing Institutional Zoning permits many uses including a medical clinic, nursing home, public place assembly use, recreation and community centre etc. Rob sees the site as a lifetime opportunity to have a “Central Park” like feature within the Town. He explored the concept of “Cultural Tourism” and its potential benefits to the Town. The current site is 32 acres, of which 7 acres are designated flood-plain. At this time, the Town Council, Architectural Society, and Historical Society are all open to suggestions from the community for ideas.



Lynn Hardy thanked Rob and offered her unreserved support for his ideas.

### **Next Week's Speaker:**

[Cecilia & Ted Nasmith](#)

The meeting will be chaired by a Past President who cannot dance.

### **Thought of the Week:**

Michael read the [Rotary International Statement on the Ukraine Conflict](#).

Meeting Adjourned by Past President Michael Parker