

President's Report

When I first became interested in joining the Executive of the Canadian Club it was with the idea that I knew that the club needed change. The clubs at OTOW are suffering significant membership loss. This is not just at OTOW either, service clubs around the world have declining memberships. Covid really did change the world, but the world was already changing. Younger generations do not want to join clubs. When they finish working, they want to relax and enjoy themselves.

My vision for the Canadian Club 2023-2024 season was to make it welcoming for all, and to have as many events as possible that were low in cost for people to come out to and to be able to enjoy some fellowship, and to have fun. Personally, I think we were successful.

Our original calendar had twenty-five (25) events lined up and that did not include the weekly Black Out games. We became known as the club that always had something going on. It was a hectic pace. I know because I was the lead on fourteen of these events. I was extremely lucky to have some amazing people helping me.

I would like to thank all the Event Coordinators that stepped up to make this year so successful. I would also like to thank all the behind-the-scenes people that helped to make this year special. Also, thank you to the Executive Committee. It was a lot of work, but the smiling faces on the people that came out and enjoyed themselves made it all worth while.

This year the club had to face many changes other than just events. In this season we dealt with the changes needed after becoming incorporated, which meant rewriting of By-Laws and facing new realities for reporting.

It is a new digital age, where clubs must be aware of their digital footprints and must be aware of security for their membership. There are new laws being put in place at the Federal and State levels to protect individuals' information. With Canadians in the club, we must also be aware of Canadian privacy laws as well. As many of you are aware OTOW is going through changes that also affects how the clubs run. It is a time of learning for all of us.

Of course, change is not easy for everyone to accept, this has led to dissension within the club, which was never my intention. To those that have asked, I will not be returning to the Canadian Club next year. Other opportunities await.

Next season is the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Club and I wish the new Executive Committee success.

Thank you all for joining me on this wild ride over the last season. I treasure the friendships that I have made and wish you all well.

