

**Dear Adventurer:**

**Congratulations on being selected as a participant in the 2009 Rotary Adventure in Citizenship. On behalf of the Rotary Club of Ottawa and our sponsors, let me say how much we look forward to meeting you and the other 219 Adventurers from all across Canada, when you arrive on SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009.**

**I am writing to you at this time to provide a few details on what you can expect.**

**PROGRAM:** We have organized a busy and exciting program for you. You will be provided with a detailed schedule when you arrive. (You can also check our website [www.rotaryottawa.com](http://www.rotaryottawa.com) for a more detailed tentative program listing). As you are aware, our goal is to send you home with a better understanding of what it means to be a Canadian citizen.

**The Adventure begins with introductions and welcome at the National Library Archives of Canada. Here you will be involved in a presentation on politics, ethics and the legal system. Then you will participate in a mock trial. After lunch, you will enjoy a Sightseeing Coach Bus Tour of the city and its many historical sites. Then, mid-afternoon, you will visit the Canadian War Museum. The first day will end in Gatineau/Hull, Quebec with a traditional French Canadian dinner at Ski Camp Fortune, with music provided by a group of Quebec fiddlers.**

**You will spend Monday morning on Parliament Hill in discussions with the Speaker and staff members of the House of Commons, you will meet with several former Members of Parliament and will tour the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings. After lunch on Parliament Hill, we have planned a special visit to the RCMP Technical and Protective Operations Facilities. Be prepared for some action on this visit. Later in the afternoon there will be a presentation by a panel of Foreign and Canadian Diplomats, followed by a question and answer period. The evening concludes with an informal dinner and “skits” presented by you and your fellow Adventurers.**

**On Tuesday morning, following a presentation on national issues by faculty members of Carleton University, you will divide into discussion groups on those subjects and report their conclusions in a plenary session. After lunch, you will enjoy an interactive presentation on “Peace and Conflict Resolution”, then participate in a “Canada Quiz” and presentation by the Rotaract Club of Ottawa (Rotary for university age youth). Then it is back to Parliament Hill for a special reception with your Members of Parliament. The day will conclude with dinner at a downtown hotel followed by a “Much Music” dance party.**

**On Wednesday morning you will be the guests at a special sitting of the Citizenship Court and will have the opportunity to personally congratulate and welcome new Canadians. After a brief period of free time for souvenir shopping, the closing**

**banquet will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This will be the time to say good bye to your host family and many new found friends.**

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:** Your sponsoring Rotary Club should very shortly, if not already, have informed you of the arrangements in place for your travel to Ottawa on **SATURDAY, MAY 2** and your return on **Wednesday May 6, 2009**. You will be met in Ottawa (at your point of arrival) by members of the Rotary Club of Ottawa (Rotary booth set up) and by your host family (who we will advise of your arrival time and method). It is essential that any last minute changes to your travel arrangements be communicated to us by phoning Margot Nicholls, Program Coordinator, at (613) 860-1521.

**ACCOMMODATION:** We hope to place all students in private homes, either of Rotarians or friends of Rotary (Host Families), throughout the Ottawa region. In all instances, there will be another Adventurer who will be hosted in the same home. We will inform you of the name, address and phone number of your hosts immediately before your departure. While in Ottawa, I ask you to spend some time getting to know your hosts, and to treat them with respect. They are interested in you and in ensuring that you are enjoying your time in Ottawa. They are opening their homes to you and in most cases will be driving you to and from the events during your stay.

**NON-SMOKING:** The Rotary Adventure in Citizenship Program is considered to be a non-smoking program. No concessions will be made for smokers either during the program or in host family homes.

**WHAT TO BRING:** The Ottawa weather in early May can be quite variable. While it is usually warm and sunny for the Adventure program, it is possible there could be some cooler weather and rain. It is advisable to bring a choice of clothing including rain gear and small umbrella.

Informal clothing (such as you wear to school) will be appropriate for most of Sunday and Monday. For certain events such as the reception with the Members of Parliament and the Dinner/Dance on Tuesday it is preferable to dress a little more formally ie. no jeans, short-shorts, tank tops etc. Also some of the students prefer to dress a little more formally for the closing banquet on Wednesday. The best advice is to bring clothing that will provide you with some flexibility.

You will not have any major expenses while in Ottawa. Bring some spending money, if you like, for such things as souvenirs and any personal items you may want to pick up. If you bring a camera, bring your film from home as there will be few opportunities to shop during the program.

I suggest that you bring a small gift to leave with your hosts before your departure, in appreciation of their hospitality. A small book or distinctive souvenir from your region of the country is always appropriate.

**PREPARATION FOR THE PROGRAM:** We do not expect you to spend a lot of time preparing for this program, however we do ask you, during this month, to reflect on what Canadian citizenship means to you and to come to Ottawa with an open and reflective mind. You may find it useful to consult the Government of Canada web site ([www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)). Under the heading Departments and Agencies you can access the web sites of our main sponsors the National Capital Commission, the RCMP, Canadian Heritage (Citizenship), the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the House of Commons. Other sites of interest include ([www.ottawa.com](http://www.ottawa.com)) for a view of Ottawa and ([www.parliamenthill.gc.ca](http://www.parliamenthill.gc.ca)) for a view of our parliament buildings. All these sites contain a wealth of information that may make your visit more meaningful. Of course, there is our own site for the Rotary Club of Ottawa ([www.rotaryottawa.com](http://www.rotaryottawa.com)) which will provide you with an updated program of this year's Adventure and some pictures from last year.

See you on SATURDAY, May 2ND.

Cheers!

Mr. Nabil Oudeh  
Chairperson  
Rotary Adventure in Citizenship 2009

**P.S. You will receive further correspondence from us about one week prior to your departure informing you and your parents of your host family information, and a few more details about your arrival in Ottawa.**