

Rotary Bulletin
April 8, 2010

Kim was our bell ringer. Ray played. With a good start our food tasted even better. Kim reminded us of the up coming "Open House" for our club. Anything from the past which would show our activities especially pictures would be very welcome. I wonder if some copies of old Bulletins would be of use? Maybe some of the fun parts. We used to lay stress on fines for various minor transgressions or errors. These might have originally been designed for the betterment of Rotary such as for lateness or talking while the chair person is speaking but fines can easily be aimed to embarrass someone. The "Happy or Sad Buck" is a welcome change and it still swells our clubs coffers. Lisa always seems to be a happy person and this time her happy buck was simply because our guest, Aubrey Bowers, was here to speak to us. Terry's ticket was drawn and he was pleased that even though he did not select the winning Ace, he also had not picked the Joker which would have cost him five dollars. The attendance was announced to be 67%.

Lisa introduced our speaker, Aubrey Bowers, who is about to make his third trip to Africa. He was prepared to illustrate his talk with pictures but unfortunately a virus had infected his computer. Aubrey is headed for Malawi which is a country of south central Africa smaller than the island of Newfoundland. In that small country there are over fourteen million people but over a million of them are orphans resulting from the scourge of AIDS. The absence of parents is noticeable and often the caregiver is not yet a teenager. Aubrey is part of an ecumenical group of eight which in 2004 built an orphanage. The Orphanage now houses 50 but it is hoped to increase it to 100. They will spend three days in the orphanage and the remainder of the time with the children. The people are generally warm and friendly but very poor. A full week's pay would be only \$15.00. A Doctor might have as much as 350 patients at one time. Water is a problem. Food is bland and consists only of a type of corn, vegetables and occasionally a little bit of meat. There is no infrastructure and the people have no knowledge of common technology. Electricity, where available, is 220 volts and it is a problem for the use of common electric tools. Wood cannot be used for construction because of the termites. People are normally associated with one of the several tribes. One tribe carries large knives for use as weapons. Unfortunately the orphans are considered to be outcasts.

The group travels from St. John's to Halifax, London, Nairobi and finally Malawi. The group pays its own way but they try to bring an extra bag, each for items collected and since this results in extra cost, assistance is welcome. They will be carrying medical supplies and small gifts especially writing materials. Although there are some schools, students can be refused admission if they do not bring their own pencil.

Our speaker was thanked by Lisa who also suggested that the Club would consider the possibility of paying for the shipment of one bag.

See you next week. Rot Jim

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Rotary Bulletin
January 14, 2010

Paul was at the helm. Our newly returned member, Gary took on a new chore. He lead us in "The Ode". He remembered all the words. A veritable tenor he is. He soared high and far and left us groaners below in the mud. A masterful attempt. However as one exhausted individual suggested, "Please get a pitch pipe or something to bring you down to our level." Ray, please, we need you.

We waited for a considerable time for the waitress to bring our lunch. As our numbers dwindle I hope that it is not a sign of things to come for we are so accustomed to very prompt service at the Mount Peyton. The bun was the first to arrive and worth waiting for. The conversation is always interesting. We tore apart and rebuilt the Federal Government, condemned reality TV and explored many other areas of interest before finishing the meal and starting the business end of things. Mike was asked to conduct the draw. Low and behold it was his own ticket. Scott found the new deck of cards and shuffled it appropriately. Then Mike reshuffled and very carefully drew the wrong card. He said he wanted to cry. You are not supposed to win the kitty two weeks in a row, Mike. Besides it is still too small to be worth the trouble.

Lisa had a happy buck for the painting in her house is finally finished. She especially likes the cayenne pepper shade of the kitchen. Sounds like a hot and spicy room to me.

There had been a board meeting the night before and it has been decided to hold a wine and cheese party (or coffee and tea) open house as part of a membership drive sometime in April or May. It was suggested that perhaps some people are waiting for a good program to bring a prospective member. All our meeting are very interesting, please do not hesitate if a good prospect is available. Lisa finished her comments about the Executive meeting by saying, "We need bodies." Mike brightened and offered to bring a few. "**Live Bodies**" corrected Lisa. Thus, Mike's customers can rest undisturbed..

The discussion then turned to the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Donations would be very welcome and should be passed in to Paul Howard at Riverview Motors as he has the necessary receipt books etc. Money provided through Rotary goes directly to responsible clubs in Haiti itself which will administrate the relief as required. Money is what is needed now. This will probably be used to provide necessities such as food, water, shelter boxes, medical supplies etc as determined by Rotarians on site. Cheques should be addressed to "The Rotary Club of Grand Falls" Such donations will fit into the matching grants arrangement.

Some may remember that Roger Tinkem of the RCMP was a member of this club for a number of years. He was loaned to Haiti to help in the training of police for that small nation. He said that his recruits were the finest kind of people. While there he earned the title of "Papa". Presumably it was partly because he frequently used the Newfoundland expression, "Now, my son." Unfortunately a great many of the recruits died in the line of duty within a few months of completing their training. It can only be hoped that the concerted effort by so many other nations at this time of tragedy will bring new order and prosperity to the poorest nation in North America.

See you next week. Rot Jim

Rotary Bulletin
January 21, 2010

It was 12:20 and Rotary had been assigned to the large Newfoundland room. Alas all that was there were my bun and I. Pretty soon there was no bun. At 12:27 the Goodyears arrived and by 12:45 we were up to seven and still climbing.

Mike filled the breach and went to Head table and clanged the bell. Food and conversation ensued. "Republic of Doyle" was the topic within my short hearing range. Great, wonderful, we really enjoyed it but up along, they won't like it. The problem is that in central Canada they don't listen so fast. Jim recollected that when he came from Ontario to the mill many years ago, the personnel manager told him that his boss was a Polish Gentleman and "a bit hard to understand". The new boss sounded to Jim just like the fellow down the street in Ontario. It was the fast talking Newfoundlander that was difficult for him to understand. Fred thought that the humour might be understood by people in the UK but lost on the American or distant Canadian audiences.

Lunch consumed Mike again came to the fore and displayed a monster oddity that he called a Halebogon?? Tool. It could be a heavy walking stick for testing floors; a pry for opening locked doors; an enormous can opener for cutting through the roof of cars. Some thought it looked like an elephant's back scratcher. We were all agreed that no one would argue with anyone carrying it. It is the modern answer to the old fire axe but looked much more formidable. In talking about fire potential Mike mentioned that the relatively inexpensive aspenite floor joists may be strong enough to hold up the floor but last only about fifteen minutes in a fire whereas the old 2 x 8 floor joist may stand for as much as two hours. A real potential hazard for the fireman entering a burning building.

John had a sad buck for they were the victims of a hit and run driver and their old car was demolished. However there was a silver lining for now they have a new car. Then the draw. Another Goodyear won a chance to draw a card. Terry drew the Joker which cost him \$5.00. Mike then snuck out to the cloak room and put on his magnificent sealskin coat. Fred immediately wanted to try it on. We eat our pie with gratitude, we do not throw it.

The preparations for the "Adventure in Citizenship" are underway and the speak-off is scheduled for Feb. 25. Contributions for Haiti are coming in and it is hoped that we will be able to purchase a "shelter box" which is a self contained, well equipped temporary home. The first shelter boxes sent to Haiti became a hospital.

See you next week. Rot Jim

Rotary Bulletin
January 28, 2010

If we were required to sing for our supper we would have been lucky to receive a glass of water and a tooth pick. Later Jim fined himself for he had taken a large bite of bun just before “The Ode” commenced and could not join in until the last phrase. “That sounds like boasting”, said one. We were in the large room again so any moderate sound faded away as quickly as the noise of a pebble dropped in the ocean.

The “Republic of Doyle” was again the subject of conversation and the expressed thought was that this last episode was the best yet. Then it was “Happy Buck time.” Kim was very happy that her plumbing was finally fixed. Lisa had a happy story about her dog but the details escaped me. John is still happy with the new car but the hit and run driver has still not been caught. Gary complained that the Toronto Maple Leafs were so bad that he has given up on them but the Toronto Raptors basketball team are doing so well that he has now thrown his full support behind them instead. Fred and Terry D. Suddenly found that they had a mutual interest. They are Montreal Canadiens fans.

This reminds me of a long ago hockey game that I attended in Maple Leaf gardens. It was the best team that they ever had and it won several Stanley Cups. I am reminded of this episode every time I pass the donut shop. The Leafs had surrounded the opponents goal. Tim Horton was on the defence but as usual he strayed from his point on the blue line to become in effect a fourth forward in hopes of scoring a goal. There was a break away from his side and the opposing forward was flying towards the Maple Leaf goal, his legs almost a blur. Horton’s line mate, Alan Stanley, was a tall, raw boned sort of a fellow, who appeared very slow in his movements. He angled across but he was only taking one stride for every three or four of the opposing player. Besides he had farther to go and he was skating backwards. He intercepted his antagonist just inside the Toronto blue line and stole the puck. Yes! If a person wants to be a success and perhaps even a star one must have very good, reliable help.

The Executive proposes to make a donation to the Kiwanis for the music festival. The annual Business Award is coming up and once again the club and its members are invited to submit a recommendation.

John’s daughter has requested a novel idea for her up-coming birthday party. She has requested that her friends bring donations for Haiti instead of birthday gifts. John also reports that the Adventure in Citizenship is coming along. Two thirds of the schools have been invited to send participants. It was clarified that only one participant from a school will be permitted. The area considered is Norris Arm in the east to Baie Verte in the west and down south to the Bay d’Espoir area.

Mike is involved with transportation for the Winter Games. They need volunteers but anyone who makes themselves available must have a “Code of Conduct” form completed and approved. Fred volunteered his spouse.

It is some good that Newfoundland has no ground hogs to threaten us with a longer winter for their day is a beautiful sunny day here.

See you next week. Rot Jim

Rotary Bulletin
March 11, 2010

Tim was at the helm. Paul started "The Ode". Dave was there. When he lent his voice to the song it did not sound half bad. In fact, compared to the impromptu singing of "Oh Canada" at the Olympics, it sounded wonderful.

Yes, Paul asked me to write the Bulletin so for all errors or forgotten items blame Paul. When there is a larger group and a program, writing the Bulletin is pretty straight forward but when we are squeezed into the lounge, we are close enough together that we all join in one conversation. Very confusing but fun.

One made the profound statement, "You can't talk and chew at the same time." I do not know who was the target. Another said, "We always do as we are told." I suppose there is a first time for everything. There was a discussion of the fad diseases and health concerns of the moment. Scott brought up the subject of asbestos tile and the foolish concern that some people had of such floor covering whereas such material is inert unless someone pulverises it so that the powder becomes air borne. He went on to mention that he was involved with the installation of asbestos insulation on the walls of the wood room at the mill over 40 years ago. This was done by adding Portland cement and blowing the mixture on to the walls. He has had no problems with his lungs in his 3/4 century. Jim, who has been around even longer, said that the process was not very successful for it came off in great, wet globs and fell on the unwary. He was involved with the removal 20 years ago. The contractor foreman was a heavy smoker. Jim had read that asbestos attacks the lungs of a smoker 10 times as much as non-smokers which would include Scott and Jim. When asked if he had suffered any ill effects, the smoker, between puffs, said that he had lost about 60% of his lung capacity. How about those that he had worked with previously on asbestos. "Oh! Most of them are dead." he said and then resumed smoking.

Happy Buck time! Lisa was very pleased to report that she was the proud parent watching her children perform at the music festival. John said that he had one but needed to give a preamble. When he paused for approval Jim said, "Go ahead, we are going to hear it anyway." John related how his Aunt was a long time worker and after paying into insurance for many years, she had great satisfaction when she was finally able to claim her due. John said that now he understands her satisfaction, after paying Union dues for many years, he can now receive monetary assistance for a trip to St. John's on Union Business. Dave had a Happy Buck for he had a wonderful vacation and that on the return the moose that caused their serious car accident is dead. Also everyone who was injured is recovering nicely. He also expressed his appreciation for the flowers that the club sent to them. I thought Paul expressed happiness also but I missed it in my scribbling. When asked later Paul thought it was a fine but could not remember either. Oh well! Any donation to Rotary coffers is to a good cause and does not need a reason.

A Shelterbox is available to put on display at the coming open house in April. However it must be delivered back to Corner Brook immediately afterwards for another function. It is small enough to go in a minivan. It would be appreciated if someone could take it. Check with Lisa for schedule. A Group Study Exchange from Australia is expecting to visit our club for two nights, June 1 & 2. Accommodation and transportation will be needed. Terry Dalley has "End Polio Now" coin boxes for display and collection in your place of business. Remember the Corporate Challenge at Dooly's March 19.

See you next week. Rot Jim

Rotary Bulletin
May 20, 2010

The Hubcap himself was in charge. He quietly asked me to do the Bulletin again. Because we were few in numbers and no soloists around he proposed that we all start "The Ode" together at the count of three. And so we did, each in our own key. The wonder was that we have not been ejected from the province - - - yet. During the meal there were the usual profound discussions - With the proposal for the new shopping centre out on the Queensway there was concern about encroachment on the Corduroy trails and parkland. Scott says that it will not be as bad as feared. With Lorene Michaels on the war path over a judge's lenient sentence on the west coast we warned Tim to be on his guard. On the other hand her target was Judge Jenkins, wife of a former president of this club and she was a former Adventurer in Citizenship. We cannot help but feel concern for her.

The Group Study Exchange will be here for the evenings of June 1 & 2. The first night, a Tuesday, will be a Newfie night and a pot luck at the Salmon Ladder. Kim has a list of suggestions but if you have your own specialty please let Kim and Lisa know so there will not be duplication. We are getting hungry already and there may be 35 mouths to fill so please bring lots of food. The second night will be a barbecue at Paul Howard's. Each person attending is expected to bring their own meat, fish or fowl and booze. (Fish on the barbecue, that is one way to raise a stink especially if you are toasting caplin. It would really smell like a Newfie party)

Jim won the chance to draw a card. It was the King of clubs so the Joker and the pot remains for some lucky??? future winner. Attendance was 43% but has the potential to increase with make-ups. For a while I was all confused as to which should be divided into what. I blame it on Alzheimer's. The club's contributions to Rotary International have provided about 3000 points towards future Paul Harris Fellows.

Kim reported on the District Rotary Conference which she said was phenomenal. A key concern is membership. Clubs should make a business plan and make sure that there are roles for every individual. Where possible clubs should join together with other clubs for certain functions. Remember if a club is not improving it is in effect going downhill. Where maintaining attendance is not possible, members should devote an hour a week to Rotary pursuits. The District is taking a hard look at Mental Health as a possible area in which Rotary could be of assistance. The incidence of Polio is way down but there are still small outbreaks of Polio in remote areas. Our job is still not complete. Next year the conference will be held in St. John's.

Jim stopped by the Park on the way to the meeting and he reported that there appears to be a lot of work being done on landscaping but there is still a lot of flagstones that have not been placed and in fact some have been left in vulnerable locations in preparation for installation. We definitely would not want the purchasers of these stones to demand their money back because they have not been placed. It is now more than two years since most of the orders were placed and paid.

Remember Newfie night at the Salmon Ladder, June 1 and the Barbecue at Paul's with the Group Study Exchange from Australia.

Rot Jim