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| **EyeOpener February 1, 2022 – Arctic Watch**  Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month    **This Meeting was via zoom**    We opened with **O Canada**    Odell read the **Acknowledgement of Treaty 6 Land:**    We acknowledge that the Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak is located on Treaty 6 land. This is the traditional territory and an ancient gathering place of many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.  We recognize that we are all Treaty people and have a responsibility to become aware of our shared history, understand the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties and by doing so we can honour the past, be aware of the present, and create a just and caring future built upon Peace, Friendship, and Understanding.    **Guest Speaker Cliff introduced** Richard Weber of Canadian Arctic Holiday. Richard has participated in 45 arctic expeditions, including 7 north pole expeditions. He has the Order of Canada, the Ondaatje Medal from the Canadian Geographical Society as well as other awards and medals from Canada and Russia. He and his family operate Artic Watch on Somerset Island. He is an avid cross-country skier. Cliff’s son worked at the lodge for a summer.  Richard’s father was an arctic scientist, so Richard was constantly exposed to people who had been to the arctic. His first opportunity to go was as a teenager. In 1986 he participated in an American expedition to the North Pole. Two years later Canada and Russia cooperated in an expedition skiing from Russia to Canada via the North Pole. Richard experienced organizing and financing the expedition as well as monetizing it when it was over. In 1992 he and a Russian tried to reach the pole unsupported but failed. In 1995 they tried again. They started from Ward Hunt Island, skied many days for 12 to 18 hours through temperatures between -35 and -65. 122 days later they arrived back at Ward Hunt Island just before their supplies of food and fuel were exhausted. His last trip was in 2010 with his son Tessum. The last expedition to the pole was in 2013. He is not sure it is possible anymore because of climate change and decreased ice.  In 1992 he and his family purchased a whale watching camp on Somerset Island. There are hundreds of Beluga whales there from early July to mid-August. There are also muskox and polar bears. Somerset is in the middle of Canada’s arctic islands, 1500 kilometers from Yellowknife. It is a 20-minute flight from Resolute Bay. All fuel and food must be brought in. The camp has tent-like buildings which he said are very good in the weather but are not bear proof. The water is pumped up the hill to a tank which operates the camp’s water by gravity. Sewage is taken from the camp to a locally constructed lagoon. Electricity is from a generator—summer is only 6 to 7 weeks long so solar or wind generation are not practical. His initial problem was a short gravel air strip that pilots were afraid to use. He brought in a bulldozer in a weeklong journey over the ice—the ice was barely thick enough and on occasion they laid planks and plywood to distribute the weight. The air strip eventually had to lengthened again to 4000 feet and all rocks removed. They now have a GPS assisted approach allowing landings with minimal visibility. ATR 70 passenger turboprop aircraft can fly there directly from Yellowknife. Supplies are sent by ship to Resolute Bay and must then be flown to camp. In the past they have been able to snowmobile from Resolute Bay to camp, but this is no longer possible as there is no ice. Their clients are largely from North America. They are fully booked this year, almost fully for 2023 and are booking into 2024. Their season is only 6 to 7 weeks. Cost is $16,000 per week. Guests can watch whales, hike, kayak and fish for Arctic Char.    **Food for Thought** Harry spoke about the book “Limits of Growth” and the Iroquois diplomat and orator Red Jacket. The natives operated societies where people did not accumulate goods or wealth. In view of the world population and our desire to accumulate wealth we may pass the limits of our universe even yet. On the positive side, Harry said we have more educated people and scientists than we have ever had, perhaps they can fix things.    Odell will offer **Food for Thought** next week.    **Happy Bucks** for: an exciting trip to Salt Spring Island starting in a winter storm in Edmonton and arriving to a land covered in green grass, flag supplies that have arrived safely, her family who was stranded in the winter storm along with a few others eventually making it safely home, a weekend with their granddaughters, three days in Canmore where the cross-country skiing was great. A remainder that dollars for **Happy Bucks** may be eTransferred to [CamroseDaybreakTreasurer@gmail.com](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/442/CamroseDaybreakTreasurer@gmail.com).    **Announcements** –   * Robyn Gray died Saturday January 29 aged 31. Morris read an article about her written by Lou. * Chase the Ace. The Bailey Theatre amount last week was $650. The Ace was not drawn so the ongoing jackpot is now over $7000. The Charity for the next two weeks is the Camrose Academy of Dance. * We are still looking for a charity for our next turn at the Chase the Ace Raffle – March 10 to March23. Camrose Fish and Game has applied. Contact Morris with any suggestions. * The Days for Girls Townhall is today at 5 pm. Morris has sent out a link. * The Joint Executive Meeting with the Rotary Club of Camrose is tonight from 6:30 to 7:15. Odell will send out the link.   **Reminders of Upcoming Events**   * February 8 Laurel Schnell of The Amarok Society (Mothers teaching children) * February 22 Agnes Hoveland local City Council Member and Volunteer * March 1 Harry has arranged for Ann Marie Robinson, Rotary International Scholarship recipient to speak. * The International Rotary Convention will be held in Houston, Texas June 4 to 8, 2022.  It is presently being planned for in-person and virtual. Consider attending. Information at [RIConvention.org](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/442/RIConvention.org).   **Rob led us in the 4-Way Test**.    **ROTARY JOINS LEADERS | ROTARIANS SHARE IDEAS | ROTARIANS TAKE ACTION** |