|  |
| --- |
| **EyeOpener April 5, 2022 – Cst Matt Rolfe & K9 Zoe**  Maternal and Child Health Month  **This Meeting was held in-person in the “Safety Starts Here” classroom with ZOOM.**  **It opened with a group of online school children singing *O Canada.***  **Land Acknowledgement**  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** Dean introduced Matt Rolfe and Zoe the Camrose Police Service Dog.  Matt had previously spoken at the RCC so I have combined the notes that I have and those of Ted Gillespie.  Camrose Police Service Constable Matt Rolfe also runs their K-9 unit. Matt is an 18-year member of the Camrose Police Service. He has been doing their K-9 work for 15 years and is also a firearms and "less than lethal" instructor.  Matt trained with his first dog, Mishka, in Calgary in 2009. In addition to service with the force, he and Mishka won numerous national awards at police dog championships.  When Mishka was retired due to age requirements, the police chief of the day decided to pause the K-9 program. Mishka was retired to Matt’s home and only recently died.  When the new chief took over a few years ago, he decided to re-activate the program; Matt, who was the only member with experience, volunteered to take on the duties. He hopes to interest other police service members in succeeding him. He does have regular duties with the police service and is always on call if needed. The job is demanding.  He got his current dog, Zoe, a spayed German Shepard female, when she was 10 weeks old. She was bred for police work by a breeder in Germany. These dogs can cost in the neighbourhood of $15,000 although Zoe was less. Most police service dogs are non-neutered males. Matt prefers females as they are lighter and more agile.  They did their training in Edmonton and noticed that many things in the K-9 world have changed, so he felt like a rookie. Zoe is a street dog trained in tracking, and apprehension for now. They plan to train her for drug detection in the future. Yesterday he and Zoe completed a 4-day recertification in Edmonton. The Edmonton Police Canine Unit has a new head who has high standards, which Matt appreciates.  Matt answered questions.   * + Matt is Zoe's only handler.   + Zoe comes home with him at night and interacts successfully with his wife and kids.   + Zoe can tell the difference between work and play.   + Next year Matt and Zoe will take detection protocol training, so she is able to detect various types of drugs. (This will take two months in Edmonton).   + Zoe rides with Matt. Her primary role right now is tracking.   + Zoe follows the freshest human scent. It is a myth that they have her sniff a piece of clothing or something like that.   + When doing tracking and take downs they do not differentiate between a police member and a perpetrator if they are close together.   + Most of a dog's work is in areas of little traffic, so she doesn't get confused by multiple smells.   + Matt's uniform is gray so he can be stealthy when he works with the emergency response team.   + Zoe eats raw food that is weighed out to the exact ounce. Her diet and weight are very important.   + Zoe trains every day for at least a short time. There are several police “volunteers” for her to practice with.   + Matt's schedule is very fluid so he can work with all the Camrose Police Service squads. He is also on call 24/7.   + Zoe weighs 62 pounds.   + When Zoe tracks down a suspect, the suspect is always given the opportunity to surrender. If he or she decides not to surrender, then Zoe will be sent in to apprehend the suspect.   + Police Service dogs age out after 7 or 8 years and are then retired to the handler’s home or a suitable foster home.   + If Matt goes away, he can board Zoe in the police kennels in Edmonton or Calgary or a local kennel. She needs to be kept separate from other dogs.   + The service dogs respond to a small repertoire of commands, 6 or 7—but they must obey all the time. They like to work. They can get very intense, on an “adrenalin” high just like people.   Matt says he is open to talk to any group, he would be happy to bring Zoe by.  Odell thanked Matt for his presentation and informed him that our club is donating to vaccinate 30 children from Polio on his behalf.  **Happy Bucks** for: a trip to Mexico with her granddaughters, the sale of our Bingo Equipment—it has been picked up by the CRE and we await the cheque, a skiing trip with his grandchildren, an upcoming trip to Calgary where he will help his son build a deck.    **Foundation Moment** Rob told us about Iryna Bushmina and her experience with ERIC-Rotaract Europe mobilizing to help Ukraine. <https://on.rotary.org/3JjFRiW>  **Announcements** –   * Chris and Jackie have recommended that Faith Taylor and Hanna Gau receive the Robyn Gray Memorial Scholarships this year. * Odell will be absent from April 26 to May 19 – Alan has volunteered to chair the meetings in his absence. * The Chase the Ace Draw – The next draw will be held tomorrow April 6. The 6th Traditional Scouting Group is the designated charity. The Jackpot is now over $9,000. * Gelato Social in April 21 at 10 am at the Johnsons. $60 per family unit for 3 tubs of Gelato, there is still room for 2 more families. Proceeds go to the Augustana Chaplaincy. Save your large yogurt containers. Contact Patrice Johnson if you wish to attend.   **Reminders of Upcoming Events**   * April 11 6 pm (6:15 if joining by Zoom) Joint Meeting with the RCC at Eats Restaurant in the Casino. Supper will be Chicken Mushroom pizza on a Flat Bread & Cream of Broccoli Soup, coffee, and dessert $20. Notify [camroserotary@gmail.com](mailto:camroserotary@gmail.com) by the Friday prior if you plan to attend for the meal. Coffee only will be $3. * The Board will meet by Zoom on April 12 at 8 am. * April 19 Karli Grove of the Flagstaff Scottish Club on “the Gathering of the Clans” * District Conference is May 27, 28 at Fantasyland Hotel. Additional attendees? Morris, Alan, and Odell plan to attend. Two more people can attend without registration costs—the club preregistered for 5 people on a group rate. * 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 singing the *4-Way Test*.**  **ROTARY JOINS LEADERS | ROTARIANS SHARE IDEAS | ROTARIANS TAKE ACTION** |
|  |