Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak

EyeOpener January 5, 2021 Genealogy

January is Vocational Service Month

Odell opened the meeting with a video of *O Canada* for 11 members and guest Dan Macpherson

Carol offered **Food for Thought** on the merits of being happy with what you have. Citing a case of house envy Earl has when visiting his sister’s grand lakeside home, she reminds him her house is too big and will likely never be paid for while his comfortable 3-bedroom suburban home with its pool and comfortable living spaces is paid for and all he needs. A little general maintenance, a few upgrades and it will be good for them for many more years. Among the ways she shared to be happy, decide to be happy and have what you like-like what you have stood out.

Odell will offer **Food for Thought** next week.

**Happy Bucks**

* Granddaughter born Christmas Eve, all doing well
* Mother passed Christmas Eve, but friends and family sharing stories brought joy
* January weather has been great for outdoor activities
* Tendon has healed, taking advantage of skating/skiing trails on Buffalo Lake
* Physio and exercises are improving knee strength

**Announcements**

* Spring Training Tuesday January 19, 5 to 7 pm. Open to all, focus on Club and Rotaract President-Elect. Registration link on District 5370 website
* Valarie Wafer with Barry Rassin discuss *Elevating Rotaract – What Does That Mean* Thursday January 14 at 5 pm. Registration link in district *Connections* newsletter
* Rotary Cares tickets are available from Morris or noon club members

**Presentation** – Genealogy, John Stoddart

Why trace your family tree? Curiosity, search for famous relatives, research ethnicity, legacy, where am I from and many more reasons people take up this hobby. Not everyone in the family may be happy with you doing this as there may be family secrets or fear of a horrible surprise. Genealogy is not a quick, overnight project, it may evolve into a passion that determines where vacations will be spent (regions with graveyards to tour), sites to visit (libraries with records to examine) and people to visit (long lost relatives with stories).

How far back can you trace your family tree? Roots in India, probably 1,000 years. Roots in Indochina, likely only 200 to 300 years. Public records for the last 100 years will be scant in many cases due to privacy concerns. Immigration records are the most widely available records. Birth, marriage and other records kept by churches for many centuries may be lost. Government records of these events are relatively recent. Unexpected name changes can occur – immigration officers may record what they hear without verification or change names entirely, naming conventions differ in many countries (move to a new town in Norway, change your name-not just for criminals), or new spellings are adopted as part of a new beginning for families.

Is there joy in tracing your family tree? Many people get joy simply from the dates, occupations, and timeline of their family tree. The greatest joy comes when you can find letters, news articles or other bits of information that fill in the story of the lives between the dates on your tree.

What resources are there to help research and document my family tree? *Ancestry* is the most recognizable online research tool (available at the library-talk to Robyn). The Latter-Day Saints have extensive records available (over 2 million microfiche in the Salt Lake City library) for on site research. Legacy 9 is a well-known program to record your findings. The local genealogy society has records at the local library and members will assist you in your journey (but will NOT build your tree).

Any cautions for me in researching my family tree? DNA testing through *Ancestry* or *123 and Me* can reveal surprises, good and bad. Take public information and shared family trees with a grain of salt and confirm the information provided.

Any last words? The true hobby is about the people not the data. Look into the stories, the history, the world at their time. When the tree gets overgrown, trim it to the branches that really matter to your story.

Talk to John for more information on resources available to you.

**Silver Quill Legacies**, Dan Macpherson

Dan (noon club member) is launching a business *writing and preserving personal and business histories, one story at a time*. Check out his website <silverquilllegacies.ca> for his story.

**Reminders**

* Club meeting January 12, 7:00 am Desiree Lyons – Namaste Direct
* Board meeting January 12, 8:00 am
* Club meeting January 19, 7:00 am Joshua Hagel – Hockey School/Personal Training
* Club meeting January 26, 7:00 am Robyn Gray – My Year in Germany

Alan closed the meeting with the *Four Way Test*

Morris

587.322.2555

**Rotary Joins Leaders | Rotarians Share Ideas | Rotarians Take Action**