Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak

EyeOpener April 6, 2021 Hesje Observatory

April is Maternal and Child Health Month

Odell opened the meeting with a video of *O Canada* for 13 members and guests Dr Hood and Rae Metrunek in attendance

Carol offered **Food for Thought** on the inspiration she got from an article in the April issue of the *Rotary* magazine (*Big Task, Small Ask*, Nancy Shepherdson, page 22). As with many of us, the author procrastinated on tackling big projects – clearing invasive weeds in the yard, dealing with her late mother’s things, etc. The author expanded overcoming procrastination advice of “always complete a task if doing so would take two minutes or less” into daily 30-minute sessions of tackling the weeds. This became something she looked forward to. Carol has applied this to her preparations for moving, starting with sorting and packing her wine supplies. The two-page article is worth a read to inspire you to tackle some of those big tasks.

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

**Happy Bucks**

* Poplar tree is cut down, unfortunately there is no usable wood
* Disc golf Jubilee Park preview well attended (youth, out-of-town). City has ordered baskets
* Egypt’s Suez Authority is seeking one billion dollars for Ever Given release
* Some members getting second vaccination today

**Announcements**

* Check your issue of the *Connections* district newsletter every weekend:
  + Tuesday April 13, 7:00-9:00 pm – Leadership webinar *Memberships and Partnerships*
  + Thursday April 15, 7:00-8:30 pm – Grants webinar
  + Saturday April 17, 9:00-12:30 – Spring Leadership Assembly
  + Sunday April 18, 5:00 pm – Cyber Security
  + Saturday May 1 – District 5360 Conference *Navigate a New World*
  + Link to *Beyond Borders* Zone newsletter
  + Leadership webinar recordings are available in District website *Virtual Learning Library*
* Rotary masks are available, contact Morris
* **Elks and Royal Purple** are seeking bingo volunteers. Fill-in if you are available positions, time commitment about 10 am to 4:30 pm. You would be selling Balls tickets on the floor. Lunch is provided. Bingo hall not currently open. Contact Morris for more information.
* The **Camrose Service Clubs** group is planning a *Chase the Ace* raffle to benefit the community. Bring forward your ideas for a major project and smaller projects that could use financial support.

**Presentation** – Hesje Observatory, Dr Glynnis Hood, Rae Metrunek

Dr Hood introduced the Hesje Observatory at the Augustana Research Station at Miquelon. The Miquelon location takes advantage of its dark sky preserve, avoiding light pollution. Pollution that prevents over 1/3 of the earth’s population from seeing the Milky Way.

While the observatory was being built, renovations were made to the adjacent Research Station. A classroom able to serve 20 students/visitors at desks or 50 in theatre seating was added on. Once the new telescope arrived on site, the technician to perform the install was unable to cross the border into Canada. Dr Lotz and Rae Metrunek took on the task, including navigating the stairs to the rotunda with many heavy components.

Rae Metrunek, a recent Augustana graduate, manages the observatory. While she is still getting all the equipment working properly, she is offering virtual tours and stargazing to schools and other groups. A new moon is the best night for stargazing as a full moon will ‘wash’ out the sky. The primary telescope is a reflecting model, using curved mirrors to focus the image. An eyepiece, camera or computer feed can receive the image. The telescope is computer-control enabled. The Research Station is on the high-speed internet network so virtual sessions are offered. A portable telescope is a complement to the observatory as it is 3,000 times more powerful than the naked eye.

The observatory adds a resource to the telescope on north campus because of its dark sky home. Dr Hood and Rae look forward to being able to offer onsite tours, learning, and overnight stargazing opportunities.

**Reminders**

* Tuesday April 13 Club meeting, 7:00 am – Maven Boddy *Impact of COVID-19 on Alberta Tourism*
* Tuesday April 13 Board meeting, 8:00 am
* Tuesday April 20, 7:00 am – Dean LaGrange *Police Training in Afghanistan*
* Tuesday April 27, 7:00 am – **We Are Rotary**

Alan closed the meeting with the *Four Way Test*

Morris Henderson

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**ROTARY JOINS LEADERS | ROTARIANS SHARE IDEAS | ROTARIANS TAKE ACTION**