Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak

EyeOpener August 11, 2020 Life of John

August is Membership and New Club Development Month

Odell opened the online meeting with a video *O Canada* for 11 members and Rotaractor Rhema

Birthdays this month for Chris, Alan and Morris

**Rotaract Update**

None of the Augustana Rotaract executive will be on campus in the fall. The group is working on a plan to function remotely. The north campus does have some in -person activity and will be working with the Augustana group. Rhema has transferred to the north campus but will continue co-president activities. The District Rotaract council she is a member of is addressing training and leadership initiatives for Rotaractors. She expects the Rotaractors will still be looking to co-operate with our club and seek support and advice from us.

Harry offered **Food for Thought** in Larry’s stead. He remarked on his standing as likely the longest serving current Camrose Rotarian. He became a true Rotarian after attending an international convention and seeing the reach and impact of Rotary in the world. Many other attendees at conventions are similarly motivated to apply the eagerness they come home with. An extended trip to India to see first-hand the work of Rotary cemented his commitment to international efforts. He has stayed in Rotary to try to impart his experience to new members. As much as we need members, the community needs us. Rotary has a long and impactful history in Camrose and Harry is proud of his and our contributions.

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

**Happy Bucks**

* Good friend coming for a long visit Saturday
* Family will be visiting
* Birthday celebrations in Ontario, Calgary and Camrose
* Fine dining on special fish and chips at picnic tables (impromptu canoe fencing for ‘patio’)
* Bounty of garden – tomatoes and other produce

**Presentation – Life of John**

Born in England but raised in Scotland led to John’s first job with a book publisher. One day, at 19 years old, reading the paper on the train from Dunfermline to Edinburgh he noticed an ad for the Hudson Bay Company hiring applicants with honesty and integrity. 200 of the 1,000 applicants were interviewed and advised those successful would receive a letter by the beginning of July (1962). Receiving no letter John started looking for a new job, finding one. Then the letter offering a job came and John accepted. The 2 to 3 week delay seemed to set the tone for the future with the Bay.

John soon found himself one of 12 men off to Canada, half to Montreal, half to Winnipeg. It was a hot August day when the ship landed in Montreal and John had a short stay there before heading off to Winnipeg and his first posting to Paint Hills. Moving through many communities in the north, including the prime fur producing Attawapiskat area, John kept in contact with his future wife Leslie with letters until his first vacation, 6 weeks accumulated during the 3 year waiting period. They got engaged then and married 2 years later and Leslie joined John in Canada. More moves, promotions followed. Goose Bay is remembered for the nice atmosphere service members from the US, Canada and other countries created. A return to Moose Factory as manager where he had worked along side of the staff wasn’t a wise placement. An incident with a disturbed resident (at gunpoint) led to a request to move.

The move to Fort Vermilion provided contrasts – Alberta bands in more desperate conditions than in Ontario, an area rich in sable, marten and lynx, Mennonites that would farm in the summer, trap or lumber in the winter. John’s last assignment was in Fort McMurray to trial the gift shop concept. This was a time when the Bay sold of the northern stores and was going through many changes. John was let go at the end of the season after 32 ½ years with the company.

John has a journal of this time with Hudson Bay that he can share with you.