Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak

EyeOpener August 18, 2020 – NEWO Shares Energy

August is Membership and New Club Development Month

Odell played an *O Canada* video with 14 members, guests from NEWO, Rajan and Cari, to open our inline meeting

**Presentation – NEWO – Solar Energy to Maskwacis Food Security**

Rajan shared the path NEWO Global Energy has taken as a non-profit social enterprise from the time Chief Roy Louis conferred the Cree name NEWO (four) for the organization to its work with the Maskwacis community in growing food security. Chief Louis also instilled the Cree belief of *wahkotowin* (kinship) in the foundation of the enterprise.

Home, farm and industrial solar projects were the initial focus, but quickly an opportunity to use the projects as a basis for training others – planners, installers, service technicians emerged. NEWO focuses on bringing training and employment opportunities to indigenous and those with barriers. Energy audits were added to the suite of offerings. Proudly, NEWO was able to work with organizations such as the Bissel Centre, train and employ good workers and make a difference in many communities.

Workshops and education brought community building to many reserves and small communities. The *Spirit of the Land* initiative has evolved into a foundation seeking to tell the story of the relationship between people and the land. The Ruzicka Farm we heard about previously is an applied example of this.

Looking at emerging financial models and a desire to find a pay-it-forward model has led to the Cathedral Project where proceeds from returns on solar installations would be invested in new solar installations. Preliminary work is now underway on gaining partners. It is seen as a vehicle for churches, schools and non-profits to acquire solar energy adoption. Social procurement is a benefit included in the cost/benefit evaluation that is currently not valued.

The *Maskwascis Food Sovereignty Initiative* is a next-generation stewardship that involves meals for 2,150 students daily. It includes 2 healthy meals each day and is integrated with the school system. Students are involved in planting, tending and harvesting food. They are also preparing and distributing meals from the food.

Rajan’s spirit and caring is embodied in the development and growth of NEWO, in its positive effect with the success of its training, employment and workshops.

**Food for Thought**

Alan offered that we are living in a place with lots of resources waiting to be shared. We also have many ideas that may seem little things but provide the opportunity to grow into having a great impact. Share those ideas.

Patrice will offer **Food for Thought** on September 1st.

**Happy Bucks**

* Great presentation from Rajan
* Opportunity for wonderful hiking in Banff
* Birthday celebration in Calgary
* Son and daughter-in-law expecting first grandchild

**Announcements**

* Friends of Augustana invite you to a celebration of Augustana’s contribution to our community in Jubilee Park across from the Performing Arts Centre Saturday, August 22 from 2 to 4 pm
* 2020 Virtual Conference Saturday, September 12th, register on District 5370 website
* Thanks Carol and John for hard work with landscaping at the Benke house. The Benkes are thrilled with the new yard
* Flags will be deployed September 2nd or 3rd and retrieved September 9th or 10th. Let John know if you can help
* Eastlink has closed their studios until further notice. John and others are looking into **TV Bingo** options

**Reminder**

* Next meeting, **Tuesday August 25, 7:00 am – Outdoors** at Stoney Creek Centre Amphitheatre

Morris

587.322.2555