Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak

EyeOpener September 29, 2020 Education Life Lessons

September is Basic Education and Literary Month

October is Economic and Community Development Month

Odell opened the meeting for 12 members with an O Canada video.

Carol offered **Food for Thought** sharing Veseys Seeds in PEI support of the *PolioPlus* campaign with the sale of *End Polio Now* tulip bulbs. Started in Holland and spreading to Switzerland, Germany, USA and recently to Canada the program has sold over 1.5 million bulbs generating US$2 million. A package of 25 bulbs is $25 - $18.25 going to PolioPlus, before matching from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Bulbs are sold out for 2020 but should be available for purchase in April. More information at [veseys.com/ca/end-polio-now-tulip-76289.html](veseys.com/ca/end-polio-now%20tulip-76289.html).

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

**Announcements**

* Photo Scavenger Hunt, October 16 to 18. Details at <CamroseRotary.ca>. Share this opportunity to spread awareness of what Rotary does in our community with friends and family.
* Vegreville and Edmonton Glenora clubs are holding Wine Survivor raffles
* BREW Fellowship hosted a 24-hour Happy Hour on Saturday starting in New Zealand at 5 o’clock and ending in American Samoa at 6 o’clock.
* Memorial donations honouring Roy Fearon can be made to the Rotary Club of Camrose, PO Box 1464, Camrose AB T4V 1X4
* Kassia Fardoe, Global Grant Scholar attended the noon club meeting yesterday. She has earned her degree and is looking for work. She enjoyed the experience and extends thanks to Rotary and Rotarians that made her journey possible.
* *Vision 2020 Virtual Conference* content is available on the District 5370 website.

**Happy Bucks**

* Check out Wade Davis videos for a look at how anthropology forms a link to life choices
* First September in 5 years without snow in Alberta
* Combining ahead of the last 3 years
* Best garden tomatoes in 5 years
* Paving underway on Police station service road
* Conference speaker Alan Mallory is neighbour at cottage
* Enjoyed *Zoo Brew* Thursday and *Witches and Wizards* Saturday in Calgary

**Presentation** – Education Life Lessons, Alan Fielding

Alan offered some family history to frame his presentation. His maternal grandfather, a fisherman, emigrated from Norway in 1908 to homestead in Saskatchewan. He returned to Norway, giving up his homestead, in 1912 and married. When his wife told her boss she was quitting her job, he said she needed to work a one-month notice period – they had to cancel their honeymoon trip to Canada on the *Titanic*. They made their way to New Norway where Alan’s mother was born, the third of 5 girls. She learned to read before starting school by sitting on her father’s knee while he read the newspaper. She started the first day of school in grade 1 and was in grade 3 by the end of the day because she could read.

Alan’s father worked for the Imperial Bank, except for time in the RCAF during the war. That meant some moves during Alan’s schooling.

Grade 1 for Alan saw a lot of boys ‘full of beans’ and the creation of 4 groups within the class. The kids soon realized the groups were dividing by ‘smartness’. Looking back Alan feels this assignment to the *squirrels* (smarter) or the *ponies* (slower) sets an attitude that stays with the child.

Grade 3 introduced the sadistic teacher that enjoyed punishing pupils with the strap. He seemed to get tremendous joy from applying the strap.

Grade 5 introduced the sarcastic teacher that relished humiliating students, drawing them to tears. By this time Alan realized that actions like the grade 3 and 5 teachers were wrong but could not think of anything to do about it.

In grade 6 Alan had the pleasure of having a kind, supportive teacher. That set the tone for an easier tome in junior high.

Grade 9 was a year of upheaval for Alan – the family moved from Edmonton to Camrose, meaning the end of participation in the Edmonton band and the end of Alan’s world. After some time, he was able to get himself together and accept the changes. So much so he scored second highest on the departmental exams. Going back, he would be more accepting and ‘get over it’ sooner.

He was sad when he went to CLC while his friends went to university in Edmonton. Two of his friends failed that first year, one sticking with it and becoming a lawyer, the other working as a surveyor before returning to university to become a respected cardiologist in Edmonton.

Alan found every year offered something to learn, even the terrible experiences. He was the first in his family to attend university and always knew he would be successful. Was that seed planted as a *squirrel* in grade 1? Or is it due to position in society?

**Reminders**

* Next meeting – Tuesday October 6, 7 AM. Odell will send Zoom invite
* Photo Scavenger Hunt October 16 to 18