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| **EyeOpener – Cliff’s Journey September 6, 2022**  ***Basic Education and Literacy Month***  The meeting was opened by President Alan Fielding with O Canada with 12 members (2 on Zoom) present. Alan read the Treaty 6 Acknowledgement:  *We acknowledge that the Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak is located on Treaty 6 land. This is the traditional territory and an ancient gathering place of many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.*  *We recognize that we are all Treaty people and have a responsibility to become aware of our shared history, understand the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties and by doing so we can honour the past, be aware of the present, and create a just and caring future built upon Peace, Friendship, and Understanding.*  Alan offered condolences to Cliff Drever on the death of his father Drever. He then asked Cliff to proceed with an update on his illness.  Cliff has been back in Camrose for 3 weeks, he returned from Calgary in time to visit his father once before he died. He showed us his father’s 50-year Rotary Pin which he was wearing to honour him.  Cliff told us that for 5 or 6 years he had been having low blood counts, when his red cell count dropped, he had a bone marrow biopsy which diagnosed Myeloid Dysplastic Syndrome which can progress to Acute Myeloid Leukemia. He was asked about exposure to farm chemicals and benzene—a component in diesel fuel but they also found that he had 3 #8 chromosomes. The number of blast cells were low so he was told he could wait, maybe several years.  He sent his information to the Mayo Clinic and asked for a review, the doctor there told him he would likely require treatment within the year. He was seen at the Tom Baker Centre in Calgary.  Two more bone marrow biopsies were done three months apart, they showed progress and he was booked for a bone marrow transplant. He was to have an allogenic transplant from a donor, some people can receive a transplant of their own stem cells, but he did not qualify. His four siblings were tested as possible donors, three matched. There is a donor registry where people register as donors if none of their relatives match. His sister was chosen as she carried the same virus that he did. She received shots for 5 days to stimulate the bone marrow then had a procedure to harvest stem cells by drawing blood out processing it to remove the stem cells and then running the other components back into her. The need a minimum or 300,000 stem cells, she provided 320,000.  They were told they should expect to stay in Calgary for at least 3 months, Calgary is the only centre in Alberta where Stem Cell Transplants are done. Friends helped them find an apartment a 15-minute walk from the Foothills Hospital. He was admitted 1 week before the transplant to receive drugs and radiation to destroy his bone marrow. He had multiple checks and tests including dental and vision examinations. The stem cells were harvested May 16 and given to him May 17 over 4 hours. The stem cells stick in the marrow and then start reproducing. Several days later new red and white blood cells began appearing. He was released from hospital June 2 but readmitted when he developed a fever and inability to move his one arm, this progressed to his jaw then across to his other arm and legs. Doctors were not able to explain this, he was put on steroids. He recovered after three or four days, and he was released again on June 10. Wife Bev, his daughter, and sister stayed with him off and on at first. He visited the hospital every 3 days for tests and reviews. When he left they checked his blood - he has his sister’s DNA in 100% of his cells (they would have been happy with 80%). Bev stayed with him the whole time walking back and forth to the hospital to visit him and with him for outpatient visits. He returned home a couple weeks short of the expected 3 months.   He stayed in a condo free of charge for his entire time. The condo is owned by the daughter of a farmer from Drumheller. The farmer had a transplant, the daughter bought the condo for him to stay in. When he was done she kept it and in fact has bought several more that she allows people from Northern Alberta to stay during the time required for transplants. All at no cost as long as they require it.  He has been home since August 11, which was day 86. He has no immunity, he is to avoid dust and soil for one year and he can only visit with people out of doors. He will start receiving immunizations at 6 months when he will also be able to be out in public more. He is going into his office in town but he is still easily tired, naps twice a day. He lost 25 pounds and is trying to gain weight. He complimented Bev’s cooking.  He does a lot of reading and light exercise including walking.  He feels fortunate things went well. He was impressed with the staff, all seemed to be up to date with his information and plans. He thinks the system operates well once you are able to get into it. He asked what it would cost in the USA at the Mayo Clinic and was told $250,000 to $1,000,000 depending on how things went.  **Happy Bucks** for: a book “Regenesis” by George Monbiot, Cliff’s return, the farmers and ranchers who look after the soil, a one week trip to Las Vegas where they saw the world’s biggest chocolate fountain, the demolishing of the old Chester Ronning School (SAD), a visit to her 92 year old mother who still lives by herself and drives, a talk with Dr. Verna Yiu, Ken Drever’s legacy, the Banff International String Quartet Competition, the celebration of his father’s life, for Bev and his return home.  **Announcements**   * Chase the Ace - Morris reminded us of the draw tomorrow night by Lions Club for the Special Olympics. Thursday the Rotary Club of Camrose will sell tickets for the Camrose Fire Fighters Association. It will then be our turn to sell tickets in support of the Flagstaff Imagination Library project. We passed a motion to top up the support to $1,000. * Chris will do the EyeOpener this year with Odell as alternate. * Morris and Lou Henderson will be guests of honour at the annual Battle River Community Foundation Banquet. * Gwynne Dyer will speak at the Bailey Theatre on September 21   **Reminders of Upcoming Events**   * Joint Rotary meeting Monday September 12 at noon (the speaker was booked, they forgot it should have been at 6 pm) at the Casino Restaurant. The speaker is from the Kidney Foundation, their annual walk fundraiser is coming up soon. Please email [camroserotary@gmail.com](mailto:camroserotary@gmail.com) by Friday September 9 if you plan to attend for lunch. Cost remains at $20. Attendance is also possible by Zoom. * There will be **no meeting NEXT TUESDAY morning September 13,**   but **THE BOARD WILL MEET AT 8 AM VIA ZOOM.**   * **Flags** will be picked up Wednesday September 7, 2022. John will receive flags from 2 to 5 pm at the back of Certified Training. * We will hold a **Potluck Social Event on Tuesday September 20 6 pm at the Johnsons.** The Camrose Rotary Club will be invited. Notify Patrice at [treecer@live.com](mailto:treecer@live.com) if you will be attending   **Alan led us in singing the 4-Way Test**.  **ROTARY JOINS LEADERS | ROTARIANS SHARE IDEAS | ROTARIANS TAKE ACTION** |
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