**John Hogarth Cowboy Poet**

 

Rotarian John Hogarth (aka Cowboy Poet Jesmond Jake) dropped by to read his moving historical poem honouring the Vernon Rotary Club at their 90th celebration evening. The poem reviewed the history of the Vernon Rotary Club. See below:

**THE FIRST NINETY YEARS   1925-2015**

BACK IN THE YEAR OF TWENTY FIVE

WHEN MOST OF US HERE WEREN'T EVEN ALIVE

A NEW CLUB WAS FORMED IN VERNON TOWN

AND NINETY YEARS LATER IT'S STILL AROUND

THE VERNON ROTARY CLUB WAS ITS NAME

THE FIRST IN THE VALLEY ITS CLAIM TO FAME

 A CLUB FROM VANCOUVER HELPED PAVE THE WAY

 FOR TWENTY EIGHT MEMBERS THAT APRIL DAY

CLUB "NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN"

IT WAS BEYOND PAUL HARRIS'S WILDEST DREAM

WHEN HE AND THREE FRIENDS MET TO CONTRIVE

THE FIRST ROTARY CLUB IN 1905

TWENTY YEARS LATER VERNON'S CLUB GOT ITS START

 THE GROUP OF NEW MEMBERS WITH VISION AND HEART

 SET OUT TO MAKE VERNON A MUCH BETTER PLACE

PIERS, PARKS, POOLS AND BEACHES GOT A ROTARY FACE

BACK IN THOSE DAYS THE TOWN WAS QUITE SMALL

JUST OVER 3000 THE CENSUS RECALLS

J. S. GALBRAITH WAS VERNON'S TOWN MAYOR

AND MR. ART GODFREY FIRST ROTARY CHAIR

VERNON NEWS WAS THE TOWN'S LOCAL RAG

THE CANADIAN RED ENSIGN OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG

THE HUDSON'S BAY WAS  ' THEE ' BIGGEST STORE

WATKIN MOTORS WAS SELLING MODEL T FORDS

THE GREAT PADDLE WHEELERS WERE STILL ON THE LAKE

YOU GOT OFF AT THE LANDING, THERE A TRAIN YOU COULD TAKE

SHIPS AND TRAINS WERE THE BEST TRAVEL MODES

THE HIWAYS AND BYWAYS WERE ROUGH GRAVEL ROADS

ROTARIANS MET AT THE KALAMALKA HOTEL

IT STOOD THREE STORIES AND LOOKED PRETTY SWELL

NOON LUNCH WAS A DOLLAR, DUES WERE 25 BUCKS

IF YOU MISSED MONDAY MEETINGS YOU WERE JUST OUT OF LUCK

SERVICE ABOVE SELF AND THE FOUR WAY TEST

AND 'ONE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST'

FOR NINETY LONG YEARS THESE MOTTOS HELD SWAY

MAKING THIS CLUB A GREAT ONE TODAY

- See more at: http://portal.clubrunner.ca/818#sthash.kQvk8Ype.dpuf