

THE CRAZY WAR OF 1812

Bart Dailley

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Helping Babies Breathe
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The Crazy War of 1812-----

-----at least that's what our guest speaker, Bart Dailey, has concluded in researching his latest historical adventure for the club's entertainment and knowledge. Further, he concluded that both sides blamed the other for starting the war, both sides say they defeated the other side, but Canada most definitely did not start it.



In the early 1800's, memories still lingered of the British defeat at the hands of the Americans in the revolutionary war, and the British were then embroiled in a war with France. With the most powerful navy in the world, Britain blockaded France, America's largest trading partner and best ally, and sunk or turned back American merchant ships. On the home front, Native tribes in the North and West of the US were battling the migration of the white population west, using

weapons provided by the British.

Fed up with Britain illegally preventing free trade and selling arms to the enemy, the administration of James Madison, on June 18, 1812, declared war on Britain and on Canada, then a British colony with 6,000 British soldiers on the ground commanded by British General Isaac Brock. Or was the ulterior motive America's manifest destiny to take control of Canada?

Due to the Napoleonic war, Britain was unable to make available to Brock more British troops to face the American army of 12,000, so he was instructed not to be offensive, but simply defend Canada.

Fortunately for Canada, the American war effort was hampered by the opposition of the New England States who supported their northern neighbour. Another ally was Shawnee Chief Tecumseh of the Kiskoko tribe from Ohio who sided with Britain and brought with him many tribal warriors in trying to stop the western migration of homesteaders.

The first shots were fired on July 12, 1812 as American troops crossed the Detroit River and occupied what is now Windsor. In August Brock's troops and Tecumseh's warrior militia pushed them back to Detroit. The American response to this humiliating setback was compromised by conflicting loyalties of two American Generals responsible for prosecuting the war. One was opposed to the war as a member of the Federalist Party (New Englanders included here), and the other loyal to the Washington administration.

cont'd on page 4 ...

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January 14th, 2014

Members and guests were greeted by Joe Hooper and, I am told, Paul Hussey.

President Terry opened the meeting by acknowledging the return of members Bill Worthington and Lyle Davidson recently sidelined by illness. Glad to see you back fellows.

Paul Gaudet introduced the guests, including regular-Terry McDonough from Calgary South. How about it, Ron? Isn't it time?

Wayne and Fran both won 2 tickets in a raffle, to watch the Flames game on January 22 from the penthouse box, donated by Anthony. Thanks Anthony.

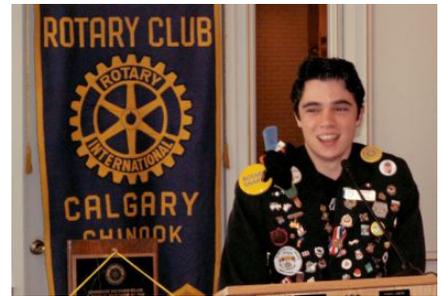


Ron Smith introduced, and Past-President Bob Montgomery inducted, Herve Lamah as the newest member for the club. Herve comes from the Ivory Coast where he spent many years as an AIDS prevention and

treatment activist, and organized volunteers for the Polio Plus immunization program in his country. He immigrated to Montreal in 2007 then moved to Calgary so he could quickly learn English. His classification is life insurance sales. Garth Sabirsh is his mentor, but all members please get to know Herve.



Berto gave us a rundown of his recent activities, particularly skiing where he bested at least two black runs. He searched for and finally found an organization in Calgary devoted to team handball, Berto's



favourite sport in Brazil. When asked about how he was doing in school, Fran took the podium to announce that Berto, despite the language problems, was an honours student, with distinction, at EP Scarlett. She noted that the school would like him to take the grade 12 diploma exams, even though he, as an exchange student, doesn't need to. As an incentive, the school has offered to pay the costs. Fran surmises the school sees an opportunity to increase its provincial achievement scores. Congratulations, Berto.

Bart is looking for an alternate venue for the January 22nd meeting. Any ideas? Send them to Bart.

David Wartman announced final approval of The Chinook Rotary Club Society, which is now a registered charity that can issue tax receipts for donations. Dave and Garth Sabirsh started funding by contributing \$100 each to the new Society, challenging all other members to do the same.

Sergeant at Arms Bob Montgomery reminded us that the objectives of the SAA are to raise money and entertain. As for the money raising, he fined the Snowbirds, most of whom have already flown, to yield a paltry amount. Entertainment consisted of a recycled sex joke which generated a few chuckles.



Tom Ranson was the winner of the 50/50, after "a long time".

Rotary District 5360 & 5370 Curling Bonspiel

The 53rd Annual Curling Bonspiel is just over a month away, and several teams have registered. If you or curling Rotarians you know have not registered your team yet, please don't delay. The two event hotels are holding room blocks available at special rates until January 22, 2014. Visit www.rotaryclubofsprucegrove.org/curling for hotel contact numbers, event information, and to register a team.

From February 20 to 23, 2014, plan to be in Spruce Grove, Alberta to take part in a tradition that has been bringing together Rotarians in our two districts for more than half a century. This bonspiel is not just for competitive curlers. It is a celebration of one of our country's most beloved pastimes with Rotary friends, old and new. I hope to see you in February!

Des Bulger, Chairperson, Bonspiel Organizing Committee
Rotary Club of Spruce Grove

YEX International Dinner

Reserve March 29, 2014 in your calendars.

This year's inbound youth exchange students wish to invite you to their International Dinner in support of ShelterBox. The festivities will take place at the Acadia Rec Centre in Calgary. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and includes dinner, international desserts prepared by our students, and of course, entertainment.

Please keep an eye on your inbox for more information about this exciting fund raising event.

Rick Istead, Chair, Rotary District 5360 YEX Committee
Email: rwistead@telus.net

"Helping to build goodwill and world peace one student at a time."

Rotary Awareness Month

January 21st
January 28th

Miriam Dreher, Yodelfest Founder
Robbie Burns Program

World Understanding Month

February 4th
February 11th
February 18th

Adalberto Damini, Exchange Student
Valentine's Evening Meeting
Club Assembly



Rotary International President 2015-2016

ROTARY ANNOUNCES PRESIDENT FOR 2015-16; FIRST SRI LANKAN EVER TO LEAD ORGANIZATION

K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, a business leader from Colombo, Sri Lanka, will be the 105th president of Rotary International. Ravindran, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo, will begin his one-year term on 1 July 2015 as the first Sri Lankan to hold Rotary's highest office. Ravindran says a top priority will be to strengthen clubs by attracting men and women committed to improving communities worldwide through volunteer service.

After the devastation of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Ravindran led Rotary's recovery efforts by helping to raise US\$12 million to rebuild 22 schools, enabling nearly 15,000 children to resume their studies. "The tsunami could take away schools, homes, possessions, and even loved-ones, but it would never be allowed to take away the spirit of children," said Ravindran.

Ravindran was also involved in many other tsunami-related projects in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, and Thailand that were supported by Rotary's Solidarity in South Asia Fund for long term recovery. Rotary clubs around the world contributed nearly US\$6 million to the fund. The projects include housing developments, orphanages, water and sanitation systems, solar oven technology, community-based credit unions, health centers, and the replacement of destroyed fishing trawlers.

As Sri Lanka's chair of Rotary's polio eradication efforts, Ravindran led efforts to eradicate polio from Sri Lanka. His country became one of the first in Asia to become polio-free in Asia. The PolioPlus task force which he headed consisted of representatives from Rotary, UNICEF and the Sri Lankan government. The partnership successfully negotiated a ceasefire with the northern militants to allow polio immunizations to continue during scheduled National Immunization Days.

Ravindran is founder and CEO of Printcare PLC, a publicly listed company and global leader in the tea packaging industry. He also serves on the board of several other companies and charitable trusts. He is the founding president of the Sri Lanka Anti-Narcotics Association, the largest antinarcotics organization in Sri Lanka.

A Rotarian since 1974, Ravindran has served Rotary as a director and treasurer of Rotary International and as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation. He has been awarded The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award and the Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

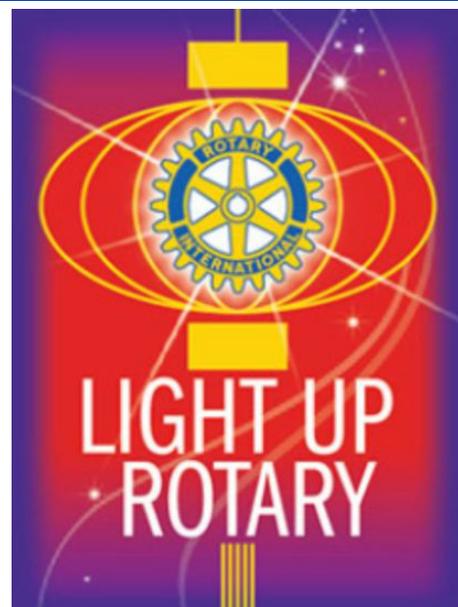
RI Theme 2014-2015

RI President-elect Gary C.K. Huang chose 'Light Up Rotary' as his theme for 2014-15. Huang was inspired by the teachings of Chinese philosopher Confucius who said: "It is better to light a single candle, than to sit and curse the darkness."

"There are so many problems in the world, so many people who need help. Many people say, 'There's nothing I can do.' So they sit there doing nothing. Meanwhile everything stays dark," Huang told the 537 district governors and their spouses and partners who are attending the 2014 International Assembly in San Diego, California.

"The Rotary way is the Confucius way. The Rotary way is to light a candle. I light one, you light one, 1.2 million Rotarians light one. Together, we light up the world," said Huang, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Taipei in Taiwan. Huang also shared his membership development goals, including the need for more women and young adults, and his goal to increase membership to a total of 1.3 million members. He asked Rotarians to invite their spouses, family members, and friends to join Rotary.

"Light Up Rotary is our theme, but it is more than our theme. It is how we live in Rotary, how we think in Rotary, how we feel, how we work," Huang said. "It is how we make a difference — every day, in every club, every district, and every country where we serve."



The next major offensive by the Americans was a crossing of the Niagara River to Queenston on October 14, 1812 which was routed, but Brock was a casualty.

Milestones in the continuation of the war included:

- Tecumseh was killed at the Battle of the Thames near London. His native militias vanished.
- April 1813 – the Americans sacked and burned York (now Toronto)
- May 1813 – Americans captured Fort George (Niagara-on-the-Lake)
- In retaliation, in September the British set fire to Washington D.C. British officers ate President Madison's dinner at the White House as he escaped.
- Laura Secord tipped off American attack plans which the British stopped.
- Americans set fire to Fort George on December 15, 1813. Many residents perished in the cold.
- In retaliation, the British torched Lewiston NY on December 18.
- In 1814, the British launched an assault on Fort McHenry, Baltimore. This naval attack was memorialized in a poem by Francis Scott Key, on board a British ship at the time, which became the "Star Spangled Banner", now the national anthem of the United States.

The final turning point and Canada's greatest moment in the war was the Battle of Crysler's Farm near Cornwall, where the British headquarters was established. The American army was commanded by two generals who despised each other. One led 8,000 troops and the other 4,000. Original plans to attack the British Great Lakes Naval fleet at Kingston and destroy Montreal were abandoned primarily by lack of agreement among the many American Generals. A decision was then taken to assemble any remaining available American troops and attack the British at Cornwall. British soldiers and the Canadian Militia comprised of English, French and Mohawk

warriors withheld the American onslaught, and the American soldiers retreated to New York State on November 12, 1813.

When Napoleon abdicated in 1814, the British sent an additional 15,000 troops to Canada. The Americans were ready for peace and a Treaty was signed on December 24, 1814 in Belgium.

Photos courtesy of Ian Burgess



Helping Babies Breathe

We apologize that we are a bit tardy in letting you know how the HBB project went in Laos in November 2013.

The money from Rotary was so very much appreciated. It allowed us to purchase simulator dolls, print Laos language materials, and covered some of our in-country travel costs.

We taught about 100 doctors, nurses and midwives the neonatal resuscitation course — almost three times the number that we anticipated. We went to four cities/towns and the enthusiasm of the medical community was astounding! They are all planning to teach others and spread the knowledge — just what we were hoping would happen.

We hope to do the same trip next year to re-certify everyone and teach a whole new cohort!

Thank you and the Chinook Rotary club again!

Janice Heard and Amy Gusvik

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