



# KEYWAY

Rotary



Rotary Opens Opportunities



## ROTARY CLUB OF DRYDEN

EXECUTIVE 2020- 2021	DIRECTORS	RI & DISTRICT	MEETING LOCATION
Pres ..... Anna Traini Pres Elect. .... Secretary ..... Ed Iskra Treasurer . . . Brian Braid/Kim Anderson Vice Pres. .... Patty Vann Keyway Editor. .... Will Vermeer	Club..... Lisa T/Mardi P Youth. .... Patty V / Lea B Community ..... Caryl H / Carm F International ..... James K Fundraising ..... Cam F / John C Public Relations..... Deanna P	RI Pres. .... Holger Knaack Dist Gov ..... Gailmarie Anderson AG..... Carl Eisener	Best Western Motor Inn 349 Government St, Dryden Wednesdays 12 Noon  <a href="http://www.drydenrotary.org">www.drydenrotary.org</a>
#1013. .... VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020			

October is Economic and Community Development Month

### ROTARY MINUTE

By Arnold R. Grahl Visuals by Miriam Doan

- ▶ In the fall of 2015, volunteers from Rotary and Heifer International came together to build hoop houses for a few farmers working small lots in Arkansas, USA. The afternoon outing was part of a larger project that is still reaping benefits four years later, supporting small-scale agriculture in the region and increasing access to locally-grown food.
- ▶ Heifer has been using the small-scale agriculture model for decades to alleviate hunger and fight poverty around the world. The approach has the added benefits of being environmentally friendly and offering healthier food options.
- ▶ That mission dovetails with Rotary’s mission to grow local economies and improve health. So it’s not surprising the two groups have teamed up on a number of occasions in the past 30 years to improve communities by helping families escape poverty. Several Heifer employees are or have been members of the Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas, USA, the city where Heifer has its headquarters.
- ▶ “Our values line up very well,” says Ardyth Neill, a member of the Little Rock club and president of the Heifer Foundation. “With Rotary, it’s Service Above Self and helping to serve others. Heifer has been working with farmers to be accountable, pass on their gifts, train other farmers, and work together in community. It’s learning to share and care, basic things that work well together.”
- ▶ Heifer set up a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) network — a food subscription service in which consumers buy produce in advance at a fixed price, guaranteeing farmers a market for their crop regardless of how weather or other factors may affect their output.
- ▶ Rotary members used their extensive contacts to find buyers for the CSA shares, and offered business and planning advice to the farmers. Heifer provided training in sustainable practices and taught its philosophy of accountability, sharing, passing on training, and self-reliance.
- ▶ Through its first five years, the number of shares sold grew from 150 the first year to more than 400 a year.
- ▶ The New South Produce Cooperative became a largely independent cooperative in 2016, and in 2017 expanded to wholesale markets. Now, Heifer USA is transitioning oversight of the program to one of its funding partners, 275 Food Project, smoothing the path for expansion into the Memphis area.
- ▶ "We’ve always viewed our role as being an incubator of this project,” says Annie Bergman, Global Communications Director for Heifer. “This will allow growth across the border and provide more support for the farmers. We will still offer training and funds when needed."

## Sustainability

- ▶ In the United States and other developed nations, a lot of food production is controlled by large industrial operations, which produce cheaper food by focusing on a single crop and using specialized equipment to cut labor costs.
- ▶ But according to research into sustainable agriculture, this food model has downsides, including a reliance on commercial fertilizers, heavy pesticides, and other chemicals that can harm the environment.
- ▶ The trend has also contributed to the failure of smaller family farms, increasing the poverty rates in places like rural Arkansas.
- ▶ Nationwide distribution networks have also resulted in food deserts in urban areas, particularly in the U.S., England, and Australia, where poor neighborhoods have little access to fresh produce and instead rely on less nutritious fast foods and packaged products.
- ▶ Small-scale sustainable agriculture, on the other hand, tends to keep things local. The money you spend on food stays in your community and helps your neighbor. Farmers maximize land use by planting multiple crops that replenish the soil and reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides.
- ▶ And fruits and vegetables grown closer to home keep more of their nutrients.
- ▶ Consumers are increasingly aware of these health benefits, fueling the market for local produce.
- ▶ “There’s a phenomenon going on, really nationwide, about people becoming more and more concerned and thoughtful about where their food comes from,” says Sharon Vogelpohl, a past president of the Little Rock Rotary club and a volunteer on the project.

## PROGRAM



- ▶ Dr. Kit Young Hoon was with us to give us an update on the status of COVID in our area

- ▶ gave us an intro with a curve showing the infections since the pandemic started in early March
- ▶ 69 cases total - 14 in Dryden area ( Dryden covers Dryden/Red Lake)
- ▶ very little community transmission
- ▶ 33000 tests since March - but many are repeats of health care providers and visitors to LT Care homes
- ▶ trends are more important than just numbers
- ▶ compared our numbers to provincial numbers - 3000 deaths in province - but none in our area
- ▶ 3.6% test positivity rate in province
- ▶ also showed us Manitoba numbers where there is a spike now as second wave starts - latest cases there mainly in Winnipeg
- ▶ main messaging in Ontario sometimes more applicable to S Ontario - all guidelines should be followed in all of Ontario tho we can expand our bubble a bit more than southern ontario
- ▶ discussed school openings and how it is important for kids to get back to school - but need to follow guidelines
- ▶ preparing for second wave by monitoring trends and testing - working with the vulnerable in institutions
- ▶ explained why Dryden / Red Lake are included in same reporting area - attempt to maintain privacy - but will identify community if there is a significant outbreak in one community
- ▶ trying to maintain most NWHU services

## ROTARY CALENDAR (If you cannot make it , please arrange for a replacement)

**October 28<sup>th</sup> ,2020 @ 7 PM on ZOOM**

Randy Allen - Minor Hockey Breakfast program

**Nov 4<sup>th</sup> ,2020 @ Noon on ZOOM**

By-Laws and Brainstorming