



Saskatoon Nutana
Rotary
 Club



February 16, 2021

Editor: Jim Blackburn

**February 2021 Theme:
 Peace and Conflict Resolution**

Program Chair: Jim Gillis

Date	Desk	Greeter	Rotana Editor	Cheer Captain	Speaker/Topic	Intro	Club Thanks
Feb. 23	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Jim Gillis	Rob Norris – Synchrotron	Lorne Braithwaite	Bob MacGillivray
Mar. 2	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Michael Gramiak	Colleen Christopherson-Cote – Saskatoon Interagency Response to Covid-19 (Bulnerable Sector Strategu)	Jim Gillis	Massey Mizuno
Mar 9	NA	NA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	

Announcements & Program Highlights

President Lorne called the meeting to order at 12 Noon, welcoming all members, Ruth Marritt from the North Club and guest speaker, Bill Waiser. “WE LIVE ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY, HOMELAND OF THE METIS” Lorne mentioned. Betty Arscott played O Canada and the Rotary 4-Way Test song.

Announcements -

Lorne received an email from Les Ferguson, (which was distributed to the club by email) that Norm Woodcock is improving and will be having plastic surgery on his leg and expects to be in hospital for another 3 weeks. Norm has his cell and welcomes texts or calls from Rotarians.

As previously noted, Kent Creelman passed away following a heart attack. Lorne texted condolences to Kent’s daughter, Julianne and family. Betty Anne sent a card and flowers to the family. We have not yet received word of the family’s designation of donations in support of Kent.

Program – Bill Waiser

Lorne introduced guest speaker, Bill Waiser, Professor Emeritus of History from the U of S. Bill’s accomplishments include: the Order of Canada; the Governor General’s History Award and Literary Award; Saskatchewan Order of Merit; elected a member of the Royal Society

along with publishing 12 books.

Bill spoke on his latest book: “In Search of Almighty Voice: Resistance and Reconciliation”. He detailed the story of Almighty Voice as an excellent example of contrasts. The Almighty Voice story is a popular narrative in plays, movies and in the media but the true factual story of what really happened is very different. The popular story was that Almighty Voice killed a reserve cow; was placed in jail and escaped. When the Mounties chased him down a gun battle ensued and a Mountie was killed.

Afterwards, Almighty Voice was depicted as a “bad Indian” and a “troublemaker” and needed to be brought to justice. A larger NWMP force was sent to catch Almighty Voice and after hunting him down they killed him.

Bill indicated that he spent a great deal of time researching original documents and interviewing many people associated with the factual side of the story. He indicated the 1880s were a very difficult period for the One Arrow Community. In anticipation of more settlers arriving to the west the bison herds were decimated by hunters throughout Canada and the USA.

Starvation on the reserve was caused by the lack of bison and also the department of Indian Affairs choosing to cut back on food rations. Food rations were withdrawn as a pressure tactic to force the indigenous to do whatever the Indian Agent or Indian Affairs government officials wanted. On reserve, the indigenous people were supposed to become farmers and to become self-sufficient. This was almost impossible with the poor quality of reserve land, tools and implements were often not provided and a lack of training and leadership. Also, due to an economic recession in the 1890s, the Canadian government was cutting many department budgets and this included the funding of Indian Affairs programs.

A catholic bishop called life on the reserve “A state of slavery”. Almighty Voice was not prepared to accept starvation even though many people living on reserve had already experienced abuse and starvation. He decided to fight for justice.

Based on historical research it appeared that the cow that was killed was a stray that wandered onto the reservation. Almighty Voice did not dispute whether or not that he killed the cow because he did it to feed his family. He also offered to make a settlement by offering a horse but this was refused. Remember, cattle and horse stealing was quite common between indigenous peoples. To make compensation, normally the parties would negotiate a settlement. It was unusual punishment for the Indian Affairs or the NWMP to arrest and put on trial a person for such a minor offence. Almighty Voice believed these actions as unjust and discriminatory.

There were many other differences to the stories presented. Between newspaper articles, stage plays and movies such as “Alien Thunder” the myth and the fiction grew.

I believe this book is well worth reading for everyone to decide for themselves, what is truth and what is fiction. Of course, the real story of Almighty Voice is that he is one example of an indigenous man suffering abuse and discrimination by non- indigenous people and government agencies. There is a long history of such injustices and if we are to move forward with reconciliation then all peoples of Canada must learn about the past, understand the indigenous perspective and to begin working together towards a better future.

Following many questions, Bill summed up how Rotarians and Saskatchewan people can work towards reconciliation: Be patient; We need to learn and listen; and We must express the desire to work together. By 2050 half the population of Sask. will be aboriginal so we need to act now! Bob Devrome thanked Bill for his presentation.

CHEER CAPTAIN – Stan Garchinski

Cheer Captain Stan featured our knowledge of the 100 greatest record albums. He then questioned every member present about our remembrance of the songs and singers in the albums. He set a record as Cheer Captain by fining (OOPS – receiving donations) from all members who were on Zoom for the meeting!!!!

In addition to our lack of knowledge some members added contributions for Bill's presentation, our work at the enchanted forest, sad dollars for those who passed away during Covid and in memory of Kent.

Ruth Marritt presented the Club with the 2019-2020 RI Certificate of Appreciation for our contributions to End Polio Now Campaign.

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Contact Information

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Links

District 5550 <http://www.clubrunner.ca/portal/home.aspx?did=5550>
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