



February 9, 2021

Editor: Jim Blackburn

February 2021 Theme: Peace & Conflict Resolution

Program Chair: Jim Gillis

Date	Desk	Greeter	Rotana Editor	Cheer Captain	Speaker/Topic	Intro	Club Thanks
Feb 9	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Joe Dierker	St. Francis School Update	Jim Gilles	Boris Kischuk
Feb 16	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Stan Garchinski	Bill Waiser - Reconciliation	Lorne Braithwaite	Bob Devrome
Feb 23	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Jim Gilles	Rob Norris - Synchrotron	Lorne Braithwaite	Bob MacGillivray

Announcements & Program Highlights

President Lorne called the meeting to order at 12 Noon, welcoming all members and Darren Fradette, the Principal of St. Frances School.

“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 a note from Paul Gauthier, President of the Saskatoon Rotary Club, informing us that the Badge, Shield and Star Dinner has been postponed until September and the date will be set once more COVID-19 information is received.

Norm is now out of the ICU and things look much better for his recovery.

Lorne indicated that the Board will meet immediately following next week’s Zoom meeting. The incoming President, Mike Gramiak is seeking a volunteer to serve as Membership Chair for 2021-2022. Will thanked our Club members for the donations to the Friendship Inn during the last year and he indicated that they will put the Rotary logo on the newly purchased Friendship Centre van in recognition of our contributions. Candace will forward the logo to Will.

Program – Gordon Martell

Jim Gillis introduced Darren Fradette, who spoke to the club last month and he in turn introduced Gordon Martell who is Superintendent of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division and also a member of the Waterhen Lake Cree First Nation. He has had many great accomplishments including being awarded the Centennial Leadership Award, the U of S Alumni of Excellence Award, the Thomas Greenfield Leadership Award. He also introduced Bonnie Blakely, the Consultant for Donors.

Gordon gave a slide presentation on the St. Francis Cree Bilingual School which was a partnership school with the Saskatoon Tribal Council with the support of the College of Nursing, SaskSport and ITEP. Currently, it is the largest indigenous language school in the world. Now a brand-new school is in the planning process with the continuing input of all stakeholders. The design resembles the Northern Lights with emphasis on indigenous pedagogy and local narratives.

St. Francis School was on McPherson Ave and it includes 11 additional portables. Two years ago, the grade 6 – 9 were moved to Balmoral Crescent with the kindergarten to grade 5 remaining on the property.

The new school will be on 4 acres of land near George Ward Pool and 7 St. It will be a 3-level facility with a large gymnasium, a ceremonial gathering place, 2 story resource centre and a large tipi. There will be extensive windows and balconies.

The architect call will be soon with the ground-breaking set for March 2022 and it is estimated that construction will be nearing completion by Feb. 2026. There are various areas for community support including student and family wellness programs (there will be a large kitchen & a teaching kitchen), First Nation family and community engagement, first nation visual and performing arts and a land-based learning laboratory.

Will emphasized the importance of enhanced collaboration with the Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre.

Boris Kishchuk thanked Gordon, Bonnie and Darren for a most informative presentation.

Cheer Captain – Joe Dierker

Cheer Captain Joe Dierker started off by acknowledging that he and Louise had a great year touring the province, Jim Gillis contributed for having more time for his musical activities, Walt paid for having an average year (farmers never admit to a bumper crop, just complain that the great crop is taking too many nutrients out of the soil); Jim B paid for acknowledging Gordon's great presentation and suggested we have a lottery regarding which club member gets the first COVID shot (Dorothy as a health care worker already had her shot). Betty provided a most appropriate prayer for putting on a face mask, Jack, Lorne, Candace and Bob also depleted their discretionary funds.

Lorne closed the meeting with a thought for the day echoing Joe Dierker's great year :
"Be thankful each and every day".

Board and Executive

Officers

President - Lorne Braithwaite
Vice-President - Michael Gramiak
Past President - Candace Odishaw
Secretary - Jack Scott
Treasurer - Bob MacGillivray

Board members

Administration- Peggy Clark
Membership - Betty Ann Arscott
Projects- Randy Kutcher
Rotary Foundation- Asit Sarkar
Community Grants - Lorne Braithwaite, Peggy Clark
New Generations - Michael Gramiak

Rotary International

RI President - Holger Knaack
District Governor – Gail Marie Anderson
Assistant Governor - Asit Sarkar

Contact Information

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Links

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