



Saskatoon Nutana
Rotary
 Club



March 3, 2021

Editor: Jim Blackburn

March 2021 Theme: Water and Sanitation

Program Chair: Jim Gillis

Date	Desk	Greeter	Rotana Editor	Cheer Captain	Speaker/Topic	Intro	Club Thanks
March 9	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Will Grant	Jeff Lindgren	Jim Gillis	Larry Neely
March 16	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Eileen Harvey	Dawn Dierker	Jim Gillis	Candace Odishaw
March 23	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Kim Horan	Marilyn Poitras	Jim Gillis	Walt Pawlovich
March 30	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Dorothy Hudson	Robert McGuire	Jim Gillis	Asit Sarkar

Announcements & Program Highlights

President Lorne called the meeting to order at 12 Noon, welcoming all members and guest speaker, Colleen Christopherson-Cote. He thanked all those helping with today's program.

"WE LIVE ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY, HOMELAND OF THE METIS"

Betty Arscott played O Canada and the Rotary 4-Way Test song.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lorne indicated he received an email from Norm Woodcock indicating it was a month ago today that he first was admitted to hospital. He now is experiencing less pain and he walked all the way to the bathroom and back (with a walker) which is a great achievement under the circumstances! He expects to be at RUH for another 10 days then will move to St. Paul's Hospital for skin grafting. He is not sure how long he will be there.

Lorne announced that the District Conference will be held via Zoom on May 14-15 and the Rotary World Conference will be held virtually on June 12 - 16.

Details concerning registration for both of these conferences will be on our web site as well as being promoted in Rotana. Please plan to attend both these virtual conferences.

Candace commented on Scavenger Hunt for Easter and the registration site and poster is on our website. Registration will go live on Thursday March 4th. Donations from sponsors are still coming in and as of writing this, 4 sponsors have been confirmed. Candace is seeking members to volunteer to be available at each of the "Easter egg sites" on April 4th from 12-4, as well as other duties. There will be 8 locations and she suggests one-two Rotarians at each location. You will need to bring 3 chairs to each location...1 for each to sit on and 1 to place the Easter egg on when a team comes to collect it. Please email Candace if you can help.

Jim Gillis introduced guest speaker, Colleen Christopherson-Cote, the Executive Director of the Saskatoon Interagency Response to Covid. It was a unique approach to bring together all the agencies that focus on the vulnerable during the Covid outbreak. Colleen had spent the last 8 years in Saskatoon working with various organizations including the Saskatoon Poverty Partnership, so she was very familiar with the

agencies that would interact in this approach, but at the same time she was not tied into any of them so she could take a holistic approach. Colleen has two children, one is dancing in Toronto and the younger one is in high school.

The goal was to create, implement and evaluate the Vulnerable Sector Covid Strategy. There were 35 core agencies involved and most of those agencies focused on face to face needs. So the big question was how do they function in the Covid environment? Those being released from prison had nowhere to go as all facilities were shut down. Housing insecurity and food insecurity were major issues for almost all the vulnerable and emergency services had no time to deal with the issues. Colleen was given 30 staff (from the agencies) to address the issues. The White Buffalo facility served as the Hub where they needed to obtain temporary hotel shelter, access to good food, core neighborhood Covid testing and how to shield individuals from spreading Covid. They had to recognize that many of these individuals had addictions and it would not be possible to change that in this type of situation. Mental health support was also a key need.

The leadership group was charged with obtaining the funding; dealing with the host of accommodation and feeding issues including obtaining the staff from the various agencies to support the program; providing 24/7 support for a lot of these individuals throughout the whole accommodation/food process. Almost 250 of the group were on the street with no place to go!!! They were also responsible for getting them Covid tests as well as arranging for the vaccinations. One big challenge is how to get them back for a second dose. It also should be remembered that for over 100 days there was no access to public washrooms as facilities like the Public Library were all closed. The representatives of the core agencies meet weekly to consider how things are going by labelling their agencies situation – Green, for OK, Yellow for challenging and Red for now we are in a crisis.

Colleen was asked what was the key learning point of this continuing project and she replied that when there is a common goal, multiple agencies are very good at responding to the issues, looking at what is the role of each agency and banding together to broaden the support.

Massey thanked Colleen for her truly outstanding presentation and complemented her and the Interagency Covid Response team for their unbelievable efforts in this mammoth task.

CHEER CAPTAIN – Michael Gramiak

Cheer Captain Michael asked everyone what each of us would consider their most memorable birthday event. There was an excellent response with the following making donations in memory of a specific birthday: Eileen, Candace, Jim G; Jack (also noted that he was happy his colonoscopy was performed this morning); Massey; Asit; Larry; Walt; Larry; Kim; Betty; Ravi; Lorne, Jim B (and may be others that I missed) Betty played Happy Birthday to the March birthday celebrants. (Kim Horan; Larry Neely and Mike Gramiak).

Officers

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

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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

Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana

Club No. 1380

Founded May 31, 1961

P. O. Box 441, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L6 www.rotarynutana.org

Club Facebook Link: [\(11\) Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club | Facebook](#)

Club email address: nutanarotary@gmail.com

Links

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

Rotary International www.rotary.org