

ROTATELLER

by Ian Smith

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Club Administration: Gordon Menuz

Editor: Joy Adams Bauer

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Meeting May 3, 2010

by Ian Smith

President Bernie welcomed all and opened the meeting with O Canada led by Wayne McGillivray. Our guests included Bob Thompson (Bruno), Bill McKnight (Speaker) and, I apologize for the spelling, Jay Kawcil, a fellow Rotarian headed to Turkey and lastly all the returning snowbirds! All were warmly welcomed with our Hello song.

Thank you to all those who ably handled today's duties.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Steve Wilson. Fines were handed out to those golfers who have had a birdie or par already this season, to Montreal Canadian hockey fans, to those who have not yet purchased food cards, to anyone who has purchased American cash over the last month (and Joy Adams Bauer for purchasing the Pound Sterling).

We had happy and sad dollars for the following: we saw \$40 for years in one position of service, \$5 for a return to Canada from Hawaii, \$5 for a birthday, and other unquantified sums for the following: Adventures in Technology went well and is now complete, for those going to or celebrating Liberation Day of Holland, a banner from Ulon Bator in Mongolia, and great successes in Bridge Tournaments. We had sad dollars for the passing of Bert Jamison.

Next Meeting - May 10, 2010

by Ian Smith

The next regular meeting will be at the Delta Bessborough on Monday, May 10, 2010. Al Anderson – Citizen of the Year.

Duty Roster May 3, 2010

by Ian Smith

Duty Roster for Monday, May 10, 2010 at the Delta Bessborough.

Greeter - Brock Eidem

Visitors & Guests - Pat Flaten

Cashier - Irv Bender

Grace - Joy Adams Bauer

Sergeant-at-Arms - Steve Wilson

Food Cards - Dave Sundby

Please be at your posts no later than 11:45 p.m. **If you cannot fulfill your volunteer duties, please arrange for a fellow Rotarian to replace you.**

Program May 3, 2010

by Ian Smith

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner ("OTC") was re-opened in 2007 under the leadership of the Honourable Bill McKnight, PC. Mr. McKnight was born in Elrose, Saskatchewan and spent 14 years as a Member of Parliament for the riding of Kindersley-Lloydminster, including two and a half years as Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs.

The OTC is an independent body that serves as the primary mechanism to coordinate and facilitate a bilateral process between Government of Canada and the Federation of Saskatchewan Nations to achieve a common understanding on Treaties in Saskatchewan.

The OTC seeks to achieve a process where the Government of Saskatchewan and First Nations work together to discuss outstanding Treaty issues. This is a good beginning but it is not the end goal - they have to do more. First nations believe that Treaties are about sharing the land and this is welcomed - the problem becomes, how does this sharing take place? Knowledge of the Treaties is key to the entire process.

The OTC has had 3 Commissioners since its inception in 1987. Its scope is limited to Saskatchewan and it is unique in Canada. The mandates and objectives are as follows: (1) facilitate discussions relating to outstanding Treaty issues, (2) social harmony through education, culture, and respect of the Treaties so that discussions can move forward, (3) to advance First Nation Treaty rights to move toward independence through training, employment and economic development.

There have been many successes of the OTC - Cliff Wright advanced Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) - TLE dragged on for 125 years and Cliff Wright put together a practical solution to come to an agreement. Dave Arnott advanced the concept of "Treaty Kits" bring put in schools so that the information was available to students

about First Nations and Treaties. The teaching of Treaties is now mandated in all Saskatchewan schools.

The OTC is a unique opportunity in SK as no other province is out to settle outstanding issues or to teach about Treaties - opportunities that are available with over 20 years of OTC experience. We all need to get outside of the box and engage in meaningful dialogue because if we do, we will all prosper as the mantra of the OTC states, "We are all Treaty people".

Treaties are European Treaties and are whole province is under Treaties. These were agreements between 2 Nations (the Queen and the First Nation) to resolve their differences and to move forward with a common understanding. These Treaties were to be honored by all parties until the end of time. Treaties were "forever". One problem was that a First Nation believes that there are 3 parties to a contract - the First Nation, the Crown, and the Creator and the obligation to fulfill the Treaty falls on all parties as there are benefits to all people.

One of the biggest difficulties has been the implementation of the Indian Act because it treats First Nations as children and has caused many imbalances between the parties which has led to many problems in the current time. The impact on First Nations was devastating as their self-respect was diminished, numerous social issues arose, and many negative attitudes arose towards First Nations people and their rights. These old policies dragged everyone down but the OTC believes that we have to move away from that and find a new approach.

Mr. McKnight compared the Rotary 4 Way Test to his objectives at the OTC and indicated that they were very similar and fit well together.

Mr. McKnight took a question over how close we are to resolving Land Claims and indicated that we have made a good start as 27 of 75 First Nations have signed on to TLE. There will always be outstanding Treaty issues and education will be key to dealing with those issues.

Announcements

by Ian Smith

Bert Jamieson's funeral will be held next Monday or Tuesday.

On June 14 there will be a dinner for President Bernie at the Ivy. Socializing will begin at 6 and the Dinner will begin at 7.

A number of new members will be introduced at the coming week's meetings.

Peter needs drivers to shuttle students from the bus depot to his house on May 25th.

While he had some volunteers at the meeting, he may need more. Contact him if you are available.

The flag raising to launch Rotary week will take place at 11:00 am in the Civic Square outside City Hall at the flag pole on Monday, May 17.

The Cub to Club Ripple Effect Agreement has been signed.

Wayne would like all members to reassess their roles over the next two years to ensure that the "old horses" don't continue to bear the brunt of the responsibility and burn themselves out.

Please be aware that the June 7th and June 14th meetings will be held at the Saskatoon Club.

Rotateller

Not getting your Rotateller sent directly to you? Check to see that your messages aren't being treated as Junk Mail! Otherwise, get in touch with Gordon Menuz or Joy Adams Bauer.

2009/2010 Club Executive

President - Bernie Sonntag

Past President - Wayne Berney

President-Elect - Wayne McGillivary

Treasurer - Joanne Fisher

Secretary - Avis Hardy

Rotary Club Address - P.O. Box 1454 Saskatoon SK, S7K 3P7