

ROTATELLER

by Joy Adams Bauer

Official Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Saskatoon

Founded August 17, 1917 as the 332nd Club in the World

Chartered #332 in the Rotary World

by Joy Adams Bauer

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Club Administration: Peter Zakreski

Editor: Joy Adams Bauer

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Next Meeting, August 8, 2011

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Join us at noon at the Delta Bessborough Hotel on Monday, August 8th when our guest speaker will be our District Governor, Eva Vida.

Duty Roster August 2011

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Duty Roster for August 8th

Greeter: Mike Giesbrecht

Visitors and Guests: Art Knight

Cashier: Jack Brodsky

Grace: Kevin Wilson

Sergeant at Arms: Will Arscott

Duty Roster for August 15th

Greeter: Bill Edwards

Visitors and Guests: Mike LeClaire

Cashier: Brian Henderson

Grace: Stan Hodgins

Sergeant at Arms: Will Arscott

Duty Roster for August 22nd

Greeter: Assem Hedayat

Visitors and Guests: Joy Adams Bauer

Cashier: John Davies

Grace: Irv Bender

Sergeant at Arms: Will Arscott

Duty Roster for August 29th

Greeter: Elwood Flynn

Visitors and Guests: Peter Shiel

Cashier: Peter Whitenect

Grace: Sarah Leslie

Sergeant at Arms: Will Arscott

Please be at your posts by 11:45 a.m. If you are not able to fulfil your

assignment, please get another member to fill in for you.

Meeting July 25 ,2011

by Joy Adams Bauer

President Dave Sundby opened the meeting and welcomed a large and festive crowd! Past President **Wayne McGillivray** led us in the singing of the national anthem. **Clare Heagy** offered Grace.

Visitors and Guests

Arlene Julé welcomed our visitor, guest speaker Chris Ryder from BHP Billiton.

Sergeant at Arms

Frank Garritty asked members to donate a dollar in celebration of his last week as sergeant, a dollar for the Roughrider's win on Sunday, and a dollar for our upcoming holiday, Saskatchewan Day on August 1st. He also fined any member who had ever forgotten to leave their name badge at the hotel and worn it home on their clothing. **Wayne McGillivray** was fined for his remarks about grocery cards (hey... who says only women grocery shop?) **Mark Gryba** was fined for his plea to our speaker from BHP Billiton asking them to consider donating money to fix up Gordie Howe Bowl.

Happy and Sad Dollars

- Our ever-generous PP **Wayne** donated his usual mittful of dollars. He is sad for the recent tragedy in Norway, but happy that an Australian won the Tour de France, an Irishman won the British Open, and happy that Jocelyn and Maureen's yard sale for the orphanage was so successful. Wayne also saw Leo and Johnathen off at the airport as they both returned home after their Rotary Youth Exchange year, and donated \$2 for the privilege. He finished by donating a dollar in celebration of **Jocelyn Davey-Hawreluik** who deserves the award of "rookie of the year" in our Rotary Club. (Hear, hear, says your editor).
- **Gary Rusu** donated a privilege dollar for the privilege of serving as program chair over the past year. He then donated a happy dollar in honour of **Peter Zakreski** who has agreed to serve in that role this coming year.
- **Joy Adams Bauer** donated \$3 happy in celebration of the 3 week vacation she recently enjoyed in Scotland and London, England with her mother.
- **Arlene Julé** donated in honour of Chris Ryder's celebration and the difference BHP Billiton is making in her hometown of Humboldt.
- **Jocelyn Davey-Hawreluik** happily updated members on Leo's trip home. He had to spend a night in Toronto due to a missed connection and had to return to school immediately upon arriving safely home in Brazil.

Program - July 25, 2011

by Joy Adams Bauer

Gary Rusu introduced our guest speaker, Chris Ryder, VP of External Affairs for BHP Billiton.

Chris has worked for BHP Billiton since 2001. The company has 900 employees in Canada, 41,000 in total. BHP Billiton is the third largest company in the world by market cap. Their diversified global portfolio includes base metals, aluminum, energy coal, iron ore, metallurgical coal, petroleum, stainless steel materials, diamonds and speciality products, and potash. The

company has had business interests in Canada for almost 40 years. Up until five years ago, diamonds were the company's focus in Canada. They have a very successful mine in the NWT. Five years ago they began looking at potash and have interests in Saskatchewan in Jansen, Burr, Young, Boulder and Melville. Their Saskatoon office manages the potash products. President Tim Cutt lives in Saskatoon. The plan is to close their Vancouver office next year and continue their long-term interest in potash in Saskatchewan.

The first production at the Jansen mine is scheduled for 2015, with about 2,000 jobs during construction of the mine and 1,000 operational jobs once the mine has reached full capacity.

The courage to lead change is one of the company's values.

They are focusing on hiring Aboriginal employees and are actively developing relationships with local Aboriginal groups.

1% of their pre-tax profits are spent on community projects. They are also working on developing a mining centre of excellence at the University of Saskatchewan.

"We are in Saskatchewan to stay," concluded Mr. Ryder.

Announcements

by Joy Adams Bauer

- President Dave reminded those stragglers who have not paid their dues to do so pronto.
- President Dave announced a dedication service for the refurbished grave stone of Jimmy and Reta Hope, and Jeanette Derkson to take place on **Tuesday, August 16th at 10:30 a.m.** at Woodlawn Cemetery. All members of the club are invited to attend, (See an article about this tragic story in this edition of the bulletin). Thank you to **Al Morton** and **Bill Edwards** for all of their work.
- **Wayne McGillivray** announced that the Annual Rotary Clubs' Texas Scramble and Fellowship Event would be held on **Wednesday, August 24th** at Moon Lake Golf and Country Club. Cost will be \$50 for golf and cart and \$30 for dinner (total package \$80). Please pay Wayne now. If anyone is able to give items for prizes, please contact Wayne.
- **Jocelyn Davey-Hawreluik** announced that the recent garage sale for **Maureen Torr's** orphanage raised \$600. She thanked PP **Wayne** and his wife **Bev** for spending the entire day helping.
- **Gary Rusu** announced that a Club Fellowship BBQ will be held on **Monday evening, August 29th** in the Forestry Farm Hall. Tickets will be available at the August 8th luncheon meeting. This will be an enjoyable family outing so please to tell your partner and children about this upcoming event. This evening affair will replace our noon luncheon. Mark the date on your calendar now.
- **PP Wayne** announced that he is taking over the grocery cards fundraiser this year. He would appreciate members letting him know at this the start of the Rotary year how much they'd like to spend each month. Post-dated cheques would be great!

From the Archives

by Al Morton PHF

Tragedy on the river - the sad tale of young lives lost and heroism displayed.

The beautiful river that meanders its way through the heart of Saskatoon has been, over the

years, a source of great pleasure and enjoyment for the city's residents, both young and old. Its allure, on a hot summer's day, can be almost irresistible, and in some cases can have tragic and deadly consequences; such an event occurred on the afternoon of August the 14th, 1933. What followed was a heartrending story of young lives lost and of the ultimate selfless sacrifice for family and friends.

In 1933, the University Heights area of Saskatoon was home to two families who, like countless others, were struggling to survive in the economic malaise of the Great Depression; in addition, both the Hope and Derkson family situations were compounded by the fact that they were trying to raise children in a single parent environment. Mr. Henry Sherman Hope was a widower and a proud father of two daughters and a son; the eldest Hope child, Helena, aged fourteen and her sister Reta aged ten, were both pupils at Wilson School and, the 'baby' of the family, six year old James (Jimmy) Hope, was due to start his schooling in the same location the following month. Mrs. M. Derkson, although widowed, was also endeavouring to attend to the daily needs of her eight children, five daughters and three sons. Two of the Derkson children, Jeannette aged 14 and her younger sister Dorothy, were friends of the Hope girls, with Jeannette also being a pupil at Wilson School, and both were about to be caught up in the tragedy that was destined to unfold on that bright, and seemingly carefree, August summer's day.

It was the habit of the Hope children to spend time along the shore of the South Saskatchewan River, in the Sutherland Beach area; Henry Hope was usually able to accompany them but on this particular day, circumstances dictated that he could not. Deciding that they would go on their own, Reta and Jimmy met up with Jeannette and Dorothy Derkson and together with Ted and Raymond Gracewood, cousins of the Hopes, proceeded to head down towards the river. As fate would have it, the children reached the river's edge a little further downstream from where Reta and Jimmy's father would have normally taken them, and into an area that was much more potentially dangerous in terms of the irregularities of the river bed. Thinking of probably nothing more than cooling off on a hot summer's day, the children waded into the river and, almost immediately, young Jimmy Hope stepped into a deep hole, began sinking and started calling for help; his sister Reta, desperately tried to reach him, but was soon in trouble herself.

Seeing what was happening, Ted Gracewood desperately tried to obtain help from a man fishing further along the shore but his pleas were ignored and, not knowing what else to do, he ran towards home as fast as he could to try and summon aid. In the meantime, Ted's brother Raymond had swum out to Reta and Jimmy and managed to get hold of their hands; Jeannette Derkson had also jumped into the river to try and rescue her friends and, seeing her coming,

Reta and Jimmy apparently let go of Raymond, thinking that Jeannette could reach them. The strong current and undertow were unrelenting and, despite of Jeannette's endeavours, both Reta and Jimmy were pulled under; desperately swimming further out, in a futile attempt to save them, Jeannette was also dragged down.

Sadly, all that Sutherland Town Constable, George Addison could do on his arrival that afternoon at the scene, was to initiate a recovery operation for the bodies of the young victims, an onerous task that he was assisted in by several members of the local RCMP. Before nightfall they had discovered young Reta's body some 300 yards from the site of the tragedy, it was, however, another two days before the remains of the other two children were recovered, as they had been swept several miles downstream. In the afternoon of August the 18th, the grieving relatives, together with many friends and acquaintances of the children, attended the funeral service conducted by the Dean of St. John's Cathedral, the Reverend W.L. Armitage, after which, due to economic circumstances of the families involved, the three children were interred side by side in, what was then the 'Potters Field' area of, Woodlawn Cemetery.

It was at this point that the members of the Rotary Club of Saskatoon, being considerably touched by the nature of the tragedy and the heroism displayed by the two young girls, were moved to approach City Council. The club made a proposal, that Council re-inter the children's bodies in the perpetual care section of the cemetery, and indicated that the Rotary Club wished to provide and erect a headstone in memory of the young lives lost. The City agreed to the request, subject to the parent's approval which was quickly forthcoming, and the re-interment took place in the latter part of September, quietly and without any public awareness, a condition that both the Rotary Club and the City insisted upon in respect of the dignity and privacy of the families involved. The newly selected gravesite was situated in a peaceful location in the central part of the cemetery, with the engraving on the erected headstone reading: -

*Sacred to the memory of
Jeannette Derkson aged 14 years
Reta Rosanna Hope aged 10 years
James Sherman Hope aged 6 years
Who lost their lives at Sutherland Beach on August 14, 1933
Jeannette and Reta gave their lives in an heroic attempt to rescue James from drowning.*

The Sequel

In 2009, it came to the notice of the historian of the Rotary Club of Saskatoon, Al Morton that

the headstone at the gravesite had deteriorated considerably over the intervening 75 years. After due consideration, a decision was made by then Club President, Bill Edwards, to restore it to its original pristine condition and, thanks to his personal efforts, the services of Kevin Watt and Brian Klinger of Brian's Signs and a contribution to the Rotary Club from Saskatoon Funeral Home to cover all expenses the refurbished stone was re-erected in the fall of 2010. In order to properly mark the occasion, a rededication service is being organized for **Tuesday, August the 16th at 10.30a.m.** of this year with representatives of the Hope and Derkson families in attendance.

2010/2011 Club Executive

by Joy Adams Bauer

President - Dave Sundby
Past President - Wayne McGillivray
President-Elect - Gary Rusu
Treasurer - Joanne Fisher
Secretary - Avis Hardy

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