



Official Bulletin of:
ROTARY CLUB OF SASKATOON MEEWASIN #22664



8B -3110 8th St East, Box 425 S7H 0W2
Founded: April 23, 1985
Meetings: Monday 0700

September 11, 2023

Education and Literacy Month

Rotary: Making a Difference

District Governor (5550): Sonja Susut, Moose Jaw

President: Luis Pagliarini

Pres Elect: Art Whetstone

Secretary: Garth Courtney

Past President: A. Postle, G. Courtney

Treasurers: Art Postle

Sergeant: Ron Loopkey

Desk: Garth Courtney

Service Above Self

DUES AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO THE CLUB

- E-mail Transfer from Bank Account
 - Send to Meewasin Rotary Club using the email: meewasinrotary2020@gmail.com

DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION

E.G., Fines, Donations In Lieu Of Meeting Expense

- E-mail Transfer from Bank Account
 - Send to Rowasin Foundation using the email: rowasin2020@gmail.com

Payment by Credit Card (For either Meeting Expenses or Fines/Donations)

- For a credit card payment contact Art Postle (postle@sasktel.net).

Rotary Meeting

ZOOM – Meewasin Rotary Club

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83624852636?pwd=MjRRTY2FQWIRmRW9Cd2NKRHISWHlvQT09>

ZOOM & Queen's House

601 Taylor Street West

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87214323627>

Meeting ID: 872 1432 3627

One tap mobile

+16473744685,,87214323627# Canada

+16475580588,,87214323627# Canada

If you have problems getting on Zoom call Garth at 306 229-3965 or Art P at 306 227-3013

Call to Order: The Chair opened the meeting at 0700.

Attendance: There were 18 dedicated members who enjoyed a morning of fellowship with their fellow Rotarians and guests.

Guests: Wendy Stefiuk, Louise Halfe



The Sergeant raised funds for the following real or imagined offences: For not making the corn roast.



Happy and Sad Dollars. Ron for a great weekend and visit from friend from Turkey; Ann for the corn roast and for successful fund raiser for church; Donna for grand-daughters birthday; Garth for Sharon getting hole in one; Garth for Ken Wilson who is in hospital; Robert for a great golf round at Shields, and Murray not adding the score; Les for Louise being here today; Art for Postle for 9-11 Remembrance; Art P for Queens House closing in Spring; Art P for Roughriders; Art P for a full room today; Luis for corn roast; Luis for 9-11 and for Single mom arriving from Guelph with 4 kids and a dog.

Announcements

1) SASKATOON FOOD BANK

- a) Next Opportunities: To be announced

2) EDADZ BACKPACK Drop Off



- a) You can Drop off items at John Benesh's Office.
- b) There is a Box in the reception area
- c) Any bag is OK, not just back packs.
- d) You may bring the backpacks to the meeting to give to John B.

3) Cell Phones

- a) John Benesh is collecting smart phones for the Mother and Baby centre. They will be used by mothers for appointments, etc.
- b) Drop off at Benesh, Bitz and company – Quebec Avenue.

4) Coop Gift Cards

- a) Art has \$10,000 in gift cards,
- b) Order them from Art

5) Meals on Wheels

- a) Sign up for meals on wheels by going to the Sask Health website by completing the form. You only need to complete the required information.
- b) Link: . <https://btrr.im/2aeo0> Copy and past it or click on the link.

- c) After you select Meals on Wheels, make sure to note somewhere that you are with Meewasin Rotary.
- d) We delivered our first meals last week.

6) Your Announcement Here

- a) .

Club Business

Art Postle, presented Luis with his President's Pin.

Garth Courtney presented Art with the President-Elect pin

Program

Louise Halfe of the First Nations who was Canada's Poet Laureate. Her Cree name is Sky Dancer. She is the first Saskatchewan Poet Laureate and Parliamentary Poet Laureate and has published six books of poetry. Her experience at Blue Quills influences her work today. She received a degree in Social Work from the UofR.

Louise Bernice Halfe — Sky Dancer [became Canada's Parliamentary Poet Laureate](#) on January 1, 2021. Ms. Halfe is the ninth poet to hold this office, succeeding [Georgette Leblanc](#), whose two-year term ended on December 31, 2019.

Born in Two Hills, Alberta, Ms. Halfe was raised on Saddle Lake Reserve and attended Blue Quills Residential School. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work — as well as honorary Degrees of Letters from Wilfried Laurier University, University of Saskatchewan and Mount Royal University — and previously served as Saskatchewan's second Poet Laureate. Ms. Halfe's published works include *Bear Bones and Feathers* (1994), *Blue Marrow* (2004), *The Crooked Good* (2007) and *Burning in this Midnight Dream* (2016), all of which have received numerous accolades and awards. *Sôhkêyihta*, published in 2018, features selected poems and Ms. Halfe's latest work, *awâsis – kinky and dishevelled*, was released in April 2021.

She started writing at 16 years. She met her husband when he was travelling across Canada on way to Australia, but got sidetracked. He met her parents who were living in teepees to get away from the situation on the reserve. He was living in a teepee and helped her parents on gathering the game.

They eloped because of the two different cultures. Her people were poor and dysfunctional from residential schools; and his were wealthy. His parents didn't support them because they didn't approve of her. He went to university and applied to medical school. She met a psychiatrist who taught her about dreams. Later, she started an additions program where she met her second therapist. During this time, she was journalling.

The best time is to write in the morning because your internal censor is less severe. You're a writing about you and your creator, you and your environment. You are writing for an audience, but for you and your situation. An Eldor asked: What do you think? In Cree, it is What does you heart think?

She didn't like social work, so she left it.

When in Meadow Lake, she would escape to the woods and write. She sent some works to a publisher. A professor in her class nurtured her writing. He exposed her to Irish Literature.

Her experience in residential school left her with poor skills in language, writing and arithmetic.

Her grandfather used to read Cyllabics. He would read the calendar with his finger and read what was being exposed to him.

Today, we are suffering. If she can reach one person who wants to move on, that is her dream. She can fix every one, she can only help those that want to move on. She can't wait for those that don't want to move on. She will work with those that are ready to move on, one more at a time.

They must move on from their place of truth, however uncomfortable that is.

When a Parliamentary Poet Laureate, she was asked for poems from Senators. Also, she would work with them to write poems for their topic. She also worked with organizations requests for poetry.

A national gardening association wanted poets about gardens. She wrote about her gardening experiences. They wanted ones about elite gardens and Japanese gardens. She had to educate them and they then included her poems.

She wrote for seniors and about different exercises to motivate – aerobics, walking, movement.

In 1990, Halfe was first published in the collection *Writing the Circle: Native Women of Western Canada*.^[3] Her next publication was a piece in *Residential Schools: The Stolen Years* (1993) which was a collection of writing by residential school survivors.^[3] Her first book, *Bear Bones & Feathers*, was started in a journal during her academic career; it was published in 1994.^[7] She has published three more books: *Blue Marrow* (2004), *Crooked Good* (2007), and *Burning in This Midnight Dream* (2016). In 2018, as part of the Laurier Poetry Series, her previously published works were compiled in *Sôhkêyihta: The Poetry of Sky Dancer Louise Bernice Halfe*.

In 2005, Halfe became Saskatchewan's Poet Laureate.^[9] She is the second person ever to hold the title.^[3] Then, in 2012, Halfe received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Wilfrid Laurier University.^[10] She is currently the acting Elder at the University of Saskatchewan.^[11]

Halfe uses code-switching in her work. Code-switching is largely a response to the devastation of Aboriginal languages.^[8] Their loss is connected to the legacy of residential schools. The use of code-switching shows a fragmentation of history, culture, and land base which cannot be conveyed through English alone. Halfe code-switches between Cree and English, as well as between Cree-English and standardized English. Halfe personalizes the Cree language in her work by using possessive kinship terms. Halfe is also known to use the language of the church, or "Whiteman's words," in her work. Halfe has said that writing helps her reconnect to her culture and language.

Halfe writes poetry about the women that have come before her.] Her writing focuses on the kinship relations between women, the stories women have to tell, and their histories. Halfe's poetry reasserts the importance of women in Cree culture.

Halfe works with Cree intellectual traditions in her poetry. She tells women's stories to explore the link between creation and knowledge in Cree storytelling. In *The Crooked Good*, Halfe explores Cree sacred history using a Cree feminist perspective.

Halfe incorporates the white space on the page into the meaning of her poems.] The white space represents the settler-colonial idea of terra nullius and, therefore, signifies erasure, a loss of language, and an inability to speak.[3] Every word she writes on the page is a political act against silence and erasure.

Halfe often writes about a connection to the land that is both spiritual and political.

Halfe titled her book Blue Marrow to invoke the image of using a bone writing in blue ink The title re-appropriates the "blue quill" of Blue Quills Residential School.[3] Much of Halfe's poetry reflects on her time at the school and the effect it had on her, her family, and her community.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Speaker and Topic
August	Membership and New Club Development Coordinator: Membership Committee
28	Queen’s House OR
September	Education and Literacy Coordinator: Literacy Committee
4	Labour Day – No meeting
11	Louise Halfe, Parliamentary Poet Laureate
18	
25	
October	Economic and Community Development Coordinator: Public Relations Committee
2	
9	Happy Thanksgiving. No meeting.
16	
23	
30	

Events

Date	Event	Rotary Club	Information/Contact

Welcome Song

We welcome you today
 Good fellowship ‘twill be
 We’re glad you chose to begin your day
 With Meewasin Rotary

We hope that you will return
 And join with us again
 Fellowship at breakfast time
 With Meewasin Rotary

Is it the Truth?
Is it Fair to all concerned?
Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

ROTARY GRACE

O Lord and giver of all good
We thank you for our daily food
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways
Help us to serve Thee all our days

COMMITTEES FOR 2023-2024

Administration/ Executive —Meeting administration (program, facilities, meals, supplies)
Pagliarini (President) Courtney (Secretary), Postle (Club Treasurer), Whetstone (President-elect)

Foundation—Foundation donations, member recognition
Fisher (Chair) McArthur, Bailey, Wilson, Muir

Indigenous Relations—In support of a District 5550 initiative
Ferguson, Birkmeier

Literacy—In support of a Rotary International initiative
Postle (Chair), Stefiuk, Berscheid

Membership—Membership recruitment, engagement, and retention
Anne Luross (Chair) Lawrence, Klause

Public Relations—Club and event promotion, communications, website management
John Luross (Chair and Website Administrator), Whetstone (Eyeopener Editor),
Loopkey, Geenen

Service—Club charitable giving, foundation grant applications
Benesh (Chair), Howland, Nancy Luross, Tenaski,

Youth—Youth exchanges, adventure programs, school programs
Voldeng (Chair), Kessler, Nair, Paproski

Officers and Directors – 2023-2024

Board Executive/Officers:

President: Luis Pagliarini
Past President Garth Courtney, Art Postle
President Elect Arthur Whetstone

Treasurer Art Postle
Secretary Garth Courtney
Ass't Secretary John Luross
Ass't Treasurer Vacant

Directors:

John Benesh
Peter Voldeng
John Luross

Anne Luross
Robert Fisher

Monthly Speaker / Program - Members in Charge

"Rotary Connects the World"

Listed below are the Theme months and the Committee Chair for each month.

September - Art Postle - Education and Literacy
October - John Luross - Economic and Community Development
November – Robert Fisher – Rotary Foundation
December – John Benesh - Disease Prevention and Treatment
January – Luis Pagliarini/ Peter Voldeng - Vocational Service
February – Art Whetstone – Peace and Conflict Prevention
March – John Benesh – Water and Sanitation
April – Anne Luross – Maternal and Child Care
May – Peter Voldeng – Youth
June – John Luross/ Garth Courtney – Rotary Fellowship