



SPOKE



Volume 10, Issue 3 Published Monthly by the Rotary Club of Meaford

March 2019

April 8 th	Guest Speaker - David Blevins SS Keewatin
Sun April 14 th	Niigaanibatowaad: FrontRunners 15:30 – Welcome runners to Meaford Hall 19:00 – Film Niigaanibatowaad: FrontRunners
April 15 th	Guest Speaker - Heather Fowler Women's Centre Owen Sound
April 29 th	Guest Speaker - David Robinson Teacher/Artist; Art Inspired by Cross Canada Cycling Tours
Saturday May 4 th	BAGGY! Spring Clean-up event
Mon May 6 th	Rotary Meeting – Meaford Hall Business Meeting
Mon May 13 th	Rotary Meeting – Meaford Hall Guest: Speaker TBA Meaford Tia Chi Group
Mon May 27 th	Rotary Meeting – Meaford Hall Guest: Ms. Abbey Sewell Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA)

Please reach out to us through our website, Facebook page or any of us if there are Rotary events that you are interested in participating in or you are considering becoming part of our team.

Highlights of March 11th meeting:

The club decided to adopt a section of Highway 26 on the east side of the town through the Ontario Adopt-a-Road program. This program enables participants to pick up litter along certain regional road rights-of-way. Adopt-a-Road is a way for environmentally-conscious citizens to make a personal contribution to a cleaner environment.

Under the program, groups or individuals agree to adopt a section of road right-of-way and keep it clean. The Region recognizes the participant(s) by erecting signs acknowledging their efforts at either end of their designated roadway.

The club will maintain the highway from the City Limits to the new Meaford sign, including the maintenance of the small garden at the sign that will be put in place this year.

The club received a report from the Nansio hospital in Tanzania. The staff have been educated on the use of the infant incubator we gave them and each month, more cases are being treated with this equipment.

A decision was made to be a sponsor for the Niigaanibatowood: Frontrunners Special Event on Sunday April 14th. The club also connected the event organizers with the local coyote clubs so that our local runners can run with the FrontRunners into town.



Highlights from March 18th meeting

The club enjoyed an evening of fellowship in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Our pot-luck meal was fabulous and included Irish Stew and green dessert! Rotarian Tom led three rather raucous rounds of St. Patrick's Day Bingo with prizes such as shamrocks and green beer.

Our short business session included a decision to once again, support 5 students from GBCS to go to the RYLA program in London. We look forward to hearing from our guest speaker in May who went to that program and is now part of the leadership of that event. We also agreed to support the Bluewater Regional Science and Technology Fair as we have done for many years and the Meaford Theater Company who present a play once a year in Meaford and in Clarksburg.



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Highlights from our March 25th meeting:

President Bernard thanked Rotarian Tim and his wife Melanie for the fund-raising dinners that they have had over the last year, raising almost \$800 for the club!

Heavy rains have been affecting families in Malawi since early March and Cyclone Idai has made the situation worse with over 1 million Malawians affected by the floods. This natural disaster is continuing to be closely monitored in Mozambique, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. The club decided that we had the resources to purchase a second ShelterBox for disaster relief.

Youth Rotary Citizen of the Year

Rotarians attending the Community Awards Gala celebrated volunteerism and leadership in two youths within our community. Emma Chapman and Isaak North were both an integral part of the Georgian Bay Youth Roots Committee that completed the application for Youth Friendly Community Designation. The committee nominated the pair of GBCS students, stating that they didn't think that they would have been successful had it not been for the extensive contribution made by these two students.



Rotary Citizen of the Year



We were very excited that this year, 11 people in our community were nominated for the Rotary Citizen of the Year awards. What a fortunate community we are to have so many individuals who are deserving of this recognition!

Helen Crowston, our 2018 Rotary Citizen of the Year was nominated by her peers for her extensive contributions to our community, through her generous time in sharing her extensive knowledge of the town's history with others, her participation as a singer and pianist with the Goldenaires and her extensive contribution to her church community in organizing events.

Please join us in congratulating these worthy recipients as our 2018 Citizens of the Year!