



FEBRUARY 15, 2017

This week's program featured guest speaker, Stuart McFadden, acting economic director for the municipality of Chatham-Kent. Stuart was introduced by Rotarian Tom McCarthy.

Before joining the municipality, Stuart was a local businessman, owning and operating the IGA food store in Wallaceburg. Stuart still lives in Wallaceburg with his wife and 2 sons.

Stuart focused on some of the responsibilities of the economic development department. A small business centre, business retention and expansion, investment attraction, government relations, marketing and communications are some of their projects.

They operate on a budget of over \$1million which is approximately \$19 per average household.

Stuart mentioned that everyone is an EDO and that many leads come from local citizens.



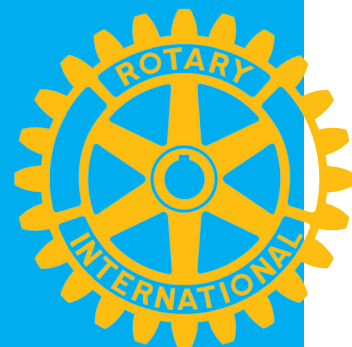
Guest speaker Stuart Mcfadden



Introduced by Tom McCarthy

Many items are of concern to Stuart. Some of these items are having shovel ready sites available, receiving funding from governments when it is available to help local businesses, and investing in quality of life for our citizens with bridges, theatres, arenas and other recreational needs.

There are many challenges such as natural gas expansion for the greenhouses that want to locate here. We need good high speed fibre networks for everyone, as well as property zoned and serviced. A skills mismatch and an aging workforce is a concern as well. And, of course, the cost of electricity and the costs of cap and trade are worrisome.





The Rotary Club of Chatham

E-Bulletin

35 Thames St., Chatham • 519-354-8300



President Alysson and Stuart McFadden

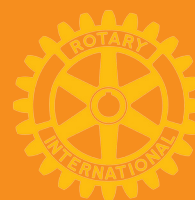


Paul Mayrand thanked the speaker

Local capital and equipment investment was \$64 million during the past 24 months. Government funding (grants and loans) were \$4.6 million, over 1,000 jobs were retained and 262 new jobs were created. Almost \$3 million was invested in local research and development investment.

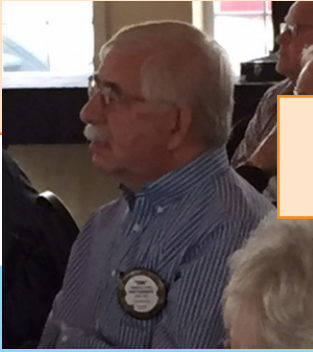
Stuart reminds us that economic development is not a sprint but rather a marathon without a finish line.

We appreciate the update from our economic development office and our thanks were more formally expressed by Rotarian Paul Mayrand.



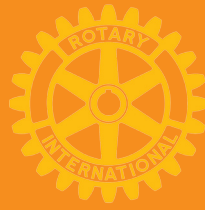
BIRTHDAYS

Tom Storey Feb. 16



ANNIVERSARIES

Fannie Vavoulis Feb 16



Happy Notices

Finemaster Sparky preparing to collect money for the foundation.



Our exchange student, Dhaurya Shah, was interested to hear that Feb. 15 is Flag Day in Canada. On Feb. 15, in 1965, our national flag was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill. This year, the National Flag of Canada is celebrating its 52nd anniversary.



Benefactor Laurie Leonard being congratulated by AG Don Jackson from the Blenheim Rotary club on her decision to be a Paul Harris contributor every year.

Don also gave a pin to Sparky earlier. Sparky has made the same commitment to Rotary.



Charles Seaman won the 50-50 draw today. Congratulations, Charles.



NEXT WEEK Brad Coulbeck

"The Resilient Mind: Thriving in a high stress environment"

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 1

To Be Announced