



MAY 8, 2019

This week, our guest speaker was Margaret Campbell. Margaret was introduced by Julia Smith, our pianist, who told us, among other things, that Margaret is a member of the Sunrise Rotary Club.

Margaret is the daughter of Richard and Lois Pierce who are well known to long-time Rotarians. Lois was a local doctor and Richard was the chief administrator of General Hospital in Chatham. Richard was also president of our club. In 1970, her parents decided to walk across Canada to raise money for the Rotary Foundation. The trek took 9 months.

Margaret and her late husband Dave have worked for years helping people in Belarus recover from the Chernobyl nuclear accident. She has been raising money for 15 years through the group Canadian Aid for Chernobyl.

This area is now radioactive and will be for centuries. Although the land grows food, the food is also radioactive and can not be eaten or sold.

Over the years, Margaret has raised funds to install running water in several households. This required supplying the kitchen counter and taps as well.

Margaret and her husband also build greenhouses, chicken barns and helped to feed the kids at a local orphanage.

For many years, children from this area were hosted by Canadians and other countries in the summer. This allowed the children to be away from the radioactivity for a time. They received health care, including dentistry, while here. For political reasons, this program has stopped.



Margaret showed pictures of the inside of the small houses where many people live together with minimal heating and food. Margaret has lived with one local family in one of these tiny houses. The family speak Russian and Margaret can only talk to this family when a translator is available.

The local currency is devalued regularly and this traps the locals in poverty. They can not afford to leave and it is not safe for them to stay.

We appreciate the sacrifices that Margaret is making to help the people in Belarus. She is changing lives.



The Rotary Club of Chatham

E-Bulletin

35 Thames St., Chatham • 519-354-8300



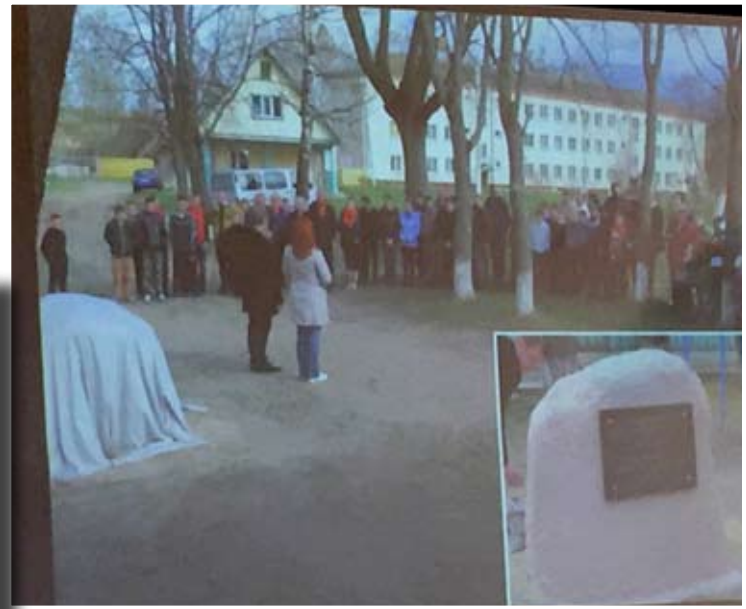
Above: President Jennifer, guest speaker Margaret Campbell and Julia Smith who introduced our guest speaker.

Left, Julia Smith introducing Margaret

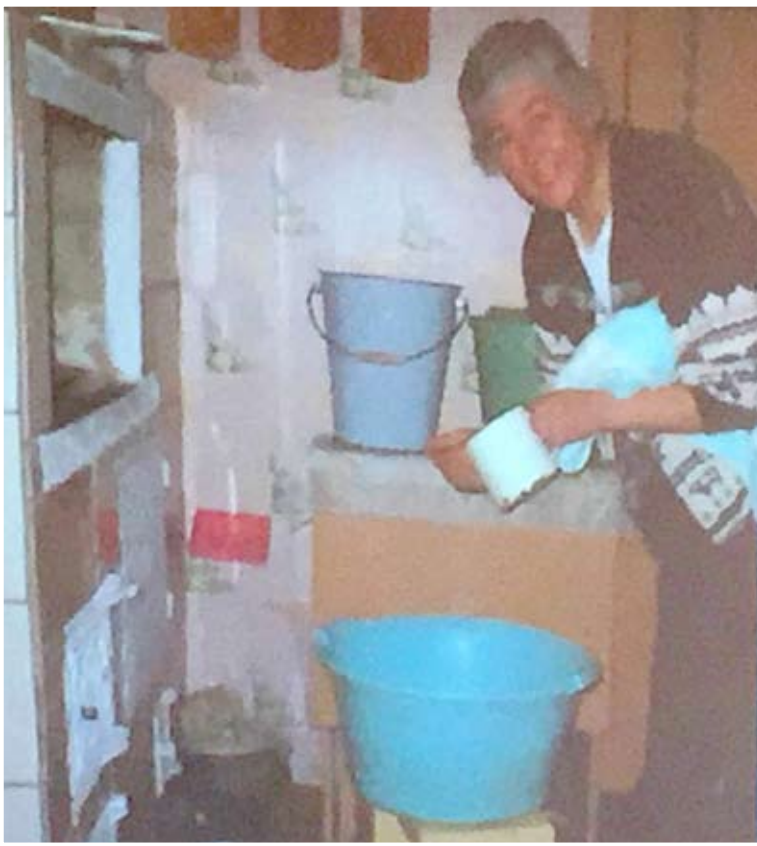


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Above: A local orphanage. Inset, a plaque that they built in honour of her husband Dave.



Above: The kitchen area of one of the small houses.
Right: A local resident.



BIRTHDAYS

Caitlin Caldwell
May 17

Alysson Storey
May 21

Janet McGuigan Kelly
May 22

Paul Mayrand
May 29



Happy Notices

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 15 Don (Sparky) Leonard

May 22 Monte McNaughton

May 29 Jason Herder
Special Olympics

June 5 Vaneet Nair, Author
Healthier You

June 12 Club Meeting

June 19 Paula Reaume-Zimmer
Vice President, CMHA

June 26 Jennifer Hill
Swan Song

July 3 Transition Meeting

July 10 Gerry Jackson

July 24 Rotary BBQ
Andy Watson's Residence

July 31 Don Adam
Huron House Boy's Home

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Karen MacDonald
1 yr - May 9

Les Herman
7 yrs - May 16

Darlene Smith
3 yrs - May 25

Diane McGuigan
27 yrs - May 27



The Rotary Club of Chatham gratefully acknowledges the support of Riverview Gaming Centre