



ROTARY WHEEL



Rotary Club of Oshawa

PO Box 91
Oshawa, Ontario
L1H 7K8

Report on the Meeting January 7, 2019

Head Table:

President – Kevin Harding
Introducer – Shawn Samaroo
Thanker – Ron Cartmell
Sergeant At Arms – Trish Best
Guest Speaker – Rotarian & Regional Chair John Henry

President's Announcements:

President Kevin Harding inducted new member Rhonda Gorham. Sponsor Trish Best, introduced her to the club and pinned her. Trish recalled meeting her doing election signs. Genuine loving and appreciative. Specializes in Education Therapy. Has two children. Trish spoke about Rhonda as already living the 4 way test.

Introductions / Guests:

Prospective Member Randy Nickerson and guest of Trish Best, Rhonda Gorham, were also introduced.

Mic Time:

Kevin Harding Sr. is looking for another 2 volunteers to help with the draw tickets while he's away for two months. Feb and March. He has two and needs two more.

Happy Bucks:

Tom Maxwell spoke about seeing Emmy on TV with the Lft Tennant Governor. Abb spoke about his daughter coming home for the holidays after 18 years. Bob spoke about having great family time over the holidays. Wished Rotarian families a Happy New Year – Family to Family. Ron Dick welcomed Rhonda, the 7th new member for the year. Ron, wearing his legendary Leafs suit jacket, reminded members of the 5-0 win Sat night. Tom Maxwell said the Leafs looked like they were playing a Midget team and reminded Ron of the previous two games the Leafs lost. Kim Tan said it was freezing in Regina and corrected the fundraising for the artist – it is \$810 and happily encouraged Michael Adams to help raise another \$190 to make up the difference reported in snapd. Gordon said "police took me away he's glad they brought him back". Not sure of the entire story there. Emmy talked about arriving early to the New Year's Levee and meeting the Wife of former Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander.

Speaker - Rotarian & Regional Chair John Henry

Introduced by Shawn Samaroo. Shawn said John really didn't need any introduction. John was the person that first recommended Shawn to Rotary. John was elected to council in 2006 and Mayor in 2010. John was a major factor in Oshawa designation as the Education City. Transforming the waterfront. Outstanding citizen and an honour for him to officially introduce Regional Chair John Henry today.

John Said its true, he's turning 59. Said of those 59 years he's been a Rotarian for 30 years. Started in Whitby. John Congratulated Rhonda and welcomed her to our amazing organization. An organization that eradicated Polio and there aren't any new cases reported so far this year. 30 last year. Rotary should be proud. John said amazing people prior to us built the community. Winfield Farms and the McLaughlin families. He reminded us that Oshawa celebrated the 100th anniversary of the auto in 2008 with the McLaughlin-Buick Automobile Company, which became GM. The automobile was here longer than GM. Back then the company had to decide between carriages and gas powered automobiles. Today they need to decide between gas and electric. He spoke about so many large businesses across the region. Women in Oshawa, lead by Adelaide McLaughlin, were responsible for getting Oshawa its first hospital. Robert McLaughlin was the founder of Canada Dry. The city of Oshawa is more than GM. Its just where it started. In 1899 the City of Oshawa loaned (interest free) the McLaughlin Motor Car Company Limited \$50,000 after a fire destroyed the carriage works. If the city didn't step in to help financially after the fire of 1899, GM most likely would never have been formed. Auto dealers in the area are reporting a combined decrease in sales by \$8 million. These dealership are owned by people who support our community, so there's more residual affects that will be felt. Autoworkers support the United Way. John said there's a difference between fair and free trade. When widgets can be produced by plants that pay no attention to health and safety, don't support hurt workers and pay them less than 10% of those in Oshawa, that's not a level playing field and not fair trade. We have 8 municipalities in Durham. We're 1.2 the size of PEI. Clarington alone is larger that Toronto. Farming employs 18 thousand people alone. Our power plants provide energy to 30% of the homes in Ontario. Our Health and Education institutions are 2nd to none. He witnessed great young minds work in a hack a thon to develop an app for Mental Health. Many great stories in Durham. Kabota is building a new head office in Pickering. Toyota is expanding into Clarington. Adamson makes high end speakers in Port Perry. Employment lands along the 410/412/401 series of highways will be freed up soon by the province that will become homes for new businesses employing people. Pickering Airport was approved by the Federal Government and just needs to be built. GO will come to Clarington by 2024 as approved by the previous Provincial government. Highway #2 moves over 1.2 million people each year. We need to grow companies that are already here. Strengthen our economic bases of educational institutions and continue to become an economic engine of the country. We need to build on our talent pool. Growth of the GTA east is the only option left. We have 3 major highways. Aircraft paint remover based in Durham. Gordon Food Services plans a new 300,000 square foot food distribution plant is being built in Ajax. 680,000 people live in Durham. Opportunities are everywhere. Many people are looking to Durham to build their businesses. The Region has a new CAO. Joann Chechalk has 25 years experience in Municipalities including 5 years as CAO of Oakville. Its what we do in our communities every day as Rotary Clubs. We sell our communities. The 4 way test would be great to use in government. Like it helped eradicate Polio. Rotary could help a little more. Para Sports Games coming. Rotarians might consider sponsoring an athlete. The event will put the region on the world stage and smiles on thousands of athletes, their families and fans. Our job is about people. He's excited about the opportunities. Yes, there are challenges too. But people are listening to us. Provincial and Federal. But we will be successful because of the people.

John asked if there were any questions.

Kim Tam raised the getting the EP Taylor name back into the RMG. The family donated a painting worth millions. It is John's favourite painting. John said we don't do enough to celebrate our history. We were the first to have electric street cars moving people from the lake to the city. He raised the issue of GM manufacturing again and the affect on tax revenue which helps fund infrastructure projects across the country.

Rob Cartmell thanked John for his speech and presented a plaque to him in recognition. Plus how the club will donate funds to eradicate Polio in his name as a thank you.

Noon hour draw:

Michael Adams - 8 of hearts

Next Meeting – Date, 2018

Monday January 14th – Heather McMillan, Executive Director Durham Workforce Authority

All regular meetings held at:

12:15 at the Oshawa Golf and Curling Club
