

## Backgrounder for Rotary Peace Initiative in Kitimat

1. Spring, 2008. Members Bonnie Spry and Eleanor Kendell attended the Rotary World Peace Summit in Windsor, Ontario along with a Kitimat youth delegate, Meghan Marshall
  - a. We learned about Global Peace Initiatives from some impressive people, Allan Rock (Canada's Peace Ambassador (2004-2006), Prince Zeid Ra'ad, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Lloyd Axworthy.
  - b. Polio and Peace, Clean Water, Heifer International, Engineers without Borders, the Right to Play, all help toward building world peace and understanding
  - c. We heard how to Bring Peace Home – Rotary Peace Communities
    1. Panel of four, I met one of them the night before, Anna Jurak. Anna spearheaded the project to make Windsor a Rotary Peace Community.
  - d. There is much more to remember, a parade of the flags of nations, a wonderful fireworks display, an Interfaith Service with a choir of 200 people, and certainly more outstanding people.
  - e. There were over 1000 Rotarians and guests in attendance.
  - f. I made a motion, having talked to Anna and others from her club, to carry a motion forward at the Business meeting to put forward a properly worded resolution that would see Rotary Peace Communities becoming an official Rotary International Program. The motion was carried.
2. Bringing Peace Home
  - a. I returned to Kitimat and started to do my homework. Let's join with Windsor and make Kitimat a Peace Community. There was much to review before presenting it to my club effectively. A PowerPoint slide show was put together to let members know what was there.

- b. We decided to start off with the making of a Human Peace Sign to mark September 21<sup>st</sup>, the United Nations International Day of Peace. This would get people thinking about Peace.
3. About the United Nations International Day of Peace
  - a. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001, the governments of Britain and Costa Rica put an idea forward to their United Nations colleagues to have an international day of peace. The vision was to make this a day of cease fire, a day of non-violence, a day for ordinary people, you and me to take action for peace. The resolution was unanimously adopted. Over 100 million people in 100 different countries will be marking September 21<sup>st</sup> in many different ways. See Peace One Day's website. It is an inspiring story.
4. Recognizing Peace Day in Kitimat
  - a. We asked for the support of our District Council and they agreed to this. A proclamation was signed last year and also this year which declares our communities recognition of Peace Day.
  - b. Displays went up last year, letters went out and others came forward to make this particularly special.
  - c. The first was a call from Christ the King Church to add music to the celebration
  - d. We asked for support last year and this and received it from so many people
    1. City Centre Mall for display space.
    2. Other service clubs, in particular the Gyros and Masons
    3. Sports and cultural clubs
    4. All our religious faiths
    5. Students from MESS
    6. Our Elementary Schools
    7. The Riverlodge staff and Snowflake Seniors
    8. The Kitimat Fire Department.
    9. Rylarians
    10. Kitimat Public Library
    11. Bandstra, Kitimat Iron, Wakita Construction, T L & T

12. And many more whose names do not come to my mind but they know who they are.

5. Peace Day 2010

- a. Will take place at the Riverlodge Parking Lot
- b. September 21st
- c. Start time 6:00 p.m.
- d. Hot chocolate will be available from 5:30 on.
- e. Stage will be setup in front of the Senior's centre
- f. Peace Sign will be laid out on the ground at the back of the parking lot (Dyke Road)
- g. Program for the day will be M.C.'s by Gareen Ball as follows
  1. MLA Robin Austin
  2. Mayor Joanne Monaghan
  3. Representative from Kitamaat Village (not confirmed, Chief Councillor Delores Pollard will be out of town)
  4. Rylarians
  5. Rotary President Eleanor Kendell
- h. Musicians from Christ the King Church will provide the music between each speaker
- i. Thanks done by M.C.
- j. M.C. will explain how the people will parade to the Peace Sign
  1. Rotary Past President JoAnn Hildebrandt will lead people off single file to move up the ramp way between Riverlodge and the Seniors Centre.
  2. Students from MESS will follow this each leading a section of the crowd.
  3. At the top of the ramp each person will be given a helium filled balloon to carry to the peace sign.
  4. We'll all be singing as we go.
  5. Jo Ann will walk her people around the circle so it ends up evenly spaced as others follow.

6. Mason's will be on hand to make sure this happens.
7. Dwight Magee will be up in the fire truck's bucket truck to take the picture
8. Noel Gaucher will be taking video footage from a lift truck.
9. Once everyone is in place Dwight will take the picture and then everyone can release their balloons. The strings are tied into the balloons so if everything works perfectly they can be slipped off the string and released into the air without strings. This is much more environmentally friendly.

k. M.C. now says it is time to pass the peace handshake.

Rotary Club if Kitimat co-chairs for this event – Margaret Warcup and Eleanor Kendell

More in 2010

The opportunity to become involved with the Rotary Peace Schools program has just been given to all our elementary schools in Kitimat.

A Rotary Peace School is one that encourages, fosters and promotes a safe, caring and welcoming environment. It demonstrates its unwavering commitment to the process of peace. This is shown by the school's pledge to stop violence in all forms, promote peace, a respect for life and dignity of others.

A Peace School will have consistently demonstrated its ability to work harmoniously with all. It applies to **Rotary's Four Way Test** of the things we think, do or say.

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Is it beneficial to all concerned?

Schools will be recognized for their accomplishments. Final details regarding this are now being finalized. The top school will receive passes for the whole school to enjoy time together at the new Tamitik Swimming Pool. Thanks go to the District of Kitimat for providing this recognition to the children.