



DART Update – Q1 July 2016

Hello everyone, hope you're enjoying your summer! Here is an update on the DART activities that have been happening since April, as well as what's being planned for September and October.

KAIROS Indigenous Blanket Exercise

The KAIROS blanket exercise is a teaching tool to share the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. It's essentially an interactive history lesson that takes about 45 minutes to an hour to complete, depending on the number of participants, and is followed by a discussion session when all participants have an opportunity to voice their thoughts and reaction to what they've learned. Since April we've had three opportunities to take part in a KAIROS Indigenous Blanket Exercise:

- On April 15th, at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Toronto
- On May 7th, at a Truth & Reconciliation Gathering in Orangeville, sponsored by the Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle, www.dufferincountyculturalresourcecircle.org.
- On June 8th, at an Indigenous People's Evening in Burlington, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Burlington North

If your club is interested in participating in, or hosting, a KAIROS Indigenous Blanket Exercise, please contact DART at isproxto@hotmail.ca. For more information about the Blanket Exercise, please visit the KAIROS website at <http://kairosblanketexercise.org/>.

DART Information Sessions

We've held two DART information sessions since April. On June 8th, the Rotary Club of Burlington North hosted an Indigenous People's Evening at FarAway Greens in Burlington. The evening began with a showing of Wawahte, a film about the residential schools from the perspective of 3 survivors. (<http://wawahte.com>) The film was introduced by HIP Chair, Chris Snyder. The KAIROS Blanket Exercise was conducted, following the film.

The second information session was hosted by the Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar and took place on June 28th at the District Changeover & Awards night. Dr. Pierre Zundel from the University of Sudbury spoke about programs to increase the retention rates for indigenous students enrolled in post-secondary education and how Rotary can help. The University of



Sudbury has consulted with several communities on Manitoulin Island and on the coast of James Bay. The University has had great success piloting adult education centres in Indigenous communities that offer university courses and would like to expand this program.

Ongoing and New Aboriginal Projects

RC Burlington North – OneXOne First Nations School Breakfast Program

RCBN is supporting the OneXOne breakfast program for the Keewaytinook Internet High School, a program that allows Aboriginal students to complete their high school education remotely, while staying in their home and community. Classrooms are located in Fort William, Keewaywin, Mishkeegogamang, Nibinamik, North Spirit Lake and Poplar Hill, all in northern Ontario. For the 2016-17 year, RCBN's goal was to bring ten 7080 clubs on board with a \$500 donation, for a total of \$5,000, and matching that amount with a District Grant of \$5000, to bring the total contribution to \$10,000. To-date, 13 clubs have committed to a \$500 donation for the 2016-17 year; RCBN is now collecting the donations from the participating clubs.

RC Guelph – Better Hearing in Education for Northern Youth

The BHENY project has initiated its first launch in two communities. The elementary schools in Pond Inlet and Pangnirtung, Nunavut are now equipped with Soundfield amplification systems. All classroom teachers and Student Support Assistants were trained in their use and to troubleshoot, should the technology need repair. Training also included professional development connecting hearing loss to gaps in language, literacy and social well-being. A Hearing Fair for the parents and children was also held in both communities and proved to be very successful in teaching about hearing loss, hearing protection and removing the stigma attached to wearing hearing aids. A second implementation is planned for 2 more communities in Sept/Oct 2016. To date, funding has been received from the Rotary Club of Guelph, the RCOG Foundation, ELKS Iqaluit and private donations. In January, BHENY was selected as one of three winners for the Arctic Inspiration Prize which awarded them \$300,000. An application to the Hear the World Fund has also been approved, providing the equipment for Phase Three of the project. The project will welcome support from anyone else interested. FYI, a donation of \$3,000 will outfit one classroom with a personal MyLink headset and a DynaMic. Contact Rotarians Lynne McCurdy or Terrie Jarvis if your club would like to participate.

RC Oakville Trafalgar – University of Sudbury First Nations Scholarship Program

The University of Sudbury First Nation scholarship goes to 2nd-year UofS students who have successfully completed their first-year studies at one of two indigenous education centres. The scholarship is \$7,500 per student per year for 3 years; students are not required to major in

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indigenous studies but must take at least one course from that program. RC Oakville Trafalgar has committed to providing funds for 3 years to one scholarship student, and will be selecting the student to receive the scholarship very soon. Contact Rotarian Bill Kerr for more information.

RC Oakville Trafalgar – Continuing Education Centre in Fort Albany

This is a new potential opportunity and, if it proceeds, would involve applying to Rotary International for a Global grant. Ideally, the Continuing Education Centre would offer several options to mature students including classes to prepare students for the GED (General Educational Development) test allowing them to obtain an Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate, and courses in technology and the skilled trades, as well as college and university courses. Next steps are to complete a community needs assessment and to present a project concept to RI for a review by the managers in two areas of focus—Basic Education & Literacy and Growing Local Economies. To learn more contact Rotarian Claire Conway.

More Opportunities

We are still looking for clubs to champion any of the four potential opportunities for working with First Nation communities in Ontario that were described in the April update:

- Working with Charlie CheeChoo of the Moose Cree First Nation to expand a program for indigenous youth to pass on and teach traditional knowledge. The intent of Mr. CheeChoo's program is to develop skills and knowledge about maintenance of traditional tools (e.g. boats, trapping equipment) and how to use them, and to re-connect with the land through traditional practices. The program is ongoing and successful but is in need of support for equipment and training and teaching.
- Establish a Model UNPFII (United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues) in an Aboriginal high school to raise awareness among the students of issues common to indigenous peoples around the world. By challenging youth to act as members of the UNPFII, the hope is to further their understanding of the connection between indigenous peoples as well as to give them the tools to address the issues.
- Help to build a community centre in the Webequie FN that could be used for educational, cultural and sports activities. And/or support the DAREarts Foundation through a monetary donation.
- Support the Qaggiq Project. It's a strategy to support performing artists in isolated Arctic communities so they can provide an inspiring fabric of culture and wellness to youth and children, especially those who are vulnerable and at risk. One of the projects is called Arctic Songs & Stories Ancient & New—where performing artists learn from elders songs

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and stories, that are at risk of being lost when the elders pass away. To date 50 songs have been collected and now the project is starting on stories as well. The next phase of the project will be to create a program that has performing artists singing and telling stories to children, including pre-school children so they are exposed to their language and culture. The hope is to create a pilot project in a community with Rotary's help.

(www.qaggiavuut.com)

If your club is interested in learning more about one of these projects, please contact DART at isproxto@hotmail.ca.

Plans for September and October

DART will be presenting at the Presidents' Meeting in September to share our goals and objectives for the 2016-17 year. One of these is to establish a better line of communication to the clubs and, to that end, we'll be asking each club to identify one member to be a point of contact for DART and to be the club champion for dissemination of information pertaining to indigenous projects and initiatives. We're also planning a DART display in the House of Friendship and are involved with plans for an indigenous break-out session at the District Conference in October.

If you want to learn more about any of the events, opportunities or projects described in this update, or if you would like to schedule a DART presentation at your club, please contact DART through me at isproxto@hotmail.ca. And don't forget to check out the DART website regularly, for more information and recent updates. You can access the DART site from the District website. Just click on District Committees, then click on DART from the drop-down list. Or, go directly to the DART site at:

<http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50042/Page/ShowSitePage?ClassCode=SitePage&Slug=dart>

Yours in Rotary,

Ingrid