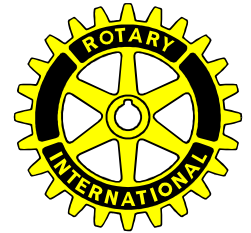




The Beacon News



The Rotary Club of Port Hope

News Bulletin for the Week of October 18, 2010

Rural – Urban Night

CALL TO ORDER

When the United Church ladies announced in late 2009 that they would no longer be able to cater to this long standing rural/urban tradition, there was considerable doubt about whether it could be continued at a new venue.

However, thanks to great efforts of Chairman Ben Currelly, Ted Lacey of Rotary and Gord Wilson and Gary Meadows of the Rural group, the 84th annual dinner (supper) meeting was held at Dalewood.



What appeared to be a larger than usual crowd enjoyed the bar during the social time and the latter seemed to add a little more enthusiasm to the group discussions as acquaintances were renewed.



Chairman Ben Currelly welcomed the assembly by providing some of the history of Rotary and this 84th Rural/Urban meeting in our 88th year as a Rotary Club following the founding of Rotary in 2005.



The relatively new United Church Minister of the Welcome charge led us in Grace before dinner followed by the Queen.



Since our appetites were juiced up a little we were then

prepared for a delicious roast beef dinner accompanied by the usual salads, vegetables, gravy and Yorkshire pudding. Perhaps they didn't have the copious pies, but they did have some pies and an abundant supply of other desserts.



GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS

Just as we were ready to settle into a comfortable chair position, Chairman Ben announced that it was time to introduce ourselves as the microphone circulated the room. While it does take time it is a great community builder because if all memories are fading like mine, it is good to be

able to reconnect a name and a face. This exercise usually makes us aware of a few comedians in the room.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

None

DESSERT REPORTS

None

HAPPY BUCKS

None

PROGRAM

Despite the camaraderie, the highlight of this evening was our speaker Bil Tuma.



He was introduced by Ben as a marketing consultant and specialist in the mining

equipment game. However, his topic this evening was his hobby of seeking out lost aircraft, most of which disappeared during the great wars.

In his PowerPoint presentation, Bil simply shared his experiences of several searches.



To novices like your scribe, this was a whole new world of dedicated volunteers, but professionals, who give up their spare time seeking some very important part of our history. Each project involves considerable time, study and reviewing as much history as possible as a team before actually venturing to the approximate site.

While Bil has been involved in many exercises over his lifetime, this evening's program was limited to 4 specific projects because of time:

While Bil has been involved in many exercises over his lifetime, this evening's program was limited to four specific projects due to time consideration:

Lost Squadron – 6 R38 Bombers

2 other planes

Lost over Greenland in 1938

Started seeking in earnest in 1981 and eventually found and recovered in 1992

Has since been restored

Bill's presentation was most interesting because his mapping traced the flight plan of the original flight as to where the planes travelled and eventually were lost

He then as one of the team searching for the plane used very technical equipment to do depth and other searches to locate the plane

Bill's skills lead to finding this specific plane 268 feet below in the ice

He then shares the struggles and systems used to get the aircraft out from under the ice and restoring it

Total costs enormous

Ghost of Sharron Lake

Plane lost in northern Manitoba in 1928

Fokker craft that went missing December 31

Many efforts had previously been made to locate the plane but didn't have the money, the expertise or the equipment to be successful

Bill worked with group from 2002-2007 during their vacation times

In July 2006 after several false leads and frustration, Bill's technology lead to its discovery 128 feet below

J2F4 aircraft and crew recovery, located in Greenland

Two experienced pilots were on a search looking for other downed aircraft when they took off in 1942 and were never seen again

3 Canadians went down with the plane

Bill has been involved with the recovery plans several times in the planning stage and will return in 2011 to work with a team to hopefully be successful

Lomas Lakes of Muskoka aircraft search

While one of our best kept historical secrets, Bill compares the accomplishments of the BCATP in recruiting and building an air force as the equivalent of the USA putting a man on the moon

My short hand didn't enable me to jot down all the details but it grew from 400 airplanes to 7,000 hangers

At Camp Borden (the 1st Canadian Air Base) a total of 1,713 students and pilots were killed there during training

A fantastic contributor to the war efforts

The search here involves trying to find aircraft #3521 crewed by Ted Bates and Peter Campbell

Throughout his discourse Bill sprinkled his comments with information most of us could relate to making stories and searches a part of our living history rather than just part of Canadian history.



To me Bil sounded like a professional tour speaker but he said he only does it once or twice per year. I guess if you have a well grounded knowledge of a part of history you live, you can speak about anything. Bil says he could have gone on forever and many of us

would not have minded if he did.

Bil was thanked by our own silver tongued spokesman in the form of Leigh Facey-Crother who thanked Bill not only for a glimpse of history, but instilling in us a craving for more. As Leigh said, this is all the more impressive when the bulk of this work is financed privately and by the volunteer time of great individuals like Bil.



In a follow-up e-mail, Bil advised:

Thanks for the opportunity for me to highlight the experiences I've had helping to preserve our aviation history and pay homage to those who served and sacrificed for our well being.

If it doesn't go counter to any practices and guidelines for Rotary, it would be appreciated if in the next newsletter to members that a mention be made that anyone wishing to support our Canadian heritage can make tax deductible donations to the:

Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association

Dive Recovery Team

P. O. Box 175

Tilsonburg, Ontario, N4G 4H5

OTHER BUSINESS

Next week we return to Knights of Columbus Hall for a regular meeting.

If applicable, have a great Rotary time at the District 7070 Convention and don't bet it all at the Casino.

50/50 DRAW

The draw took two cracks to get somebody to own up to it before Jamieson Ross walked off with the \$70.50 prize.

WEB SITE

Please take a moment to visit
the Port Hope Rotary web site.
www.porthoperotary.com


FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

| Date | Speaker | Location | Door Duty | Scribe |
|-------------|---|-----------------|---------------------|--------|
| October 25 | Amit Sofer – TVM Group | K of C | Bill L, Fabiola B | Ken B |
| November 1 | Club Assembly | K of C | Ron T, Jim A | Sylvia |
| November 8 | Ken Scott – Royal Canadian Navy | K of C | Dianne P, Leigh F-C | Rolly |
| November 15 | Denise Marshall | K of C | Dave W, Sylvia B | Jim |
| November 22 | Kevin McAlpine, PH Chief of Police | K of C | Anna T, Doug B | Bud |
| November 29 | Richard Onley | K of C | Cleve P, Ken B | Ken |
| December 6 | Rob O'Neill – Food4All Warehouse | K of C | Ben C, Bud L | Rolly |
| December 13 | Christmas Party | Dalewood | | Sylvia |
| December 20 | Anna Tucka - Classification | K of C | Ken O, Linda T | Jim |

COMING EVENTS

Friday, October 22 - Sunday, October 24

2010 District 7070 Conference in Niagara Falls

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|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| ROTARY CLUB OF PORT HOPE |  | P.O. Box 191 Port Hope, Ontario, L1A 3W3 |
| Officers | President: John Mowat Secretary: Cleve Pendock | President- Elect: Bruce Coleman Treasurer: Paul Tait |
| Directors | Club Service: Dick O'Toole Community Service: Roger Ingram | World Service: Ken O'Neill Fund Raising: Jamieson Ross |