



Cowbell - December 12, 2016

Attendance: Bob B., Melissa C., Rob D., Donna G., Harold L., Bruce N., Teresa O., Bob T., Shelley V., Rhoda W., Robert L.

Regrets: Alaina A., Lisa B., Alex C., Angie C., Don D., Cindy, Jeff, Rhonda, Erik, Blair H., Don I., Paul K., Ed K., Greg K., Robert K., Alaina L., Cecile M., Mary Mc., Lou Mc., Tina M., Bob S., Ian, Jason T.

Guests: Brenna Warner, Major Stan Folkins

Chair: Bob Tremblett

Rotary Minute: Melissa read a poem about the value of volunteers.

Intro: Rob Driscoll introduced Major Stan Folkins from the Salvation Army. Both Stan and Judy grew up in the Sussex area but they only returned to the area seven years ago.

Speaker: Major Folkins introduced some statistics to the Rotarians. The Salvation is the largest charity in both the United States and in Canada. The Salvation Army has helped 1.8 million people in Canada. Last October the Salvation Army became a member of the Canadian Food Banks. The Salvation Army has been in Sussex more than 130 years and one of the Army's main goals is to help others with dignity and respect. Over the past five years the need has grown in Sussex – from 50 families a month to 130 families a month. In the last 11 months over 3,300 people have been served. The Salvation Army provides a wide range of services including food, clothing, baby needs, emergency shelter, transportation, heating costs, and household goods. One program is Sally's Kitchen where young moms are taught life skills including cooking, nutrition, food preparation. Every year children are sponsored for a summer camp experience. The Salvation Army works with first responders and tries to be ready to help out in emergencies where needed. Thanksgiving has become a big weekend where the Salvation Army has joined with Sobeys, CJCW, and other members of the community to provide a turkey dinner to needy families during the Thanksgiving season.

Christmas is a busy time and the season preparation starts in mid-October in order to help those who are struggling to make ends meet. This year there are a total of 537 individuals registered for assistance. This equates to 210 families. The Army Cadets help pack

Christmas hampers for the different families. More than 200 volunteers help with the Christmas Kettle. Last Christmas \$62,000 was raised in the Sussex area. There is also a Christmas appeal letter sent out and this brought in \$110,000. The Thrift Store brings in \$80-90,000 per year.

This Christmas Chris and Melana Palmer are holding a 13-day Matthew Palmer Christmas Food Drive in memory of their son who would have been 13 this year. The Jessica and Daniel Angel Foundation is donating 285 pairs of pajamas in Matthew's memory.

Thanker: Bob Black

Committee Reports

The **Nominating Committee** is still looking for individuals to fill some Executive positions, including President.

Community Events

Breakfast Clubs – Shelley Vail at Sussex Middle School and Teresa O'Brien at Sussex Elementary School are on this week.

Christmas Social – Saturday, December 17, 2016 – Giermindl's

Christmas Kettle – Most of the spots have been filled.

Christmas Dinner – Monday, December 19, 2016 – Please RSVP. Four students from Interact will be in attendance and four members of the Club agree to pay for the students' dinners.

Rotary Area training. – February 11, 2016 here in Sussex.

Chase the Joke: A winner of \$816.50 this week – Mr. Bruce Northrup. A big congratulations to Bruce who has agreed to give half of his earnings to the Salvation Army.

Next Meeting – Christmas Dinner and students from Interact.

Adjournment

Respectfully,

Rhoda Wilson, Secretary