



Rotary Club of Sussex Inc.

P O Box 7004, Sussex Corner, NB E4E 5M3

www.sussexrotary.org

Club # 6355 / District # 7810

Cowbell

Date: March 10, 2014

Attendance: Bob T., Bruce, Robert L, Robert K, Rhoda, Donna, Andrew, Scott, Sandra

Regrets: Kathy C., Lou, Robert D., Wendy, Matt, Bob B., Terri, Harley.

Guests: Joan Ruthledge Communities in Bloom, Sussex.

Rotary Grace

Toast to the Queen

Meeting Chairperson Robert Kimball welcomed all members and guest Joan Ruthledge to the meeting.

Rotary Minute: Bruce talked on "The "do it Yourself Library". Cover story in the March 2014 Rotaryian Magazine. People in 55 countries have installed more than 16,000 Lilliputian lending libraries, run on the premise of "take a book, return a book," since Bol built his first in 2009 in memory of his mother, a teacher who loved to read. Called an "international movement" by the *New York Times* and a "global sensation" by the *Huffington Post*, the libraries have garnered coverage from media outlets around the world.

Participation is simple: Mount a wooden box (many of them look like birdhouses) on a post in front of your home, workplace, or school. Fill it with books. Delight as neighbors stop by to browse your selections or leave books of their own. A simple idea with profound results.

Guest Speaker: Joan Ruthledge, Sussex Communities in Bloom.

Sandra introduces our guest speaker Mrs. Joan Ruthledge, Chairperson of the Sussex Communities In Bloom.

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with focus on enhancing green spaces in communities.

"People, plants and pride... growing together" is our slogan, and it captures the essence of the program.

National organization where communities of comparable size compete against one another to showcase their people, plants and civic pride.

Evaluation categories:

- Tidiness
- Environmental Action



- Heritage Conservation
- Urban Forestry
- Landscapes
- Floral Designs, Community involvement.

The Sussex effort:

- Started in October 2010 with 5 dedicated committee people.
- May 2011, 6 people, 3 projects, 2 judges, resulting in 4 Blooms.
- May 2012, 12 people, 10 projects, many volunteers, judging achieved 5 Blooms.
- May 2013, 8 people, 17 projects, an army of volunteers, judging 5 Blooms and a National Champion!

Extensive efforts to get the youth involved were undertaken by the Committee and many landowners were engaged to start a civic movement of landscape and floral display / pride in Sussex. The Committee has scheduled a 2014 project to improve the floral display of the Rotary Wheel in O'Connell Park.

Scott thanked Joan for her interesting discussion on the Sussex Communities in Bloom.

Reports:

- ❖ **Secretaries Report:** Scott indicated the Club had received two pieces of correspondence.
 1. An inquiry from Malcolm Stewart to see if there was exchange funding available to be reviewed by the Youth Exchange Committee for the club. Robert K. indicated the club unfortunately does not have a training exchange member and that the consideration of the application could not be entertained.
 2. A letter received for the Town of Sussex requesting the club consider a nomination of a volunteer to be recognized by the Town at its Volunteer Appreciation Night scheduled for April 10, 2014.
- ❖ **Spring Dinner:** Rhoda and Sandra updated the members on the planning and schedule.

Happy / Sad Bucks

50/50: Robert L.

Meeting Adjourned, 1:15 pm.

Stay tuned for the Next Cowbell!!!