



## Cowbell - March 20, 2017

**Present:** Lisa B., Alex C., Angie C., Melissa C-K, Rob D., Donna G., Rhonda H., Don I., Paul K., Ed K., Greg K., Robert K., Lou M., Sheri S., Bob S., Jason T., Bob T., Shelley V., Brenna W., Matt W., Rhoda W., Robert L.

**Absent:** Alaina A., Bob B., Don D., Cindy D., Jeff F., Erik H., Blair H., Alaina L., Harold L., Cecile M., Mary M., Tina M., Bruce N., Teresa O., Ian S.

**Chair:** Rob Driscoll

**Guests:** Tracey Wallace, Ivan Graham

**Rotary Minute:** Rhoda encouraged the membership to log into Clubrunner to check their profile and update information. The website is <http://ridist7810.org/>. Log in and go to the "Member area" to get to your information. Send an e-mail to Rhoda if a password needs to be reset.

Don Ingersoll spoke about researching an article from the Rotarian where countries were evaluated for the ability of their citizens to show empathy. Don cited some interesting results with several Islamic countries being at the top of the empathy list, United States ranked seventh, and Canada ranked below the US.

**Introduction of Guest Speaker:** Shelley Vail introduced Ivan Graham who is the Past President of the Sussex and District Chamber of Commerce. Ivan is the Chief Financial Officer for Kingswood University and has worked there for 38 years.

**Guest Speaker:** Ivan Graham told inspiring stories about Sussex in the midst of a year when the media was reporting that "Sussex Died" after the closure of the PotashCorp mine where more than 400 employees were displaced. He reported that some businesses have recorded their best year as they have sought other markets and expanded their horizons. Ivan emphasized the importance of an optimistic attitude in order to see business move in a positive direction. Several community meetings were held to put together a strategic plan for the area. The community is moving forward by concentrating on the top potential areas determined. These are food production, geothermal energy, tourism and arts/culture.

**Thanker:** Alex Coffin

**Member Induction:** Matt White and Sheri Shannon were inducted as new members of the Rotary Club of Sussex.

### **Committee Reports**

**Fundraising Dinner, May 4, 2017:** Please contact business about prizes and to drop off prizes to Angie or Melissa. Please encourage all ticket buyers to go to the Scotia Bank to purchase their tickets because of the matching grant agreement.

**Committees for 2016/17:** Members were asked to fill in the sign-up sheets and pick committees and projects that are of interest to them.

**Rotary Board Meeting:** At the Board meeting on March 16 approval was given to circulate a **Member Satisfaction Survey** through Survey Monkey. Members were encouraged to complete this survey.

**AGM** for Rotary has been moved to Monday, April 24, 2017

**Flower Wheel** for 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration – Correspondence has been received from Joan Routledge and she is proposing a Red Maple Leaf flower design.

**Breakfast Club:** This week Robert Lockhart is serving at Sussex Middle School on Wednesday and Harold Lowe is serving at Sussex Elementary School on Friday. The Elementary School has asked for additional volunteers for this week. Rob Driscoll reported that he would attend as did Tracey Wallace.

**Chase the Joker:** Bob Tremblett's ticket was drawn but still no joker. The pot is now \$160.

**Next Meeting:** March 27, 2017 – Business Meeting