

# Rotary Club of Sussex Inc.

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

[www.sussexrotary.org](http://www.sussexrotary.org)

Club # 6355 / District # 7810

## Cowbell

Date: May 05, 2014

**Attendance:** Bruce, Cathy, Robert D, Robert K, Sandra, Rhoda, Robert L, Donna, Bob T, Shelley V., Scott.

**Regrets:** Bob B., Lou, Terri, Matt, Andrew, Harley, Wendy,

**Rotary Grace**

**Toast to the Queen**

Meeting Chairperson Bob T. welcomed all members to the meeting and welcomed speaker Steven Gillies, Mayor of Sussex Corner.

**Rotary Minute:** Scott H. spoke on a BBC article dated on Monday May 05<sup>th</sup>, where the World Health Organization last week in Geneva has declared the recent spread of Polio an international public health emergency. Outbreaks in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East are an "extraordinary event" needing a co-ordinated "international response", the agency says. The release says Pakistan, Cameroon, and Syria "pose the greatest risk for further wild poliovirus exportations in 2014.

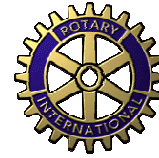
The agency classifies it as an "ongoing risk". "the conditions for a public health emergency of international concern have been met". "If unchecked, this situation could result in failure to eradicate globally one of the world's most serious vaccine preventable diseases." It is only the second time in the World Health Organizations history it has made such a declaration.

**Guest Speaker: *Mayor Steven Gillies, Village of Sussex Corner:***

Scott H. introduced Mayor Gillies to the Sussex Rotary Club.

Mayor Gillies updated the club on the experiences of the April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 flooding event and his experiences of elected office.

- ❖ Mayor Gillies began his political career as a result of wanting to get involved in the Village flooding issues a few years back, and ironically he was here today to brief the club on the Village's experiences these past few weeks. With that, Mayor Gillies began life as a politician following the May 2008 election being elected as Deputy Mayor. Deputy Mayor Gillies chose to run for Mayor in the following 2012 elections.
- ❖ Mayor Gillies believes ongoing discussions between the Town and the Village regarding Amalgamation has been on the back burner recently. The flooding events over the past couple of months will likely bring the discussion to the forefront again. Although in the past it was difficult to have a meaningful discussion, but following our recent flood event it might be the catalyst necessary to again try.



- ❖ Mayor Gillies spoke of the emergency response and the declaration of the State of Local Emergency in Sussex Corner on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The necessity to deal with the emergency response when the resources are overwhelmed.
- ❖ Mayor Gillies spoke on his Village's response, the difficult EMO decisions necessary that day given resources and manpower necessary to protect and respond to the 1450 Village Residents.
- ❖ Our recent experiences galvanizes the need for Regional Plans for Emergencies, the need to have coordinated response and the need to discuss with the outlining areas to develop a proactive regional approach beginning in the necessity of emergency planning.
- ❖ Mayor Gillies believes the potential for shared services to assist in providing residents of the Town and Village with similar services in a cost effective approach and reduce duplication is necessary.
- ❖ Mayor Gillies is prepared to reach out to the Province to request assistance to facilitate the study necessary for a meaningful amalgamation study. He believes the issues are trust, taxes, but sees more people these days willing to discuss the topic.
- ❖ Mayor Gillies spoke on the vents and timeline of the flood event. The event was quick, multiple event happening at once that each needed response quickly. Road closures, evacuations, the emergency declaration and the reality of being overwhelmed are not pleasant experiences. The most important issue is the Community and area came together that day.

Bruce N. thanks Mayor Gillies for the interesting discussion.

#### Reports:

- ❖ **Secretaries Report:** Scott indicated the club had not received any correspondence
- ❖ **Spring Dinner and Auction:** Rhoda reviewed with the club the finalization of the 2014 event details and profit. Rhoda also shared with the club the Thank-you card that will be sent out to each of the local businesses that supported the event.
- ❖ **2014 Fall District Conference:** Bob T. spoke on the upcoming conference and the involvement of the Sussex club. A group of club members would be nice to have available to undertake the Hospitality room scheduled for Sussex on the Friday evening of the event. Sandra and Robert D. expressed interest in attending the fall event.
- ❖ **Highway Clean-up:** Highway cleanup tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, weather permitting . If you are able help to complete the clean-up stay tuned for details on the 014 event.

#### Happy/Sad Bucks

50/50: Robert L.

Meeting Adjourned, 1:10 pm.

Stay tuned for the Next Cowbell!!!