

BULLETIN



Meeting date: **November 7, 2023**

Virtual or In-Person: **In Person – Oak Bay Rec Centre – Upstairs Lounge**

Visitors / Guests:

- Astrid Chang - Speaker
- Tam Dinh (visiting Rotarian from Osoyoos),
- Jenny Toews – to be inducted,
- Louise McGee – to be inducted,
- Liz and Paul LeCavalier,
- Lesley Ockermueller (guest of Rod Sim),
- Julie Niyetigeka (guest of John Jordan),
- Susan Shepard (guest of Tam Dinh),
- Trish McSween,
- Curtis Singh,
- Lena Dietsch (Interactor),
- Ariel Fischer (Interactor),
- Jenny Lambert (Interactor),
- Nya Johnson-Stewart (Interactor).

President's Welcome:

President Chris acknowledged our presence on unceded First Nations Land.

Oh Canada – Jack led the assembled in a spirited signing of our National Anthem.

Salutation – was delivered by Krista.

Announcements:

- Krista informed us that there are three spots to be filled in the "Feed and Bleed" to be held this Friday (Nov. 10).
- Terry noted that almost \$3,000 has been raised by the club for Foundation Month.
- Terry also reminded us that the Foundation Tax Auction will be held at next Tuesday's meeting.
- Chris noted that at next week's meeting, John will speak about Rotary's involvement in Nairobi and Renate will speak about how we can all help to increase membership.

- Joan P. thanked Bryan and the others who volunteered at last Saturday's bottle drive. The bottle drive program has to date raised over \$10,000!
- John introduced the four Interactors (Lena, Ariel, Jenny and Nya) and noted that we need them to bring youthful energy and new ideas to the club. They then described the fundraising efforts Interact has been involved in (Bake Sale and St. Valentine's Day). They have raised \$800.
- John Jordan introduced **Julie Niyetigeka** who spoke about her experiences in Rwanda near where John's vocational training project is located (now 13 years old). Julie noted that this program will make a big difference in the lives of the young women involved in it. Julie also discussed the school program that our club supports. At a cost of \$300/year we can support orphans or children from poor families so they can attend the school.
- Chris presided over the induction of two new club members – **Louise MacGee** and **Jenny Toews**.
- Paul Harris Awards were given to **Renate MacKenzie, Colleen Sparkes** and **Margaret Black**.

Celebrations Master:

Wendy encouraged folks to donate through the club website, announced birthdays etc., and called for Happy/Sad dollars. The 50/50 draw was won by Lorna (\$65) and she donated \$20 back to the club.

Next Meeting:

November 14 – In-person meeting at Oak Bay Rec Centre. Tax Auction.

Program Overview:

- John Jordan introduced the Speaker – **Astrid Chang**, Executive Director, Corporate Communications and Community Relations for Destination Greater Victoria. Astrid described the huge role that visitors play in the local economy (\$2.3 Billion in total economic activity) and how DGV has worked on a post-Covid recovery. She noted that DGV's mission is to support tourism that is sustainable and aligns with local community values. Victoria has received the "Biosphere" sustainability designation – the first city to do so. Astrid fielded several questions.

Bulletin prepared by Clair Wakefield