



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



The Rotary Club of Warton

District 6330 Chartered 1938
Dinner Meetings –6 P.M. Thursdays
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 208

March 3, 2022

The Gateway Gazette

We were back at the legion for our first meeting under the new “normal” regulations for this month.

Past President Gay chaired the meeting for Trevor who was present but still lacking energy following his radiation treatments.

Gay started the meeting with a First Nation Land Acknowledgement statement.

Following diner, we had a free for all on member's updates. Gay, Trevor, Glen, George, Bill and Mike McMillan all admitted to family birthdays. Nora has a new job working at Caframo. (Next meeting we will find out if she knows what the letters in the company name stand for). Eric was fresh from his colonoscopy and as many of us can attest to, was definitely hunger for a good meal.

Cathy announced that the International Committee had received a request from Shelter Box for assistance in the Ukrainian conflict. Warton has already provided funding to Shelter Box in this Rotary year. If you think that the club should do more, contact Cathy.

Wednesday, March 16th is cleanup and set up day for Maple Magic. It will start at 9:00 and hopefully will be done by noon.

Eric announced that everything was a go for Maple Magic. There will be lots to see and do. We expect a big crowd.

Our program tonight was the Oxenden Indigenous Art Project. A full description of the project and description of how you can support it is on the next page.

50/50 won by George Gordon.

Attendance: 14 Rotarians

Guests: George Gordon, Martha McGloin, Heidi Tones, Lucas Chegahno, Sanfy Ashton

Birthdays:

March 1 Mal Williams
10 Gay Ratcliffe
25 Glenda Jamieson

Upcoming Meetings:

April 7 at the legion.

Upcoming Events:

March 19, 20, 26 and 27 Maple Magic
See everyone there!!

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE 2021-22

PRESIDENT	Trevor Hathaway
PAST PRESIDENT	Gay Ratcliffe
PRESIDENT ELECT	Pat Cavan
SECRETARY	Gay Ratcliffe
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MEMBERSHIP	Ashley Gunn
FOUNDATION	Kathryn Christie
PUBLIC IMAGE	Mike Mason
FUNDRAISING	Eric Robinson

Oxenden Community Indigenous Art Project



Charmaine Jenner (Tauchkwe), a self-taught Woodland Style artist from Neyaashiinigmiiing has been selected to have one of her paintings installed as a piece of public art as a community-funded symbol of reconciliation efforts.

[The project](#) grew from conversations among a group of neighbours in the village of Oxenden at a summer picnic intended to celebrate Canada's 150, where they quickly realized that if we are looking back at the early inhabitants of the village, the last 150 years is only one part the story, with First Nations people having stewarded it for over 10,000 years. As a group of neighbours, they set to work to figure out what they could do to honour the much longer history of the First Nations who originally lived here and to begin an effort to help right the many historic wrongs in First Nations / settler relations.

They researched the Treaties and held a gathering to learn from renowned local First Nations historian Lenore Keeshig-Tobias, and put together a Call for Proposals for First Nations artists to propose a piece of large-scale public art. Installing the art on the property that they now own marks a public acknowledgement that the drive for

private land ownership by settlers and colonizers is exactly what forced the relocation and dispersion of the local First Nations onto reserves. In this case the residents of the South Side of Colpoy's Bay in Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory were relocated to Neyaashiinigmiing and to Beausoleil First Nation on the Christian, Beckwith and Hope Islands, so the Call for Proposals was directed at artists with connection to these regions.

The project received three very strong submissions, and the Jury, including local residents and Indigenous artists, youth and leaders, settled on Charmaine's Crane because of both the beauty of the piece and the layers of symbolism and teachings embedded within it. Crane (Ajijak) represents leadership and speaks on behalf of the people for the good of the Community and Nation.

The Crane lives in harmony with the land, the water and takes to the air with grace and ease. We can all learn how to speak up for, and take care of the land, air and waters, so that our future generations may enjoy the beauty and sacredness of Creation.

"As an Indigenous Anishnaabeh Kwe," Charmaine says, "my heart is filled with gratitude, to be connected with the message of awareness and help in educating our non-Indigenous neighbors in the Spirit of reconciliation and allyship, building strong foundations for future generations."

The organizers envision this piece of art speaking directly to the hearts of passers-by on this busy hiking, cycling, and traffic route for generations to come and a symbol of peace, strength and collaboration.

Chief Veronica Smith, one of the Jury members said: "What a pleasure to be part of the group to select a work of art from one of our local Indigenous artisans that depicts the Ojibway presence at Oxenden which was once a settlement for the Saugeen Ojibway. Akijaak, the crane represents leadership which is necessary for everyone, especially our youth as we strengthen our path towards reconciliation and partnerships. I'm sure everyone will enjoy seeing Akijaak at Oxenden!"

Heidi Tones, High school teacher and Oxenden resident, says "This serene, yet thought-provoking, Crane mural will not only beautify the corners of Oxenden, it will also be a lasting legacy to the First Nations people who settled here long before the settlers. This symbolic gesture is only the start of the much-needed building of relations in this wonderful area known as the Saugeen Peninsula."

Sandy Ashton, local resident of First Nations heritage says, "We are all treaty people, and the message shared through this mural will be important for every tourist, every hiker, and every local passing by to recognize and contemplate."

Local resident of Métis heritage, Kelsey Carriere, upon whose house the piece will be affixed, says "I'm so honoured to be part of this project. Having worked on many community art projects over the years I know the power of public art and am so happy to see First Nation and settler neighbours come together in the spirit of reconciliation to celebrate our commitment to building a strong, caring and collaborative future together. There are so many historical wrongs to be righted and this project brings this deep and complex work to the surface in a meaningful and celebratory way."

The group is currently fundraising for the artist commission and installation. You can learn more about the project at <https://oxendenindigenousartproject.weebly.com/> or donate directly through their charitable partner at [Elephant Thoughts](#) (select **Oxenden Indigenous Art Project** as the Designation).

