

The Downtowner"



KIWANIS CLUB OF ROCHESTER, Rochester, MN

www.kiwanisroch.org

Programs not posted yet



Dan Carlson and his newest friends in Churchill, Manitoba. Most of us were unaware of the significance of

Churchill, but Dan filled in the story for us. He and his wife, Hope, took a great



trip to the area this past summer and shared it with the club last week. As is Dan's style, he had a few pictures of the area to make his talk come to life. Dan, a retired special ed teacher, has had many years 'in the front of the class.' He is a very good speaker and almost convinces us to take the trip.

To me, some of the many interesting stories he told, were related to his travel mode to get there. They took a Bus from Rochester to Winnipeg Canada, pretty much straight north of MN. From there they flew 600 miles north to Churchill, the 'Polar Bear Capital of the World.' It has that name because of the large number of polar bears. Churchill is a city with a low elevation of 'O' and highest elevation of 29 m. Population of 899. It is situated on Hudson Bay at the mouth of the Churchill River. This is far above most the population of Canada. The main segment of their economy is Tourism in the Polar Bear season of October and November. If one is inclined, one can watch beluga whales in June and July.

Views of the aurora borealis (the Northern



Lights to most of us) can be spectacular.

The port of
Churchill is the
terminus of
the Hudson
Bay Railway.
The port
handles
shipments of

grain and other commodities around the world. The Churchill Northern Studies Centre also attracts visitors and academics from around the world who are interested in sub-arctic and Arctic research. Churchill is situated along Manitoba's 1400 km coastline, on Hudson Bay.

Polar bears were once thought to be solitary animals that would avoid contact with other bears except for mating. In the Churchill region, however, many alliances between bears are made in the fall. These friendships last only until the ice forms, then it is every bear for itself to hunt ringed seals. Starting in the 1980's, the town developed a sizable tourism industry focused on the migration habits of the polar bear. Tourists can safely view the bears from specially modified vehicles built to navigate the tundra terrain. Utilizing a set of trails created by the Canadian and US military, responsible tour operators are granted permits to access these trails for wildlife viewing. Staying on these established trails ensures no further damage is done to the tundra ecosystem. October and early November are the most feasible times to see polar bears. Thousands of which wait on the vast peninsula until the water freezes on Hudson Bay so they can return to hunt their primary food source, the ringed seals. There are also opportunities to see polar bears in the non-winter months, with tours via boat. The tours go by boat visiting the coastal areas where polar bears can be found both on land and in the sea. Many locals even leave their cars unlocked in case someone needs to make a quick escape

from the bears in the area. Dan described the Polar Bear Jail that is maintained by some locals where bears, primarily adolescents, persistently loiter in or close to town. They are held after being tranquillized, pending release back into the wild when the bay freezes over. All in all an area with unique wildlife and minimum invasion by man. But, man has made the area accessible to observe and study. Thanks to Dan and Hope for going to Churchill and then presenting pictures and talk on the area. Well done. I'm sure most of us will never take the opportunity to visit the area.



Beluga Whales.....

****Addendum to Churchill story.

Dan said that the polar bears can be about #700 and able to run 35 mph. Don't get close to them!

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*****Life Member

The preceding list reflects the official roster of active members according to Kiwanis International. If a name is missing or one is present that should not be, please let C. Warren know.

District & International web sites:

www.kiwanis.org www.mndak.org

PRIVILEGED & HONORARY MEMBERS

***Peggy Anderson 288-3985 ***Jim Bouquet 651-560-4292 ***Bob Fiss 288-7480

The Kiwanis Club of Rochester meets every Thursday at the Meeting Room in Homewood Suites (next door to Courtyard Marriott 161 13th Avenue SW, Rochester, MN 55902

Parking is free at rear of Marriott Hotel. Meetings last about one hour. Lunch is a buffet including an entree, fruit, salad, and drink for (\$13.50)

Newsletter Changes

Remember to call **Clare Warren at 254-2087** if you have anything you feel is newsworthy. We are trying to get the newsletter out every other week. It can be effective if you feed in the right information. Feel free to contribute something for publication!

Be sure to read the roster once in awhile and report any errors to C. Warren

Why not! If you have a computer, why not try to receive the Kiwanis Newsletter via e-mail. It is a quick and easy way for us to get the letter to you on time. We now have 21 ACTIVE members receiving it regularly. They enjoy the ability to get it in COLOR

at www.kiwanisroch.org 2018-19

Daniel Nelson

Austin Jorgenson Co- Presidents

Immed. Past Co-Presidents Linda Hull & Mary Tompkins

Co-Vice President

Bill Kalmes Treasurer
Austin Jorgenson Secretary

Committees

Club Rep to District
Membership, Growth & Education
Public Relations
Community Services
Youth Service & YCPO

Programs

Circles of Service

Human and Spiritual Values

Finance

Donations/Charities

Co-Presidents next yr. are

(Still no names for co-Presidents next year)

Bell Ringing Schedule for Salvation Army Dec. 15 HyVee North on 37th ST.

9-11 Austin Jorgenson Charlie Graham

- 11-1 Linda & Mary
- 1-3 Bonnie S. Ron I.
- 3-5 Don Borch.

 Roger Krsnak
- 5-7 Clare & June Warren
- 7-9 Colleen Dan?



Linda and Mary did the shopping for the Adopt a Family drive this year. The club allocated about \$500 for them to purchase gift cards of types that the program desired. Thanks, you two, for doing this (again) You are making a lot of people happier this season.