

CAMOSUN GYRO CLUB

ZOOM MEETING

9 MARCH 2021

President Mike Wedekind called the Zoom Meeting to Order at 7:05 having allowed approx. 15 minutes for folks to log on.

Thirty six Camosun Club participants consisting of Gyros, their partners and Golden Girls were present for the 3-10 Minute Breakout Rooms which followed. Each group of 5 enjoyed seeing and greeting each other, catching up and sharing Covid 19 experiences.

After 30 minutes of enjoyable repartee Mike called the group back together and introduced Raymond Mew who presented a fascinating slide show history of his Family's arrival in Canada and their subsequent activities which he entitled "A Day in the Life of Dewdney Flats".

His Grandfather arrived in Victoria from China around 1914 and went back and forth many times.

Upon arrival the family believes he got jobs as a gardener working in the Japanese Gardens at Butchart Gardens and farming near cousins in Central Saanich

Eventually he and several partners bought the William's 60 acre farm in what is now Langford. It was located in the Dewdney Flats close to what are now Sooke Road and the Westshore Parkway.

Ray's Father arrived in about 1935 and returned to China at least twice. He followed his Father's footsteps and in 1948, able to do so, Ray's Mother Sue and Brother Wayne arrived. In 1949 Brother Gil arrived, followed by Ray in 1951 and Phillip in 1954. By 1952 Wayne had built the family home at 2540 Blanshard Street.

Father ran a grocery store in Victoria for many years

In the meantime at Dewdney Flats the farm proceeded to grow various types of vegetables which they were able to sell through the Chinese Farmers Coop thus getting a fair price for their produce. The farm and family grew over the years with Ray's older Brother Wayne working on the farm during summers when out of school.

Over time they were able to farm approximately 35 acres of land in the Flats. The farm ceased operating in the early 60's due to a shortage of farm workers.

A Developer bought out the partners whereas the Mew's kept their interest which they are now developing as an active farm

Currently, about 5 acres of land is under under cultivation growing garlic, onions, squash, pumpkins and some hay.

Ray and his Brothers are utilizing share croppers, serious farmers who want access to land to farm, local experts in farm land management and others to assist in developing what they hope will be a full time provider of food to Victoria, the Island and beyond.

Ray's full slide presentation may be found at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/50oj842kx39zbp2/A%20Day%20in%20the%20life%20of%20Dewdney%20Farms-2010-07-15-Updated%202021-03-05.pptx?dl=0>

A short question and answer period followed. Chickens nor ducks are included in items raised on the farm. Ray views the farm as a lasting legacy for his Children

Maury Van Flint thanked Ray for his presentation.

Pres. Mike terminated the meeting at 8:15.

Next Meeting ZOOM March 23rd.