

Grand Forks Secondary School Peace Pole Dedication

April 27, 2023



After a Peace Pole presentation by the Rotary Club of Grand Forks in the Fall of 2022, students of the Global Citizenship Club at Grand Forks Secondary School formed a sub-committee with teacher cosponsor Mrs. Elizabeth Archer to investigate ‘planting’ a Peace Pole on their school grounds. They sought permission from the School Administration, Superintendent and the Boundary School District 51 School Board. After receiving wholehearted support, the committee asked the GFSS Parent Advisory Council if they would seek a grant from the Rotary Club of Grand Forks to help with expenses.

After considering all of the costs involved in obtaining a Peace Pole, the student committee decided to source everything locally as much as possible. They were mindful of the environmental impacts in transporting a ready-made Peace Pole from the Eastern United States and they wanted their funds to support local business if possible. They contacted Son Ranch Timber Company, a family run forestry operation that focuses on selection logging, custom

milling and kiln drying their own product. Son Ranch provided a 14-foot cedar log that was milled to the requested specification for a fraction of the true cost. Lime Creek Logging, who also operate a quarry, provided the five quartzite sitting stones and crushed rock for around the pole at no cost. The language plaques were sourced locally while the School District maintenance department attached the plaques to the cedar pole and oversaw the site preparation and installation.

April 27, 2023 was chosen for the GFSS dedication ceremony to symbolically launch the April 29 Peace Gathering Conference, as the Global Citizenship Club was a member of the Collaborators Team that planned and organized the second annual Peace Conference in Grand Forks, BC.

The Grand Forks Secondary School grade nine band played “All For Love” as community members and students gathered. The dedication Ceremony included: GFSS vice-principal Mr. J. Dowswell, Boundary All Nations Aboriginal Council president Mrs. Victoria Runge, Boundary Heartbeat Drummers, student peace pole committee speakers Natalie Herbert (grade 11) and Kenna MacGregor (grade 8), School District 51 Administrator Mr. S. Stewart, GFSS Global Citizenship Club teacher co-sponsor Mrs. E. Archer, GFSS Parent Advisory Council treasurer Mrs. Anna-Lise Hanlon and president Mrs. A. Williams, City of Grand Forks Mayor Mr. Everett Baker, Global Citizenship Club student Bella Tomashewsky, and Mr. D. Colclough, Rotary Club of Grand Forks president. Mrs. S. Wolf, GFSS Band Teacher, led the grade nine band in ‘Let It Be’ at the conclusion of the Peace Pole Dedication Ceremony. We once again thank local videographer Mr. Les Johnson for videoing and editing the event. You can view the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no7wKJxkj34&authuser=0>