



April 3, 2017

The Weekly Westerner

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3
Grey Eagle Hotel, 3777 Grey Eagle Drive (Corner of 37 St SW and Glenmore Drive)
Mondays 12.10 pm - 1.30 pm

President: Terry Felton **President-Elect:** Ben Kormos **Past President:** Gail Williams
Secretary: Malcolm Harrison **Treasurer:** Karl Herzog
Directors: Tim Anderson, Judy Cochran, Marlene Doherty, Arien Knight, Chris Ritter,
Duncan Stanners

April 3, 2017 Edition: 50.33 Reporter: Mike Carlin Editor: David Williams

Past-president **Bill Tapuska** “pitch-hitted” and provided excellent relief for our current President **Terry Felton**. **Bill** started off by indicating we have a “very special” program today. This week marks the 100th Anniversary of the **BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE**, one of the most dramatic Canadian military stories, as well as an update from Rotarians of Calgary East about their terrific program “**IT’S A CRIME NOT TO READ**”. **Bill** was club president in 1988/89 and sponsor for the writer to Calgary West in 1990. Good to see you still can bat 300!

Robyn Braley led us in the national anthem.

Sa'adat Keshavjee delivered the invocation.

Head table was comprised of:

- **Joe Klassen** (introducer), a Rotarian for 28 years and past president-2004, a graduate of Royal Roads and the Royal Military College, nine years in the military, four of which were in the Royal Canadian Navy, and a mechanical engineer.
- **Steve Armstrong** (guest speaker), an educator and consultant in developing leaders and building teams.
- **Terry McDonough** (thanker), a Rotarian with 46 years of perfect attendance, and is an honorary member of our club. Terry served with the military for five years, starting with the US Air Force, then the Canadian Navy as a flyer and finally with the RCAF. He flew transport in the Arctic for 20 years.
- **Christine Rendell** has been a Rotarian since 1999 with Calgary East. She’s the fundraising chair for the Rotary Bethany Atrium, District membership chair and DG nominee-designate.

Paul Mangat introduced our visitors and guests. **Des DeFreitas** lead the group in our welcome song.

May 5 - 7, 2017: District Conference, "Strength in Numbers", Red Deer
June 10 - 14, 2017: Rotary International Conference, Atlanta, Georgia



My Passion, My Moments, Our Rotary

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Announcements

- **Bill Quinney** advised that next week's meeting will comprise an exciting presentation right here at the Grey Eagle Hotel – **The Manning Innovation Awards for Southern Alberta**. Make sure to bring your friends and guests and arrive early, as it will be a well-attended. Also, remember to bring your **Rotary business cards** as we expect upwards of 50 guests and potential Rotarians.
- **Gerry Meek** advised that we received a "thank you" letter from I CAN FOR KIDS, as we had previously presented a \$5,000 donation to help cover the cost of 36,000 meals for needy kids this summer.
- Christine Rendell and **Dan Goldberg** of the Rotary Club of Calgary East gave us an overview of "IT'S A CRIME NOT to READ". They are promoting a Calgary Literacy Fundraiser with a must-see speaker, **Alvin Law** (who spoke at our club a few years ago). It is touted to be an unforgettable evening of inspiration, live music, silent auction and three-course meal. Join us April 29th at the Coast Plaza Hotel. The tickets cost is \$50.
- Judy Cochran asked for a vote by show of hands who supports the YEX Program for the Rotary Year 2018-19. The majority were in favour.

50/50 Draw

Bill Tapuska introduced a new and exciting way to award the 50/50 draw, which was won by **Malcolm Harrison**.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Les Morgan highlighted Sa'adat Keshavjee's presidential year by asking numerous questions, including such things as the year he was president (2010-2011); his theme; "We do things with CLASS" (Community, Leadership, Advocacy, Service and Synergy). He was even successful in announcing Rotary's theme for his year- **Building Communities – Bridging Continents**. Not much money was raised as Sa'adat batted 90%, or thereabouts.

Guest Speaker – Steve Armstrong

Joe Klassen capably introduced Steve Armstrong, who has 35 years as a leader, soldier and humanitarian. He has helped manage the relief and recovery of some of the largest natural disasters of our time, including the Fort Mac wildfire and the 2004 tsunami. Steve has a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management.

Vimy Ridge is an escarpment five miles northeast of Arras on the western edge of the Douai Plain. The ridge rises gradually on its western side, and drops more quickly on the eastern side. At approximately 4.3 miles in length, and culminating at an elevation of 476ft, the ridge provides a natural unobstructed view for tens of kilometers in all directions.

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The ridge fell under German control in October, 1914, during the race to the sea, as the Franco-British and German forces continually attempted to outflank each other through northeastern France.

The [British Corps](#), commanded by [Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng](#), relieved the French Tenth Army in the sector in February, 1916, permitting the French to expand their operations at [Verdun](#).

The four divisions of the Canadian Corps fighting together for the first time attacked the ridge from 9 to 12 April, 1917, and succeeded in capturing it from the German army. More than 10,500 Canadians were killed or wounded in the assault. Today, an iconic white memorial atop the ridge commemorates the battle and honors the 11,285 Canadians killed in France throughout the war who have no known graves.

The assault plan called for the four divisions of the Canadian Corps to attack up the slopes of the ridge in side-by-side formation. Under the command of British General [Sir Julian Byng](#), and assisted by British and Canadian staff officers including the Corp's 1st Division leader, General [Arthur Currie](#), the Canadians carefully rehearsed the assault. Troops were given detailed information of the terrain and the location of enemy strong points, and were shown models and maps of the battlefield based on aerial photographs of the ridge. Infantry soldiers would no longer all be riflemen. Many were now assigned specialist tasks as machine gunners or grenade-throwers. New platoon tactics were also introduced: Keep moving, the troops were told, follow your lieutenant (and if he goes down, follow your corporal), prepare to outflank enemy machine gunners who might survive the initial artillery barrage, use grenades and follow-up with bayonets. Don't lose contact with the platoon or company next to you. Such tactics were the expression of new, innovative thinking percolating at that time through the British army — aimed at solving the riddle of the trenches — based on three years of observed successes and failures in the war so far.

Army engineers also dug extensive tunnels under the battlefield to bring the infantry more safely and closely to the German lines. And new artillery tactics would be used in advance of the main assault, including a nearly unlimited supply of shells, and a new shell fuse that allowed the bombs to explode on contact, rather than become buried in the ground.

Steve provided many interesting facts, including:

- Canada's population in 1917 was eight million
- 650,000 served in the military, or roughly 8% of the population
- 425,000 served overseas and 60,661 were killed in WW1
- 1 million artillery rounds were deployed.

Today, 100 years later, on land granted to Canada for all time by a grateful France, the Canadian National Vimy Memorial sits atop Hill 145, rising above the now quiet countryside.

Terry McDonough expressed the thanks of the club and presented our world famous Boltman as an expression of our appreciation.

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Bill Tapuska closed the meeting with a well swung hammer on the bell. Good job, Bill. You did well!

Coming Events

April: Maternal and Child Health Month	
3	Steve Armstrong: Vimy Ridge Presentation
10	Manning Innovation Awards - Six Candidates
17	Easter Monday. No Meeting
24	Field Trip to Rotary Challenger Park
May: Youth Service Month	
1	Michelle Stirling: Friends of Science
6	Rotary Meeting on the bus to Red Deer District Convention
8	No Meeting
15	Brian Farrell: Revv52
22	No Meeting: Victoria Day
29	David Poulson: Author and Rodeo Announcer
June: Rotary Fellowship Month	
5	Youth Programme: RYLA, YEX, Adventures in Citizenship, etc.
12	Charter Date June 10: Tentative Jubilee Event
19	Team Meeting and Turnover of Gavel to Ben Kormos
26	Canada Day Sesquicentennial Meeting
July: Stampede and Okanagan Cherries Month	
3	No Meeting
7	Friday: CWRC Stampede Parade Breakfast
10	Stampede Yahoo! Ben Kormos Induction

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17	Calgary Humane Society
24	TBA
31	TBA
August: Membership and New Club Development Month	
7	No Meeting: Family Day
14	TBA
21	TBA
28	TBA
September: Basic Education and Literary Month	
4	No Meeting: Labour Day
11	TBA
18	TAB
25	TBA
October: Economic and Community Development Month	
2	Dr Charles Samuels: Centre for Sleep and Human Performance
9	TBA
16	TBA
23	TBA
30	Hallowe'en Programme: Costumes and Magic Tricks