



August 28, 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: Ben Kormos **President-Elect:** Tim Anderson **Past President:** Terry Felton
Secretary: Marlene Doherty **Treasurer:** Karl Herzog

Directors: Debbie Barry, Judy Cochran, Bill Fitzsimmons, Gustavo Jimenez, Gerry Meek,
Les Morgan, Orlin McMillan, Duncan Stanners

August 28, 2017 Edition: 51.7 Reporter: Judy Cochran Editor: David Williams

Not quite as exciting as weeks gone by – no eclipse, no Lobsterfest and a team meeting – do I hear groans? But just you wait, you will not be disappointed!!! First you will get a warm hug, a smile, a handshake and your badge from **Orlin McMillan** or **Julie Cahoon**. Next pay your money to **Bill Lawless** and **Larry Doyle**. Don't forget your membership dues. Then another quick dip in the wallet for your 50/50 ticket from **Clare Bildfell**.

The meeting started at 12:15pm (more about this later). **Gerry Meek** lead the singing of *O Canada*, followed by the invocation delivered by **Gordon Rodrigues**. We were taken down memory lane when Gordon was a founding member of Calgary East and they sang their invocation.

The head table consisted of **President Ben Kormos, Judy Cochran** to introduce our guest speaker, **Hannah Shafiei** to tell us all about her Youth Exchange experience last year in the Lake Como region of Italy, **Darren Grierson** as thanker and **Mel Warman** as her table host and OB counsellor. Mel even saw Hannah while she and her husband were vacationing in Italy.

Guests were announced by Orlin McMillan and include our guest speaker, Hannah Shafiei; **Vasile Dourous**, brother and guest of **Victoria Achilleos**; **Judson Graham**, guest of Larry Doyle and **Gerry Cotts**, guest of **Duncan Stanners**. They were all given the warm Calgary West welcome!! Hannah drew the lucky 50/50 ticket winner, **Gail Williams**. (Sorry, Judson, your winning streak is over!) Gail takes home a pot of \$40.

President Ben gave a special thanks to the Lobsterfest “crew” for a wonderful evening that 75 people enjoyed last Saturday out at Sam Switzer’s ranch. The crew members are **Deb Barry** and



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Judy Cochran on organizing the event; the cooks, **Bryden Horwood**, **Garfield Ganong** and Bill Lawless; and our bartender, Orlin McMillan. There were many helping hands that led to a most successful and enjoyable evening of great food and even better company.



see more photos at <http://www.calgarywestrotaryclub.org/Pictorials/2017Lobsterfest.htm>

Another special thanks to the hotel staff at Grey Eagle that look after us so well every week at our meetings – they do an amazing job. The food service can make or break a meeting. **Finally, Darren Grierson is hosting a new member get together at his home on September 8.**

Here are the three tunes Ben had us guessing at: Bailando, Enrique Iglesias correctly guessed by Hannah Shafiei; Scorpions, Winds of Change - **Paul Graham** got that one and Carl Orff, O'Fortuna identified by one of the tables at the front. Any theme – No!!

Mike Carlin was the SAA this week and he did his job. Fining Ben for numerous infractions, including starting the meeting late at 12:15 pm instead of 12:10 pm. Mike was a task master and had people stand as he meted out the questions and subsequent fines. Even if one standing member had the correct answer he fined the others!! Gentlemen, a word of caution, do not show those beautiful knees and toes at a meeting – it will cost you in public ridicule and in your wallet!!! Some Happy Bucks from **Robyn Braley** who celebrated a romantic anniversary in Rosebud only to run into some fellow Rotarians (how does that add to the romance)? **Dan Doherty** was happy the Lobsterfest attendees were happy with dobbing their BINGO cards just as they did in the good 'ole days.



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Hot Seats

- Once again Dan Doherty was up promoting the Rotary Mattamy Greenway opening. Volunteers are needed on September 2, either morning or afternoon. See your email from President Ben for details and sign up.
- Also in **Steve Strang's** absence, Dan and Marlene are looking after Feed the Hungry. Please sign up to volunteer on October 22.
- Larry Doyle is looking for volunteers to help with Highway Clean Up on September 30. It is not all work – enjoy brunch afterwards with your fellow members to celebrate your service that morning!!
- Gail Williams pinned **Don Axford** with a Paul Harris plus 2. This was Don's goal to celebrate his 80th birthday. Next goal is Paul Harris plus 3 on this 100th!! Congrats, Don. **Sa'adat Keshavjee** also thanked Don for his contributions and know that this funding goes to building the Foundation.



Guest Speaker

Judy Cochran briefly introduced Hannah Shafiei who is now 17 years old and going into Grade 12 at Western Canada High. She has seen how Hannah has grown and matured, embracing the entire YEX experience from travel to friends, to school, to her loving host family – everything there is about exchange.

So, Hannah entertained us for the next 15 minutes telling us of her experiences. One line I love: "Exchange isn't a year in your life. It's your life in a year". From the moment she arrived in Italy, Hannah knew that she would become a completely different person. She came to love her host



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families as her family – including two insane cats! She lived in a town called Leco with six other exchange students and so she gained another family.

She told us about *sonder*, that everyone has a life and story as complex and deep as the universe itself. This group of exchange students learned to lean on each other for support and love unconditionally. They had amazing experiences and travels together, including places like Paris, Amsterdam, Geneva, Berlin, Slovenia, Slovakia, Venice, Brussels, and Prague.

Hannah is not what she felt a “typical” Canadian would be capable of – she doesn’t skate and she doesn’t ski. She fell in love with the picturesque landscape all around her and enjoyed the beauty and challenges as an avid hiker. She took the role of being a Canadian ambassador very seriously, displaying a deep sense of pride to be a Canadian and all Canada has to offer us.

To quote Hannah, “I lived in Italy knowing that for some people, I’d be one of the only Canadian they’d ever meet. I worked towards making a lasting impression of peace and kindness - something that truly reflects who we are as Canadians. And honestly, that’s what being Canadian truly is. That is what sets us apart. I was learning and absorbing the Italian culture, while leaving a faint mark of Canadian values to be remembered by”. Amazing words and insights coming from someone who was 16 years old at the time.

Hannah embraced a “new” and different Christmas. It was a time with her new family – her new friends that were on exchange. Hannah couldn’t find a turkey, so she cooked a duck – not traditional Canadian but the Brits are smiling!

Here again are Hannah’s own words to explain what the exchange meant to her. “Exchange helped me realize something. Who I am, who we are, is not as simple as that. We, all 7 billion of us, deep down, are all the same. We are all people. And that is what motivated me so much to go through with my exchange. Because I had a thirst in me that needed to be quenched- and it would only be satisfied if I threw myself head-first into a foreign country and experienced life as someone else. I dream of exploring. I dream of learning. I dream of experiencing everything that this life has to offer me and I am ready to turn fate into my own hands, and create my own future. I learned that the differences between us all are what makes us our own version of perfect. I believe that perfection does exist. I believe that each perfect in his or her own version of it.

[Editor's Note: I hope I will be forgiven a whimsical memory brought on by Hannah's reflections. As a student in the sixth form of John Bright Grammar School, Llandudno, in the early 60s, I was taught by one of the best history teachers one could ever have: Mr T I Davies. And I remember him saying, "There is only one race, the human race."]



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Hannah closed with a heartfelt thank you to our Rotary club for making all this possible!!!

Thank you for sharing with us, Hannah. You have done yourself proud, your sponsor club of Calgary West is proud and your country proud.



Darren was the official thanker and recognized how youth programs such as exchange have such a profound effect on making a difference in our youth. He noted Hannah's comments about diversity is strength and by learning and embracing the differences we are stronger and more tolerant together. The Boltman was presented to Hannah.

The team meeting was next - I didn't hear one groan. President Ben asked us to consider these three questions:

1. What sort of changes would the members like to see in our membership structure/costs?
2. How do we feel as a club about our present structure, and are there areas where we can focus our efforts?
3. If so, is there a common theme? Demographics?

With time running out, Ben is asking each table scribe to send him their team's discussion notes so he may take this forward to the board for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 with apologies from the president for going over time.

May 4 - 6, 2018: District Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary
June 23 - 27, 2018: Rotary International Conference, Toronto



Coming Events

September: Basic Education and Literary Month	
4	No Meeting: Labour Day
11	District Governor Rick Istead
18	Youth Exchange: A Jubilee Programme
25	Ghada Al Atrash: "Stripped to the Bone", a Portrait of Syrian Women
October: Economic and Community Development Month	
2	Dr Charles Samuels: Centre for Sleep and Human Performance
9	No Meeting: Thanksgiving Day
16	Todd Hirsch: Economist
23	Noon meeting cancelled in favour of an evening Assembly
30	Hallowe'en Programme: Costumes and Magic Tricks
November: Rotary Foundation Month	
6	RI Foundation and Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation
13	No Meeting: All Clubs Remembrance Day Meeting, Carriage House, 10 am
20	Grey Cup Special Weekend Presentation
27	Roger Chaffin: Calgary Police Chief
December	
4	TBA
11	St Matthew's School Children's Choir?
18	Jubilee Programme: End of Jubilee Year
25	No Meeting: Christmas Day!
January	
1	No Meeting: New Year's Day
8	Inspirational Speaker: TBA
15	Homes of Hope
22	Provincial Court of Alberta: TBA
29	Team Meeting
February	
5	TBA
12	No Meeting: Strawberry Shortcakes preparation and delivery 13th and 14th
19	No Meeting: Family Day
26	TBA
March	
6	TBA
12	TBA
19	TBA
26	Evening Assembly