

# 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:** Gerry Meek **President-Elect:** Bill Fitzsimmons **Past President:** Tim Anderson  
**Secretary:** Karl Herzog **Treasurer:** Judy Cochran  
**Directors:** Marlene Doherty, Darren Grierson, Ken Montgomery, Alex McFadden

## **Together We Are People of Action - Building Community**

February 10, 2020 Edition: 53.25 Reporter: Sa'adat Keshavjee Editor: David Williams

On this sunny, minus 2 degree Monday, our club meeting at The Grey Eagle Hotel was called to order by President **Gerry Meek**. This was a warm and celebratory Valentine's week. Some attendees were dressed in Valentine's costumes and hearts. President Gerry led us in *O Canada*. Buffet lunch featured turkey soup, salmon cakes and a variety of vegetables, and salads.

**Rotary Insight today** was presented by **Marie Rickard**, who spoke about the Rotary Peace initiative as one of its pillars. She mentioned that the District sends one student to the Rotary Peace program, through a \$25,000 bursary, to attend one of the peace schools, of which there are twelve in the world: five universities and seven peace centres. 130 students attend annually, and we have about 1300 alumnae in 115 countries. She then asked what peace means, how it relates to each one of us and how we can all be peace builders.

President Gerry mentioned that future Rotary insight presentations will cover Rotary in the District and the workings of a Rotary club.

**Visitors and Guests:** **Paul Graham** Introduced five guests,

### **Sergeant at Arms**

**Tim Anderson** fined those who did not wear something pink or red. Several fines were levied in the tradition of fellowship and fun. Even **David Williams**, who can do no wrong, got fined!

### **Announcements:**

- **Linda Anderson**, on behalf of **Marlene Doherty**, announced that the deadline for purchasing plants is Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February. Please order your plans quickly.
- Linda mentioned that any proposal for funding should be submitted no later than the end of today for club consideration.
- Linda further announced that donations for Art from the Heart, one of our new club fundraisers, are needed. Our need is for bottles of wine (many for a couple of big raffle prizes) and good saleable items of at least \$100 value for the silent auction. Our target for wine is in excess of 75 bottles - one from every club member would do it. The event is to be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please keep the date ready and contact Les with your donations

May 1 - 3, 2020: District Conference, Calgary  
June 6 - 10, 2020: Rotary International Conference, Honolulu

- **Bill Lawless** announced that we help with lunch prep at the shelter and are seeking two more kitchen helpers for the event on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **David Wartman** announced that Calgary Civic Symphony has launched a raffle for their major fundraiser. Tickets are \$20 each, and the prizes range from a trip for two to the Galapagos, all the way to seasons tickets for the Symphony.

**50-50** for \$38 was won by **Bill Fitzsimmons**, who contributed his winnings to NIMC.

**The Valentine's quiz, organized by Barbie Hames and Shelley Dyson**, featured twenty romance movie titles, and each table was expected to pick the best rated movies in order of popularity. The top three were: Casablanca, Gone with the Wind and West Side Story. Dirty Dancing came in 19<sup>th</sup>. Valentine's chocolates were served.

### Today's Program

**Bonnie Johnston**, from Not In My City (NIMC), was introduced by **Holland Berry**. She spoke to us about child and youth sexploitation and trafficking. **"Not in our city. Not anywhere"**.

The highlights of her presentation were:

- Founded by **Paul Brandt**, a well-known folk singer, who saw this abuse in SE Asia and wondered if it happened here.
- The mission of NIMC is to bring all the major stakeholders and community agencies together to collaborate and corral the catalysts of this ugly practice in our community and nationally; they support high risk youth, work towards greater community awareness, work with communities and plan through education and collaboration to reduce this practice in our communities.
- Their symbol is the yellow rose which symbolizes friendship.
- They claim that this is one of the fastest growing areas of criminal activity in Canada.
  - It recruits and transports young and vulnerable people into the forced service of sex.
  - Ideal age of these, mostly female, victims is between 12 and 14 years of age.
  - This is a highly cloistered practice and one that many do not realize is actually happening in our midst.
  - Many young people do not realize that they are being manipulated and are on a path to greater abuse and degradation.
  - Many victims do not come forward and expose that they are, or have been, a part of this practice.
  - 75% of all sex workers are under 18 years of age and have been brought into this practice when they were much younger.
  - The most vulnerable are young girls that suffer, or have suffered, mental health issues, learning disabilities, social isolation, child abuse experiences and poverty.
- NIMC has allied with major corporations, government and social agencies, the RCMP, the airport authorities in Calgary and Edmonton, Uber drivers and others that are likely to witness such activity.



- They work with these groups to provide post-release support for victims in order to rehabilitate them into regularity after they have been rescued.
- They have posted signs on the city buses, at airports and major travel stations in order to create greater community awareness.
- They believe it takes a whole community to solve this problem.



To thank the speaker, **Darren Grierson** presented Bonnie with our Boltman and explained its significance.

**Next Monday we have no meeting** due to family week, BUT there is a program at the Joyce on Thursday at 5.45 pm. See you at the pub next week, and back at the Grey Eagle on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

President Gerry's quote of the week:

"Celebrate your valentine with candy

"Toast them with a special drink

"Say what you will

"But never, never put anything in ink!"

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

### Coming Events

	<b>February: World Understanding Month</b>
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May 1 - 3, 2020: District Conference, Calgary

June 6 - 10, 2020: Rotary International Conference, Honolulu



3	ICS International Service Presentation
10	Bonnie Johnson: Human Trafficking "Not in My City"
17	<b>Family Day: No Meeting</b>
20	<b>Evening Meeting</b>
24	Court Ellingson: Calgary Economic Development
	<b>March: Literacy Month</b>
2	<b>Town Hall/Teams Meeting</b>
9	Cameron Diggon: Homes for Heroes
16	Mark Milke: Author, Columnist, Keynote Speaker
23	<b>Meeting cancelled</b> in favour of March 26 <b>Assembly</b>
26	<b>Evening Assembly</b> (Tentative)
30	Jim Donihee: National Energy Board COO, RCAF Wing Commander
	<b>April: Maternal and Child Care Month</b>
6	"In Step" (Tentative)
13	<b>No Meeting - Easter Monday</b>
20	LCS Committee Presentation
23	Evening meeting at the Joyce
27	Prof Jon Fennell: Alberta Watershed Water Management
	<b>May: Youth Service Month</b>
4	YEX Program: Margot Robins and Friends
11	Todd Hirsch: Economist
18	<b>No Meeting - Statutory Holiday</b>
21	Evening Meeting
25	TBA
	<b>June: Rotary Fellowship Month</b>
1	TBA
8	Mark Neufeld, Calgary Police Chief
15	Can Learn Presentation
22	Gerry Meek Day. Programme TBA.
29	Canada Day Special - Immigration and New Canadians: Peter Veress
	<b>July Stampede and Okanagan Cherries Month</b>
3	Parade Breakfast
6	Stampede Yahoo!
13	TBA
20	TBA
27	TBA