



July 31, 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

July 31, 2017 Edition: 51.4 Reporter: Andrew Bitcon Editor: David Williams

Cashiers were: **Gail Williams, Duncan Stanners.**

50/50 ticket seller was: **Denise Penner-Collins.**

President Ben Kormos called the meeting to order at exactly 12:15 pm and thanked the Tsuu T'ina nation for their hospitality in hosting us on their lands.

Robyn Braley led the singing of the national anthem.

Larry Doyle performed the invocation.

At the head table: Ben Kormos, **Gerry Meek**, Robyn Braley, **David Watson, Mike French, Bill Lawless and Bill Quinney.**

President Ben lead us through a game of name that tune. The tunes were "Linkin Park", "In the End", "Kol Nidrei", and "Want Someone to Love". The theme of the game was there is always hope. The president attempted to get immunity from fines for those who successfully guessed the answers, but our sergeant-at-arms was having none of that.

The guests were introduced by Duncan Stanners. They were:

- **Bryan Heaps** Visiting Rotarian from Ryde, United Kingdom
- **Hannah Shafiei** Youth Exchange Student, guest of **Ken Montgomery**
- **John Peters** Guest of **Kurt Schurer**
- **Judson Graham** Guest of **Larry Doyle.**

President Ben led a Rotary Banner Exchange with guest Bryan Heaps. Bryan mentioned that this was his second time at a Calgary West Rotary event. He attended the Stampede Breakfast and was most impressed. President Ben described Bryan's service project where his group cleans up old machinery.

The **50/50 draw** was won by **Ted Valentine.**

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Sergeant-at-Arms.

Our sergeant-at-arms today was **David Williams** who started by reminding us of the message at the gates of Hell (in Dante's Inferno), "Abandon hope all ye who enter here". Our sergeant imposed heavy fines on our president for multiple infractions including (but not limited to) telling the sergeant what to do (immunity), being late, and various other errors. Other members were fined for indiscretions going back many months. You can run, but you can't hide from our sergeant-at-arms!

Happy bucks were provided by **Tim Anderson** who attended the Tsuu T'ina rodeo. He described it as a world class event and highly recommended it to our members. Also providing happy bucks were Bill Lawless who announced we had twenty-two golfers at our last golf event. David Watson provided happy bucks because his daughter is in town and he got to play golf with her. This is also the 15th anniversary of David Williams's arrival in Canada. Finally President Ben provided happy bucks that the sergeant was finished fining him.

Announcements

Judy Cochran reminded us that the Lobsterfest will be held on August 26th. There will be four meal options and there are still tickets available. Tickets can be purchased online.

President Ben, on behalf of **Bill Fitzsimmons**, announced that the club had received a work of art from Habitat for Humanity in recognition of our service work for them. He suggested we use it as a 50/50 prize.

Guest Speakers

Mike Carlin introduced our guest speakers for today, the Local Community Service team.

Bill Lawless gave the opening remarks and laid out the agenda of David Watson providing details on our Local Community Service work and Gerry Meek doing the closing remarks. Bill reminded us we have fifty years of history doing service work in the community. There was a PowerPoint presentation but this presentation will only cover about twenty-five percent of what our club has done.

David Watson took over the microphone and called up Mike French, **Dan Doherty**, **Clarence Buckley** and Robyn Braley to give us details on some of our projects. David also mentioned that our club has sponsored over 250 projects and granted over two million dollars.

Clarence Buckley talked of his experience with our first project. It started out as a hands-on project. Our club purchased a small house that desperately needed some tender loving care. The club renovated the house and sold it for a profit. Clarence provided an amusing story of painting over "non-family friendly" murals in the rumpus room.

Next to speak was Robyn Braley, on behalf of **Bill Tapuska**. Robyn told us about how Bill championed the Feed the Hungry project, starting way back in 1995. Our club now provides financial and hands-on

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volunteer support. We also bought them a grill to help with the cooking. Robyn recalled how Feed the Hungry provided a special table for VIPs - guests who were inebriated! The philosophy was we had two options: refuse service or try to help. At first the clientele was almost exclusively men, now we are getting parents with small children.

Robyn also spoke about Habitat for Humanity. We started talking to them in 2004 and we had our first build in 2005. Bill Tapuska was instrumental in getting some excellent photos of our first build. The photos got great media attention, some of them on national media outlets.

Clarence Buckley took the mike again and told us about our unique partnership with Lord Shaughnessy High School. It was the first partnership of its type between Rotary and a high school. A club member donated a car which the school renovated and sold for a profit. Our club did readings with the ESL school children and also started production of the legendary Boltman. Production of the Boltman was later moved to Motive Action.

Next was Dan Doherty, who spoke about how members from our club have served on the board of many not-for-profit agencies. Club member **Jack Crawford** became chairman of the board of Accessible Housing, then Dan Doherty, then David Watson. This got our members involved and we played a leading role in advocating for Accessible Housing.

The same thing happened at Hull Services. A young Dan Doherty went to Hull to see if they needed a van. Our club provided it, and it just went out of service very recently. Then we did a Stampede breakfast. Hull was working hard with kids who were thought of as "bad". They were having a hard time because many communities had a NIMBY (not in my back yard) attitude towards Hull and the kids they were helping. The purpose of the Stampede breakfast was to try and change this attitude. We were developing relationships. Then Dan was asked to be on the board for Hull, then asked to be the chairman. The message is: it's okay to write a cheque, but when you put all the other pieces in place, it's Rotary magic.

David Watson added that Rotary Challenger Park is another example of this magic.

Mike French spoke next about Rotary clubs working together. Our projects become bigger when other clubs get involved. The Rotary Flames Partnership is a great example of Rotary clubs banding together with a major outside agency to do great things. This partnership supports many great projects, particularly in the medical field. Most noticeable is the Calgary Rotary Children's Hospital.

Another great example is the Rotary Mattamy project. We support this through sharing casinos with other Calgary clubs. We are the lead club on the Bethany Atrium project. When we work together we can do great things. Many of our club members have come to the club through Rotary projects. Duncan Stanners, **Karl Herzog**, **Jim Barnes**, etc.



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David Watson then spoke about our support of the Alberta Adolescence Recovery Centre (AARC). **Bryden Horwood** was a key player in this area. Often AARC is the treatment of last resort. Often there are multiple family members taking treatment. In 2013 our club donated \$20,000 to AARC.

Tim Anderson told us about the Catholic Family Services organization and how both he and Dan Doherty served on the board. Recently our club provided funds for air conditioning for the organization. Tim read a very powerful “thank you” letter we recently received from Catholic Family Services. Our donation has made huge impact for sixty infants and their families.

David Watson then described the Stephen’s Backpacks project that we support. It was started by a young boy to help out children with no Christmas due to poor finances. The program has expanded greatly now. David also read a letter of thanks from one of the recipients of the backpacks. The recipient expressed how incredibly grateful he was.

Next was **Maggie Julian** who spoke about Art A La Carte, a great project that has been bringing art, conversation, and joy to patients since 1994. Patients are able to choose a piece of art for their hospital room, which gives them some control over their environment and improves their surroundings. The arts are now viewed as an essential complement to patient care and healing. Our Local Service Committee has funded and built trolleys to move the art around, donated funds to the purchase of art, funded the installation of sky panels in the radiation units, and recently we provided funds for the “Create While you Wait” program.

Bryden Horwood described another of our supported projects, the Community Kitchen Calgary. This program provides good food boxes to 150 locations. Their cooking program teaches meal planning, shopping, and cooking education.

Bill Lawless then thanked David Watson for coordinating the speakers and introduced Gerry Meek to sum up the presentation. Gerry told us that each grant has its own special story. Our donations and hands-on work have impacted and changed many lives. We dream big and find creative ways to help. We are making a better world, one project at a time. There are many ways for members to get involved. We can propose projects, be champions, work with grant recipients, make donations, etc. Lastly Gerry thanked the Local Service Committee for its work, thanked today’s speakers, and thanked the club members over the last fifty years. Bill Lawless closed off the presentation by announcing there will be a Local Committee Services meeting on August 9th or 16th and new members are welcome to attend.

Bill Quinney thanked the presenters on behalf of the club.

President Ben recognized our guest, Bryan Heaps from the United Kingdom, for his hard work on many projects.

President Ben also announced the meeting schedule for the next four weeks.

- August 7th there will be no meeting due to the holiday.
- August 14th the World Community Service committee will be presenting.

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- August 21st **Tanya Ward-Shur** from the Native Friendship Society will be our speaker.
- August 28th will be a team meeting.

President Ben closed the meeting by sharing a personal experience. Previously Ben was not a good gardener. He didn't focus enough on gardening. Now he waters every day, and he is a successful gardener. The message is to pick a task that matters to you and tend your own garden. If you work hard in the sun, you can relax in the shade.

Coming Events

August: Membership and New Club Development Month	
7	No Meeting: Family Day
14	World Community Service: A Jubilee Programme
21	Tanya Ward-Shur: Native Friendship Society
28	Team Meeting, and Hannah's YEX presentation
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
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!