

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

June 8, 2020 Edition: 53.37 Reporter: Mike Carlin Editor: David Williams

Kudos to Bill Tapuska. He and his team not only arrange for great speakers every week, he sends out creative “teasers” stirring curiosity and arousing our interest. Today, **What’s going on with Policing?**

Zoom Meeting was arranged by **Bill Fitzsimmons**. 55 members were in attendance.

President Gerry Meek called the meeting to order at 12:00. Our speaker did not arrive as planned, so Gerry proceeded with the meeting.

Inspirational Moment provided by **David Williams** reciting passages from the parable of the “Good Samaritan”- who is my neighbour? Luke 10.25-34. “Who” applies to any class, color or creed. David described a principle of race he learned from Mr T I Davies, the head of history at John Bright Grammar School, Llandudno: "There is only one race....the human race." Good to remember, especially in these current times. There is no room for racism, prejudice or discrimination.

Announcements:

- **Gerry Meek** announced that **Gail Williams** was presented with the District Citation For Meritorious Service 2020 at the (virtual) District Conference Also, **Khalid Keshavjee** was acknowledged for his support for youth, in particular RYLA
- **Marlene Doherty** announced there are 61 reported cases of polio in the world: 49 in Pakistan. We need to “end polio now” and Marlene has challenged us all to contribute the cost of our Rotary luncheon - \$25 to End Polio – and do it now.
- **Marvin Pawlivsky** - Victoria Lawrence from the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter has asked our club for donations of spring weather clothing for adult female clients at the Shelter. CWES has stopped accepting general gifts in kind from the public in an effort to minimize staff and

client exposure to the COVID virus. Instead, they are reaching out to trusted community donor groups, such as Calgary West Rotary Club, for these items.

- Gerry Meek
 - Dues are due by June 30th. If you plan to defer payment as per the recent board approval, please advise **Judy Cochran**.
 - The virtual District Conference was a huge success and well organized. The speakers on Covid 19 were excellent, as was the presentations of District Awards.
 - The after-hours Rotary group who usually meet at the Joyce on 4th will be holding a meeting on June 20th 10:00 to 12:30 with guest speaker **Nicole Levine**.
 - There will be no virtual luncheon meeting on June 22nd. Instead the Zoom meeting will be held in the evening from 7 to 8:30 pm. The board will provide reports for the year, and **Bill Fitzsimmons** will introduce his new board, and layout plans for the upcoming year.
 - Happy Birthday **Eduardo Watman!!** All the best!

President Gerry introduced our guest speaker **Mark Neufeld, Calgary's Police Chief**.

Mark Neufeld was the former Police Chief in Camrose prior to coming to Calgary in June, 2019. He is also the President of the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police. He started his career in 1992 with the Vancouver Police Service and shortly thereafter moved to Edmonton, where he spent 24 years with the Edmonton Police Service. He spent 12 years as a frontline patrol officer, including in Edmonton's diverse inner-city where he worked with residents and community partners to address neighbourhood crime, disorder, and social issues. He also has experience in undercover operations, incident command, crisis negotiation, and as a member of the EPS Public Order Unit working on the G-8 and G-20 summits, Stanley Cup and Grey Cup deployments, as well as the 2006 riot.

Neufeld recently completed a masters in criminology and police management at the University of Cambridge. He has also completed the CACP Executive Global Studies program, where he studied international approaches to cyber crime, and the International Executive Development in Policing program from the Canadian Police College and Hong Kong Police College.

Neufeld was promoted to the role of detective in Internal Affairs in 2004 and to staff sergeant in the Intelligence Section in 2007. In 2007 he successfully assisted with the implementation of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT).

In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of Inspector and assigned to Professional Standards where he led the development of a strategic planning process that resulted in the restructuring of the branch, the civilianization of numerous investigative and administrative positions, and an increased emphasis on alternative dispute resolution and complaint prevention.



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Neufeld was invested as a member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces in 2014. He is also the recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Police Exemplary Service Medal, and the Alberta Law Enforcement Long Service Medal. He and his wife, Lynn, have four adult children.

Guest speaker – Mark Neufeld – Policing in Calgary

These are unprecedented times. Mark gave us an overview of

- 1) pre-pandemic times with the recession looming,
- 2) the current environment and Covid-19 impact,
- 3) his view on the George Floyd death and resulting global impact.

2019 By the numbers

Mark arrived in June 2019 and was well aware of the downturn in the economy in Alberta and more so in Calgary. He showed us a few graphs; the first on Calgary Violent Crime over a 10-year period which was relatively flat until 2013 and started to show a significant increase from 8 to 14 thousand over the next six years. Numbers on a 100,000 per capita basis show an increase from 700 to 1,000 over the same period, which are somewhat reflective of the economy. Calgary is still considered to be a very safe city.

Domestic violence showed a higher rate of cases – 2,792 in 2013 to 5,943 in 2019. Again this is on per 100,000 residents basis, 241 cases to 462 in 2019. Still a sizable increase. Some of the key drivers include mental health, addiction and methamphetamine.

Similar trends are evident in property crimes. Prior to 2013, these crimes were relatively flat. However, since 2013 cases have increased from 36 to 61 thousand.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	
Break and enter	9,883	10,478	
Robbery	1,073	1,113	
Assault	9,279	9,579	
Sexual Offences	1,332	1,319	
Calls for Service	585,000	561,000	
Shootings	47	89	
Stolen Autos	6,919	6,927	22% above the 5 year average.

Complexity of policing has changed based on the following factors.

- Legislative changes – marijuana, eatables, etc.
- Justice System – Court capacity taking too long
- Technology – pros and cons – need for in-depth investigating into social media
- Aging infrastructure – Calgary is spread out and services have been also moved to communities
- Supervised consumptive services
- Workplace culture

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

- Budget uncertainties – even more so with Covid-19 impact.

Covid-19 Impact – what we are seeing now

- Reduced calls
- Reduced residential B and E
- Increased frauds, scams, extortions, phishing
- Increased domestic violence and child abuse
- Increased drug use and overdose
- Increased suicide and mental health issues.

Recent events in Minneapolis and across North America have raised concerns, emotions and protests, and Calgary is no different. Canada policing is quite different from the US where there are over 18,000 policing agencies. Our system is based on the British model where “the police are the public and the public are the police”. The Calgary Police Service is well connected to other agencies and is considered the premier police force in Canada.

Numerous questions were asked, some of which are outlined below:

- **Bryden Horwood:** What are the major criteria for hiring future police officers?
Response: Pretty much the same as it is today ie: education, age, physical requirements. etc.
- **Tim Anderson:** "I need to ask and relate to a serious issue about seniors being targeted and victimized by scams. Linda and I have a friend who has had over several hundreds of dollars fraudulently taken from her."
Response: It's almost impossible to get the money back once it has been taken from an account. The police focus is on prevention. However, Mark requested Tim send him the information as this fraud has probably been targeted in other jurisdictions in Canada and he will advise them to be on the lookout.
- **David Watson :** Please provide an EXACT definition of DEFUNDING.
Response: Defunding is basically cutting back on the budget allocated to police enforcement and provision of the funds to other areas, such as social services. A proposal is before city council to reduce funding by 40%.
- **Duncan Stanners:** What proportion of crime is attributable to gangs, and what steps are being taken?
Response: There is an anti-gang strategy which is focussed on urban crime. It is comprised of education, prevention and offender management. Refer to youthlinkcalgary.com.
- **Bill Quinney:** Do Calgary Police Officers wear cameras?
Response: The Calgary Police Service body worn camera program is guided by the following five key principles: Collection of evidence; Enhance transparency, public trust and confidence; Enhance officer accountability and professionalism; Protect officers from unfounded allegations of misconduct; De-escalate a situation. The Tsuu T'ina Police also wear cameras.
- **Drew Turnbull:** The chief's thoughts on the Trudeau government gun ban and how they have not addressed the issues of illegal weapons getting into the hands of criminals.



Response: The laws currently in place are sufficient. A gun ban will do little to combat criminals from obtaining guns.

- **Nketti Johnston-Taylor**: What sort of anti-racism and or diversity training is offered to the police?

Response: New recruits take 30 hours of training on diversity, de-escalation and effective communication.

President Gerry expressed the appreciation of the club to Mark for the generous giving of his time, and for dealing with complex and challenging times.

Gerry Meek adjourned with: "A clear conscience is usually the sign of a poor memory."

Coming Events

June: Rotary Fellowship Month	
1	Zoom Meeting: Calgary's National Music Centre
8	Zoom Meeting: Mark Neufeld, Calgary Police Chief
15	Zoom Meeting: Can Learn Presentation
22	Zoom Meeting: Gerry Meek Day. Programme
29	Zoom Meeting: Canada Day Special - Immigration and New Canadians: Peter Veress
July Stampede and Okanagan Cherries Month	
3	Parade Breakfast
6	Stampede Yahoo!??
13	TBA
20	TBA
27	TBA