

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

March 9, 2020 Edition: 53.29 Reporter: Les Morgan Editor: David Williams

Welcome to the first club meeting in Daylight Savings Time, 2020.

The front desk was staffed by **Garfield Ganong** and **Gail Williams** (cashiers), **Marlene Doherty** (fun time registrations) and **Lorenda Carlsen** (50/50). **Shelley Dyson** warmly greeted all arrivals. Since this was Commonwealth Day, Shelley had also decorated each table with a small globe of world nations and information showing the scope of the Commonwealth.



President Gerry Meek called the meeting to order at 12:25, and led our national anthem. He presented Meeker awards to Lorenda (she of the high positive energy, warm smile and tendency to engage in all things Rotary!) and to **Dan Doherty** (he of the high passion for all things Rotary, and his many leadership roles). Well deserved, both of you!

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Dan followed with a summary of his experience and insight into the role of the Rotary Districts – a sort of a “Day in the Life of...”. In his year, he attended perhaps 200 events, learning a tremendous amount about the Rotary organization of 1.2 million members – RI, Zones, Districts, clubs and, most importantly, members. Our challenge is to get every member focused on each other and each other’s passions. Everything about the *magic* of Rotary starts with its members. The more we know each other, the more we empower each other. Dan’s year-long experience as District 5360 Governor has reinvigorated his passion, and we can all support our District.

Visitors and guests were introduced by Shelley. We welcomed **Velma Noble** (Heritage Park), **Cameron Diggon** (guest speaker), **Christine Rendell** (DG), and incoming new members **Don Edie** and **Will Mitchell**.

Darren Grierson welcomed and introduced our two newest members.



Don Edie is a lawyer (particularly focused on energy related matters). He is also a musician (guitar), and opera singer (with the Calgary Opera). Friends and neighbours introduced Don to Rotary and he has a particular interest in care for seniors.

Will Mitchell is in the business of financial management, practising with a small (in Alberta) discretionary wealth management agency. He was introduced to Rotary via his wife. His principal Rotary interest is in mental health and addictions.

Welcome, both of you, to Calgary West!

Gail presented Paul Harris pins to **Gordon Cox** and **Darren Grierson** (+2).

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Guest Speaker

Our guests speaker was introduced by Marlene. Captain (Ret'd) Cameron Diggon has served in many leadership roles in the Canadian Arctic, Cyprus, West Germany and other Canadian assignments, receiving numerous decorations. After his retirement from the military, Cameron entered the oil and gas business, eventually founding his own private oil and gas production and development company. He continued to serve, however, in senior leadership positions with a variety of Canadian, military-focused charities, eventually assuming the role of Director of Funds Development with the Homes for Heroes Foundation in Calgary.

The Homes for Heroes Foundation is a registered national charity developed in response to the growing number of military veterans who are facing crises as they return to civilian life and find themselves on the path to homelessness. The Foundation's mission is to provide a caring, innovative and comprehensive solution to homelessness among our veterans. The organization was started by two gentlemen who, recognizing there was a problem, searched out the nature, the extent and the best practices to address it.

Two priorities surfaced: housing (first priority) and services (second priority, addressing PTSD and providing individually programmed counselling in various fields). Conversations with some 200 vets clearly showed they wanted a hand up, not a hand out, to begin a path back as proud Canadian citizens. The organization's principal initiative has been to provide homes for their "clients". Homes are grouped into villages of 15 to 25 tiny homes, the optimum community size for the vets' sense of community, familiarity and peer support. Transition back into society is a one to three year expectation.

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The Calgary Veterans Village, with 15 homes, opened last October. With an estimated 5000 homeless vets in Canada, the Foundation is working to construct similar villages across Canada. Each village also incorporates granite plaques recognizing and remembering fallen comrades. The Foundation's vision is that all of Canada's veterans-in-need progress toward a secure and self-sufficient life through access to housing and a robust support system offering stability and dignity.

For more information, go to www.h4hf.ca.



Joe Klassen thanked our guest speaker for his informative presentation and presented him with our world-famous Boltman.

Marlene reminded us of several upcoming events, notably the March 17 Irish-themed event with The Travelling Mabels. Marvin added that the event is at the Stampede Grounds Youth Centre (two blocks east of the BMO Centre). Money raised on behalf of RCCW will be matched by Shaw Charity.

The famous Games Night at the Kings is on Saturday, March 14. Call Marlene ASAP if you would like to attend. (Note: This is a fantastic evening of food, fellowship and fun!)

Further to an earlier request for contributions of art pieces to the Bethany Centre, please call **Bill Quinney** for information.

Linda Anderson confirmed the date for Art From The Heart: May 22, at COP. Please bring in your donations of wine, and we will be requesting volunteers to assist at the event. The charitable beneficiary is Leftovers, an organization that collects and distributes "leftover" food and groceries from numerous suppliers in the city and delivers it, for purchase at a nominal cost, to customers who require such a



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service, either because of their limited mobility or their desire to maintain their personal sense of dignity by actually paying an affordable amount for their food.

Darren is looking for members who are interested in learning to curl. The tentative date is March 22. Let Darren know ASAP if you want to participate.

DG Christine reminded us of the three Rotary conferences this year, encouraging us to attend. DisCon is in Calgary in May, The Rotary Peace Conference is in March, and the RI Convention is in Hawaii in June.

Barbie Hames congratulated the seven members celebrating birthdays this month, and Rotary anniversaries that ranged from one to 31 years.

Drew Turnbull won the 50/50 pot of \$50 and donated it to our guest speaker for Homes for Heroes.

President Gerry adjourned the meeting with this thought: "We become what we are by the choices we make."

Coming Events

March: Literacy Month	
2	Town Hall/Teams Meeting
9	Cameron Diggon: Homes for Heroes
16	Mark Milke: Author, Columnist, Keynote Speaker
23	Meeting cancelled in favour of March 26 Assembly
26	Evening Assembly (Tentative)
30	Jim Donihee: National Energy Board COO, RCAF Wing Commander
April: Maternal and Child Care Month	
6	"In Step" (Tentative)
13	No Meeting - Easter Monday
20	LCS Committee Presentation
23	Evening meeting at the Joyce
27	Prof Jon Fennell: Alberta Watershed Water Management
May: Youth Service Month	
4	YEX Program: Margot Robins and Friends
11	Todd Hirsch: Economist - ATB Financial
18	No Meeting - Statutory Holiday
21	Evening Meeting
25	Michael Chiasson: Motivate, Challenge, Inspire - Every Student Matters.
June: Rotary Fellowship Month	
1	Calgary's National Music Centre
8	Mark Neufeld, Calgary Police Chief
15	Can Learn Presentation
22	Gerry Meek Day. Programme TBA.

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29	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

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