

# 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:** Bill Fitzsimmons **President-Elect:** Marlene Doherty **Past President:** Gerry Meek  
**Secretary:** Gail Williams **Treasurer:** Don Edie  
**Directors:** Judy Cochran, Gord Cox, Darren Grierson, Barb Hames,  
Ken Montgomery, Drew Turnbull

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

November 23, 2020 Edition: 54.18 Reporter: Judy Cochran Editor: David Williams

This meeting came to us via Zoom opening with greetings from **Will Mitchell**. There were some friendly and maybe some not so friendly jibes directed towards those wearing green and gold – who ever came up with that colour combination???

The meeting was opened by **President, Bill Fitzsimmons**, at 12:02 pm with 48 participants attending. Introductions of guests included our guest speaker, **Doug Mitchell, Paul Valentine, Ted's son, and Jason Isaac**, guest of Will Mitchell. It was great to see **Clarence Buckley** joining us today!

**Sa'adat Keshavjee** presented his inspirational message and you will agree there is food for thought here.

### What Will Matter? (by **Michael Josephson**)

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end. There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days. All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance. It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed. Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear. So too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire. The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end. It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant. Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured? What will matter is not what you bought but what you built, not what you got but what you gave. What will matter is

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not your success but your significance. What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught. What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered, or encouraged others to emulate your example. What will matter is not your competence but your character. What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone. What will matter is not your memories but the memories that live in those who loved you. What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what. Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice. Choose to live a life that matters.

### Announcements

**Marlene Doherty:** Board nominations will be presented at the AGM on November 30. The current survey on club activities is due by November 27 with results presented on Tuesday, December 1.

**Barb Hames:** The truck carrying the poinsettias will be arriving approximately 9:30 am on November 30 at Grey Eagle. If you ordered poinsettias they must be picked up on this date. There can be no delivery due to the delicate nature of the plants. The truck will then head to the Bethany Riverview to deliver 210 poinsettias and a small Xmas bag filled with cheer to the dementia residents. **Terry Felton** will be on site. Thanks to the team who put all this goodwill together! Barb's final words were "Go Stamps Go!"

**Bill Fitzsimmons:** Orders for the Winter Comfort Package will be available for pick up at Grey Eagle that day. Anyone who has ordered items will be contacted.

**Linda Anderson:** On November 30 you can bring in donations of gently used men's and women's warm clothing for Alpha House. Only new underwear and socks can be accepted. Monetary donations are accepted. Please send an e-transfer to [CalgaryWest953@shaw.ca](mailto:CalgaryWest953@shaw.ca) and mark in the message box what the donations are for and if you would like a tax receipt. Or a cheque payable to Rotary Club of Calgary West can be mailed to Judy Cochran, #55 5790 Patina Drive SW, T3H 2Y5. Request a tax receipt if so desired.

**Bill Quinney:** This request is for donations of clothing and personal items to household items for Triveri House, a new facility in Forest Lawn to support Calgary's homeless youth (18 to 25). It has 38 suites and has been built by the Calgary Homeless Association, Homespace Society, Resolve Campaign, Calbridge Homes, and Enviros.

Our champion for this project is **Garfield Ganong** who will be reminding us about the need as well as coordinating receiving items at our in-person meeting on Dec 14th and then transporting them to Triveri House. See ClubRunner email for all the details.

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**Bill Fitzsimmons:** The board will review our in-person meetings on Wednesday at the monthly board meeting given the announcement on further protocols expected from the provincial government tomorrow (Tuesday).

**Joe Klassen:** A recap of the previous Foundation presentations was given. There are many ways to give – cash, securities of listed companies, bequests, life insurance, or real estate. Contact Garfield, Sa'adat or Gail Williams for more details of how you can give and how your donations to either foundation will be matched with Rotary Foundation points.

Please send your cheques to **Gail Williams** well before December 15.

**Dan Doherty** introduced Ted Valentine's son, **Paul Valentine**. For the past 30 years, Ted was always there to help in the Grey Cup celebrations sharing his vast Stampeder football trivia facts and bringing in jerseys and helmets, inviting everyone to put one on. Paul is the best one to give a tribute to his father and our dear Rotary friend.

Paul is excited to speak here today. Ted was born in 1930. His passion for Stamps football began in 1945 when his sister, Nora, took the train east to Toronto to watch the Stamps win the Grey Cup. To no avail Ted's attempts to become a Stampeder himself failed. Instead he became one of their biggest fans holding season tickets since 1953! The next stamps' win came in 1971. Ted wanted to be at a Grey Cup when the Stamps won. He took his wife, **Shirley**, in 1975 when Calgary hosted, but the Eskimos took home the Cup. Shirley vowed never to go again and sit in the sub-freezing temperatures. That sat very well with the three boys who would give anything to take that ticket. Ted waited 61 years to have his wish come true when he saw his beloved Stamps win against Hamilton to take the Grey Cup home in 2014. Ted must have been the good luck charm needed as the Stamps won again with Ted in the stands in 2018. Ted and the Stamps have given a lot to our city. Fittingly Paul played the Stamps Fight Song to end his tribute. Ted passed away August 9, 2020, and will be missed by all at Calgary West. You can read his obituary here <https://calgaryherald.remembering.ca/obituary/edward-valentine-1079686930>

#### **Guest Speaker**

**Robyn Braley** introduced our guest speaker, **Doug Mitchell**. Doug is a respected lawyer, business and community advocate who has brought great leadership to many organizations. He played a key role in taking his law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais, to the national stage. He's made valuable contributions to the business world along with amateur and professional sports in Canada.

After watching Canada sit out the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games, Doug worked to bring Canada's Olympic hockey program back to life with the national team based in Calgary.

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In the early 1980s, Doug served as a member of the NHL Board of Governors representing the Calgary Flames. From 1984 to 1989 he served as CFL commissioner. He's part owner of the Calgary Stampede and a member of the CFL board of governors.

Doug is committed to community service. He has served as chair of the SAIT board of governors, of United Way Calgary, the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, and the Calgary Airport Authority.

He's been chair of the Alberta Economic Development Authority and founder and co-chair of the Global Business Forum.

Doug is a member of the Canada Sports Hall of Fame, the Alberta and BC Football Halls of Fame, and the Colorado College Hall of Fame. He was named one of the most influential Albertans in the first 100 years of the province and is a member of the Order of Canada and the Alberta Order of Excellence.

Perhaps his greatest commitment to service came when he willingly chose to live in Edmonton - YES, the home of those pesky Eskies - from 2015 to 2020 as the spouse of Her Honour **Lieutenant Governor Lois Mitchell.**

Doug opened his remarks with his own words of tribute to Ted. His dad would talk about Ted. Ted will be missed with many condolences to the family.

An open question and answer dialogue between Robyn and Doug followed.

- 1. In 2017, you were inducted into the Colorado College Athletic Hall of Fame. In the late 1950s you were there on a hockey scholarship, but you also played with the Tigers, their football team. That was a big deal. How did that happen?** I went down to Colorado College on a hockey scholarship when I was 17 years old travelling by bus; taking 26 hours to reach our destination. In my last year of college, I asked the coach about football. Told him I played center and linebacker – not a lie but not the full truth. I was 6' and 212 lbs. I beat out a 6'5" 250 lb contender. We went on to win the championship that year. That changed my career from hockey to football.
- 2. Later you studied law at the University of British Columbia and played for the Thunderbirds. Describe the unique league they played in at that time.** The league was made up of teams from both the US (Ever Green) and the western conference. The Ever Green team was made up of teams from Washington State and the western conference, which included Saskatchewan and Winnipeg. I was named All Star the year I played.
- 3. How did you end up playing for the BC Lions and later the Hamilton Tiger Cats?** I played for the Lions for two years and then was put on waivers. I was in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of law school at UBC. Tiger Cats approached me, so I approached University of Toronto to transfer my studies. Toronto told me I would have to repeat my 2<sup>nd</sup> year which wasn't appealing. The Tiger Cats put me on the roster when you decide what you want to do. I stayed in Hamilton on the roster for two months and I did go back to UBC to finish my degree.

- 4. Fast forward to 1984. The Canadian Football League was in a financially desperate and vulnerable state. There was a job you never applied for, didn't want, but thankfully ended up taking. Tell us about that.** Two or three years earlier I was approached to be the president of the 1998 Winter Games. At the time, I was managing partner of my law firm amidst depths of despair in Alberta. I turned them down as I had made a move for our firm which resulted in a significant rent increase. I told them I couldn't abandon them at this time.
- Three years later, I was asked for possible names for commissioner of the Canadian Football League. After three meetings, they suggested I submit my resume, leave the law firm, and move to TO. I went home to tell my wife the news and her response was "Don't overrate yourself". I did accept the offer in the end.
- 5. Any inside stories you can share?** I took steps to breathe life into the league. Stamps had Save the Stamps, Ottawa was struggling. The Montreal team was folding at that time and Carling O'Keefe had just declined to renew a 3-year television contract so no TV coverage. I asked myself, "How did I get myself into this?"
- 6. Here we are in 2020 living in a pandemic. No CFL. No Grey Cup. No one could have imagined this. What do you expect to happen with the league in 2021?** If the league does not play next year in 2020-21 it will be extremely difficult to start up in 2021-22. The fan base will have been eroded and the sponsorship will have dwindled. The good thing is the CFL is all made up of all Canadian teams, so no crossing the border with US teams like hockey or basketball. No government funding is required but government approval is. Grey Cup Unite was a wonderful promotion to revive interest.
- 7. Will there be 9 teams?** I will optimistically say yes. Season may be delayed.
- 8. Based on your vast experience in business and sports, what do you see as the future of the CFL?** I see a great future. Yes, there are difficult times given the economy and the pandemic. The interest is there. This is a Canadian institution culminating in the Grey Cup.

Opening up to questions from the club.

- 1) There could be a Maritime Club in the CFL. There was tremendous fan support. The question becomes sponsorship and where to find that in the Maritimes.
- 2) The US will continue to contribute tremendous talent to our CFL. One lesson learned from a former coach was how important giving back is.
- 3) The Stampeders are the greatest team going undefeated in 1948. Also, honourable mention to **Normie Kwong** who played in the CFL from 1948-1960 briefly for the Stamps then the Eskies.
- 4) I do think most of the players will return to the CFL when a new season begins once again. Undeniably, with the reduced salary cap some will go stateside to the NFL.

**Drew Turnbull** graciously thanked Doug not only for his talk today but for his service to our city and country, finding the talk inspirational and enlightening.

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Doug remarked in their family's travels they will always return to Calgary. He thanked Rotary for our service and all the work we do.

President Bill wrapped up by thanking Team 1 for today's Zoom duties. **Tim Anderson** will keep us informed if a hybrid meeting will be held at the Joyce on Thursday, November 26, with guest speaker, **Peter Boyle**, Valour Canada. Bill reiterated those same words with a hybrid meeting scheduled for November 30 at Grey Eagle with our AGM, guest speaker, **Ken Keeler** from Calgary Co-op, and our three days of giving campaign kick off. More stringent protocols may be coming. Stay tuned. Be safe.

Meeting closed at 12:57 pm.

### Coming Events

<b>November: Foundation Month</b>	
2	LCS Presentation of Grants and Projects
9	Phil Levson – Wills -Estates and Rotary Foundation
16	Honduras Water, Haircut Fundraiser, Never Too Late Presentation of Award, Other Service Related
23	<b>Doug Mitchell</b> – Future of the CFL, Former CFL Commissioner and Current Board Member
26	<b>Evening Hybrid Meeting at Joyce on 4<sup>th</sup></b> – Peter Boyle, Valour Canada. WW1 thru eyes of 5 soldiers
30	<b>Ken Keeler</b> – GM Calgary Co-op / Days of Giving / Board Election
<b>December: Disease Treatment and Prevention Month</b>	
7	<b>Earl Thiessen</b> , Executive Director of Oxford House (addictions recovery centre)
14	<b>ISC Presentation</b> of Grants and Projects Vote.
21	<b>President Jennifer Jones</b> Rotary International - FIRST Canadian President - Rotary International
28	No Meeting – Christmas and New Year Holiday