

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

October 5, 2020 Edition: 54.12 Reporter: Sa'adat Keshavjee Editor: David Williams

This being the first face to face meeting since the covid lockdown six months ago, we had 36 members and guests present and 21 online at the opening of the session. It was noted that the road has been re-opened to the Grey Eagle and it is quite easy to find the hotel as most of the road construction is now complete.



Call to order: On this partially hazy, 23 degree Monday, President **Bill Fitzsimmons** called the meeting to order from his home by Zoom. He opened by thanking all present and recognized the work of **Gord Cox** in coordinating the two meeting sessions concurrently. Members on-site were pre-registered and pre-paid. There was no registration desk and members were seated two to a table (that originally seated up to eight). He asked all members to continue to exercise caution and care during this pandemic. He emphasised that, although we have re-opened to a face-to-face session, there is no pressure for any member to have to attend in person.

Moment of inspiration: **Bob Pearson** shared a moment of inspiration with the members.

There was no *O Canada* sung.

Remembrance: **Clare Bildfell.** In recognition of Clare, who just passed away, President Bill recognised his accomplishments as a past president, a champion for organ transplants and a believer in the 4-Way Test as a solution to world problems. A moment of silence was observed. We will miss Clare as a happy, cheerful and engaged member.

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Visitors and Guests: **Tim Anderson** welcomed **Kevin Yates** and **Donovan Bailey**, and recognized **Larry Doyle** and **Orlin McMillan**, who have been away for a while.

Lunch today was comprised of roast Chicken, rice and vegetables complemented by a pastry for dessert.

The wine draw: Today's winner was **Bernie Ward**.

Induction of two new members

Darren Grierson lead the charge on the induction of two members:



Rod McMahon, a former Rotarian from Nova Scotia, has joined our club, proposed by Darren. He is a past president of his club and selected us as his Rotary club in Calgary. Welcome Rod!

Pat Fitzsimmons, introduced by **Debbie McMillan**, is the partner of our current president Bill.

She is committed to projects with Habitat for Humanity and has been actively involved with our club for several years. She has been on our club trip to Honduras and plans to be active in international work. Welcome Pat!



Announcements

Leadership opportunities

Leader for the Christmas wreath project. **Ken Montgomery** is seeking an able, capable, and willing member, for a short but impressive fundraiser at Christmas. You will be succeeding

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Lorenda Carlsen in marketing and distributing Christmas wreaths with an able team of members. Please contact Ken.

Fundraising director for 2021-2022. Ken is seeking a board director to take his position on the board. An excellent opportunity to see the workings of the club from the board perspective. Ideally suited if you like a challenge, opportunity for growth, and people who make things happen.

Barbie Hames announced that we have a game night of fun and fellowship at the Calgary Golf and Country Club on Friday, October 30th at 7pm. Tickets are \$25. More information to follow. The CGCC has a lovely ambience and is worth the outing. Let's all go out and have fun!

Birthdays this month: Congratulation and happy birthday all.

2 Larry Doyle
4 Clarence Buckley
5 Marvin Pawlivsky
16 Gerry Meek
22 Mike French
29 Denise Penner-Collins

She also recognized **Bill and Shelley Quinney's** 54th wedding anniversary.

Tim Anderson announced that there is no meeting next Monday, due to Thanksgiving, but we have **Thursday at the Joyce in Mission, on October 15th at 6 pm.** We will have a presentation by three past presidents on their years in office. Come along with your family and friends, and have fun and visit in a pub setting

Welcome new treasurer Don Edie! **Judy Cochran** is pleased to announce that Don has taken on the responsibility of being our treasurer, effective immediately. Welcome and congratulations lawyer Don for taking on this leadership role.

Highway Cleanup. **Clarence Buckley** announced we have our annual *day on the highway*, just west of Calgary on Saturday, October 17th. Please contact Clarence, who succeeds Larry Doyle, who has been leading this team for the past many years. After the clean-up, the team usually visits for lunch or snacks.

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Guest Speaker

Today's program features Arjun Channa, former manager of the Westin Calgary Hotel, talking to us on “**Life with a purpose**” via Zoom from the US Virgin Islands, where he is now posted.

Highlights of the presentation include the following:

- A dynamic diary of his life and travels through 12 countries, over thirty years, where he learned six languages, and with the mission in his hotel management work to leave the world better than he found it. He talked about how, through his work as a hotel manager in some of the world's major cities, he influenced change and enabled people he worked with to become better and more enabled to succeed.
- He started in Basel, Switzerland, where he was a hotel management student and worked as a waiter and mastered German and French, following his origins in India.
- Algeria, where he learned about the local folklore and started to learn Arabic and the customs of the north African people.
- Abu Dhabi, where he learned the culture of the Emiratis and the way work was handled there. He learned about diversity and the country was very international. The locals did not work, but they hired others to do their work for them!
- Amman, Jordan, where he learned how creativity can be a winner.
- Beijing, where he worked food and beverage with a team of 700 in a 1000-room hotel. He learned Mandarin very quickly.
- Dubai, where he worked on a project called ‘meals on wheels’.
- Nairobi, Kenya, one of his most amazing tours of experience.
- Sanya Island, Hainan province China, where the hotel experienced 96% occupancy year round, and he had connected with the tourists from Russia to increase volume of traffic to the island.
- Port Vila, Vanuatu.
- Udaipur India, back home where he originated and where he was charged with converting a Rajasthan Palace into a hotel.
- Toronto, Canada, which they really enjoyed and where their children went to a Canadian school for a steady two years.
- Calgary, Alberta, where they stayed for five years before heading south again,

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- St Thomas, USVI, where they are currently posted.
- He summarized his learnings by saying: “You cannot d it alone.” Life, family and teams are important. People come first, and profit will follow; correlation between profit and value; seek to be different and unique; to succeed. Do what you do best, not what others are doing. Disruption is here to stay, so embrace it. Learn new trends and seek to move with change; innovate your thought process regularly; you will never satisfy everyone, but keep striving.

Life has no regrets for him, it has been an adventure that he and his family has grown to enjoy as global citizens.

To thank the speaker, the manager at the Grey Eagle Hotel, **Kevin Yates**, recognized Arjun as a friend, mentor and a fellow manager of great repute, with whom Kevin has enjoyed many fellowship opportunities on boards and associations.

The meeting adjourned at 1.45 pm.

Coming Events

October: Economic and Community Development Month	
5	Arjun Channa: immediate past general manager of the Calgary Westin. Presently at the Ritz-Carleton, St Thomas, Virgin Islands
12	No Meeting: Thanksgiving
15	Evening Zoom Meeting: Past President's Reflections
19	Youth and YEX- Jakob Hettinga
26	Ken Keeler: GM Calgary Co-op (Tentative)