

THE STANDARD



THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY HERITAGE PARK

ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH



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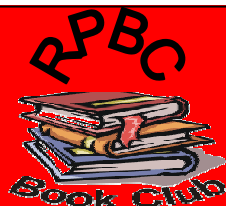
Reporter:
Brian Humphrys



FOUR WAY TEST

In all things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH ?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Rotary Partner's Book Club

When: TBA

Where: TBA

Inside this issue:

Meeting Highlights	1
Guest Speaker:	1
Christmas Wish List	2
Sheriff's Fines	3
Happy Bucks	3
50/50	3
Guest Speaker cont'd	4

Meeting Highlights



The Standard January 5, 2007

With President Wynne mysteriously absent amid speculation of a "National Lampoons Mexican Vacation", President Elect Asha stepped into her shoes. Needing Elton John's platform shoes rather than Wynne's flats, Asha lowered the mike and tried to call the meeting to order at 07h: 00. Being just slightly



taller than the speaker's podium proved a small but surmountable challenge in calling our club's first meeting of 2007 to order. Club members were a lot more talkative and a little less co-operative than they should have been, requiring Asha to kindly ask please finish the conversation so the meeting could commence. Today marked the 10th anniversary, the year that Mother Theresa and Lady Diana Spencer died. Also, 1000 years ago Leif Erickson discovered North America, which he called Vinland and which we refer to today as Canada. *Continued on page 2*

Guest Speaker: Scott Henning

Continued on Page 2



Scott Henning, our guest speaker from CTF

The meeting quickly progressed to our guest speaker, Dr. Jim Hennessy introduced Scott Henning, the Alberta Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF). CTF is a non-partisan organization, which is not government funded and has never received government funding. They have 5 provincial capital offices from Victoria to Toronto and another office in Ottawa. CTF is an advocacy organization that works to: (1) Lower taxes (2) Eliminate Government waste (3) Hold politicians accountable

CTF acts as a Provincial and Federal Government watchdog. The CTF has been involved in several activities including: (1) 1993 commissioned the Debt clock, displaying the per-second increase in debt.

The debt clock toured around the country on a horse trailer (2) Balance Budget laws (3) Eliminated tax bracket creep (4) Shamed Government. Publicized the "Clean Office Policy" allowing retiring or defeated (British Columbia and Saskatchewan) MLA to keep all taxpayer-provided office furnishing and equipment. This practice eventually ended in both provinces after being brought to the public's attention.

The focus of CTF Alberta is to: (1) Tax reduction (2) Spending limitations (3) Democratic reforms. Tax Reduction (1) \$44.⁵⁶ Health Care Insurance Premiums

Meeting Highlights

...continued from page 1



Al Hardstaff explained in great detail the duties and responsibilities of the Sergeant-at-

Arms. Staring at the newly repaired and visibly erect flags, David McKeown brought us to attention with the first few bars of 'O Canada'. Grace was said by Surinder Khanna. Graham Drake introduced visiting Rotarian Hans Tiedemann and John Price and our guest speaker, Scott Henning. With a call to the buffet line, Mike Fuller was appointed the buffet line greeter, since his return from Vancouver Island. Al Black was pleased to inform the club that the Heritage Park Salvation Army kettle raised \$10,300.00. Everyone should be very pleased with their efforts, take a few minutes and give yourselves a pat on the back. Brian Humphrys pleaded with club members for volunteers, who would agree to sell tickets to the RCCHP Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball; disappointingly there were very few takers. On February 20, 2007 our club and the International Service Committee will be hosting an evening of fellowship at the Military Museum to raise money and awareness for the "Adopt a Minefield Program".

At the behest of our President, Al Hardstaff explained in great detail the duties and responsibilities of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Sergeant-at-Arms Profile: Monthly Duties: (1) Set up Duty Roster for coming month and post on website (2) Check with Club President on dates of regular meetings and Executive meetings for coming month (3) Set up, confirm and sign Contracts with Heritage Parks Events Co-coordinator for club's regular Friday morning meetings (4) Co-ordinate Food menus for weekly meetings and if necessary Executive meetings (5) Maintain supply of pins and banners at Heritage Park for members

Maintain physical condition of club paraphernalia (Bell, Gavel, Flags, Banners, Badges, Promotional materials, etc.)

Wednesday (1) Phone and remind members of Duty Roster responsibilities for Friday morning meeting (2) Appoint Sheriff (3) Pick up mail from Rotary Postal Box (4) Go to bank for Rotary club float change

Friday Morning (1) Arrive at Heritage Park between 06h: 15 and 06h: 20 (2) Place Rotary A-frame direction sign (3) Open up club cabinet and oversee set up paraphernalia for meeting (4) Set out Attendance sheets and members badges (5) Set up cash float, 50/50 and door sales (6) Check public address system to ensure working (7) Distribute mail to President, Treasurer and Directors as required (8) Confirm Duty Roster with President and inform of any changes (9) Maintain head count of members, visiting Rotarians and guests. Communicate with Heritage Park hostess if more place settings are necessary. (10) Provide "Speakers Gift" to member thanking Guest Speaker (11) When meeting is adjourned - oversee returning to storage of all Club paraphernalia of lock Rotary cabinet (12) File attendance sheets, Club Secretary gets one copy (13) Sign confirmed Breakfast Attendance sheets with Heritage Park Hostess. Record with Treasurer. (14) Co-ordinate cash float with Treasurer (15) Take down Club directional signs as leaving park (usually 08h: 45)

Guest Speaker: Scott Henning

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Jim Hennessey introduced our guest speaker

These insurance premiums are not optional to the general public and does not reflect a person's usage of the health care system. The money collected from the insurance premiums is not allocated directly to the healthcare system but indirectly through the provincial general income fund.

Other points of interest was the 3% provincial hidden tax that is applied to all insurance premiums. This tax is not disclosed on bill; Mr. Henning could not prove to the club that this tax existed but asked if we would accept his word on this matter. CTF's point of contention is that the Alberta government is profiteering at the expense of individuals who are trying to protect themselves. Also the government is double dipping with the 3% hidden tax on the Health Care Insurance Premiums.

Continued on page 4

SUNSHINE REPORT



Asha provided humor for the day when she recounted a personal story about when the furnace went on the fritz and Ragu was out of town.

Asha: "The furnace is not working, can you please come over and look at it."

Repairman: "It is probably the thermo coupler, I'll be over in the next couple of days."

Asha: "What does this thermo coupler look like and I will replace it myself."

Repairman: "I'll be over in 2 hours."

Doug Hood announced rotary anniversaries for Mike Fuller and Norm Haines. No birthdays or wedding anniversaries were announced on this day.

Happy Bucks



(1) **John Radermacher** – The club generosity with the veterans hamper that completely filled the box to his pick-up truck (2) **Garry Gray**—? (3) **Jamie Powell** – Working the Salvation Army kettle shift with Brian Humphrys (4) **David McKeown** – Announced his son's engagement (5) **Mike Fuller** – Wind burns suffered on Vancouver Island (6) **Walter Zuk** – His Hawaiian vacation and his daughter's marriage engagement (7) **Al Black** – To the club for making Salvation Army Kettle shifts almost stress free (8) **Hans Tiedemann** – His daughter is visiting from Germany (9) **Bill Hope** – Christmas holidays and spending time with his daughter at the S.A. kettle (10) **Surinder Khanna** – Will be spending time with his children in the New Year (11) **Jim Davis** – Celebrating his father's 94th birthday in Kimberly (12) **Jim Hennessy** – Surinder is going on holidays (13) **Joe Klassen** – Skiing over the holidays (14) **Martin Harvey** – District Conference and our club's support (15) **Asha Paul** – Daughter's engagement (16) **Al Hardstaff** – Duty Roster was filled by new members and the morning shift went off without any problems (17) **Graham Drake** – Empty nesters at last (18) **Peter Harding** – Al Hardstaff agreeing to be the Sergeant at Arms

Sheriff Bob Clark: You're BUSTED!



Sheriff Bob "Quick Draw" Clark was taking no prisoners today

(1) Gary - ??? (2) Betty Little and anyone willing to publicly admit being an Oilers' fan for loosing in the shootout after Dallas Star Patrick Stefan lost control of the puck in the Edmonton crease allowing the Oilers to score the tying goal and sending the game into overtime. (3) Surinder Khanna – Who proudly admitted to he was going to have perfect attendance and inform the club he was going on holidays (4) Every club member who does not read the Standard (5) Smokers, Calgary is now smoke free (6) Garry Gray – Every treasure should have a balanced budget and this is how you can help (7) Anyone who received golf equipment for Christmas, that includes you Peter Harding (8) Britney Spears (9) Anyone who while driving spoke on the cell phone, read the newspaper or drank coffee

50/50 JACK POT



The pot was estimated at \$746.00. Joe Klassen had a some difficulty getting the joker out of the box and into the deck. The lucky ticket holder was Brian Humphrys, who drew the 6 of clubs. Better luck next time and the pot grows bigger.



Spending Limitation

The CFT states that Alberta Royalty Revenues from it's natural resources is approximately \$14.3 billion. That accounts for approximately 50% of revenue for the province of Alberta. Other revenues sources was the Provincial Income Tax, which the CTF states was approximately \$6 billion.

Because revenues from natural resources such as oil and natural gas fluctuate due to market prices dictated by OPEC, the Alberta Government cannot forecast future revenues adequately and should at the opinion of the CFT annually invest approximately 50% of royalty revenues received. Mr. Henning made an analogy using a 6-49 winner as an example.

- John Doe is as poor as a house mouse
- Wins the 6-49 and becomes a millionaire
- Buys anew house
- Buys a lake-side cottage

Buys several new toys, truck, seadoo / skidoo, trailer, etc

The new house and cottage has higher property taxes, which continually takes larger chunk out of his winnings. Payments for toys also use up a large portion of the money. The cycle continues until financially John Doe is bankrupt and has lost everything.

Bob Price thanked Scott for his insightful talk and presented him with the vision restoration certificate.



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**WEAR YOUR
ROTARY PIN**



The Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park Upcoming Events

- **February** - Mardi Gras "Adopt a Minefield" hosted by the International Service Committee on February 20.