



Well, it's a crisp morning in the park, **really crisp**. After we all take part in the redundant, but somehow required, "Is it cold enough for ya?" we warm up to the joy that is a breakfast meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park.

Our Rotary guests include Hans Tiedeman from Calgary South and Alan Stewart from the Downtown Club. Joyce Hill is here to present today, and we have our next outbound exchange student Katie and her Mom Christie. (Shown with Wynne at left)



Garry Gray is at the helm today, and is keen on keeping things moving, and not in a Metamucil kind of way. We hear from Doris about current status of the Golf Tournament. They have already secured commitment from our platinum sponsor Canyon Creek Toyota, as well as one gold (we would like 6), and five silver (goal is 20) sponsors as well, and no bronze as yet, but we are hoping for 6. Greyhound has already stepped up with 144 sleeves of golf balls. Also needed are a lunch sponsor, wine sponsor, 3 hole-in-one sponsors and silent & live auction items, so tell your friends and contacts. Building on last year's success, the bar has been raised a little higher this year, and we all need to pitch in to get sponsors, prizes and participants. Brian Semeschuk from our club and Linda Nixon from ARF will be returning as co-chairs. There will be a volunteer organizational meeting held at Max Patel's home on Wednesday February 2 at 6:30pm.

In other news, Garry Gray noted that the club survey deadline was looming and to please offer any input via that document as soon as possible. Garry also reminded all that protocol and decorum should be considered at all times during the regular club meetings. There have been outbursts recently that have been considered inappropriate and that we could be more constructive if the discussion were handled in the proper forum.

Minute people

Anniina has moved from the Townsends to join Helen Buchanan and family. She has skied over the holidays with Dave and Marilyn Townsend at Nakiska. A trip to Puerto Vallarta with some club members was a highlight for her. Seeing the very real PV was a once in a lifetime experience.

Norm Haines shared an update on public image. As the meetings reflect very strongly on our club to the guests and visitors, Norm reminded that emotional outbursts can give a poor impression of what good things are occurring and the cohesiveness of this wonderful club. In an effort to promote the many community, vocational and international projects this club supports, a new summary sheet is being produced that can be displayed to highlight these activities. It will be made available as soon as a few details are confirmed.

Sunshine

Surinder radiates sun as he acknowledges Jim and Norma Sawers celebrating 35 years of marriage, and Zuzanna has just had a birthday. Surinder then proceeded to tell a very *colourful* story.

50/50



Walter Zuk is playing croupier on today's games and I (joe) have the good fortune to have the winning ticket. After a thoroughly reviewed recital of the Four-Way Test, I pick the Queen of Hearts, the crowd is satisfied.

Happy Bucks – A whole lot of happy

Al Hardstaff starts with a generous \$5 for something that I can't read from my own handwriting, which I think will cost me next week. Forgive me Al.

Bill Hope is now a Taurus under the new horoscope system.

Mark Rowe expressed appreciation for the love and support he has received in the loss of his brother-in-law. Our thoughts and condolences again Mark.

Al Black is happy for eyes that now see alike.

Graham acknowledges that Bill is full of bull now.

Garry notes the passing of a friend, and balances that with joy at sledding with his brother.

Martin got a haircut just in time to need the extra insulation.



Sherriff – Walter Zuk

Walter was very entertaining today as he first plays traffic cop with us. He then proceeds to demand that we listen up and extracts cash from those who have failed in this recently. Like any father, he catches us for leaving the door open, gets those who are late. Walter rectifies some details on the flag protocol and finishes with fines for general winging and harping. Tough guy.

And, today's special guest is Joyce Hill speaking about voluntourism.

Bob Price introduced Joyce, describing her experience in travel for 17 years and her growth into the adventure tour market. She has been involved with GAP Adventures for many years and has a great understanding of the adventure tour market. For those unfamiliar with GAP, it is a Calgary-based tour operator that is a world-leader in small group travel adventure tourism.

Joyce starts by reminding us that not all adventure tours are hardcore. There are many options that allow one to experience local culture and peoples without having to live in a tent. As the market matures, there has been a trend to more quality of experience and that opens our eyes to the effect we have on the



places we visit. This has created a very unique product called planeterra.org. There is a charity-focused product available for those who are interested in sustainable tourism and responsible travel. This is an entity separate from Gap Adventures, but all expenses are covered, so that all revenue can be directed to the end recipients. As a non-profit, they can give back to the people and places that they visit. In addition, GAP matches all donations to planeterra.org.

Calgary is fortunate to be the home of such forward-thinking companies that are setting an example for similar firms all over the world. Jeanette thanked Joyce for being with us this morning.

Garry Gray closed the meeting with this thought: (or a semblance of ☺)

Our greatest hope is not to never fall, but to always get up!

-Confucious