



THE STANDARD SEPT. 12, 2014

The high voltage excitement of our last gathering when spare seats and meals were at a minimum had dissipated into thin air. The morning mood was filled with a sense of melancholia, a dark shadow had filled the meeting place, something was just not right.

Was this the outcome of waking up to a dark moment previously unexperienced in our City's history? Only the brave hearted had come out from under the heavy wet snow. The snow buds were few in number but were the deeply devoted disciples of the Rotary underworld.

President Sheila tried to awaken members from their slumber with an enormous clang of the bell. To further gain our attention she greeted us all with her gleaming smile and if this didn't work Don's booming rendition of "Oh Canada" surely set the stage for a brighter day.



Brad Wellicome followed with a straightforward prayer asking that as Rotarians – We think deeply! Speak Gently! Love Much! Laugh Often! Work Hard! Give Freely! Pay Promptly! And Be Kind! Amen! Not intended to be a demand but only a gentle reminder to awaken us to the light of day.

Bob Sadler came before us somewhat downcast over the loss of his wildflowers due to the impact of the snow storms. He mustered up enough strength to introduce us to the speaker for the day, Mr. Andrew Boucher, who was to take us into the depths of the Airport Tunnel Project. The young engineer with shovel in hand walked us carefully past the political minefield and led us safely to the surface of the project. A project which had aligned itself with the future needs of the city and not just the needs of the moment.



Interesting Tunnel Facts

- The tunnel is 620 metres long and 36 metres wide
- Vehicle clearance in the tunnel is 5.3 metres.
- During tunnel construction over 600,000 cubic metres of earth and rock was excavated.
- Over 2.5 kilometres of water and storm water utilities have been installed along with approximately 45 kilometres of electrical conduit.
- 12,000 tonnes of reinforcing steel was installed, equivalent to about thirty 747 airplanes.
- Concrete work on the structure itself began with the installation of footings followed by forming and casting of the tunnel walls and roof. A total of 50 concrete sections were poured. Each tunnel section required 850 cubic metres of concrete which was delivered by about 80 trucks over a 12-hour period.
- The first concrete pour for the tunnel walls and roof took place on February 24, 2012, and the last pour was completed on October 30, 2012.
- A total of 58,000 cubic metres of concrete was poured during the construction of the tunnel.
- Thirty-two 100-horsepower exhaust jet fans, weighing 2,000 pounds each, and 1,380 lighting fixtures were installed onto the ceiling of the tunnel.
- Various traffic control devices, lane control and life safety systems have been installed in the tunnel.

Project scope

The Airport Trail tunnel project includes:

- **Tunnel excavation** - Tunnel excavation involved the removal of more than 600,000 cubic metres of rock and earth material.
- **Underground Utilities under the Tunnel Structure** - Installation of underground utilities such as water for firefighting purposes and storm drainage pipes to manage storm water.
- **Tunnel Structure** - Concrete work on the structure itself began with the installation of the footings followed by forming and pouring of the tunnel walls and roof. Completed fall 2012.
- **Life Safety Systems** - Installation of communication/surveillance system, fire detection system, emergency egress accommodations, ventilation system, electrical system (including emergency/back-up), and traffic control system will progress as the overall tunnel project is completed.
- **Roadworks (Airport Trail/Deerfoot Trail to 36 Street N.E.)** - Existing Airport Trail between Deerfoot Trail and Barlow Trail has been upgraded from four to six lanes. Airport Trail between Barlow Trail and 36 Street is constructed to six lanes.



Romain, our exchange student, was the first to emerge from the underground experience. His warm demeanor and friendly nature seem to emanate new hope. Though weighed down by the addition to his pin collection he beamed with enthusiasm as he spoke of his orientation meeting with 20 other exchange students. He graciously thanked those who provided him with the opportunity to attend the Stampeder and Eskimo football game and proudly announced he had made the Volley Ball team at St. Mary's. Adding that he had brought with him significant expertise gained from his school experience in Belgium. Interestingly each of his statements was punctuated by the expression "That's It"



The next presenters known in the underworld as **the three Mafiateers** came with demands of their own. Brad Sewall also known as "Big Shooter" (BS) stood on the left of the King Pin, Jamie Powell also known as "Baby Face Powell" (BFP) and on his right was Brad Wellicome also known as "Big Bonano" (BB).

The Big Shooter gave us the big news of our overwhelming success at the Golf Tournament with a take of close to \$63,000 half of which will be shared with the ARF gang. Having a captive audience his next demand was for all those who had fun to raise their hands. Knowing in advance of the consequences of not raising your hand meant everyone had fun. Brad the Big Shooter would be glad to hear any suggestions of anything that could be done differently.

Big Bonano, returned to his place on centre stage and bellowed out enough anniversaries and birthdays to take everyone's breath away. Especially Cheryl Ryan who's wedding anniversary was announced as one year and rotary anniversary as five years. Even though it was the opposite she quietly whispered the correction in the hope of not gaining "Big Bonano's" attention. To lighten up the mood (BB) followed with a few responses of his Bambinos to some age old quotes:

You can't teach an old dog new – Response: Math

A penny saved - Response: is not much

Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and – Response: You have to blow your nose

When the blind lead the blind – Response: Get out of the way

If at first you don't succeed – Response: Get new batteries



BFP – Baby Face Powell took his stance and with a barrage of bullets (Sheriffs Comments) collected as much loot as possible.

-Leroy, boasting about being in a warmer climate

-Dennis, for telling the Sheriff what to do

-Don Bell, put the Sheriff out of tune

-Cheryl, for being on time

-Bob Price, for taking the summer off

-John Radermacher, for complaining about going to Vegas with the guys

-Jeanette, so she could pay her own fine in the absence of Joan

-Bob Sadler, being centred on wildflowers and forgetting about the trees

Finally something to cheer us on our way:

"OKTOBERFEST" Jamie Powell - Gave a big Shout out !!!

- GET IN ON THE BIG RAFFLE TICKETS – NEW YORK OR NEW ORLEANS YOUR CHOICE-
- PETER HARDING IS NOT ONLY PLEADING FOR YOU TO PRESS THE REPLY BUTTON TO HIS EMAIL BUT IS WAITING WITH BAITED BREATH FOR YOU TO LAY CLAIM TO YOUR TICKETS ITS AS EASY AS PIE GET BACK TO PETER HARDING, EVE ROBERTSON OR JAMIE POWELL
- LOTS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE – GO HOME A WEINNER (WINNER)

Happy Bucks:

Bob Price - Happy he is not going to Vegas with John.

Brad Sewall - Great vocational meeting with lasagna at Cheryl's.

Lynda Campbell - Wedding in Palm Springs.

Dennis Tillotson - Daughter's Wedding on September long weekend, first rain, then sun, then rain, then a beautiful rainbow.

Greg Smyth -Thank you to Brad for leadership of the Golf Tournament.

**50/50**

Just when we thought things had brightened up. Joan came out of her cavernous kitchen with her guns loaded. Pointing them straight at Max Patellio of the Mumbai gang, she demanded to see the Joker or the shooting would begin. Max, sheepishly, pulled the Joker from the deck assuring Joan it was truly there, "Okay" she said: "Now let's get on with it". Putting her guns aside she quickly drew a card from the deck. The place lit up with excitement as Joan beamed from ear to ear as she raised the joker for all to see.

President Sheila's Closing Comments:

Date for Strategic Planning still to be set for a Saturday in November.

This day in 1959 was the first day of the series Bonanza on TV.