



July 10, 2020

### In the Beginning

After enthusiastically announcing that it was time to get our “yahoo” on for the first Friday of Stampede, newly-inaugurated President Christine, via Zoom, began her second meeting of the new Rotary Year in the usual spirit of reconciliation, and overcame technological impediments to play a recorded special Stampede version of O Canada, sung by Sofi Munson and accompanied by the collective voices of members and guests silenced within their respective confines.

Roger gave thanks for health, laughter, food and friendship; and asked that we may be made mindful of those who, now or in the future, may be without any of these heaven-sent gifts.

Darryl introduced our guests, including our speakers Dana Peers (President & Chair of the Calgary Stampede) and Filipe Masetti Leite (2020 Parade Marshal). He also noted that our meeting was being graced with the presence of Rotary partners Jackie Kinley, Elaine Harding, Kim Sewall and Holly Drake.

### Sunshine Report

Roger provided the Sunshine Report, beginning by encouraging the singing of Happy Birthday for a Rotary member celebrating a birthday during the week. That member was Roger himself, but he later declined being serenaded when President Christine asked whether he would like the “choir” to sing for him. Partners’ birthdays included Leah Smyth (July 14<sup>th</sup>) and Laura Harding, Stan Christmas’ partner (July 17<sup>th</sup>). Celebrating anniversaries were Sheila and Cliff Tyminski (40 years on July 11<sup>th</sup>), Max and Kapu Patel (42 years on July 14<sup>th</sup>), Brad and Cheryl Wellicome (31 years on July 15<sup>th</sup>), and Lynda and Tony Campbell (35 years on July 17<sup>th</sup>).

Roger told a story of how Karen, after much effort, persuaded her parents to buy a computer, only to have her mother find that Google is not quite as adept at providing information as Karen represented, when she asked the question “how is Mary today?”. (It

is so difficult to measure the level of laughter when members are attending meetings via Zoom and have their microphones muted!)

### Guest Speakers

Starting off his 10<sup>th</sup> day of Past-Presidency, Bad Brad introduced our two guest speakers, Dana Peers (President and Chair of the Board of the Calgary Stampede) and Filipe Masetti Leite (2020 Parade Marshal), both of whom exemplify the nature of the Calgary Stampede and the values it represents. From a business perspective, Dana has enjoyed a 32-year career in the design project management and land development industries, designing and completing projects throughout North America. He is currently the President of Urbano Design and Development Limited, which specializes in both residential and commercial design. On the Stampede side, Dana started in 1991 as a mascot with the Downtown Attractions Committee. He's been involved in leadership for quite some time, including as a Board member since 2011 and President since 2019. Filipe Masetti Leite eight years ago saddled up and set off from the Calgary Stampede on a remarkable adventure. His dream was to cross the Americas on horseback; and on July 3, with his arrival in Calgary, after 25,000 kilometres travelled, his journey was complete. He's only the third person in history to achieve that feat.

Dana provided a very informative and interesting presentation, providing us with insight as to the challenges the Stampede has faced as a result of Covid-19, as well as its plans for the future:

- Following the shut-down in March, 90% of the staff were laid off.
- For 2020, the Stampede had to be cancelled for the first time in its history.
- The Stampede still found many avenues for engaging the community in its spirit (through events involving, for example, drive-through pancake breakfasts and mini-donuts); and the community responded in spades.
- Strong partnerships with many community leaders have continued.
- Dana is hopeful that by fall the situation will be a bit different, with hopefully the reopening being in phase three, so that the Stampede can relax more rules and continue to plan toward revival of more of the approximately 1200 events that are normally held at Stampede Park each year. The Stampede is monitoring the situation every day, in the hope of seeing a safer time for the community, recognizing that all that can be done at this point is to continue to plan as if the Stampede can move forward in a more normal fashion starting in September.
- The Stampede is looking forward with great anticipation to the addition of the new BMO Centre and the opportunities and diversification it will bring.

Dana later turned the proceedings over to Filipe. Eight years ago, Filipe Masetti Leite saddled up and set off from the Calgary Stampede on a remarkable adventure. In 2012, at the Calgary Stampede's Centennial celebration, Masetti Leite swung into the saddle and began chasing an extraordinary dream passed down from his father and inspired by the legendary long-riders of the past. He embarked on a 12 country, 25,000 km journey on horseback across North and South America, through some of the most beautiful and most challenging country on earth. From his adopted country of Canada, Masetti Leite

made his way to his native Brazil, then on to the very tip of South America, Ushuaia, Argentina. To complete the journey and achieve his long-time goal, last year he once again set off on horseback from Alaska with the goal of returning to Calgary in time for the Stampede. After pausing for the winter months and the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Filipe rode his final 800 km along remote roads, finally arriving in Calgary on July 3. He became a parade marshal without a parade, but that did not stop the celebration of his incredible achievement. You can view the full story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YohvrzPL4aU&feature=youtu.be>

Our community spirit could not be cancelled.



Through his narrative, Filipe left us with memories of a number of very valuable gems of wisdom:

- Humanity is amazing – the tremendous kindness of strangers is what carried him.
- Strategic planning is the difference between success and failure; and for him strategic planning was the difference between life and death. He spent two years in his war room planning the journey.
- During the journey, he saw a lot of bad things: He saw two people shot dead in Central America, and a man trying to kill his wife. There were many moments where he thought he was going to die, or he was going to lose one of his horses. He had to befriend druglords and stay in their homes in most dangerous areas.
- When he got to Brazil, he lost purpose in his life and he suffered early symptoms of depression and anxiety symptoms with PTSD. But then he went to a motivational talk at a Brazilian children's cancer hospital, and his life changed after seeing the kids struggling but still smiling and fighting for their lives. This fuelled his determination to get out of the funk, move on, and help the non-profit hospital financially.
- We have to hope for the best, prepare for the worst, but ultimately take whatever comes; and we will get through this together.

Filipe has written two books, *Long Ride Home* (which is being made into a major motion picture) and *Long Ride to the End of the World*. Clearly, Filipe's story is one of resiliency and of meeting challenges head-on, as we're all trying to do.

On a very pleasant note, Filipe just recently became engaged to his fiancé, Clara.

For their wonderful presentation during their extremely busy time, Past-President Brad expressed heartfelt appreciation to Dana and Felipe, who gratefully acknowledged our donations on each of their behalfs to inoculate 40 children through Polio Plus.

### Virtual Induction

President Christine then turned the meeting over to Doug MacDonald, who virtually inducted our newest member, Steve Dunk. What makes Steve different is that he asked to join our Club. Doug first met Steve in the Downtown Club a number of years ago. Steve, originally from Montreal, came to Alberta for a summer job, fell in love with the Province, and attended the University of Alberta, graduating as a Petroleum Engineer. Steve married Catherine, a food and travel writer originally from Lacombe, in 1982. Steve has a background in International Service; and has already attended about a dozen of our meetings via Zoom.

### Minute

Jim Coyle then reminded everyone that he and his Committee have a dynamic and entertaining President's Social well-organized, with special entertainment; and members and partners won't want to miss it. The Committee is very conscious of maintaining appropriate safety measures. Thus far there is roughly 32% participation. The date is August 13; and the event runs from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, starting with a social time and following with the official program at 6:00 PM.

### Happy Bucks

- Graham: \$5, with a welcome to Steve and Catherine (recognizing that Steve shares his Montreal roots), and appreciation for the speakers' bringing Stampede alive via Zoom.
- Mark: \$10, with acknowledgement of receipt of the \$3000 grant from the District for the Volcanes facemask making proposal, and expression of thanks for the assistance and support of Phil and his Committee, as well Bill Skinner.
- Lorne: \$25, with recognition of, and appreciation for, the cycle of life.
- Steve: \$5, with appreciation for being allowed to join the Club, and for becoming part of it.
- Peter Harding: \$10, with appreciation for the great presentation by our speakers, a welcome to Steve and Catherine, and appreciation for Elaine's joining him for our very early-hour meeting.
- Greg: With thanks for the excellent presentation, a welcome to Steve and Catherine, and appreciation of the cowboy hats that were being worn.
- Brad Sewall: \$5, with a welcome to Steve and Catherine, especially on the food side, and appreciation for Dana and Felipe and their presentation, as well as gratitude for having Kim by his side for the meeting, and a happy birthday to Roger.
- Christine: \$5, with a welcome to Steve and Catherine, and appreciation for the number of partners present for the meeting, as well as the number of cowboy hats and shirts, and for Dana and Felipe.

Next week: Jeff Hodgson, Heritage Park Director of Food Services, giving us an update on what's happening at Heritage Park and plans for the future.

Christine's Friday foresight: "Life will change without our permission; it's our attitude that will determine the ride."

President Christine ended the meeting by wishing everyone a fantastic week in Rotary, and encouraging them to get out and share their Stampede spirit, which cannot be held down!

### Meeting Responsibilities

July 17, 2020

Greeter

Murphy, Ginny

Grace and Sunshine Report

Noble, Velma

Introduce and Thank Speaker

Pyle, Jeanette

Standard Reporter

Olutuyi, Ola

July 24, 2020

Greeter

Paivalainen, Aliisa

Grace and Sunshine Report

Patel, Max

Introduce and thank Speaker

Mihailedes, Christine

Standard Reporter

Paul, Asha

July 31, 2020

Greeter

Paul, Raju

Grace and Sunshine report

Peerani, Din

Introduce and Thank Speaker

Kim, Harry

Standard reporter  
Powell, Jamie

August 7, 2020  
Greeter  
Pyle, Jeanette

Grace and Sunshine report  
Radermacher, John

Introduce and Thank speaker  
Campbell, Lynda

Standard Reporter  
Robertson, Eve

August 14, 2020  
Greeter  
Rowe, Mark

Grace and Sunshine report  
Sapre, Vannita

Introduce and Thank speaker  
Sewall, Brad

Standard Reporter  
Sawers, Jim

Speakers

[Jeff Hodgson Heritage Park](#)

Jul 17, 2020

Zoom Meeting Update on re-opening & future of Heritage Park during COVID 19

[District Governor Mary Turner -](#)

Jul 24, 2020

Official Club Visit