



THE STANDARD

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MEETING NOTES



THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY



ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY HERITAGE PARK

The warmth and friendliness inside the Gunns Dairy Barn outshone the ice and chill outside at 6:30 am on this Friday morning. Jim Davis welcomed us with a big smile and warm handshake and Bob Clark seconded the welcome while ably handling door sales. President Bill Skinner rang the bell at 7:00 and following a rousing rendition of Oh Canada led by Peter Harding, reintroduced our two guests and prospective members, Katie Hope and Jordan Ganchev. Bill acknowledged the land we are on, Treaty 7, and talked about how the Indian Act of 1876 attempted to eradicate the traditional role of hereditary chiefs in band governance, replacing it with elected band councils. However, the role of hereditary chiefs has continued to this day; they hold different positions and power within bands that sometimes results in clashes between their positions and those of the elected chiefs, including decisions involving land use and resource development.

Following a Rotary invocation, we went off to the buffet table for breakfast, with our plates shone to a glossy finish by Lorne Kelly

PROGRAM

Bob Clark introduced our guest speaker, Jeromy Farkas. Billed as his classification talk, Jeromy shared with us the 10 lessons he has learned through his work in the social sector. He noted the alignment between our work in Rotary and that of the social sector and drew on his leadership roles at the Glenbow Ranch, Wellspring Alberta, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, The Alex and theWeaselhead Society.

The 10 lessons learned:

1. Mission beats money: E.g. when the Glenbow Ranch faced the prospect of permanent flooding, drowning over a century of ranching history, wildlife habitat, and public trails, it was people power, not money, that stopped the dam being built. Volunteers, neighbours, and advocates fought back with everything they had and won. **The lesson:** when your purpose is clear and your community is with you, you don't need to have the most money, you just need to stand for something. Rotary is built on that same principle, that service, not status, is what moves the needle.

2. Small is mighty: E.g. The Glenbow Ranch runs on a lean crew. Small teams don't mean small impact, it just means more hats and fewer coffee breaks. **The lesson:** Rotary clubs have that same spirit, people stepping up, wearing every hat, and making it look effortless.

3. Listen to the Community E.g. Wellspring Alberta is built on conversations with the very people using them, creating a feeling of being more like a home than an institution. **The lesson:** whether it's improving a park, supporting a family, or solving a civic issue, the most powerful solutions are the ones that come from asking people directly: *What do you need?*

4. Collaboration beats competition: E.g. The Alex Community Health Centre is built on a holistic health model that emphasizes the inter-connectedness between housing, healthcare and mental wellness. In an environment of competition for scarce dollars and resources, the Alex uses this model to find unusual partners to address the multiple issues that impact health. **The lesson:** Rotary clubs too, can bring together government, business, and community groups who otherwise might not collaborate.

5. Leadership Is Service. E.g. Nonprofit leadership, where titles don't mean much when the coffee runs out. If you can't brew a new pot, stack the chairs, and sweep the floor, you're not leading, you're supervising. **The lesson:** in Rotary, leadership isn't about control. it's about contribution.

FRIDAYS 7 AM. GUNN'S DAIRY BARN, HERITAGE PARK, 1900 HERITAGE DRIVE SW, CALGARY



MINUTES

Rotary clothing: Brian Gentles will be sending out an email shortly, showing a catalogue of clothing items we have pre-selected, for members to choose from. Your purchases can be done online and billed to your club account. Clothing items for both men and women include hats, polo shirts, dress shirts, T-shirts, vests and jackets, in 3 colours: red, imperial blue and dark navy blue. The items will be either silk screened (T-shirts) or embroidered (all other items) with our club name and Rotary logo.

SCAS: Eve appealed to us all to spread the word that the sale is next Friday, April 11 & 12. We have over 2000 pieces of art. While we have media promotion (CTV morning show and CBC Eyeopener), we need everyone to encourage all contacts to come and buy the art.

Vulnerable sector protection: Judy encouraged anyone who will have direct and unsupervised contact with a member of a vulnerable sector to obtain their police clearance and complete the Protection Awareness Course. Rotarians, their adult family members and on-Rotarian volunteers are to safeguard the welfare of every person with whom they come into contact in connection with a Rotary program, activity or event. She will assist anyone needing help. It takes a few weeks to obtain police approval, so do it right away. It is good for 3 years.

HAPPY BUCKS & CONCLUSION

many members were happy today and expressed their joy by paying a few dollars

Bill quoted Eleanor Roosevelt by saying 'do one thing every day that scares you.' After reciting the 4-way test, Bill adjourned the meeting.

DUTY ROSTER

APRIL 25, 2025

GREETER **WALTER ZUK**
DOOR SALES..... **HAROLD AITKENHEAD**
INTRODUCE & THANK..... **WYNNE BJORGAN**
REPORTER..... **DEB DUNCCANSON**

**If you are unable to fulfil your duties please
find your own replacement.**

PROGRAM (CONTD)

6. Be Ready for Anything. E.g. At the Glenbow Ranch, a planned outdoor event, with months of work, was interrupted by a herd of cattle wandering into the staging area. **The lesson:** flexibility isn't optional — it's required. Plans fall apart and you need to smile and pivot.

7. Measure What Matters. E.g. The Alex uses the measures around *Are people actually getting better? Are their lives more stable?* versus outputs such as meals, clinic visits, and shelter placements. **The lesson:** It's easy to fall into the trap of counting outputs instead of outcomes. But in Rotary we don't just ask how many trees were planted or dollars raised. We ask: *Did it help?*

8. Everyone is a Fundraiser. E.g. Wellspring Alberta uses a saying: "If you're part of the team, you're part of the story. And if you're part of the story you're part of fundraising." He noted that fundraising isn't about asking for money, it's about inviting people into something meaningful. **The lesson:** In Rotary, every handshake, every story, every act of service is a way to show people what we stand for. And that's where support comes from, not pressure but purpose.

9. Celebrate the Small Wins. E.g. Big Brothers Big Sisters, where a mentee passed his driver's test; for him it was a huge milestone. Rather than waiting for his graduation, they celebrated right away. **The lesson:** celebrate the small wins - it sustains morale, and it keeps us connected to our impact.

10. Never Forget the "Why". E.g. and **the lesson:** In nonprofit as in Rotary, it's easy to get buried in emails, policies, meetings. Remember, we do this because we care about people, about leaving things better than we found them. About service. About legacy.

Bob thanked Jeromy for his great insights into leadership and Rotary, noting that the soul of Rotary is the why and the magic we do with that.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

CHERYL MATTHEWS.....MAY 1
TIEN DANGMAY 1

ANNIVERSARY

DON & DEBRA MCARTHUR (39 YRS).....MAY 2

ROTARY ANNIVERSARY

GINNY MURPHY (12YRS).....APR 30
VINCE VAVREK (29YRS).....MAY 1