

COG

The Rotary Club of Calgary



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This week's reporter
Ralph Lundberg



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Blaine Favel: First Nations Education

As our guest speaker began his presentation, we were brought full circle to the beginning of our meeting which featured native prayer and song. Blaine Favel represents the bridging of two worlds in an impressive way. Having received a law degree at Queen's University and an MBA at Harvard, he has gone on to serve, among other things, as Grand Chief of the Saskatchewan Indian Nations, counselor to the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, legal counsel to the Assembly of First Nations and panelist on the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Committee. So when Blaine speaks of the historical injustices endured by native people in Canada, he speaks with considerable authority. He asserted that although his message may sound harsh at times, his purpose is to educate, not offend. His message started on a personal basis. A favourite kindergarten teacher, at the age of eighty, was robbed during a break in by native youths...she was frightened but not harmed. The loot? Food from her kitchen! This highlights the harsh reality of life on many reserves in Canada.

Blaine asserts that while Canadians believe that our country is based on a system of social justice and a sense of community, that view ignores the situation of First Nations people who under treaties never sold the resources of the land. Our native people have asked for education and tools, not welfare. During the settlement of the west, native people ran successful collective farms, were "the first Hutterites". As this ran counter to then government settlement policy, regulations were drafted to derail these farming activities, forbidding the use of modern farm equipment by natives for example. In contrast, other countries have recognized native people's business initiatives. In New Zealand, the Maori run huge dairy operations; in the U.S.A. the Business Tax code gives special consideration to native enterprises. It is important to create an alignment of First Nations enterprise with that of the rest of Canada, otherwise such projects as the Gateway Pipeline could be jeopardized.

Continued on page 2



The Rotary Club of Calgary is an organization of professional and community leaders who come together through commitment and fellowship to create opportunities and a better future for generations to follow.



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President: Bruce Fenwick • Vice President: Lynn Lehr • RI President: Kalyan Banerjee • District Governor: Mike French

Speaker thanks



Sharee Ryan thanks our speaker.

Sing song



Walter Macdonald White Bear's ode to his mother.

Initiatives



Laura Krantz on the Fellowship calendar project and Habitat for Humanity event.

Blaine Favel (cont'd)

The Residential Schools resulted in a multigenerational disaster. Children taken from their homes were subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse. This has contributed to the addictive and self-destructive behaviours that puzzle and alarm non-native people. That was yesterday; today funding for native schools is half the level of non-native schools. With Blaine's background in native education issues, it should come as no surprise that he views better education as a key part of the solution. The current work of the United Way and Rotary to address the challenge demonstrates the best spirit of Canada. In closing, Blaine urged us to tell our government to share the load and do its job too.

Meeting Report

Today's meeting was a contrast in cultures: we began in the usual way, with Frank McKittrick ushering in the head table with a timely rendition of "Autumn Leaves", then the singing of "O Canada". The first sign of a cultural change was the delivery of the invocation in the Blackfoot language by Reg Crow Shoe. In lieu of our usual sing song, we were then treated to a magical performance by Walter Macdonald White Bear, who performed a haunting native flute piece, followed by a short narrative on his childhood and the role his mother played. His song dedicated to his mother was very moving and helped set the stage for the incisive comments by our guest speaker.

Eva Friesen's mystery city this week turned out to be Mexico City, home of birthday girl Christina Castro. Lynn Lehr, in her role as Chair of the meeting, announced that our container of medical supplies had reached port, but due to bad weather could not yet be unloaded. John Boyd then had the pleasure of introducing new member Michelle DeCecco, whose arrival not only helps lower the average age of our membership but continues to alter our chromosome makeup.

Doug MacDonald announced that the Board's nominee for Club President for the 2013-2014 year is Eva Friesen. Doug outlined the process for other nominations. He also drew attention to our accelerated Polio Plus effort. Donations will double the Paul Harris credit attributed for the next short while.

Madeline King appealed for members to host visiting Rotarians from Australia for the Rotary Friendship Program slated for the period June 24-July 29, 2012. Laura Krantz described the need for photos for the Rotary calendar being prepared by the Fellowship committee (October 28th deadline). The Committee is also looking for volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity event November 1 and 2 at which we have promised to serve lunch.

Michael Broadhurst took the podium to promote the World Community Service fundraiser November 22nd at Donegal's Pub (see next page). We are looking for 300 to share in dinner and drinks and a crack at some fabulous raffle prizes, including fare for two to London, (you don't have to qualify for the Olympics either!)

Upcoming events

2011 Christmas Hamper Campaign

60 Families from 3 schools annually receive Christmas hampers from the Rotary Club of Calgary.

We need your help to ensure this happens in 2011.

We're looking for 3 – 4 Rotary members to join our fabulous committee! The more members, the less volunteer time required by each person.

We're also looking for shoppers and, of course donations.

Stay tuned for details in the weekly COG and announcements at the lunches.

Carol Rosdobutko/Mark Stiles – Co-Chairs



New member



John Boyd introduces Michelle DeCecco.

WCS Event

THE WCS BIG INTERNATIONAL EVENT
A RCC FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND WCS FUNDRAISER MEETING

DONEGAL IRISH PUB
1637 37 ST SW
AT 17TH AVE, CALGARY

TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 22, 2011
5.30 – 9.00PM

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PRIZE

RAFFLE DRAW
RAFFLE TICKETS
\$10 OR 3 FOR \$25.

SILENT AUCTION
TICKETS \$40 PP INCLUDING
MEAL AND 2 DRINK TICKETS

EARLY BIRD DRAW NOVEMBER 1 AT RCC

FUND-RAISING GOAL \$25,000 FOR TRACC UGANDA & SUSTAINABLE CAMBODIA.
FUNDING FOR OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS MAY BE CONSIDERED AT THE DISCRETION OF
THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND WCS CHAIR PAUL BATES

YEX



Follow Hayley's Swiss experience on her blog!

<http://alittleswissadventure.blogspot.com/>



**COG staff, Oct. 28
issue**

Editor.....Oliver Kuhn
Reporter.....Ralph Lundberg
Photographer..... Ralph Lundberg
Sponsorships.....Lorne Larson
Office support.....Jo-Ann Clarke

Upcoming Luncheons

- Nov. 1 Jay Feaster – “Calgary Flames”
- Nov. 8 Bill Fowlis – “Tax implications of owning US real estate”
- Nov. 10 Lieutenant Governor Donald S. Ethell - Remembrance Day with Heritage Park Club. **(Note: 6:30pm at Ogden Legion – see page 5)**
- Nov. 15 Tom Jackson – “Tom Jackson SIS”
- Nov. 22 WCS evening fundraiser **(See page 3)**
- Nov. 29 Frank McKittrick – “Kool Keyboards at Knox”

**Many thanks to this week’s COG sponsor,
Helene Weir and the YMCA!**



**GREAT things
happen at the YMCA**

Thank you for helping YMCA
build healthy communities in
Calgary for more than 100 years



Rotary Remembers



November 10, 2011

Where:

Ogden Legion
2625 - 78 Avenue SE
Calgary, AB

[Driving Directions](#)



When:

Thursday November 10, 2011
at 6:30PM



Fellow Rotarian,

On November 10, 2011 the Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park is hosting an all clubs Remembrance Day ceremony at the Ogden Legion, with special guest, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

6:30PM - Cocktails (cash bar) and fellowship
(Sandwiches before ceremony, cash bar open before and after)
7:30PM - Formal Ceremony

Seating is limited - please register early! Tickets are available online for \$20 or by cash/cheque - contact Bill Hope rcchp@shaw.ca. Parking is free. Event proceeds going to support Veteran Programs.

We will be accepting non-perishable food donations at the door for the Veteran's Food Bank.

Please click on the link below to
R.S.V.P.

[Get more information](#)

[Register Now!](#)

Early registration is encouraged as **seating is limited.**

Please contact Bill Hope for event inquiries or to purchase tickets by cash or cheque: rcchp@shaw.ca

Call for material

The COG calls on all committees to submit articles, stories, updates on their activities.

We want to expand the scope of the COG to make it a more interesting read, that better reflects the broad range of exciting and worthy activities within our club.

Please submit any material to Oliver Kuhn at kuhnoliver@rocketmail.com

Want to help?

If you'd like to help out with the COG in any way, please do! Again, contact Oliver.

