

COG

The Rotary Club of Calgary



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Volume 29

No. 011

September 20, 2011

District No. 5360

This week's reporter

Doug MacDonald



Marie Delorme: The History & Misconceptions of Aboriginal Canadians

Steve Allen introduced this week's speaker, Marie Delorme. Marie is the CEO of The Imagination Group, and specializes in guiding organizations to operate more efficiently and profitably by focusing on the spectrum of challenges that business leaders and governments face – from long range planning to critical day-to-day business issues. She also owns Imagination - The Aboriginal Gifting Company, a full-service corporate gifting, promotional products, and Aboriginal art card organization. Marie currently serves on the Board of Governors for Mount Royal University. She was also Co-Chair of the 2010 Calgary United Way Campaign.

Marie came to talk to us about the history and our misconceptions of Aboriginal Canadians. Marie is the first of 5 speakers who will help us understand the issues facing First Nation, Inuit and Métis people in our community. Marie came to put the issues in context because the past creates the present and influences the future. Marie assured us that she didn't come to make us feel guilty about the past but as you listen to her story, it's pretty hard not to do that.

Over 500 years ago, when Europeans arrived in North America, there were 50-100 million people speaking hundreds of languages. They had trading systems and networks and well organized forms of government. They had their own religion and their own economies. The relationship between Europeans and Aboriginal people started as collaboration because the newcomers didn't understand how to survive in this new world. The relationship quickly changed though as the newcomers decided that their hosts weren't as sophisticated as the newcomers.

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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

Opening Prayer



Tom Jackson performs "We Need Blue Water"



Aboriginal Drumming Ends the Meeting



Marie Delorme (cont'd)

The Europeans quickly subjugated the Aboriginal people and put plans in place to assimilate them into the European society. Religious ceremonies, traditional clothing, music and language were all banned over time. For those of us of Scottish heritage, much of what Marie said should remind us of the Scottish Clearances after 1745.

The residential schools were probably the most troubling part of the story. We've all come to hear about the abuse that went on in these schools but it's the impact on future generations that's the most troubling. More than 150,000 children were taken from their parents and placed in schools where the purpose was clearly to make them not-aboriginal anymore.

The Métis people have also had a bad time. History books don't often explain how land rights were taken away and other rights too. Marie told of Métis men who served in the Canadian Forces in both world wars but they weren't eligible for veteran's benefits. She did talk about the Alberta Government's efforts to redress these issues, and others, by creating Métis settlements.

Marie ended with some hopeful words about the truth and reconciliation commission and the formal apologies that have been made to the aboriginal people. Like South Africa, Australia and the USA, aboriginal people in Canada are faced with high unemployment, poverty, high school dropout rates, atrocious housing and communities without potable water. Apologies are the starting place but forgiveness will take time. The Canadian government will have to address the rights that were denied to aboriginal people and they will need resources to build their capacity and resilience.

Marie concluded with a quote from Martin Luther King, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." We have the opportunity to begin talking about these things that matter.

Meeting Report

A larger than usual group attended this week's meeting, no doubt thanks to the speaker this week.

Following the usual opening, President Bruce Fenwick passed on the sad news that Paul Luxford is in hospice care and not accepting visitors. On a happier note, Bruce reminded us about this year's Dinner Club (contact Gary Murray) and the Highway Clean up this Sunday (contact David Macdonald). There are a number of other fall events on the web site that we should all check out.

Leading up to this week's speaker, Tom Jackson took the stage to show his support for what we are planning to do to help aboriginal youth. Tom was off to Edmonton after the meeting, for a concert, but he did bring his guitar so was able to sing his song, "We all need blue water" which aptly brought together our work with CAWST and the need for potable water in aboriginal communities here in Canada.

Upcoming Events

HIGH WAY CLEAN-UP THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, September 25 @ 10:00 am

Meet in the Mount Kidd parking lot

A maximum of 20 people –
4 people/one km stretch of highway.



Rotary Club of Calgary Social "OKTOBERFEST"

Friday, October 21

Austrian Canadian Club
3112 – 11 Street NE

Cocktails: 5:30pm
Dinner: 6:30pm

Tickets: \$45
Table of 10: \$425

LOOKING FOR 40 FUN COUPLES FOR ROTARY DINNER CLUB

Suggest dates for dinner:

October 2011
November 2011
February 2012
March 2012

Participation in the Dinner Club is a commitment to host one dinner during the year and to attend as a guest at the other three dinners. Emphasis should be on meeting other fellow Rotarians and not on gourmet dining! It is vital to the success of this club that all participate fully including hosting and attending!

CONTACT coordinators
Gary & Carol Murray
to learn more:
403-281-2121
cemurray@shaw.ca

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY... Sunday, September 25

Sunday Brunch

Saskatoon Farm
9:00am – 11:00am

Car Nuts

High River Car Show
11:00am – 4:00pm

Non-Car Nuts

Quiet ride thru
the country

CONTACT: Ken Moraes
403-271-4556
ken@moraes.ca



Michael Pflueger
Thanks Our
Speaker





Letter of Support

Tom Jackson Stay In School Initiative

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF

BUREAU DU CHEF NATIONAL

Assembly of First Nations

Assemblée des Premières Nations



September 20, 2011

Mr. Bruce Fenwick
President
Calgary Rotary Club
Suite 300, 1202 Centre Street South
Calgary AB T2G 5A5

Dear Mr. Fenwick:

I am greatly pleased to hear about the Rotary Tom Jackson Stay in School Initiative led by the United Way and the Calgary Rotary Club which will benefit First Nations students off-reserve. Although I am unable to attend the formal launch of the program, I wanted to take this opportunity to send along my best wishes to all partners and my hopes for success.

The Auditor General of Canada noted that the long existing gap in education attainment between First Nations and the Canadian population is continuing to grow. This is unacceptable and must be addressed. It is the very reason why I issued a public Call to Action in education more than a year ago. We know that education is the most effective tool for improving socio-economic conditions in the long-term.

The partnership in Calgary between the United Way and the Rotary Club will create life-changing opportunities for many students and families. I have no doubt that you will have success in this initiative and inspire other organizations across the country to follow your lead.

We need a groundswell of partnerships and initiatives such as this one in order to inspire a climate of change. I look forward to hearing about your progress and once again congratulate all the people involved for developing this important Stay-in School initiative.

Respectfully,

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
National Chief

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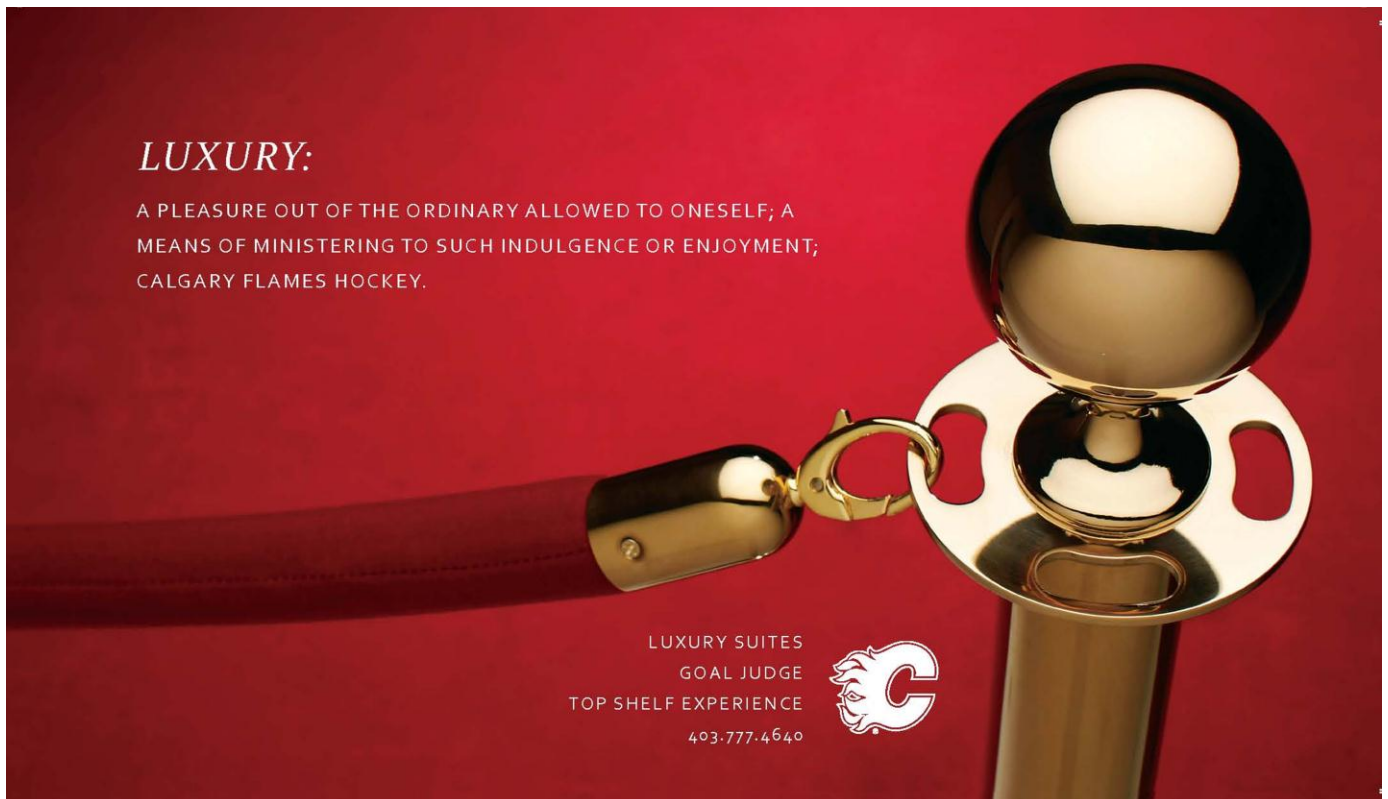
Reminders

Have an upcoming event to share? In addition to emailing Jo-Anne Clarke, please copy Oliver Kuhn: kuhnoliver@rocketmail.com

Upcoming Luncheons

- **Sept. 27..... Dr. David Docherty – “Incoming President, Mount Royal University”**
- **Oct. 4 Martin Parnell – “Running for Kids”**
- **Oct. 11 Jan Damery – “Aga Khan Initiative”**

**Many thanks to this week’s COG sponsor,
Ken King and the Calgary Flames!**



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