

COG

The Rotary Club of Calgary



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This week's reporter
Ralph Lundberg



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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Kent Hehr: Calgary Buffalo MLA

Kent Hehr, Liberal MLA for Calgary Buffalo and a member of our Club, began his talk with a weather alert: it might be hot outside, but during his talk there might be a chill in the room! In the last 40 years, the government of Alberta has collected \$350 billion in non-renewable resource revenues and has managed to save \$16.1 billion of the proceeds.

The Heritage Trust Fund is worth less in real terms than in 1967. In contrast, Norway, with the discovery of North Sea Oil in the 1980s, modeled its equivalent fund after Alberta's. The difference: all income for the fund was saved and invested worldwide, with the result that today their fund is valued at over \$700 billion. In the meantime, Alberta has made no contributions to its fund since 1987.

In Norway, the fiscal approach is to tax its citizens sufficiently to meet that society's ongoing needs, while preserving its oil revenues for the future. In Alberta, the approach, as illustrated by the last six consecutive deficits, is to keep taxes at a minimum and subsidize our lifestyle by relying on oil revenues. So although Alberta spends as much per capita as any other province, our low tax rates (the lowest of any Province) result in a depletion of our Heritage Trust Fund, Sustainability Fund and deficits. Kent noted that if Alberta adopted B.C.s tax structure, revenue would increase by \$12 billion a year and we would still be tied for lowest the lowest taxed jurisdiction in the country.

The outcome would be that we would have predictable and sustainable funding for the things Albertans value (including health, education and advanced education which currently account for 60 per cent of our expenditures). We could stop counter-cyclical spending and save approximately \$8 billion a year for the future.

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Barbara Young introduces visitors and guests



Banner exchange with Australian Rotarians



Paul Bates says, "Hands up! Who wants to hike?"

Hehr (cont'd)

Perhaps it is appropriate that an MLA from Calgary Buffalo is the one to alert us to the dangers of counting on a particular resource for the indefinite future. As Buffy St. Marie sang, "Where have the buffalo gone?"

Walter Haessel, who like George Brookman, shares very different political views from our speaker had, upon learning Kent was scheduled to speak, volunteered to take on their roles as introducer and thanker. This speaks volumes for both the respect with which Kent is held and the fellowship of Rotary. And who better to present a CAWST certificate to our speaker than Walter?

The Meeting

The newly-rounded head table marched in to John Phillips Sousa's "The Thunderer," no doubt a reference to the voice qualities of President Doug who was able to subdue the massed audience in time for the anthem and an invocation delivered by Sheila Acharya Van-Horne.

Following our repast, which included all eleven food groups in Canada's nutrition guide, President Doug lauded the front line troops who sell our lunch tickets, coffees, welcome visitors and generally create a welcoming atmosphere for all. And Gord Graham, who when he isn't toiling on barbeque infrastructure, is sponsoring the COG !

Barbara Young introduced our many visitors and guests, including Liz and John Godfrey, Australian Rotarians who presented their banner. A special birthday was acknowledged: Wing Kee Chan, who celebrated a birthday ending in "0". Only those in attendance are privy to the first digit in his age.

Doug MacDonald presented a motion, moved by Walter Haessel and seconded by Paul Bates, to the effect that, in summary, the Rotary Club of Calgary commit \$50,000 per year from the World Community Service budget for 2012 -2014 in support of CAWST's work with Rotary Clubs globally and specifically where RCC has personal links. The motion was passed.

Membership Chair Rob Brookwell informed us that August is Membership Month and urged us to recruit new members from among our associates and acquaintances. The upcoming hike to Mount Bennett was promoted by Paul Bates.

Howie Shikaze urged us to volunteer for the Feed The Hungry Dinner in September. This annual event is one place where we can roll up our sleeves and work with the community "in the trenches." From trenches to benches, President Doug made an appeal for new piano players to augment our rather impersonal recordings.

George Brookman, when called up to introduce our speaker, asked, "What, no sing song?" When advised that none was on the agenda, he burst out in a rousing rendition of "Roll Out the Barrel", which induced the assembly to join in lustily until, to the casual observer, it might have all been prearranged!

President Doug closed the meeting with the reminder that next week we will be back into the Crystal Ballroom to hear Tim Maloney speak on Mercy Ships of Canada.

What's Happening – Fellowship Calendar

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
Bi-weekly	Mastermind Group	Steve Stein stevejstein@gmail.com
August 29	Calgary Airport Authority Challenger Cup (9:30am shotgun start)	Donald Ross donaldross@shaw.ca
September 15, 16	Rotary Music and Motion	Rick Erven RotaryMusicandMotion.com

GRAB YOUR HIKING BOOTS!

Tim Heaton will be leading a hike to Chester Lake on **Saturday August 18, 2012**. Please assemble at the trailhead at 9:00 am.

Directions to the trailhead: http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=740587

If you wish to join the hike and you have not yet advised us and/or if you have any questions on the hike please **contact Tim Heaton: timheaton@shaw.ca / (403) 249-6088**

In terms of preparations, please bring along the following: hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes; a rain jacket/windbreaker; sweater; water bottle; sun hat; and lunch.



Feed the Hungry with
Howie Shikaze



Walter Haessel
thanks our speaker



**COG staff
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Upcoming Luncheons

- **August 21** **Tim Maloney – Mercy Ships of Canada**
- **August 28** **David Campbell – Global Eyesight Now**
- **Sept. 4** **TBA**
- **Sept. 11** **Dawn Farrell – TransAlta Utilities**

Many thanks to this week's COG sponsor,
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