

COG

The Rotary Club of Calgary

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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David Docherty – Mount Royal University

Tony Howard introduced our speaker David Docherty, President of Mount Royal University. Installed in 2011 as its ninth President, Professor Docherty is renowned as an accomplished academic, author and administrator. He is a recognized expert on Canadian parliamentary democracy.

Dr. Docherty's presentation addressed the changing face of education, and how Mount Royal University is adapting to this change. The biggest challenge facing post-secondary education is the aging of the Canadian population. As a consequence, health care costs are consuming ever larger portions of government budgets and squeezing other priorities. A second challenge is to address recognized trends in education. Among these is the changing nature of students themselves. Most university students are technologically sophisticated, but can be excessively stimulated and distracted by technology. (A recent interviewee on the CBC referred to people under age 25 as *screen-agers*.) Many students arrive at universities with a strong sense of entitlement, leaving them insufficiently prepared for the rigours of academia. This poses a critical problem as the ability to learn faster than your global competitors is the only sustainable advantage in an environment of rapid change and innovation. This is as true for post-secondary institutions as it is for the students attending them. The nature of international education is also shifting. Previously oriented towards Europe, international education is now much more focused on Pacific countries.

One example of a technology-driven change affecting post-secondary education is the introduction of the MOOC, a *Massive Open Online Course*. Taught by some of the world's most renowned instructors at the most prestigious universities, MOOCs are transforming the delivery of education. According to the *New York Times*, a recent MOOC in artificial intelligence attracted in excess of 160,000 students. As highly resource intensive marketing tools, these MOOCs may be tilting the market in favour of the larger, more endowed universities, to the detriment of the smaller schools. In response to this, innovative schools, such as the University of Alberta, offer differing registration levels for certain MOOCs. In such cases, students can enroll for free and receive no credit, enroll for a reduced fee to

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Paul Chave introduces our newest member Keith Podmoroff



Ron Esch presents cheque from the Flood Fund to Marty Hornstein, Executive Director – Jewish Family Services



Joe Fras thanks David Docherty and presents a CAWST certificate

gain accreditation for completing the MOOC, or receive full degree credit by registering for the MOOC at a higher level and completing all assignments and examinations. (This latter credit is only available to students enrolled at the University of Alberta.)

Finally, Professor Docherty drew our attention to the work of Robert Putnam as described in his book *Bowling Alone*. In it, Putnam shows how society has become disconnected, and how social structures have disintegrated. Putnam identifies the importance of social capital in creating a society that is happy, healthy and safe. We need to convince students to become citizens, and this is the fundamental purpose of post-secondary education in a changing world.

In response to a question from the floor, Prof. Docherty spoke of the difficult decisions that have had to be made in dealing with recent budget cutbacks. The university had to look at eliminating some programs that are the legacy of being a college, and promoting those that are, or are becoming, four year degree programs. As well, the university sought to avoid duplicating programs offered elsewhere. Accordingly, the university made the painful decision to eliminate its two year engineering transfer program. Therefore, contrary to what is often assumed, arts programs are not automatically sacrificed in the face of restraint.

Joe Fras thanked Dr. Docherty for his presentation and presented the club's customary certificate recognizing that a donation to CAWST has been made in his name.

The Meeting

After the march in, followed by Frank McKittrick's playing of *O Canada* and a thoughtful invocation by Michelle DeCecco, President Eva Friesen called the meeting to order. She began by thanking the volunteers in the main lobby: Jaydeep Balakrishnan, Bob Junker, Gord Cumming and Tony Howard. She thanked greeter Keith Visser and sergeant-at-arms Carl St. Laurent, and extended the club's thanks to our COG sponsor for the week: Larry Shelley of Citrus Capital Partners.

Chris Harper introduced this week's guests, one visitor from the Rotary Club of Calgary Millennium, and club member birthdays. For his weekly secretary's report, Chris gave us a nostalgic look back at Christmases past in the Harper household.

Paul Chave introduced our newest member, Keith Podmoroff. Welcome to the Rotary Club of Calgary, Keith!

Our Rotary Youth Exchange student Anel Hernandez Salazar presented an overview of her home country and state. Anel is from the city of Xalisco, in the state of Nayarit, one of the smallest of Mexico's thirty-one federal states. The nearest major centre is Tepic, and Anel's home is less than a two hour drive to either Matzatlán or Puerto Vallarta. Her father is an oncologist at the local hospital, and her mother is a surgical nurse in the same hospital. She is the eldest of four. Her brother's name is Eduardo, and she has two younger sisters, Vanessa and Alejandra.

Anel spoke about the holiday traditions in Mexico, and of the local cuisine in the area she comes from. She also described her favourite foods.



Our RYE student
Anel Hernandez Salazar

Ron Esch presented the Flood Recovery Fund's first cheque to Marty Hornstein of Jewish Family Services. This recipient was chosen, with the guidance of Phil Libin, because of the tremendous need it identified to provide counselling to children who were affected by June's flooding. It will provide services to any Calgarian who is in need. Mainly focused on assisting 350 isolated seniors living in southwest Calgary, in partnership with Catholic Family Service and the Chinese senior resource centre, Jewish Family Services was involved with flood relief from the beginning, working to ensure that these seniors were looked after in evacuation centres as required. New immigrants, and others in need can also draw on its services. Somewhat strikingly, the counselling group found that children were often the most in need of counselling in the aftermath of the flood. Many of these will require counselling for the next few years, and Jewish Family Services will put our funds to use in staffing for this need.

Doug MacDonald called Lorne Larson to the podium to present him his fifteen year service pin from Scouts Canada. Finally, updates were provided on the Christmas hamper, and Seniors Kickoff Concert.



Kent Hehr welcomes MRU
Student Association President
and Rotaractor Sadiq Valliani



Anel goes riding in Banff



Anel's bear encounter



Anel with her first host family



THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCESS - WHITE SLIP

NAME:	Donna Livingstone
PROFESSION:	President & CEO
COMPANY:	Glenbow Museum
CLASSIFICATION:	Arts
PROPOSED BY:	Tom Hickerson Marmie Hess
DATE:	December 13, 2013



Lorne Larson receives pin
acknowledging 15 years as
a scout leader

Thank-you Larry Shelley and Citrus Capital Partners
for sponsoring this week's COG Newsletter