

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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W. Brett Wilson on Philanthropy

Ann Toombs welcomed our speaker Brett Wilson: entrepreneur, philanthropist, panelist for three seasons with the Canadian edition of Dragons' Den, and yet another Saskatchewanian. Known as the "Dragon with a heart", he has received numerous awards for his service, including the Order of Canada and Saskatchewan Order of Merit. Brett was a successful investment banker by age 40, and is viewed as an innovative philanthropist who views corporate responsibility as an opportunity to create major social and economic benefits.

He began his presentation by describing his formative years in North Battleford, and of being part of family where his parents were so active in the community. It was only later that he realized the gap between the contributions of most people, and those of his parents. It was their guidance that led him to become "a capitalist with a heart". Later still, he completed an MBA at the University of Calgary, which began his career in the world of investment banking. His key learning in this world was the value of long-term relationships.

Brett described the three tools of empowerment: marketing, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy. As he noted, we should all study marketing because it is crucial to our understanding of how we can differentiate ourselves from everybody else. He went on to say that the real value of the Dragons' Den TV franchise is that it sows the seeds of entrepreneurship. According to Brett, "it is not about if, but when", provided those seeds are properly nurtured. This is what our community must do to enhance the calibre of young people coming out of schools. Finally, he spoke of how philanthropy is good business. When Brett and his partners started FirstEnergy Capital Corp. they leveraged their charitable giving by making it the cornerstone of their marketing budget. They agreed to contribute two and a half per cent of their pre-tax profits to worthwhile charities at a time when Imagine Canada was urging donations of only 0.5 per cent. It was a spectacular success in that they changed the face of philanthropy while simultaneously growing FirstEnergy Capital.

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November 22 Issue
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Dr. Marli Robertson updates us on the Children's Hospice and Rotary Flames House



Joey Blevis offers thanks on behalf of the Veteran's Food Bank



Lyrics by Doris Galbraith, Words by Frank McKittrick

Bill Andrew thanked Brett for his inspiring presentation and continuing philanthropic work by awarding a Paul Harris Fellowship on behalf of the club.

The Meeting

This week's meeting was held in the Crystal Ballroom. Frank McKittrick marched in the head table with *Puff the Magic Dragon* (fitting given the speaker) and performed an up-tempo rendition of *O Canada*. Yegana Alasgarova delivered the invocation.

Following the meal and fellowship, President Eva extended the club's thanks to our volunteers in the front hall this week: Gord Cumming, Tony Howard, Bruce Miller at the coffee table, plus the two students from the University of Calgary Rotaract Club Kelsey Forbes and Jessica Robertson. She also thanked Carl, Keith and Frank.

Chris Harper introduced the visitors and guests as a group because there were so many of them this week. He hinted at the upcoming presentation by giving his best advice for becoming a millionaire. His tips included marrying for money, becoming a game show contestant, inheriting money, and gambling.

Jordan Katz, Past-President of the Crowchild Urban Spirits Club, had tickets for sale for his club's Grey Cup raffle with proceeds going to their Tom Jackson SIS, RYLA and RYPEN commitments. Dr. Marli Robertson, Director of Rotary Flames House, gave an update on how our contributions have supported the house as well as the Children's Hospice. She shared a touching story of a family who is better as a result of the Rotary Flames house. Joey Blevis offered his thanks from the Veteran's Food Bank. Frank McKittrick and Doris Galbraith have collaborated to write a song for our club's centennial. The Centennial Chorus performed the song for all to hear.

[Editor – Thanks **James Costello** for this week's feature article and meeting report.]



Brett Wilson receives Paul Harris recognition from Bill Andrew

Upcoming Meetings

- 26-Nov **Martin Parnell**, Right to Play
Fairmont Palliser Hotel
- 03-Dec **John Partridge**, CPO
Fairmont Palliser Hotel
- 10-Dec **David Docherty**, Mount Royal University
Fairmont Palliser Hotel
- 17-Dec **Christmas Luncheon**, Christmas Committees
Fairmont Palliser Hotel

***Thank-you to Rotarian Paul Chave and
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The Rotary Club of Calgary

Foundations Donor & Recognition Form for CRCF and/or TRF

My Member Name: _____

My Contribution options:

I wish to contribute to the Centennial Year Foundations Campaign:

A) **Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (CRCF)** – Our Club’s Community Service endowment.

Amount: \$ _____

AND/OR

B) **The Rotary Foundation (TRF)** Annual Fund Share & Polio Plus – for International programs and District Grants for Club initiatives.

Amount: \$ _____

Payment method: (check applicable)

I am attaching the appropriate check(s) made payable to CRCF and/or TRF (separate checks please)

or,

I will authorize payment by my credit card. Type _____
Number _____ Expiry ____/____,
Name on card _____ Signature _____

and / or

I am informing you of my TRF donation made online on _____ (date).

(Note: TRF donations can be made online in annual, quarterly or monthly installments).

My Recognition options:

I wish my “100 in 100” and/or Paul Harris recognition to be (check applicable):

- Name announced (in group) at meeting as a 100 in 100 donor
- If applicable, Paul Harris presented (in group) at a Club meeting
- I wish to remain anonymous in my Foundation giving

Ev Mayhood Honour Roll:

I believe that I may be eligible due to ongoing donations over a number of years _____.

Therefore I am forwarding my donations history* that demonstrates I have been a donor to TRF or CRCF in years _____.
(TRF donations history can be accessed online through www.rotary.org - click on "My Rotary", then Profile, Donor History, transactions).*

Please submit to Jo-Ann Clarke, Bruce Fenwick or Terry McMahon

Questions? Ask Bruce Fenwick, bfenwick@shaw.ca