

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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District No. 5360



Martin Parnell – Right To Play

Charles Pratt introduced Martin Parnell, who shared the stories behind his distance running accomplishments with us, as well as his experiences with the Right To Play foundation. Martin has run 250 marathons in a single year, and has climbed mount Kilimanjaro in twenty-one hours. He also holds four Guinness World Records, and was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Cochrane.

An admitted late bloomer, Martin's marathon running career began the age of 47 with a challenge from his brother to compete with him in a marathon. In 2003 he completed the Calgary Marathon, his first, followed by the Toronto Waterfront Marathon. He followed this up by running in the 2004 Boston Marathon. Continuing his development as an endurance athlete, he started competing in triathlons, and bicycling his way from Cairo to Cape Town. Pedalling the roads of Sudan and Ethiopia, where he saw children playing and became involved in their games, Martin came to understand the power of sport in bringing people together. Supporting Right To Play was a natural fit for him.

Right To Play is a global organization that uses the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing adversity. It is active in more than twenty countries, and also in several Canadian First Nations communities. Martin set up Marathon Quest 250 to support Right To Play, and his goal was to run 250 marathons in one year to raise \$250,000 for Right to Play. He was highly successful in this, having covered 10,550 km and raising \$320,000 by the end of 2010. Since then, he has been pursuing his own Quest for Kids initiative, which seeks to complete ten quests in five years, and raise one million dollars for Right To Play. Three years into the initiative, Martin has completed eight quests, is preparing for his ninth (a 1000 km run around the south coast of England), and is open to suggestions for a tenth "grande finale" quest. His book *Marathon Quest* describes his adventures in detail.

Martin's story is a testament to how sport and play can encourage change for the better.

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Frank Sparks updates us on our Foundation at work

The Meeting

The head table was marched in to Frank McKittrick's playing of our club's centennial song, though he was heard performing *Play a Simple Melody* just before the head table's arrival. After Frank's rousing rendition of *O Canada*, David Leslie delivered the invocation: a little known quote from J. F. Kennedy.

President Eva invited Carmen Goss to the podium to have the new member red dot removed from her name tag, signifying that she has completed all of her orientation activities. Way to go Carmen!

President Eva extended our thanks to Keith Visser, Gord Cumming, Tony Howard and Carl St. Laurent for their continuing efforts in getting our meetings started each week. Our thanks also go out to Michael Colborne for sponsoring this week's COG.

Chris Harper announced our visiting Rotarians and guests, as well as the birthdays being celebrated this week, and a wobbly version of *Happy Birthday* followed.

Tom Walsh is recovering well from heart surgery and is now able to receive visitors. Please call his home before visiting.



Mark Stiles updates us on the Christmas hampers

Rotary Foundation Month

Bruce Fenwick asked us to consider an annual giving plan for Foundation Month. James Costello, Madeleine King and John Hsu were all recognized for contributions to Rotary International with Paul Harris Fellowships.

Bruce Williams has achieved RI's Major Donor Status Level Two for his substantial contributions to world peace, education and the future of humanity. His crystal and diamond award was beautiful. As a Major Donor, Bruce's name will be recorded on the Mayhood Honour Roll.

Frank Sparks gave a first hand account of foundation funds in action in Cambodia. Projects include building latrines, and partnering with CAWST in rooftop rainwater harvesting. Other projects include development of water wells, irrigating vegetable gardens, and providing micro loans to small business. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Walter Haessel in applying for grants, more than \$134,000 has been given to the Rotary projects in Cambodia.

Christmas Hampers

We need volunteers to help to organize our Christmas Hamper campaign. We have 55 families (more than 200 people) that will need your assistance this season.

We need help in buying, wrapping and delivering gifts. The program can reimburse you if you submit receipts. Alternatively, you can donate an entire hamper, or you can donate cash to the program.

Lockerby & Hole have donated the entire Christmas hamper package for one of our supported schools.



Rick Even thanks our speaker and presents a CAWST certificate

Christmas Kick-off Concert

This event is being held at Jack Singer on Saturday, December 14th, and a few more volunteers are still required for the buses. Please call Jo-Ann for details or register online through MyEventRunner.

Rotary Christmas Luncheon

Our final club meeting of 2013 will be held on December 17th in the Crystal Ballroom. There will be live entertainment, and tickets (\$50) will go on sale at next week's regular club meeting.

High River Flood Relief

The High River Rotary Club is hosting a dinner for 700 flood victims on December 15th. Cargill Canada is providing the food. Our Club is being represented by Gord Graham, Bruce Williams and Al Potyondi, who will be helping with food serving.

[Editor – Thank you **Thalia Kingsford** for this week's feature article and meeting report.]

Wine Raffle Tickets

The Calgary Rotaract Club is organizing its third annual wine raffle with all revenue generated going to the Peter Lougheed Children's Centre. For the bargain price of just \$20, you get a one in five hundred chance of winning a collection of wine worth of over \$2,000. Tickets are available until December 12th or until sold out. Join us for the prize draw at noon on December 13th, at the Peter Lougheed hospital. After the winning ticket is drawn, we will tour the newly renovated children's unit, and share some light refreshments. This is the best way to see the impact your purchase makes in the lives of the very deserving kids at the unit. Tickets are available at <http://www.rotaractcalgary.com>. You can also email clubservices@calgaryrotaract.com to arrange for a cash payment.



A trio of Paul Harris Fellows: Madeleine King, John Hsu and James Costello

Bruce Williams Reaches Major Donor Level Two



If you want it to happen, ask a Rotarian.

We've all heard the phrase "if you want something done - ask a busy person".

Since 1914 Calgary Rotarians have generously contributed to the well being and development of our great City in many ways. What distinguishes Rotary is that we have never backed away from a community need or project that required an incredible amount of work or significant funding.

Our accomplishments have been extraordinary and it is because we have worked together that we have succeeded to do what others may have considered unachievable.

District 5360 has formed an Employment Partnership in collaboration with the Alberta Association for Community Living and Persons with Developmental Disabilities and I'm privileged to serve as Chair of this initiative for our thirteen Calgary Rotary Clubs.

The purpose of our partnership is to create meaningful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. What you need to know is the developmental disabilities vary but each individual brings their own unique strengths, abilities, skills, interests and talents that will surprise you!

I'm asking for your help!

- ✓ Can you take a moment to consider how you and your company can be part of this unique Rotary Partnership?
- ✓ Can you provide someone with meaningful employment?
- ✓ There are over 250 Calgarians who are eager to come to work and be part of your team! All they need is the opportunity.

I would very much appreciate meeting with you to discuss the possibilities of this rewarding Rotary Initiative. For more information please contact myself or Al McMillan, your Rotary Club of Calgary Employment Partnership Representative.

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Rotary
District 5360
Employment
Partnership

**Rotarians
Make it Happen!**

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