

# COG

## The Rotary Club of Calgary



### Volume 31

### Number 17

### October 25, 2013

### District No. 5360



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.

## Jannalee Anderson, Opportunity International

On Tuesday morning we received an email announcing that our scheduled speaker Doris Olafsen was fogged in at the Vancouver airport. Fortunately, she was able to enlist her colleague Jannalee Anderson, who happened to be arriving from Toronto, to take her place. Jannalee landed in Calgary shortly after 11:00 and raced to the Palliser to do an amazing job filling in for her. Doris is feeling a little bit cursed as her originally scheduled presentation to the club was cancelled due to the June flood!

Jannalee provided the club with an overview of Opportunity International, one of the first non-profit organizations to recognize the benefits of providing small business loans to people so they can work themselves out of poverty. Her impassioned and informative presentation expounded on the power of microfinance.

Founded in 1988, Opportunity International's loan portfolio is now in excess of \$1.1 billion made up of micro loans to small business owners who are chiefly women (93 per cent). Beyond the statistics Jannalee described her impressions of visiting a Honduran project where she saw dignity and pride on the faces of women who were using these loans to run their businesses. Opportunity International's business development model identifies determined entrepreneurs and provides them with funds, peer support, and training to ensure success. The result is that 95 per cent of these loans are repaid, and many of the entrepreneurs return for larger loans as their enterprises grow.

One success story is that of Mama Rosemary, a Ugandan who found herself caring for eleven HIV orphans. They needed schooling, and she applied for a \$204 dollar loan to provide materials for teaching in her home. Following a series of expansions, she now has five permanent buildings that house an elementary school, an orphanage for 900, and she employs 53 people. But she isn't finished yet, as she has an outstanding loan of \$7,000 being put to work. What TSE listed company wouldn't love to have a track record like that?

#### COG Staff

Editor  
Report & Photography  
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#### October 25 Issue

Craig Henderson  
Ralph Lundberg  
Lorne Larson  
Jo-Ann Clarke

Calgary, Alberta • Chartered April 1914 • Club #949  
Suite 300, 105 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Calgary Alberta T2G 1A1  
Tel: (403) 398-9969 • Fax: (403) 264-2393  
[www.rotaryclubofcalgary.org](http://www.rotaryclubofcalgary.org) • [admin@rotaryclubofcalgary.ca](mailto:admin@rotaryclubofcalgary.ca)  
President: Eva Friesen • Vice-President: Paul Bates  
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David Holden fills in for the Club Secretary, and introduces visitors and guests

In addition to loans, Opportunity International offers savings accounts and insurance that clients can use to run their businesses, plus training in the use of these financial tools. With its global reach in the form of 5 million clients and 46 microfinance banks in 21 countries, Opportunity International is capable of making a difference in many locales! More importantly, once microfinance is established, it provides lasting impact as it embeds the entrepreneurial culture in the regions where it operates.

## The Meeting

Once again David Bromwich kept us in tune and tempo with an a capella rendition of *O Canada*. Carmen Goss delivered an inspiring invocation before we began our food and fellowship. President Eva thanked our volunteers for getting us into the venue, and acknowledged the fine job Keith Visser does each week in welcoming Rotarians. Keith has to be fast on his feet, for his wife has recently won a 10 km race in her age class in Brazil!

David Holden took over Chris Harper's duties as Secretary for the meeting as he was off somewhere re-counting ballots. Birthdays and the names of visitors and guests were announced with admirable clarity, given that they are often written illegibly on our forms.

Speaking of voting, the Nomination Committee's selection for a Presidential nominee is Rob Brookwell. President Eva then outlined the process for receiving additional nominations under our bylaws.

Madeleine King announced the Nominees for directors: Gord Graham, Laura Krantz, Kimberley Van Vliet and Dean Gjertsen. If any further nominations are received from the membership, there will be an election to pick four directors. Contact Madeleine with any questions regarding the process and timing for nominations.

**Correction:** The notice regarding our Remembrance Day observance was incorrect in last week's COG. We will observe Remembrance Day at our Tuesday luncheon on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We are also supporting the all club event, *Rotary Remembers* on the evening of Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be on sale until our lunch meeting on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

John Ridge took the podium to tell us about the Big International Event that replaces our regular luncheon meeting next week. Forget the Fairmont Palliser, and head to Donegal's Irish Pub for an evening of fellowship, information and our famous auction.

Terry McMahon revealed the Mayhood Honour Roll. Following their donations that totaled \$600,000, made to our club during their lifetimes, the Ev and Ellen Mayhood estate left a multimillion bequest to the Rotary Foundations.

To recognize this incredible spirit of philanthropy, the Mayhood Honour Roll has been created, and is displayed in a striking piece of woodwork unveiled by Bruce Fenwick and Bill Redmond.

This commemorative, created by Brian Graham and Tom Loszchuck of the Drop In centre's WoodWorks Shop, features a revolving display of donor names indicating recognition levels. The engraving for this unique display was provided by Jason Laird of Canwest Legacy. Donor names are movable so that positions on the display move upward as donations increase, thereby giving the Honour roll a dynamic aspect.



Terry McMahon unveils the Mayhood Honour Roll



Eddie Doyle thanks our speaker



# Mayhood Honour Roll





## THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCESS - WHITE SLIPS

NAME:	Pat Romerman
PROFESSION:	Structural Engineering Consulting
COMPANY:	Stephenson Engineering Ltd.
CLASSIFICATION:	Engineering
PROPOSED BY:	Tony Howard Mike Colborne
DATE:	October 25, 2013

NAME:	Yi Chen (Nicky) Liao
PROFESSION:	Realtor
COMPANY:	Self-employed
CLASSIFICATION:	Real Estate
PROPOSED BY:	Howie Shikaze Larry Shelley
DATE:	October 25, 2013

NAME:	Dr. Israel Belenkie
PROFESSION:	Professor of Medicine
COMPANY:	University of Calgary
CLASSIFICATION:	Education - Health
PROPOSED BY:	Roy Boettger Tom Howard
DATE:	October 25, 2013



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCESS - WHITE SLIPS

NAME:	Bruce Finnigan
PROFESSION:	President
COMPANY:	B. Finnigan & Associates Ltd.
CLASSIFICATION:	Real Estate – Commercial Appraisal and Consulting
PROPOSED BY:	Michelle DeCecco Rob Brookwell
DATE:	October 25, 2013

## Upcoming Meetings

- 29-Oct **Big International Event**, International Projects  
Donegal's Irish Pub
- 05-Nov **Brian Felesky**, Philanthropy  
Fairmont Palliser Hotel
- 12-Nov **Club Remembrance Day Observance**  
Fairmont Palliser Hotel
- 19-Nov **Brett Wilson**, Foundation Month  
Fairmont Palliser Hotel
- 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

*Thanks to Rotarian Randy Borisenko and Morguard for sponsoring this week's COG Newsletter*

# IT ALL STACKS UP

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