

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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Arlene Adamson – Silvera for Seniors

Bruce Finnigan introduced our speaker, Arlene Adamson, CEO of Silvera for Seniors, who presented a sobering account of the lives of many lower income seniors in Calgary. Silvera has been a strong advocate for those in the “silver era” of their lives for more than 50 years, and provides affordable housing for more than 1500 lower-income seniors in 26 neighbourhoods throughout Calgary.

Arlene is passionate in her conviction that we, as a community, must do a much better job in caring for our seniors. The average age of a Silvera resident is 86, and this is increasing as medical advances mean that people can live longer in retirement. Within the next seventeen years, one Calgarian in five will be a senior. Many of these may be unable to afford assisted living, which typically costs between \$3000 and \$8000 per month. Needless to say, there are long waiting lists for Silvera residences.

During the disastrous flooding in 2013 Silvera was forced to evacuate 600 seniors from its Bridgeland residence in the middle of the night, and to ensure that they were properly housed. Most of them also needed replacements for their medications. It is important to note that while donations for victims poured in during and after the flood, Silvera received only \$1000, as seniors are simply not top of mind when people make donations.

The basic needs of many seniors are not much different from those of the very young: diapers, bathing, food and comfort. However, maintaining the quality of seniors’ lives requires much more. Arlene quoted a senior as saying, “living while waiting to die kills you.” It is the things like exercise, outings, and social events that make their lives worth living. Arlene challenged us to ensure that seniors become a priority in our giving; corporately, personally, and through our governments.

Laura Krantz thanked our speaker and presented her with the club’s customary CAWST certificate. Moreover, she told the club that she and her husband were moving to South Africa to care for his aging parents, but will return.

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Soprano Michelle Minke



Laura Krantz offers a heartfelt thank-you to Arlene Adamson

Meeting Highlights

Our meeting was in the Crystal Ballroom, and opened with Michael Pierson accompanying the head table's arrival with the theme song from the Calgary Olympic Games (*Can You Feel It?*). Carrie Aiken also made a connection to the Olympics with her inspiring invocation. Our RYE student Anel was heard to remark at her table on how cold it has been lately, while we still remember the temperature during our Opening Ceremonies in 1988. We were happy to eat the valentine chocolates left at the tables by Ken Moraes.

President Eva Friesen thanked our veteran and apprentice ticket takers. She also thanked Darris Cameron and Daniel McKay for distributing invitations to the club's 100th anniversary gala celebration, and also thanked Keith Visser for the warm welcome he extends to everyone. Special thanks also go out to Philip and Stuart Libin of Harmin Holdings, our COG sponsors for the week.

Chris Harper introduced our guests, which included a large contingent from Silvera for Seniors, visiting Rotarian Terry White (a former club member who now hails from the Calgary South club) and our birthday celebrants. Chris then disappointed the gathering by telling us that Olympic gold medals are actually silver, with gold-plating.

Rick Erven reminded us of our annual hockey game and family skate at the Scotiabank Saddledome on February 23rd. The game starts at 2:00 pm, and will be followed by a family skate and refreshments at 3:30 pm.

Stay-in-School co-chair David Leslie told us about Mentor Appreciation night at the Glencoe Club on February 19th at 4:30 pm. Anyone who wants to learn more about Stay-in-School, including what's involved in becoming a mentor, is encouraged to attend. Please RSVP Dave or Michelle DeCecco. Food and refreshments will be provided, and cash bar will be available.

Bill Avery again told us about our Centennial Gala on Saturday, May 3rd, but this time he gave more details about the entertainment. As a foretaste of what is to come, we were treated to Michelle Minke's amazing performance of *O mio babbino caro* from Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, and the chandelier's crystals in the beautiful Crystal Ballroom literally came alive. Spectacular! It will be an evening to remember for the next 100 years.

Sean Baylis told us what it means to him to be mentoring Michael, a student who is saddled with a troubled, and often lonely, home life. Michael relies on Sean's counsel and understanding to keep him on track, and it is working. All of our SIS students come from low income and often single parent families. They often encounter issues that can take them permanently off course, and mentors like Sean (and perhaps you!) can make the difference. We will be hearing more great stories from our SIS mentors over the coming weeks.

Anne Toombs provided an update on the Curly Galbraith Global Memorial Scholarship for Orphans. Curly's fund has, in a few short years, enabled 25 students in Uganda to attend university. Awards of \$3000 provide lodging, clothing, and full education for a three year degree! Graduates and current students have studied Accounting, Education, and Economics. This program produces synergies with our World Community Service work in Uganda and local Rotary Clubs. This program really works.

[Editor: Thank-you **John Lindenbach** for reporting on this week's meeting.]

Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial Gala Tickets

Tickets are on sale now. Please go online to get yours!

TRF & CRCF Matching Points Program

As part of our club's centennial celebrations, a goal of 100 Foundation donors in our 100th year has been established; and your participation is encouraged for this Rotary year. Please note that **Member donations to either the Rotary Foundation (TRF) or Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (CRCF) will be matched by the Club with Paul Harris credits on a 1:1 basis (up to 500 matching credits per member per year).**

Club Hiring Policy

On February 12th, 2014 the Club's Executive passed a motion to formalize processes for ensuring that temporary hiring is done in a manner that centralizes accountability and controls cost. Contact Jo-Ann to obtain a copy of the procedures to be followed.



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NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCESS – WHITE SLIPS

NAME:	Virginia Spring
PROFESSION:	Real Estate Associate
COMPANY:	Sotheby's International Realty
CLASSIFICATION:	Real Estate
PROPOSED BY:	Steve Austin Murray Young
DATE:	February 7, 2014

NAME:	Monica Kretschmer
PROFESSION:	Manager, Culture Communications
COMPANY:	Enerjet
CLASSIFICATION:	Communications
PROPOSED BY:	Chris Harper
DATE:	February 7, 2014