

COG

The Rotary Club of Calgary



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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.

Larry Simpson – Nature Conservancy of Canada

Jaydeep Balakrishnan introduced our speaker Larry Simpson, Director of Strategic Philanthropy & Conservation of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), and Associate Regional Vice-President for Alberta. Larry joined the NCC in 1990, motivated by the satisfaction of knowing that together we are conserving our natural landscapes and the species that depend on those landscapes. He has worked with many Albertans who love nature, and a number of these are landowners who want to conserve their lands for future generations. Larry has been actively involved in conserving the 30,535 acre Waldron Ranch along the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains. His inspiration is, in part, Rotarians in Alberta and Montana, who came together in 1932 to create the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Larry said that we Rotarians should be very proud of our efforts in preserving a remarkable UNESCO World Heritage site in the service of world peace.

The NCC is a land trust that has had numerous successes across Canada in conserving areas of natural diversity for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of future generations. Non-confrontational and non-activist, it works with landowners to purchase land outright, or establish conservation easements that respect traditional land uses.

The Waldron Ranch lies in the broad valley between the Black Creek Heritage Rangeland and the Porcupine Hills Forest Reserve. It features a varied landscape, with a rich human history and spectacular views along the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies. On September 11, 2013, the NCC announced an historic agreement with the 72 ranchers of the Waldron Grazing Co-Operative to purchase a conservation easement on the ranch. Thanks to support from the government and generous donors, the NCC only needs to raise a final \$1.2 million to complete the \$37 million Waldron purchase. Larry expressed his gratitude for the foresight of Albertans and their willingness to partner with the NCC to create a lasting conservation legacy.

Dave Leslie thanked Larry on behalf of the club and told him that a donation to CAWST was made in recognition of his important presentation to our Rotary Club.

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Bill Avery & Chris Harper announce the Rotary Club of Calgary's Centennial Ball



Anel talks about her Canadian Christmas



David Leslie thanks our speaker by presenting the usual CAWST certificate

Meeting Highlights

Frank McKitrick kicked off the first Rotary Club of Calgary luncheon of 2014 by marching in the head table to *Auld Lang Syne*. Paul Bates, filling in for President Eva, then called the meeting to order. Back at the piano, Frank led us in the singing of *O Canada*. Keith Podmoroff gave an inspiring invocation.

Club secretary Chris Harper introduced our four guests and announced the birthdays for this week. He encouraged each of us to make the following four Rotary resolutions.

- Recruit one new member into the club.
- Volunteer on one or more committees and volunteer at the barbecues.
- Follow the club on twitter.
- Join the centennial show.

Chris called Bill Avery to the podium to provide more details about the club's centennial ball, THE event of the year and not to be missed on May 3, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Calgary. Bill asked all us to buy at least four tickets at \$100 and enjoy an incredible evening. This milestone event promises to top the last 100 years in fun and fellowship.

Next up was Wing-Kee Chan who invited us to celebrate Chinese New Year on January 17 at the Regency Palace. Did you know that 2014 is the year of the horse?

Rod Phipps announced the net income from the Stampede barbecue events was \$475,000.

RYE student Anel Hernandez Salazar thanked the Henderson family (Craig, Michèle, Sarah and Amanda) for a very memorable stay, and she is grateful for the welcome received from Trevor & Mary Axworthy, her new host family.

*[Editor: Thank-you **Barbara Burggraf** for the first feature and meeting report of 2014.]*

On-Line Directories

Please note the following regulation regarding the use of contact information of Rotary club members.

Any club or district publishing a directory shall publish in that directory a notice to the effect that the directory is not for distribution to non-Rotarians nor may it be used as a commercial mailing list. (November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)".

Rotary Leadership Institute

The following Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) sessions are scheduled for the second half of this Rotary year. RLI is designed as a learning opportunity for new members and aspiring leaders in your clubs. Registration is simple. Just go to the District website's home page, and follow the directions for the event listing in the Events Calendar.

- Module 1 – January 18th in Calgary
- Module 2 – March 22nd in Calgary
- Module 3 – April 19th in Calgary

Please note that we currently have only three participants registered for the Calgary offering of Module 1. We require at least 10 registrants to proceed.

Chinese New Year Dinner

This is a reminder that your last chance to purchase tickets for the Chinese New Year dinner will be at the January 14th club meeting. Please contact Wing-Kee Chan (587) 998-1072, or email to wingkee@telus.net to get your tickets. The dinner will be held on Friday, January 17th (6:00pm) at the Regency Palace restaurant.

Upcoming Club Meetings

- 14-Jan **Jim Zackowsky**, Executive Director – Rotary Challenger Park
Fairmont Palliser Hotel
- 21-Jan **Dr. Paul Petresek**, Calgary Health Trust: Innovations in Vascular Surgery
Fairmont Palliser Hotel

Snowshoeing in Kananaskis Country

Please join us for this all day event on Saturday, February 22nd. There is no charge; you only need to bring a lunch. Carpooling available. Email drmacdonald245@gmail.com or call (403) 245-8540.

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