

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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Ron Esch – Our Long Range Plan

Bill Walsh (man of the future) introduced the first President of the Rotary Club's second hundred years: Ron Esch.

Our President-Elect delivered a thoughtful presentation on our club's Long Range Plan. **His core message was that we still have many of the same challenges today as we did three years ago.** This was most clearly seen by the Long Range Planning Committee when it conducted two open forums this past February. These meetings highlighted a number of important positives.

- ❖ We are a strong Rotary Club with an outstanding history of service
- ❖ Our members are very proud of our club
- ❖ Our fundraising efforts are unmatched by any club in Canada
- ❖ Our Stay-in-School program is exceptional
- ❖ Our many international projects are successful

Despite these successes, there are also a number of significant challenges the club must address.

- ❖ Declining membership
- ❖ Declining attendance at meetings
- ❖ Some of our volunteers are overworked
- ❖ New members are not engaged as quickly as they should be

To address these, the key goals that President Ron has established for our new Rotary year are: communications, member engagement, and fun and fellowship. He believes that the administration of the club should become more transparent, with information from the board and various committees made regularly available to our members.

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June 6 Issue
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David Pierce on the Stampede Grandstand Show



Joe Fras puts out the call for Stampede Barbecue volunteers



Carol Rosdobutko thanks Ron

Ron pledges more frequent reporting to the members on the activities of the club, and will make a priority of ensuring that information is easy to access in ClubRunner, and on our public website.

Ron concluded his remarks by promising the board will make every effort to integrate this into everything we do, and, by challenging the membership to participate fully, make our Rotary Club of Calgary the best darned Rotary club in the world!

IN CONCLUSION—Carol Rosdobutko thanked our incoming president for his thoughts, and for the direction he will be setting, with our usual certificate to acknowledge the donation made to CAWST in his name.

Meeting Highlights

DATELINE CALGARY—The Palliser Hotel’s magnificent Alberta Room came to life on Tuesday as Rotarian Michael Pierson sat down at the eighty-eight keys and played in the head table (led by Sergeant-at-Arms Carl St. Laurent) to begin another fabulous meeting. President Eva Friesen called the meeting to order with the singing of *O Canada*, followed by an invocation that was led by new member Ghada Alatrash.

After dining on the haute cuisine luncheon prepared by the Palliser Hotel’s world renowned kitchens, the meeting was called to order. Our first order of business was to extend a note of gratitude to the crew at the entrance table: Gord Cumming, Tony Howard, new member Monica Kretschmer and somewhat new member Jaydeep Balakrishnan. Thanks were also extended to our official greeter, Keith Visser.

HOT OFF THE WIRE—President Eva extended our thanks to Sid Mark of the Friday Professional Group for their COG sponsorship. President Eva also extended her appreciation to Ralph Lundberg (photos) and the contributors who write the meeting reports for the COG newsletter each week.

[I agree with President Eva that our reporters do a fabulous job, and there is always room for additional reporters on our roster. If you would like to join us in this important task, please email craig.henderson@shaw.ca—Editor.]

It was on to Julie Visser who announced our visitors, guests, and birthdays. Among those growing older, but not necessarily wiser, are Gary Bardell and Eric Bennett.

LATE BREAKING NEWS—At this point, Canada’s longest running marathon was brought to the attention of the club. Evidently they have been running for 50 years. In this reporter’s opinion, if they haven’t got to where they need to go in 50 years, they should give up.

The Stampede Grandstand Show’s Creative Producer, David Pierce, was invited to tell the club about the opportunity to attend the dress rehearsal of the show on Thursday July 3rd. This function replaces the usual Stampede meeting. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased through the club office.

NEWS FLASH—Carol Rosdobutko and Joe Fras called attention to the need for volunteers to feed and water the masses at the Stampede Roundup and Oxford Stomp barbecues. The entertainment promises to be outstanding as it will feature performances by Bryan Adams, the Doobie Brothers, and Our

Lady Peace...alas, no mention of Tommy Hunter.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE—Rotarian and Olympic Committee member Gene Edworthy spoke of the opportunities available to bid on items to sponsor the next generation of Olympic Heroes. Gene has sent out an email outlining the details, and I am sure that he would be happy to answer questions like: *Isn't the Winter Olympics a lot of trouble to go through to prove that frozen water is slippery?* (The COG reporter is in trouble now, and he will certainly hear about this!)

*[Thank-you **Bill Avery** for your well presented meeting report and summary of Ron's presentation of our club's Long Range Plan.—Editor]*

Bridge Fun Group

The fun bridge group is looking for at least one new regular member, and we are always looking for a few spares to fill in for the regulars when they can't make the games. The group meets on 17 evenings each season between September and May. We play on Mondays from 7:00 pm to about 11:00 pm, and we rotate amongst member homes. (Each regular member hosts 2 games.) Anyone interested in joining us can call Randy Borisenko for more information. This is a multi-club function and we welcome current and new potential club members.

Thank-you Rotarian Sid Mark and the Friday Professional Group for sponsoring this week's COG Newsletter

Congratulations to the RCC on 100 years of serving the community & to the next 100 years of serving more from Rotarian Sid Mark



After 25 years,
we decided it was
time to start a new race...

Introducing Friday's
new partnership



An Employment & Volunteer Network

