

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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Frank McKitrick – Music Scholars Program

Sid Mark introduced Frank McKitrick, our presenter for the week. Hailing from Saskatchewan, Frank has enjoyed a lifetime of musical achievement, and recently shared his spectacular performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with us at the Centennial Gala.

Frank began his message by asking us two questions. He asked, "How many of you took music lessons when you were a kid?" A significant majority of the group raised their hands. This was followed by a second question: "How many of you hated to practice?" Although there was no count, it appeared the same people had their hands up.

Frank confessed his dislike of practicing as a child, but he did acknowledge the value of practice, monotonous as it sometimes seems. His favourite practice time was when it was time to do the dishes. Choosing to practice piano would often keep his older brother at the sink, much to his brother's dismay.

Frank had a music teacher who encouraged his parents to send him to a summer school for piano students. This was a watershed moment for Frank as he was introduced to people who played for sheer pleasure. (He began to play Beethoven duets with a girlfriend, Gloria.) As his opportunities to enjoy music with others expanded, his love of music expanded. Helping students to be enriched with music has been a life long passion for Frank.

When Club Board Member Ernie Klassen suggested that the club provide a scholarship for a student to attend the Alberta Summer Music Camp at Red Deer College, Frank immediately embraced the proposal. He understood the value of such a proposition, and our Club has been supporting students ever since. Frank introduced us to two Red Deer College Music Camp scholarship recipients, who graciously performed for us.

Alex Keith has been playing the recorder since the age of 7, and he has passed his Royal Conservatory Grade 8 exam with first class honours. He plays soprano, alto, tenor and bass recorders. Who knew there were so many different types of recorders?

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Alex Keith performs Sonata in E minor

Alex has played the bass clarinet with the Westmount Concert Band, and he has performed with the Calgary Boys Choir. Alex participated in the Peterkin and Intermediate bands at Music Camp Alberta's program for five years, and also enjoys hiking, reading and computers.

Sarah (Alex's sister) has been playing the baroque recorder for seven years, and has completed the Royal Conservatory of Music's Grade 8 exam. Sarah has played with her school's Boreas Ensemble and will participate in Music Camp Alberta.

Our music scholars performed several pieces of music for us.

- **Sonata in E minor No. 4 Adagio**, Allegro, by B. Marcello
Recorder solo by Alex Keith, cello accompaniment by Hannah Wilson
- **Siciliano**, by J.S. Bach
Recorder solo by Sarah Keith
- **Fantasia**, by Orlando Gibbons
Recorder duet by Sarah Keith and Alex Keith
- **Allegro moderato**, by Kraehmer
Recorder duet by Sarah Keith and Alex Keith

Frank Hall thanked Frank and the talented musicians for their message and their performances.

Meeting Highlights

Our distinguished head table marched in to *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* with Frank McKittrick at the piano. President Eva Friesen welcomed all assembled and we then sang a brisk rendition of our national anthem.

Jim Gilliland offered an invocation reflective of the many blessings we enjoy, which encouraged a positive outlook to the future. President Eva offered her heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who make our meetings run successfully: Gord Cumming, Tony Howard and new member Nicky Liao (ticket selling), Murray Young (coffee), Carl St. Laurent (sergeant-at-arms), and Jim Kirker (who filled in as our greeter this week). Thanks were also extended to YWCA of Calgary and Rotarian Sue Tomney, our COG sponsor for the week.

Julie Visser announced visitors and guests, and she announced quite a few birthdays that are being celebrated this week.

Eva gave proper warning that a Bermuda Shorts Day is forthcoming. Team Bermuda Shorts (Bruce Miller and George Edworthy) are already pushing the boundaries of any dress code we might have.

Barb Young showed great slides and showed the wonderful projects that our Rotary Club is supporting in Guatemala. The flagship project is a Canadian designed and built computer library which has been operating for two years. The project will also ensure that schools are provided with washrooms.

Many families use wood burning fires without proper ventilation to heat their homes and to cook meals. The installation of a \$100 wood burning stove with proper ventilation will improve the health of these families.



Sarah Keith performs Siciliano

Literacy projects are improving educational outcomes, and books and computers are important in the development of a culture of reading. Barbara is a great champion of the work in Guatemala, and has been a wonderful steward of the financial resources directed there.

Sid Mark announced the Stay-in-School Rotary Golf Classic, which is fast approaching. One generous benefactor will be making a significant donation for each golfer who shows up, while another donor will be offering golf shoes. Michael Colborne will be providing transportation through his company.

Ken Moraes announced two events: Sneak-a-Peak and Lobsterfest, both of which will be fantastic club fellowship events.

Eva Friesen queried us about which photo in Calgary resembled the Rotary Cog. It was a no brainer: the Peace Bridge. She then adjourned the meeting.

[A big thank-you goes out to **Michael Pierson** for preparing this week's meeting report—Editor.]

Stampede Barbecue Events

Registrations for the 2014 **Stampede Roundup** (July 9) and **Oxford Stomp** (July 11) barbecue events are now open, and the volunteer sign up forms are available on the ClubRunner event pages. Please contact craig.henderson@shaw.ca if you are experiencing any difficulties in registering to volunteer for shifts at either event.

Thank you Sue Tomney and YWCA Calgary for sponsoring this week's COG

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Rotary Music Scholars Program



Frank Hall thanks Frank McKitrick and his troupe



Ralph Lundberg takes recorder lessons