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2017 Rotary Friendship Exchange opportunity

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District 5360 Governor Neil Berg
Rotary Club of Red Deer East

DG Visit 2016/17 Neil Berg, District 5360 Governor 2016-17



Our first speaker was Neil Berg, our District Governor, who was introduced by his Assistant Governor Grant MacEachern. Neil has held many positions in Rotary, but his special interest is International Service.

Neil told us he comes from the "Valley of Contentment" between the "Peaks of Conceitment" which means he comes from Red Deer.



Images are imprinted on Neil's memory :

- the women in Bangladesh who had a well dug to provide water, funded by Rotary
- the eradication of polio in Pakistan
- girls over 12 years of age were able to attend school after a second separate toilet was built
- the dentist who had a rubber dam in Neil's mouth many years ago making him a captive audience, and convinced him that Rotary was the way for him to make a difference in the world

We were congratulated on having a vibrant club that was both visible, fun and had plenty of engaging events in which to participate.

Rotary has changed over the years now with flexibility of meetings, people who join and types of corporate interest.

The Rotary Foundation was born in 1917 with a mere \$26.50 and Neil suggested that we all give at least that amount this year and also to Polio Plus.

He also told us we have 56 Paul Harris award winners in our club.

Also a friendly reminder about the District Conference in Red Deer in May, 2017.

Medical Mercy Canada Elaine and Myron Semkuley



Our second speakers were Elaine and Myron Semkuley from "Medical Mercy Canada". This couple goes into Myanmar (Burma), Ukraine, Northern Thailand and India, and provide solar lights to schools, monasteries and isolated villages.

An isolated monastery in Burma had 1 generator to provide lights to their education centre which had 536 students. With 29 sets of solar lights, they were able to illuminate the school, classrooms, library and dormitories, saving the cost of fuel for the generator.

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Rotary
Club of Calgary Chinook



August 23rd, 2016

Scribe: Sydney Richmond

We opened early again (about 5 mins) with Alex Soutar as our stand-in President. And we sang heartily.



Our **greeters** today were Wayne Wiebe and Al Pettigrew who introduced our guests. They were Grant MacEachern from the Olympic club, Terry McDonough, Sid Smith and Don Bacon from the South Club, and District Governor Neil Berg from Red Deer East.

Minute Men:

- Rob Wolfson announced his NFL pool is now in operation and that 40% of the pool money goes back to the club.



Tammy had a cheque for the club of \$1000 — can't remember what it was for, but knowing Tammy it was for something good.

- Paul Gaudet reminded us about Spruce Meadows and parking.
- Paul also asked us all to update our personal data for the club records.



- Dale Perett reminded us about Global Fest and told us about the

damage the high winds had caused.



Graham Boone was our **50/50** winner.

SAA was Joe Hooper. I don't think he actually fined us, but he reported that the club received \$1600 from parking for the Maniacs Run. He also told us that over the past years the Rotary curling clubs have raised \$50,000 for Womens Shelters in our city.



Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

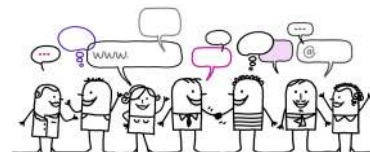


Membership and New Club Development Month

August 30th Rick Willms — Mission Aviation Fellowship

Basic Education and Literacy Month

September 6th David Wartman — Rotary's New Direction
 September 7th - 11th Parking at Spruce Meadows for 'The Masters'
 September 8th 'Business & Rotary Networking Night', Peanuts Public House
 (contact Rob Wolfson to reserve your spot)
 September 13th Gillian Card — What's Up at the Zoo
 September 20th Dr Ronald Kustra — 'Kermit the Frog and the Medicare Monopoly'
 September 27th Christina Marchand — Full Soul - Improving Maternal Health in Uganda



Economic and Community Development Month

October 4th Ron Davison — Climate Change from an Engineering Perspective
 October 11th Donna Leuw — Days for Girls
 October 13th 'Business & Rotary Networking Night', Peanuts Public House
 (contact Rob Wolfson to reserve your spot)
 October 18th Karen Flamand — Fort McMurray Fire ... "A View from the Claims Department"
 October 22nd Grillin' and Servin' — 'Kathy's Run' at North Glenmore Park
 October 25th Former DG Steve Rickard — MicroCredit



Rotary Foundation Month

November 8th Remembrance Day speaker
 November 10th 'Business & Rotary Networking Night', Peanuts Public House
 (contact Rob Wolfson to reserve your spot)
 November 18th-20th Parking at Spruce Meadows for 'The Christmas Market'
 November 25th - 27th Parking at Spruce Meadows for 'The Christmas Market'



Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

December 2nd - 4th Parking at Spruce Meadows for 'The Christmas Market'
 December 6th Seniors Christmas lunch

In Memoriam



Joseph Levy

December 28, 1942 - Bucharest, Romania to August 25, 2016 - Calgary, Alberta

It is with deepest sorrow that the family of Dr. Joseph Levy announces his passing on Thursday, August 25, 2016.

Joe was a loving and devoted husband to Marilyn Libin, a doting father to Jason Levy, Robyn (David) Beron, Tamara (Jason) Gilbert, and an energetic and adoring Zaida to Madeline, Chloe, Gavin and Avery. Joe also quickly became a treasured part of the family for Marilyn's grandkids Shoshana, Misha, Shai, Gavriel, Leo, Samara, Elliott, Oren and Ariel. He will also be dearly missed by Marilyn's children and children-in-law, Mark and Meira, Kevin and Agata, Lisa and Jeremy, and Adina and Micah.

Joe was a respected university professor of public health, most recently affiliated with Mount Royal University. He lectured all over the world and was the author of many books on public health that are still in use today.

Joe joined the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook in 2011, but had been a Rotarian for many years before that.

The family requests anyone wishing to honour Joe's legacy donate to:

The Joseph Levy and Marilyn Libin Foundation
 at Mount Royal University (403) 440-7700

This is project #cr16-7-2 The All Schools Program was funded from our World Community Service Committee 2015/16 budget but has not been dispersed to date. We have been awaiting approval from the Foundation and District.

The All School Program is one adopted by the Rotary Club of Bahia de Jaltimba-La Penita to upgrade all schools in their local district. The upgrades vary from school to school ... some require washroom facilities, some require roof upgrades to stop rain water ingress, some require electrical upgrades to improve safety, and some require basic refurbishment of concrete foundations to stop flooding etc. All the work is being carried out with the knowledge and support of the local school district superintendent.

We have chosen to partner with the local club on two schools. They are Alvaro Obregon Primary School, and Hombres Ilustres Nayaritos Primary School. We have a detailed inventory of work to be completed resulting from a survey completed by the local club. As an example, one school has a washroom that floods every time it rains, has no cistern and is not connected to the sewer ... clearly insanitary and unsafe. We have pictures of the work required and an estimate of costs to fix their problems. These schools are in a very impoverished area of Mexico, north of Puerto Vallarta. In total the schools provide primary education for 298 children. The local club is known to us through Sydney Richmond, our summer Rotarian, and it has a very good reputation for successfully completing other schools in the area, and partnering with other international clubs in California.

Medical Mercy Canada ... cont'd from page 1

They told us about 12 remote villages without a medical centre in the area. How 300 people live in 50 houses in another remote village. But there are some villages that have running water, toilets and medical centres but they are few and far between.

In the past our club has donated to this worthy cause, and I hope it will continue to do so in the future.

Hearing about these projects makes me realize how important Rotary is in making a difference to all parts of the world.

We are working with the local club to develop a schedule whereby 4 Rotarians from our club can visit and assist during the refurbishment project. Thus we will be able to see that our Club and District funds are being utilized properly for the purpose intended, and that the benefit reaches the school children who need our help.

The project costs are approximately \$11,400 of which \$2,500 will be provided by our Club, \$7,500 by our District, and the remaining \$1,400 by the local Mexican club. The school district is also providing local tradesmen at their cost.

The district application went ahead after last year's Board approved the project, but work will not be completed until approximately November this year.

Peter Bickham, Chair

World Community
Service



Foundation Matching Programme

Once again the Board has voted to continue the Matching Donations Programme. This means that for every US\$ donated this Rotary year, the Club will match it. The Club is using its points to do this, but the effect is the same. One US\$ donated becomes two US\$ in the Foundation. This is to encourage members to donate to The Rotary Foundation, and to particularly become Sustaining Members on the monthly donor programme.

Points

Once a member has become a Paul Harris Fellow, any donation to the TRF after that earns points. These points cannot be used personally but can be given (in numbers over 100) to anybody or organization. Recently Joe Hooper and Gwynneth Gourley have used their points to give to fellow Chinook Rotarians. If you want to know how many points you have, you can access through your own membership site or ask me. In the next month or two Foundation statements will be given to every member. These will show total donation amount and also total points.

Anthony Tonkinson

Arch Supporters

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Our exchange was completed almost two weeks ago, but the unanimous view of the District 5360 participants was that the exchange was an unqualified success.

Obviously a successful event of this sort takes a significant organizational effort, and it was clear from the first day that the District 1230 committee spent significant time, effort and thought in developing the four separate components of the visit. Each was unique in the combination of learning activities related to Scottish history and geography, combined with a blend of free time to enable the District 5360 participants to customize the experience to meet our own needs and interests — ranging from hiking to ancestral searches.

Perhaps the one of the most challenging aspects of such a visit is the matching of hosts and visitors, and conversations with the members of the District 5360 team confirmed that each of us felt well-matched with our four hosts, and that those matches truly magnified the positive impact of the experience. Each one of our hosts was different, but shared the common bond of Rotary; and each of us developed special relationships with those hosts — relationships that hopefully will last long past the end of the visit.

Day one of our exchange saw us have the opportunity to tour the Burns Club in Irvine with a special introduction to Robbie Burns prior to meeting our first hosts. Our first host club was The Rotary Club of Girvan Ayrshire, and when in Girvan, one of the highlights was the visit to Culzean Castle and gardens, where our garden tour was led by the Head Gardener and offered an interesting perspective on the beauty surrounding the castle. Some of us also took the time to visit Ayr and the Burns House and Museum; while others took a beach walk around the Turnberry Trump golf course.

Our time in Fort William included trips to a wide variety of communities and historic sites in addition to climbing the Devil's Staircase, a walk along Neptune's Staircase and a tour of the Ben Nevis distillery. What made this tour even more informative was that it came with a running commentary provided by Club

member John Hutchison who demonstrated an encyclopedic knowledge of the area.

In Helensburgh we were welcomed by the Provost (Mayor) and had the opportunity to tour the new civic office buildings. We also visited Hill House designed by Scottish Architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and to take a boat tour of Loch Lomond. In addition, during our stay in Helensburgh, a number of us took the opportunity to take a day trip to Edinburgh to attend the Fringe Festival where we attended a variety of events, many of which (thankfully) had been selected from the 156 page program for August 9th by organizer Ian Dickson (thanks for making that task somewhat more manageable Ian!).

Our time in Kilmarnock included two spectacular historic visits to Dumfries House — a restoration project led by Prince Charles; and a special tour of Dean Castle — both quite incredible experiences. The Dean House tour was made particularly special by the welcome provided by Councillor Eoghann McColl of the East Ayrshire Council, and William Stafford, Deputy Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran. Councillor McColl also presented us with a numbered copy of the Kilmarnock Edition of 'Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect' by Robert Burns.

Another critical component of the visit was related to the group social activities that were arranged by the four host clubs. These activities ranged from a Burns Dinner in Girvan complete with an introduction to haggis, neeps and tatties; to the ceilidh that completed our dinner in Fort William, to the club barbecues in Helensburgh and Kilmarnock.

In summary, it is safe to say that each of the District 5360 participants had an enjoyable experience and each felt some sadness in leaving our new friends behind. I believe I can also say on behalf of our group that we would happily encourage Rotary colleagues to take the opportunity to participate in the RFE experience.

by David Wartman

Include a Rotary Friendship Exchange to Sri Lanka in your Vacation Plans for 2017 !!

Applications are currently being accepted for a Rotary Friendship Exchange to Sri Lanka Friday, February 10th to 23rd, 2017. Currently, we are looking for 10 Rotarians (in any combination of individuals and couples) for this exchange.

The exchange is to Sri Lanka — District 3220 that encompasses clubs in cities and towns like Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla.

This Friendship Exchange will involve 15 nights, including one pre-exchange night in a hotel, then 14 days/nights with different host Rotary families (3-4 nights each approximately). There is usually a maximum of 5-6 host families per host Rotary club. Programming includes Rotary activities, touring local points of interest and visiting tourist attractions.

CRITERIA:

- Must be a Rotarian in good standing.
- Participants must be team players as the group will travel together for the duration of the exchange.
- Must be a good ambassador for Rotary and Canada.
- Must be in reasonable physical condition as the exchange will involve tourism activities that may require some moderate walking.

See more at: <http://rotary5360.ca/Stories/sri-lanka-rfe-deadline-extended-festival-of-100-elephants-included#sthash.JIRBCZY6.dpuf>

