

## Numbers and Sayings

Bart Dailley

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Our Arch Supporters ... THANK YOU !!

Unfortunately our planned speaker for today's meeting had taken ill. Our ever flexible and capable Speaker Committee Chair, Bart Dailley, "stepped into the breach". *(ed note: Bart, we need the origins of that saying!)*

Bart regaled us with one of his great "Things You May Not Know" talks. First it was where do our numbers come from, and why do they have their particular shapes. With felt marker in hand, he led us through the numbers for 1 to 9 and zero, explaining how the angles, when numbers are drawn in their original Arabic format, give the number. He advised that while there are many forms of letters and alphabets, that the number system was close to universal.



Bart then carried on to give the background on many common sayings:

**"Dead Man's Hand"** — in poker (aces and eights) was the hand Wild Bill Hickok held when he was shot while sitting with his back to the door in Deadwood.

**"White Elephant"** — as elephants are sacred in Thailand, if one receives one from the King, you must accept and deal with its upkeep for life, potentially bankrupting you.

**"Face the Music"** — following a military ruling, the offender faces the commander and the drummers behind him for sentencing.

**"Close but no Cigar"** — at the carnival the prize was often a cigar and when just missed the target the Barker would say ....

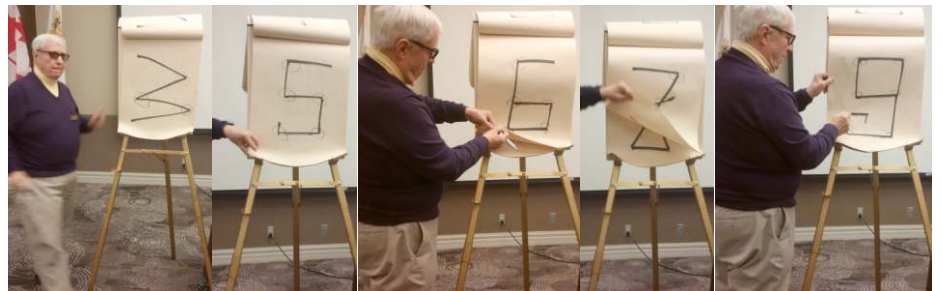
**"Bite the Bullet"** — during the civil war pain killers were rare and thus one bit on the bullet to offset the pain.

**"Cat got your Tongue"** — in ancient Egypt cats were sacred. One punishment for offenses was to cut out the offender's tongue and toss it to the cats to eat. ... and finally ...

**"the Long and the Short of it"** — this was a Halberd, a **long** axe-ended lance, used to unhorse a rider who one could then dispatch with his **short** sword.

As always this is a rather dry rendition of a very entertaining and great story, but you had to be there!

George thanked Bart and with no further business to come before the meeting, adjourned it early at 1:25pm.



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With Bev away, Anthony Tonkinson had been volun-told to handle Birthdays and Anniversaries. He definitely brought his own style to the task. The members serenaded in our "perfect" style, Albert Amaniampong, Pat Hutchison, Gord Billings, Ron Hardie and Don McLean as they sat and drank their wine.

President George reported that the membership had voted not to pursue the opportunity to join up with another Calgary Club to help with their Art Auction fundraiser. Therefore as a Club, all members will need to come out and fully support our planned Club Fun Casino on October 3, 2019. George thanked the Fund Raising Committee Co-chairs (Rob and Tammy) for their work, and also the efforts of all that Committee's members.

Jim Thompson spoke on the continuing trials and tribulations at our Nature Park. He has been in discussions and meetings with both the city and province. Continuity on these discussions is an issue with having had four Fish Creek Park managers since 2011. The new manager has stressed we must be fully health and safety compliant for volunteers to do work in the park. Jim has recommended a moratorium on our improvement efforts in the park until the issues surrounding the impact of run off water into the park, and its impact on animal and plant health are resolved.

SSA Don McLean had a hard time raising funds as so many of his intended targets were not in attendance. But he did manage to fine the President for missing a great lamb stew last week. *cont'd on page 4 ...*



President George started the meeting promptly at 12:16pm ... OK, a minute off the pace per the cell signal. George Van Schaick led us in Oh Canada and the Rotary grace, but even his exceptional skills could not keep the room of chilled members on beat or tone. We then broke for the meal.

After our meal, President George called the meeting back to order. However Rob Wolfson almost single handedly sabotaged these scribe notes by running off with the

scribe's pen, only just returning it in time.

George thanked Paul Gaudet for handling the previous week's meeting for him, and there being no guests, we moved right into the **Sunshine Report**.

Pat Hutchinson advised that Ed McLean is improving mobility wise, but is still faced with memory issues. He did not have an update on Dick Snel's condition but will advise us when he does. Members wondered about the status of a couple of other absent members.

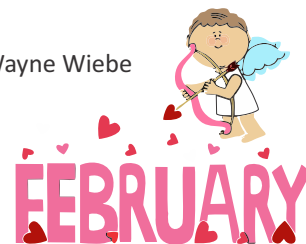
*Photos courtesy George Van Schaick*





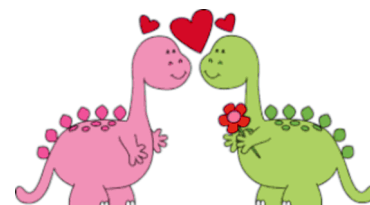
## Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

February 12th	Tommy Wheeldon Jr, Coach/GM, Calgary Cavalry
February 14th	Community Service at the Mustard Seed, 6pm - 8:30pm — contact Wayne Wiebe
February 16th	Community Service at Ronald McDonald House, 10:30am - 12:30pm — contact Wayne Wiebe
February 19th	Cory Gross, Glenbow Museum — The Ice Age
February 22nd	Fairview Mentoring at Roots 2 STEM
February 26th	Martin Parnell — Afghanistan Marathon
February 28th	Networking Night — @ Limericks, 5:30 - 7pm — contact Rob Wolfson
	Cribbage Club @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham



## Water and Sanitation Month

March 5th	April Stallings, Manager Resource Development, Children's Wish Foundation
March 8th	Fairview Mentoring at Roots 2 STEM
March 12th	Mix 'n Mingle Evening Meeting — Dan Doherty, DG
March 14th	Cribbage Club @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham
March 15th	Fairview Mentoring at Roots 2 STEM
March 26th	Anne Dale — Days For Girls



## Charter Member George Raham

# Skier, 87, literally in a class of his own

BY CHRIS PUGLIA

George Raham loved skiing even before he owned his first pair of skis. "Prior to getting my first pair of skis in 1936, I was sliding down hills in a cardboard box," the 87-year-old says.

Today Raham is in a class of his own — literally — on the slopes of the competitive ski circuit.

"There's not many skiers in my age group," Raham says about the races he competes in. "As a result, I have nobody to race against. That's not something I enjoy."

However, Raham, who has been skiing for 83 years, doesn't let the lack of racers in his age bracket stop him from competing. Instead, he compares his time to younger age categories and he usually fares pretty well.

"I have been faster than the fastest skier in the next age group and in the top three in the next age group below that," he says.

Not bad, considering Raham has had both his knees and both his hips replaced over the past six years.

While those surgeries haven't stopped him from skiing, they have reduced

the number of times he competes to one or two races each year.

One of which is the annual Bruno Engler Memorial Race at Mt. Norquay, which is entering its 53rd year.

That race is special for Raham, who used to participated in it with his son David, who died in a workplace accident a couple of years ago.

Despite decades on the slopes, Raham didn't begin skiing competitively until he was over 50, a transition he credits to his son.

Raham used to work the courses when David was skiing and through that experience the elder Raham began courting the idea of racing.

"I kept putting it off and putting it off. When I got over 50 years of age, I said it's now or never," he says.

His longevity in the sport has also afforded him an extensive collection of skis, amassing a total of 60 pairs over the years that he has proudly kept. Included in that collection is his first pair of skis, simply called the red skis, which are also the pair he used to teach his son to ski.

Raham still skis regularly but no longer trains in a competitive program. In-

stead, he is a member of the Rutt Runners, a recreational ski group that he practises with weekly.

Though not a competitive group, Raham says the member use gates to train, which helps him when he does compete as it ensures he is constantly working on his control down the hill.

"I like that approach," he says of the Rutt Runners' methods. "Every year, I have the impression my skiing has improved, even though I'm getting older."

Many seniors would credit the kind of physical longevity Raham has enjoyed to the kind of passion Raham has for skiing, but he says he has never really looked at it that way.

"I guess in a sense it would," he says with a laugh, adding that other than the exercises he does for his new joints, he doesn't do much of that either.

"I stretch," he adds instead. "It keeps me limber."

Raham plans to continue skiing for as long as he can, adding other than the joy it brings him, it also keeps him connected to his son.

"When I'm on my skis there are time when I'm carving turns and I think of him and I know he's with me," he says.

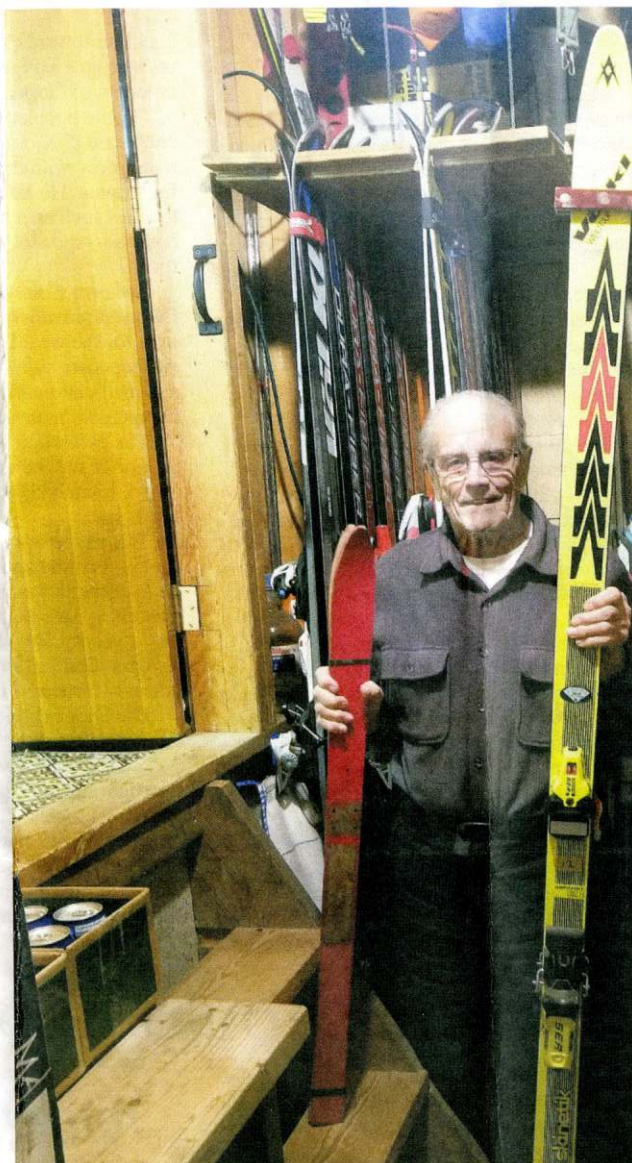


Photo by Chris Puglia

George Raham displays his first, and his most recent, sets of skis.



This week's Chase the Ace winner was Harry Nazarchuk with a \$48 prize. Luckily for the rest of us, he drew the 6 of Clubs and thus the pot rolls over at in excess of \$560.

Tom Sorenson brought a recent news article on one of our charter members, George Raham, that is included elsewhere in this issue.

Bart Dailley was then awarded a recognition pin by President George. This recognized his many contributions to the club, and his fantastic service in obtaining speakers for our meetings.




## Community Service

A great event helping at the Drop In Centre by a group of Chinook Rotarians on Thursday, February 7th organized by Alex Soutar. We prepared lunch, and also cubed potatoes for upcoming meals. Thanks to all who participated in this event!

*Wayne Wiebe, Director, Community Service*





**Chase the ACE**

as of January 29th

# of cards left  
**16**

Current Pot: \$ **560.00**

estimated at around  
+ 30% of next day's sales

### The Importance of Walking...

- I like long walks. Especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
- The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.



## Arch Supporters

To help support publication and distribution of the Arch to members, please contact Stephen Pick at 403-938-2876 or [stephen.rotary@ontheridge.ca](mailto:stephen.rotary@ontheridge.ca)



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