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## Wildlife in Calgary Parks Chris Manderson, Calgary Parks



Bart Dailley introduced our speaker, Chris Manderson, who is the Urban Conservation Lead at Calgary Parks. He joined Calgary Parks in 1998. As Lead he is responsible for managing urban ecosystems, integrated pest management, and habitat restoration.

Chris' talk went into the Calgary ecosystem and its changing nature. He discussed landscapes then and now, and that wildlife, initially displaced, had now come to terms with and had figured out "life in the city". Major parks in the city cover 4,500 hectares out of the 8,500 hectare city park system.

He went on to talk about the Biodiversity Strategic Plan (2015) and the need for habitat connectivity.

Not all species are tolerant of change that urbanization creates. The Pin Tail Duck and Burrowing Owl are gone from the Calgary landscape. Other species such as the Jack Rabbit, feral rabbits (ex pets) and racoons have all adapted well.

*cont'd on page 2 ...*



## Tsuut'ina Police Force Keith Blake, Chief



of his service.

Bart introduced our speaker, Chief Keith Blake. He was sworn in as the 5th Chief of Police for the Tsuut'ina Nation on May 16th, 2013. He had previously served 24 years in the RCMP at various locations around Alberta. He had first hand experience working in 7 different First Nations Communities over that period. Keith Blake then introduced Steve Burton and Brithany Quellet as valued members

Chief Blake went on to describe the past, current and future of policing on the Tsuut'ina lands. In 2004 full police authorization was granted to his force. It had grown to 25 officers drawn locally and from various police forces across Alberta and Saskatchewan. There are currently 2,300 band members making this a very high level of policing, but it is in recognition of the changes the ring road and associated development will bring.

Of the officers, 8 are funded partially by Federal and Provincial ministries. The 16 others and support staff are funded by the Nation. Of the 25 officers, 25 are indigenous and there are 30% female officers.

He spoke of the changes that the major Taza Development will bring. It will require them to evolve from a rural to an urban focused force.

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February 11th, 2020

Scribe: Stephen Pick

President Elect Rob Wolfson chaired the meeting today ... getting his training sessions in before the changeover in the spring.



After the usual rousing, ok not so rousing, renditions of the National Anthem and



Rotary Grace (technology will never replace Ruth's skill), we sat down to a pleasant meal and fellowship.

PE Rob got us back on track at 12:40pm.

Bruce Bohnet introduced the guests, our speaker and Don Taylor (Stampede Rotary).

Rob then went on to **Announcements:**

- Calgary East is hosting a night at Yuk-Yuks on February 27th. Cost is \$20 per person.
- The annual Membership Mingler will be held on March 17th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. \$20.00 per person for appetizers, and a cash bar. Bring prospective new members. Mary Turner, the incoming DG, will be there as a speaker.
- The Limericks Networking event will be on February 20th.

*Photos courtesy Stephen Pick*

- The 2020 Rotary YYC RibFest will be on the August long weekend (4 days). The location has been short listed, but not yet finalized.

## Sunshine Report:

Pat Hutchinson reported that Herb Imler was having surgery. More details to follow. Joe Hooper advised that Lois Beatty had had surgery and was in serious condition but was improving.

## Minute People:

- Alex Soutar had a call for volunteers to help out at the Calgary Drop In Centre from 2:00 to 3:30 pm on February 20th.
- PE Rob then handed out Flames \$20 second prizes to a list of recipients including George Kimura, Terry Green, John Charett, Garth Plunket, Gwen Burgess and Sharon Bickham.

**Chase the Ace** winner was Garth Plunket garnering him \$43.00, but he drew the 2 of Spades so the pot rolled over.

**Sargent at Arms** Peter Bickham did what he could to lighten people of their loose change, and there were a number of Happy Bucks also collected. He again ended his time up front with a joke — at least I think it was one ... enough said.



# Wildlife in Calgary Parks

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Species in the city are somewhat different than their rural counterparts. The Black Cap Chickadee has evolved a larger brain and more active, deeper voice. House Sparrows came from the middle east, but now are essentially only an urban bird in the cities of the world. The Magpie was not a city dweller but co-existed with the Bison. With the decline in the bison population, the Magpies almost disappeared, but then evolved by figuring out city life, and their population boomed.

Various predators now make their home in the city. Coyotes have been very successful both here and now spreading far from their original southwest USA home ground to virtually all of North America, and now venturing down into South America. They are a smart and adaptive urban dweller. We get occasional Black and Grizzly bears in the city, ones who have learned the "joy of dumpsters". Cougars are often spotted in Fish Creek Park. Bobcats are a more recent entry. Not being fond of snow like their Lynx cousins, they took their time expanding their range into Canada. Now they have found urban environments, they are settling in and expanding their population in Calgary.

Chris finished off with reminding us of the most dangerous animal in Calgary - Deer. With over 430 collisions per year, and an average cost of \$6,000 per incident, it costs the city and insurers over \$3.2 million per year.

He stressed the need for us to understand how wildlife uses the city and establish ways to co-exist vs control.

PE Paul presented Chris with a Polio certificate and thanked him for a very interesting talk.



## Greeter Schedule



February 25th	Hank P, Bev T	March 24th	Peter B, Ron M
March 3rd	Dale M, Paul H	March 31st	Garth S, Michael S
March 10th	Francis A, Neil C	April 7th	Moe T, Paul H
March 17th	Alex S, George V		



Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were.

Television may insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.



## Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

February 25th

Dr. Linda Andersen — Brain Aging

February 27th

Cribbage @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham

Fellowship @ 5:30, games @ 6:30

Calgary East Rotary Fundraiser @ Yuk Yuks — contact Rob Wolfson

Comedian Todd Ness — tickets \$20

## Water and Sanitation Month

March 3rd

Wilner Pagaling, Founder, Bread Beyond Borders

March 10th

Rhea Graham — Interact Program

March 12th

Cribbage @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham

Fellowship @ 5:30, games @ 6:30

March 17th

Membership Mingler

March 24th

Breanna MacSephney, Intake Coordinator, Calgary Meals on Wheels

March 26th

Cribbage @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham

Fellowship @ 5:30, games @ 6:30

March 31st

Julia Reimer, Co-owner, Firebrand Glass Studio

## Maternal and Child Health Month

April 9th

Cribbage @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham

Fellowship @ 5:30, games @ 6:30

April 14th

Club Assembly

April 21st

Rhea Graham — Youth Appreciation

April 23rd

Cribbage @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham

Fellowship @ 5:30, games @ 6:30

April 28th

Dan Doherty — Home for Mexico



## Meeting Minutes

February 18th, 2020

Scribe: Stephen Pick



President Paul opened the meeting, and with Ruth on the piano, we sang the National Anthem and Rotary Grace, then we all sat down to a prime rib dinner or a turkey Waldorf salad.

Back at the podium at 12:41, President Paul called on Bob Montgomery to announce our guests. These included Jeanette Holt, Tiger Li, Mary Billings, Mikko and Elias Alkio (past Finnish exchange student and his son), our speaker Keith Blake and his assistant Brithany Quellette.

President Paul then launched into a string of **Announcements:**

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The force is very focused on being part of the community. They have met with all reserve residents to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their policing efforts. They also meet regularly and consult with the Elders.

Consultation and collaboration are keystones in what they do, and they are justifiably proud of their programs and prevention activities. Restorative Justice is becoming a key part of their work.

President thanked Chief Blake for his presentation and expressed his gratitude for the wealth of information that the presentation had provided us about one of our neighbouring communities.



## Meeting Minutes February 18th

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- He thanked Dean White, Dave Wylie and Stephen Pick for their efforts to keep the website up to date, and urged members to use it.
- Heritage Park is having their annual "Second Chance Art Sale" and are requesting donations of art you no longer want. The sale takes place on April 24th and 25th at the Acadia Recreation Centre.
- Calgary Millenium is having a "Blarney, Beer & Bingo" event featuring Irish food, dancing and music on Saturday March 14th.
- Mary Rickard, the district Peace Fellowship Committee Chair, is looking for nominations for Rotary Peace Fellowships.
- And finally, there will be a change to the meeting opening in March on a trial basis. For the first two weeks there will be no grace recited. For the following two weeks, the 4 Way Test will be recited. On the 5th week, the club will discuss and vote on the option of continuing to say grace, either of the above two options, or something else.

The **Sunshine Report** by Pat Hutchinson was that while Jim Thompson is doing well after his foot surgery, he is not yet mobile enough to attend. Moe Tynan is also doing well, but is also having limited mobility with her broken ankle.



### Minute People:

- Bev Tonkinson, Chair of the RibFest Sponsorship Committee, issued a call for ideas on ways to get sponsors for the event.



- Peter Bickham, the Foundation Committee Chair, presented a Paul Harris +5 pin to Bart Dailley.

Neil Beatty won the **Chase the Ace** draw, but pulling the 6 of Hearts from the deck, he went home with only \$41.00. It is noted that Bev Tonkinson and Dale Perret were hiding his winnings — the check is in the mail, or is it?



Anthony Tonkinson introduced Mikko Alkio who was our inbound exchange student from Finland 30 years ago. Mikko spoke of how the exchange program had changed his life and gave him the experience to build his life on.

Sergeant at Arms Bart Dailley had us all laughing as he extracted small change from many of us.

*Photos courtesy George Van Schaick*

## Arch Supporters

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