

The History of Cigars Greg Wigle

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Bart introduced Greg Wigle, our speaker for the meeting. Greg is the purchasing agent for the H. S. Club so needs to know lots about cigars as he buys them for the cigar smoking club.

Cigars are big business with one company making 3 billion cigars in one year. The Dominion Republic produces 70% of the cigars outside of Cuba for which there is no data as the communist government doesn't release any. The farmers in Cuba get to keep only 10% of their crop and the government takes the 90%.



The good seed comes from Cuba from where it is smuggled out in people's pockets or sewn into the lining of their trousers.



Seeds are planted in greenhouses where they grow for 60 days when they are moved to the fields. The cigar plants grow nine feet tall in two months. When PEI grew tobacco, the plants only grew to 5-6 feet tall and were used to make cigarettes. When the tobacco plants are harvested, the leaves are stored in moisture-controlled barns for 2-3 months to age and to ensure quality. The top leaves of the plants are the finest quality. The leaves are removed from the curing barns and the cigars are rolled by hand using three layers of leaves-the filler, the binder and the wrapper. These may be from different countries except, by what I read in the AFICIONADO magazine, a Cuban cigar just uses Cuban tobacco for all three layers. Cuban cigars are not available in the US because of their embargo on Cuba.



Cigars are named by their size. A Churchill cigar usually has a ring gauge of 50 and a length of 7 to 7¼". The ring gauge is made in 1/64" so the gauge of the Churchill translates into 50/64" in diameter.



The leaves from Ecuador are thought to be the finest tasting. The cigar tasters describe the taste similar to how wine tasters describe wine. An example: "The full, open draw of the subtly pressed cigar layers the palate with dense smoke, leaving impressions of nutmeg, cinnamon and crushed peanuts before a black tea finish. This Dominican Republic Churchill will only set you back \$6 US."

If you get interested in cigars you must get a humidor to store them at 70 degrees and 72% humidity.

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Casino Fundraiser !!

VOLUNTEERS

We need You !!

September 28th and 29th
at Calgary Casino

Contact
Bruce Bohnet
or
Joe Hooper
to sign up for shifts.



Rae and Bob M did the greeting except I am sure that Bob missed shaking a few hands as he was a little late getting to his duties because he drove with me.

President Paul asked us to give a welcome to our newest member, Sandy Swan, who has moved her membership to our Club from her Mexican club. Sandy is a former member of the Canmore Club where she is a Past President.



George Van again led, or tried to lead us, in the singing part of the program. Thanks George, it's a tough task!

George reminded us that the Club's dues of \$300 are now due. We can pay by cash, cheque or credit card as Connie has the credit card machine if you choose that method of payment.

George said the Club is searching for large Club banners that members may have at home. If you do have one, George would like you to give it to the Club so we can use it for display.

We had a deep discussion at our table on drinking water. Bev doesn't like ice in her water and like many of us doesn't drink

New Rotary Year Begins

July 16th
July 19th
July 23rd
July 30th

Dr. Ryan Hoffman — Feldenkrais
President's Dinner @ McKenzie Meadows Golf Club
Shigenobu Koayashi, Consul General of Japan
Christine Rendell, District Governor



Membership and New Club Development Month

August 6th
August 13th
August 20th

Alexandra Kushliak — AHS Greensleeve Project
Rotary Nature Park Meeting
Fairview School Educational Partnership

Basic Education and Literacy Month

September 28th & 29th Casino Fundraiser @ Calgary Casino — contact Bruce Bohnet or Joe Hooper to sign up

Economic and Community Development Month

October 3rd FUN Casino Night Fundraiser @ the Carriage House Inn

Ranchman's PBR Charity Classic

submitted by Rob Wolfson



Meeting Minutes

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enough water. I offered to try herbal tea but Neil doesn't like the taste. In my view, there are several tasty teas that don't have caffeine.

Anthony said that we may be able to challenge the AGLC course needed to work at the RIBFEST. He will investigate and advise if we can challenge it and not have to spend four hours going through the questions.



Chase-The Ace

Gary won the daily pot and the right to draw for the Ace of diamonds. He pulled the Ace of Clubs. Too bad, but we don't feel sorry for him!



Sargeant-At-Arms

Michael Spears donned his jacket for this role and proceed to quiz us and inform us on the Calgary Stampede.

- The first Stampede was held in 1912 but it didn't become an annual event until 1923 when the BIG FOUR donated \$100,000.
- The Young Canadians participated for the first time in 1964 and I think have been doing so since then.

The History of Cigars

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Paul thanked Greg for a very interesting talk and awarded him a certificate indicating our donation in his name to Polio Plus.



Tynan upholsterers a part of city's fabric for 90 years

This year celebrates the remarkable 90th in which the Tynan family has been in business in this city, and it's fascinating that it came about thanks to an offer by Timothy Eaton. Today the company is run by Maureen Tynan but it was her grandfather, John, who answered the call by the founder of Eaton's department stores, guaranteeing a job to any Irishman who moved to Canada.

John and his brothers left the family dairy farm and travelled to Vancouver where he was given a position with Eaton's, working with the famous mail-order catalogue department that reached out to small towns and rural communities with a money-back guarantee on all goods.

He did well, and in 1929, made another big decision to relocate to Calgary, a "land of opportunity" where he thought he could run his own business. Tynan's was opened as a small furniture manufacturing plant on 11th Street in Inglewood.

By 1934, the firm was doing well enough that John was able to buy his own building on 11th Avenue SW, and later bought houses along the half-block to build additional space that promoted the name of Tynan and the home of its famous Kant-Sag brand of furniture, which used a method of tightening the webbing so it didn't ever sag.

The quality of the furniture meant that it "lasted forever", so in 1978 Tynan's started an in-house reupholstering department.

By 1964, Tynan's was run by son Bill, who became known as one of the city's most respected businessmen who built up a company selling to department stores from Vancouver Island to the western part of Ontario. Bill fully retired in 1981 and that year he sold the property and relocated out of the Beltline district into Phillips Park on 61st Avenue SE. By then, eldest son Russ had taken over running the business.

The family got involved with the city's Olympic bid in 1984. Russ and his sister, Maureen, attended the Los Angeles Summer Olympics to learn about handling volunteers. Russ left the family

firm to work full time for the Calgary Winter Olympics to build its volunteer program and be responsible for venue operations.

Maureen continued to work on the Olympic bid with key sponsors and downhill skiing — she is still a volunteer with the World Cup — but took on full responsibility in running the firm. However, since the downturn in the 1980s, she has focused on custom manufacturing and reupholstery. She had taken an interior design course and says she wanted to deal with individuals rather than stores; most of the staff had retired although some her craftsmen still enjoy working piecemeal in her Foothills plant, and Mila, whose mother started as a seamstress in the old factory, is still her "right arm" in the Phillips Park showroom.



Today, Tynan's accepts custom furniture orders and is a mecca for interior designers as a resource centre where they can select from its huge inventory of fabrics. Reupholstery forms a key element of the business, keeping Maureen busy with customers in need of a new look to their favourite pieces of furniture.

It's a cosy showroom where the walls are covered with the history of the 90-year-old company of which she is so proud.

And Maureen is also still busy volunteering as a member of the Chinook Rotary Club since 1992, and a longtime member of the Stampede Caravan Committee.

David Parker, Calgary Herald, Updated: July 11, 2019

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