



December 1st, 2020
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Speaker
Mark Stephens
Stampeders Broadcaster

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Did You Know?



2020-2021 Officers and Directors

Rob Wolfson, President
President Elect, George Van Schaick
Paul Gaudet, Past President
Dale Perret, Secretary
Al Holt, Treasurer

Bev Tonkinson, International Service
Dean White, Youth Service
George Van Schaick, Community Service
Michael Spears, Club Service
Bill Stemp, Club Operations
Bob Gentles, Club Financial

RI President Holger Knaack
Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany

District 5360 Governor Mary Turner
Rotary Club of Olds

Our meeting is on ZOOM ... Join in today at noon!



ZOOM Networking Meeting

November 26th, 2020

Scribe: Stephen Pick



The informal portion of the ZOOM get-together had members trading stories for 15 to 20 minutes as members signed on.

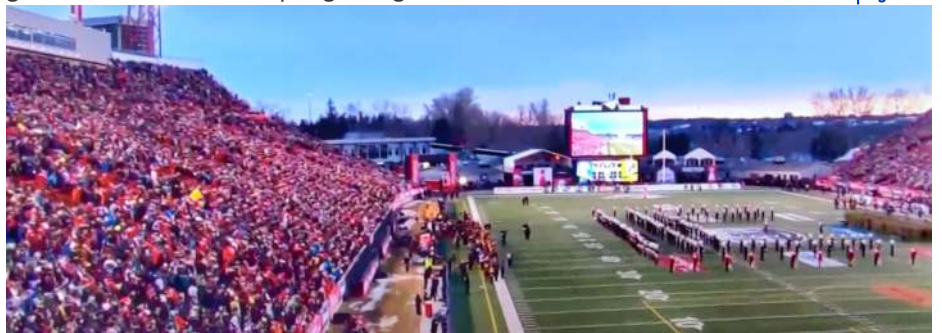
President Rob started the meeting with a twist ... he played a video of O Canada as performed by the Stampeders Showband at the 2019 Grey Cup

at McMahon. With only minor contributions from the 24+ Rotarians in attendance, we went quickly to Mark Stephen's presentation.

That familiar voice went through a number of highlights of his broadcast career and of the Stampeders, the Good, Bad and Ugly. The Q&A session came up with a number of questions. The question that could not be answered was will there be a 2021 season. Plans are in place for it but great uncertainty remains. Some members questioned why Toronto (largest market, lowest attendance) remains in the CFL, and how soon Halifax can get in and up to speed. The question session ended with a short story from Fred Jessee on how, many years ago he, as an usher, tried to stop the then Mayor of Calgary (who evidenced having a bit to drink) from coming into the Mewata Armory field for a game (ask Fred for the details!).



It was a great session and brought back memories and also happy thoughts for future game attendance in the spring if all goes well. *cont'd on page 2 ...*



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www.ChinookRotary.org



We're having a Christmas party
We hope you can come,
You can bet your antlers
it'll be second to none

Thursday December 17th
from 7:00 - 8:30pm
via Zoom
meeting invite to be sent out closer to the date



It's sad that we cannot gather in person for our annual Christmas dinner and party, but that does not mean we cannot celebrate the season! It won't be the same but please join our **first ever Chinook Rotary Virtual Xmas ZOOM Party**. This invitation is open to members, spouses and Friends of Chinook Rotary.

We ask all members to donate at least \$20 to participate in the meeting. We will make a club donation to Toy Mountain which supports the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter. There will NOT be a tax deduction, however we make a presentation as a club from the monies raised from our Virtual Xmas Party. Here is the website to check out the annual Holiday fund raiser sponsored by CTV Calgary.

<https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/toymountain>

You can send payment to Al Holt at info@chinookrotary.org
Please note Xmas Party in your e-transfer between December 1st and December 17th.

Important details about the Party:

- Come after dinner with your favourite Yuletide beverage. (Rob will have a rum and eggnog at his side.)
- This is going to be an opportunity to get to know more about your fellow Rotarians. Be prepared to share a favourite Christmas/Holiday family memory or tradition. Please bring your spouse on to the ZOOM to share this story.
- Please send Bev Tonkinson bevtonkrotary@gmail.com an old Christmas/Holiday photo for us to share (related to the tradition or story or just a favourite family photo).
- Rob is going to put together some of his virtual fun for the meeting as well.

It is going to be a fun meeting, so do consider joining! Put it in your calendar and start looking through your pictures to send to Bev (you can do this right away if you plan on attending). At the same time we are going to raise some cash for a very worthy local charity.

ZOOM Networking Meeting

... cont'd from page 1



Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

- December 1st Club Assembly — Strategic Plan and Membership Committee Updates
Peter Bickham / Moe Tynan and Rhea Graham
- December 17th Chinook Rotary Virtual Christmas Party — via ZOOM
An evening of family Xmas stories, traditions, pictures & some holiday fun!
- December 21st Joint meeting with Lethbridge Club — details to come
Speaker: Jennifer Jones, RI President Nominee, 2022-23



Events/Happenings

- May 14th - 16th, 2021 DisCon 2021 in Drumheller — Mark your calendar and plan on attending!

Did You Know?

Jim Thompson, Club History

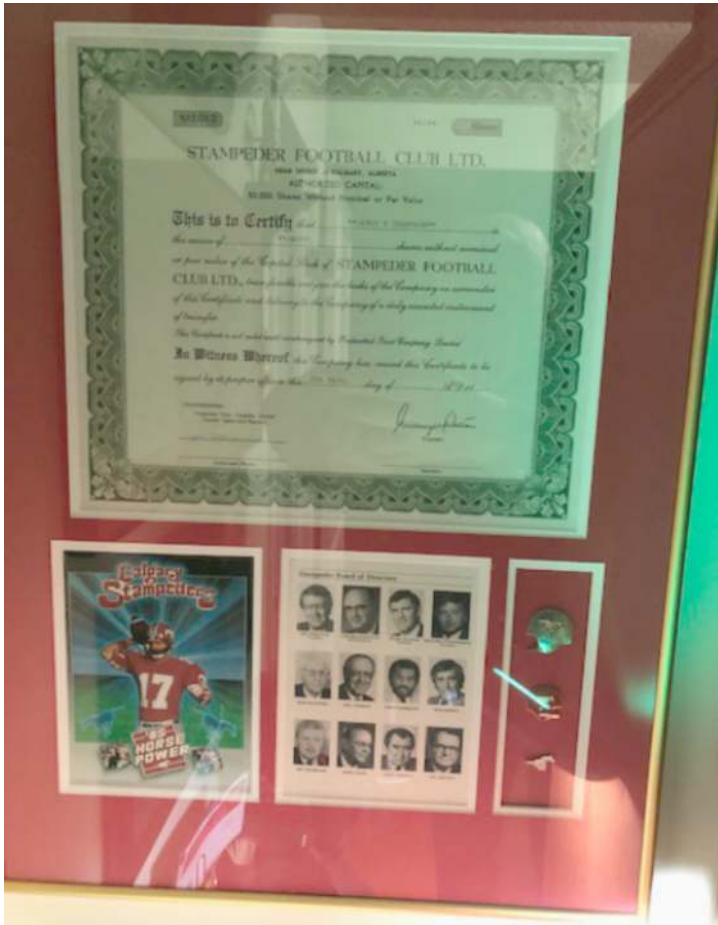
Did You Know? Following our ZOOM meeting the evening of November 26th, featuring sports commentator Mark Stephens' very informative presentation on his many years reporting on the Stampeders, and becoming the media voice of the team, I thought you might want to know a few more facts, that occurred before Mark's time that directly involved our club.

I had the privilege of serving on the 12 man Board of Directors of the team, in the mid 80s ... 83 thru 86 specifically. 1985 was the year, "85 Horse Power" was the slogan. The team was in dire straits, with an enormous debt, and an effort was being made by a former director to take over issued shares and perhaps relocate the franchise elsewhere. Our Board settled into the task of doing everything possible to prevent the collapse and/or move of the team.

Board Members Ward McLean and Pat Peacock contacted all the creditors and began a fair and agreeable conclusion to the massive debt, partially by assuring the team would continue. Public criticism was that we were just another "old boys" Board, passed down from one Board to another, and we were going to disprove this.

We kept away from the press, hounding us for every detail. We then set about releasing more shares to the public here, from those that were allowed, thus assuring the shareholders of what was a publicly owned company, maintained its ownership in Calgary. The fans responded, with great results, and the team was secured.

Even our Rotary Club, with a little encouragement, bought 1,000 shares, 100s of others were bought by 100s of other individuals. Our service club was the ONLY one that subscribed to this SOS — "Save Our Stamps" program and the certificate is still in our historic files. We, the Board, having achieved our objectives, then resigned all together to demonstrate that there was no longer the "old boys" stigma. The new Board and future Boards turned the franchise into a private ownership organization, and the team continues to lead the CFL with outstanding performances to this day. I did travel to other venues with the team and other Board members during our time ... always a fantastic experience, with players and personnel.



1983 share certificate, 1985 Board photo / promo



In view of the Thanksgiving weekend in the US, Rob shared this ...

