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## 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

January 19th, 2021

Scribe: Paul Gaudet



from Vancouver Island) to our meeting, as well as noting that Bruce and Bernice Bohnet were joining us on ZOOM for the first time in a while. It's great to see old friends joining us on ZOOM!

President Rob opened our meeting at 12:05 by welcoming everyone and introducing a video of 'O Canada', an entertaining version featuring the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. We had 30 participants on ZOOM today. Rob specifically welcomed Ron Hardy (joining us



Rob noted that today's scribe would be Paul Gaudet, and advised anyone who had information for our minutes to contact either Paul or Stephen directly. He also noted that our Club would appreciate volunteers for taking our minutes for the months of March through June. He then thanked Stephen and Anne for all their work preparing and distributing our e-Arch each Tuesday. They are huge contributors to the success of our Club, and to keeping us connected with each other. We cannot thank them enough.

As our **guest speaker, Joshua MacDonald**, was our single guest today, Rob played a tape of our 'Welcome Song' just for him. Rob then welcomed him officially, noting that he was here to tell us about Calgary's "Meals on Wheels" from his position as Volunteer Intake Co-ordinator, a role he has had for 2 years.

## Guest Speaker, Joshua MacDonald Calgary Meals on Wheels



Joshua then took over our virtual podium and began his presentation by telling us how much he enjoyed working at Meals on Wheels, engaging daily with volunteers and the community. He noted that Calgary's Meals on Wheels was independent of similar operations in other cities and other provinces. Their business began in 1965 when a *cont'd on page 2 ...*

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group of ladies saw the need, and started out of a YMCA basement. In 2013 they had the opportunity to build their own custom building which Joshua describes as 'an incredible facility'. He would be pleased to have us visit the site once COVID permits.

They serve a wide variety of clientele, from the elderly, disabled, recent surgery patients, to families with financial challenges, to name a few. Joshua advised that they would serve anyone who contacts them for whatever reason. Food is prepared using a 'cook and chill' process in order to maintain its quality and nutritional value, while allowing for brief storage and transportation. They prepare two different meal types: their "Chef's Daily Special" and their "My Choice Menu". The meals are provided Monday through Friday, prepared as diabetic friendly, and adjustable to other dietary modifications. The amount they charge for the meals and delivery varies greatly with the situation and the client. He describes it as a sliding scale. If the client can afford to pay full price, then that helps subsidize others who cannot.

Delivery is covered by volunteers (using their own vehicles), meals being delivered between 10:30am to 1pm each day, Monday through Friday. The meals are picked up from one of five depots located across Calgary. Rotarians are always welcome to become volunteers and this can be done by going to their website.

Joshua then opened the floor to questions which brought out a number of interesting facts:

- Their business is financially supported by a three pronged effort: government, non-profit supporters such as United Way, and their own private supporters.
- They operate with 5 chefs and 8 other support staff. They prepare 3,000 meals per day, a number which is growing due in part to their online frozen meal operation which continues to grow.
- They also provide meals regularly to 21 schools (government selected and supported).
- They have an 'Adopt a Route' program for delivery volunteers, and Bob Montgomery agreed to explore how this might fit for a group of our members.

Rob thanked Joshua on behalf of our Club and advised him that we would be making a donation to 'Polio Plus' as a thank you for his participation today. Rob noted that he hoped we could find a way to work together in the future.

#Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.

Rob then asked for our **Sunshine Report**, however there was no news (which is good news !) about any of our members being injured or ill.

Rob announced that he was pleased to continue our **Rotary Recognition Program** by highlighting **Alex Soutar**, who was sponsored into our Club in 2006. He was almost immediately drafted onto our Board as a Director, and has been a leader ever since. He and Nancy have attended several International Conventions and Alex was our Club President in 2017-18. He is a supporter of our International Foundation, and a holder of the Paul Harris+ 5 designation. Congratulations and gratitude to Alex, a great Chinook Rotarian!



Rob next introduced our **Chase the Ace** program. By sending \$20 to Al Holt prior to the beginning of each month, you will be allocated 5 tickets which will get you involved with the draw for each meeting that month. The funds raised will be distributed 40% to our Club, 30% to the



daily winner, and 30% to the progressive pot. Our grand prize pot is currently at \$482 and the prize at our meeting today for having your ticket drawn was \$72 and went to John McBean. John wasn't with us today so Rob will contact him and have him

select a card. Everyone can prepare for February's two draws by sending \$20 to Al Holt.

Peter Bickham took a **Rotary Minute** to update us on the **Rotary Foundation**, which is rated "4 Star", the highest grade, for openness, accountability and financial efficiency. He encouraged all our members to consider making a donation to make our world a better place. By building your donations to \$1,000 US, you will be recognized with a Paul Harris Fellowship and possibly rise over time to the highest level, a Paul Harris Fellow +8. We are proud (and thankful) to note that we have 10 of our members currently at this level. As an aside, there is a donation category within Rotary called the 'Arch Klumpp Society' for which, to be a member, one has to donate \$250,000 USD. We have two Honorary members, Bruce and Pat Williams, who are members. Peter took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank three of our members for reaching new levels of support: Rhea Graham at PH+4, Paul Gaudet at PH+5 and Dave Wiley at PH+8. Our Club is currently at \$8,200 in annual donations to this Foundation.







Bev Tonkinson was next up to update us on the **Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation**. From March 30th, 2020 (the Foundation's year end) our Club membership has donated \$3,400 which is good, but further support is always encouraged. The beauty of this Foundation is that interest earned (by each Club's accumulated contribution) is disbursed annually to our Club Society to support our activities. Your donation continues to generate funds to Chinook Rotary each year, well after you are gone, a true legacy gift.

Rob continued with a few **Announcements**:

- He thanked our Fundraising Committee for the work they are doing and highlighted Paul as its chairman. Paul thanked Rob for this acknowledgement, and in turn, thanked his Committee members: George Kimura, Wayne Wiebe, Garth Sabirsh and Garth Plunkett for their assistance.
- Rob noted that our Hockey Pool was underway with 26 participants, and would be raising \$230 for our Club.
- He also thanked Anthony and Bev for hosting our recent Bottle Drive, and hoped we could make it an ongoing event every 3 months or so. Bev and Paul both echoed Rob's support for this project.



Last week we announced our exciting new **Society Project with Roots2STEM** to provide STEM education to underprivileged youth in our community. As part of this new project we are seeking a volunteer to act as a liaison between our Club and Roots2STEM to assist in facilitating this project. Peter and Dean will let you know what is involved so don't be shy! This is a great opportunity to be involved on the ground floor of this worthwhile project.

Rob advised that the Ribbers (the group we worked with in 2019 to put on our **RibFest**) has decided to return to Calgary next summer (July 30th to August 2nd), and would like to work with us (and Centennial) to put on a 'Drive Though' event at McMahon Stadium. More details to follow.

Rob highlighted the latest information re the upcoming **District Conference**. The decision has been made to cancel the live version, and switch to a virtual presentation on April 17th. While this is a disappointing development, on the positive side it will be more convenient to participate.

Rob then introduced this week's **Sergeant at Arms** with a unique version of 'O Canada', performed in Rap by "Classified", an Artist from Nova Scotia. This was followed by a cartoon provided by Jim



Thompson. Rob played a brief video of Donald Trump announcing "you're fired" to a succession of game participants. It seemed to be a good fit in light of tomorrow's Inauguration.



He next asked for any **Good News/Bad News** and it was noted that Betty White had just turned 99 and was doing great. Al announced that he has just had a haircut thanks to the relaxed COVID restrictions.

Rob announced that on February 25th we are planning to try something new in partnership with Calgary East, a **Virtual Wine Tasting** hosted by a wine expert from South America. It will involve paying up front for wine and cheese, which will be delivered by Rotarians in time for the virtual event. More information to follow.

As next week is the 4th week of the month, we will not be having a noon-time meeting on Tuesday, but rather an evening (7pm) ZOOM meeting on Thursday (28th), at which everyone (who would like to) can provide an update on their business activity. We are also having a guest from KPMG to provide a tax update. We hope to see you there.

Our next regular ZOOM meeting will be on February 2nd.

Our meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm. Have a great Rotary week!

## Vocational Service Month

January 28th

Evening Networking Meeting — via ZOOM @ 7pm

Trevor Thomson, KPMG Enterprise

— Tax Implications Due to COVID-19

## Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

February 2nd

ZOOM Meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!

Sandra Clarkson, Drop-In Centre

February 9th

Off site — If we can meet in person. If not, then no meeting.

February 16th

ZOOM Meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!

Dan Doherty — Mexico home building project

February 25th

Evening Networking Meeting — via ZOOM @ 5:30pm

Wine Tasting Social with Calgary East

Speaker: Mauro Villerjo, Owner and Winemaker, Trapezio Winery, Argentina

We will be sampling their Rose, Finca Malbec and Petit Bobo

Cost ~\$70, which will include a charcuterie plate

## Water and Sanitation Month

March 2nd

ZOOM Meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!

2017/18 RI President Ian Riseley

'RI's New Area of Focus/Cause: Protecting the Environment'

March 9th

Off site — If we can meet in person. If not, then no meeting.

Common Crown Brewery Tap Room

March 16th

ZOOM Meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!

Karen Oulette, Donor Ministry Supervisor, Samaritan's Purse Canada

March 25th

Evening Networking Meeting — via ZOOM @ 7pm

March 30th

No meeting

## Maternal and Child Health Month

April 6th

Veronica Lawrence, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter

## Events/Happenings

April 17th

DisCon 2021 on-line — Mark your calendar and plan on joining in!



## Meals on Wheels Presentation

