

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

June 15th, 2021

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

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Calling All Scribes!

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

District 5360 Governor Mary Turner
Rotary Club of Olds



President Rob opened our meeting at 12:05 by welcoming everyone and introducing 'O Canada', an instrumental version performed by the Leo Twins. We had 29 participants on ZOOM today including our guest speaker.

Rob noted that today's scribe would be Paul G. We are in need of volunteers to help prepare our minutes each month so please step up. Please contact Paul and choose a month (or two). Rob thanked Stephen and Anne for all their work preparing and distributing our e-Arch each Tuesday.

Beavers in Fish Creek Park Kirby England, Wetlands Ecologist

Rob introduced our **guest speaker**, Kirby England, who is a wetlands ecologist visiting us today to discuss a project he is involved with, working with the administration of Fish Creek Provincial Park to co-exist with their beaver population.

Beavers being present in urban wetlands can be beneficial as they can expand healthy wetlands with their homes and dams. Sediment retention helps nature clean the surrounding water and their ponds can provide spawning grounds for fish. The removal of surrounding trees can be beneficial as regrowth will occur.



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Many municipal authorities believe the solution to any conflict with beavers is to remove them, but this is rarely a lasting solution, and may even create more serious problems.

Liability is a major concern because the traps, commonly used for beavers, can also injure people and kill rare species, such as Bald Eagles, and pet dogs. Removal is rarely a lasting solution as other beavers in the area tend to resettle the empty habitat within a year or two. In the meantime, if a dam was destroyed or disintegrates without upkeep, a valuable pond with many dependent species may be lost. Seeing a vibrant wetland turn into a mudhole with dead fish and other creatures is upsetting.

Non-lethal methods of managing beaver co-existence are better for all concerned, and usually involves several activities: wrapping metal mesh around specific trees (you can see these in Fish Creek) which are close to Beaver activity, and stream levelling involves the use of piping to pierce their dams thereby allowing water through and reducing the level of their pond areas. The process involves action and then reaction as the beavers are quite ingenious and will attempt to thwart your methods. With patience however a balance can be found so we can safely co-exist.

Financial support for the use of these “co-existence” management methods is a continuing challenge as many municipalities continue to use the quicker, lethal removal methods (trapping, shooting, poisoning). So we can all be helpful in the education of municipal authorities by suggesting that non lethal, coexistence methods are best for our wetlands and our beavers.

Kirby opened the floor to questions:

- Bart noted that he had heard that beavers were not generally domesticated and were difficult to deal with? Kirby advised that some indigenous cultures had been successful in domesticating and living closely with beavers.
- Ian asked how many beavers we might have in the Calgary area and Kirby wasn't sure but estimated somewhere between 300 and 500.
- Ron told us about the experience they have had in the Bragg Creek area. In the past they have hired trappers (not so popular), tried using dynamite on the dams (again not so popular), but in recent times have used co-existing methods such as pond levellers, and the results are that their wetlands now include muskrat and mink and are enjoyed by the residents. Hats off to the Bragg Creek administration!
- Rhea told us about she and Anne taking their e-bikes for a ride through the west side of Fish Creek, and encountering paths covered by overflow due to a beaver dam. Kirby advised that this area is one of their next projects and that they are awaiting the go ahead from the Fish Creek administration.



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To Be Completed Next in Fish Creek PP

And Elsewhere in Calgary

Sergeant at Arms

MY WIFE JUST STOPPED AND SAID, "YOU WEREN'T EVEN LISTENING WERE YOU?"

I THOUGHT... "THAT'S PRETTY WEIRD WAY TO START A CONVERSATION."

Tip of the day: blow on **the wine in your coffee mug** to convince the rest of the zoom meeting that it is tea.



I ASKED MY GRANDPA, "AFTER 65 YEARS, YOU STILL CALL GRANDMA DARLING, BEAUTIFUL, AND HONEY. WHAT'S THE SECRET?" HE SAID, "I FORGOT HER NAME 5 YEARS AGO AND I'M SCARED TO ASK HER."



- Jim related some of our history with beaver activity at our Nature Park, and that it depended on the water flow from the storm sewer system. Changes in water levels in this area have proven to be a significant challenge for the vegetation and trees.

Rob thanked Kirby for his presentation, told him about Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio from the world, and advised that in appreciation for his presentation today, a donation would be made by our Club to support this effort.



Tammy introduced her **"Just Because"** award recipient for June and it turned out to be your Scribe, Paul G. Paul was a two time Chinook President (2010/11) and (2019/20), and has been a Club Member for 16 years. She felt that Paul was the "strong but silent" type

who could be counted on to take on a task and get it done. She noted that not only was he on the Board for 11 of his 16 years, he remained active with committee work throughout. Rob added his thanks to Paul for helping out with guidance and support during his year as President.



Sunshine Report:

- Rob told us that Rick Istead (Fish Creek member and a good friend to Chinook) has been diagnosed with a brain tumour, has had surgery and that things were proceeding reasonably well. Best wishes to Rick for a speedy recovery and return to good health.

Bev took the floor to remind everyone about an upcoming fellowship opportunity — **the Rocky Mountaineer Train Trip** — July 14th and 15th at a price of \$1,000 per person (an extra supplement of \$125 for singles). The overnight hotel in Kamloops on the first night is included as are the food and drinks. This opportunity includes 2 rail cars with capacity of 68 per car of which only 34 will be made available in order to be COVID safe. Anthony highlighted that this is a "gold leaf" trip with observation cars being used. It is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity at this price, so please give it some consideration. Bev reports that the two cars are almost fully booked but there is still room available. Give Bev a call to discuss if you are interested.



Bev then reminded us about our upcoming second **Bottle Drive** to raise funds for club projects. The bottles will be picked up at their driveway on June 30th, so she has asked that we drop them off at their home on the 28th, thereby giving them a day to sort and stack before pick up.

George VS reminded everyone that he had sent out a **committee selection request** to all members recently, and he would



appreciate it if they would take a few moments to consider the opportunities, and select one or two in which they would like to participate during the upcoming Rotary year. He has received 10 or 11 responses already and would really appreciate everyone getting involved.

George then took a moment to tell us about a recent situation whereby his mother had almost been a victim of telephone fraud (she was told she had won an award but had to send gift cards) and reminded us to remain vigilant.

Rob reported on the success of last week's "House of Friendship" virtual event which had 110 registrants (great support) including 16 from Chinook. He offered particular thanks to both Dean and Rhea who were presenters at this event. Rob reminded everyone that District Governor Mary's year-end virtual wrap-up was being held tomorrow night (16th) and encouraged us to attend.

It was then time for our **Chase the Ace** draw and it was your scribe who was our weekly winner (earning \$102). Paul chose the ten of hearts so the big pot remains available! The Jackpot is up to \$1,352! Don't forget to send in your \$20 to AI to take part in the draws for July.

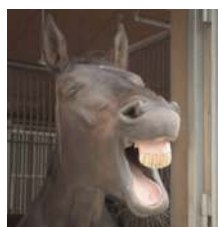


Our **next meeting** will be next Thursday evening, June 24th, and our speaker will be our own Ron May speaking about a youth exchange program he has been involved with for many years.

On the final Tuesday of the month, June 29th, we are planning a **"handover" meeting** so please mark this on your calendar and join us to thank Rob for all the work he has done on our behalf this year, and to encourage George as he begins his Rotary year as President.

Rob asked everyone to think about when they might feel comfortable with attending **"in-person-indoor" meetings** so that we can have a discussion on the subject on the 29th. Many are ready to do so once the Carriage House advises us that we can return, however feedback on members' opinions would be helpful for planning purposes.

Rob wrapped up our meeting by thanking all in attendance and wishing everyone a great Rotary Week.



My mother taught me about RECEIVING.
"You are going to get it from your father when you get home!"

My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

Rotary Fellowships Month
June 29th

Passing of the Gavel — Social Event

New Rotary Year Begins

July 6th
July 14th - 15th
July 20th
July 30th to August 2nd

Club Assembly — New President George van Schaick — The Year's Goals
Rocky Mountaineer Train Trip — contact Bev Tonkinson to see if there are any seats left
Andrew Reinhardt — RibFest / Billy's BBQ
Rotary YYC RibFest Drive Through Event @ McMahon Stadium — volunteers needed, details to come



Basic Education and Literacy Month

September 17th - 19th

Annual Peace Park "Reach Across the Border" — watch for details



You May Want to Know!

Jim Thompson, Past President 81/82, Club Historian

Going through our club history, using the many Photo Albums, I set up over the years, brings back incredible memories of the growth and fellowship enjoyed over many decades. The last column included 3 photos of events in the early 80s, as will this column ... a time when we were really stepping up our game, especially in Rotary Fellowship and Community Service. Becoming more familiar with the classification backgrounds of each new fellow member brought out ideas that created ventures that were genuinely knock your socks off GREAT!, grabbing a lot of attention in the District and other Calgary Rotary clubs.

The HIGH SCHOOL DEBATES, were the brainchild of past President and Charter Member Tom Sorenson. Members were trained to be judges of High School debate teams, using topics of pre-selected



Past President Tom Sorenson presenting High School Debate winners trophies, 1983

current events. There was a pattern of debate tactics used as a guide in judging the teams. Those hitting the most obvious successful argument points were declared the winners, and received a to-be-cherished Rotary Trophy to display in their school

awards cabinet. It took many members to serve in the programs and lasted for years. We won the District Award for Best Club Project at the 1983 District Conference.

Fellowship, away from the pleasure of regular Tuesday luncheon meetings, was often family oriented and at places that were delightful. Several members had properties that lent themselves to group gatherings, and that the member-owner was pleased to share. For example, in 1983



Rotary Chinook family Picnic hosted by member Rick Anderson at the Anderson Ranch 1983

Members Rick Anderson and Blake Anderson, cousins, invited the whole club and their families for a picnic at the Anderson Ranch near Water Valley, northwest of Cochrane. The day was perfect, members brought their own lunches and refreshments, the Ranch provided the means to recreate fun for everyone of all ages, including a stagecoach ride, horse shoe pitch etc.

The annual Members' trip to Invermere was hosted in 1982 by me at our home in Invermere, where close by was the Invermere Rotary Club sponsored ball diamond. The Invermere club challenged us to a softball game, aside from the now established ANNUAL KOOTENAY KLASSIC golf tournament. Our team showed very little talent in baseball in 1982, and we were beaten in 1983 and every year thereafter, until we could take no more and withdrew. We were a spirited group in any event, in several ways, and always enjoyed the escape to Invermere annually all through the 80s and early 90s.



Chinook Slow Pitch baseball team @ Invermere, regularly lost to the Invermere Rotary Club 1982

1982 was also the year we presented the provincial flags from the Dallas RI Convention to Invermere Rotary, for what was to become a permanent display, "FLAGS of our NATION", at the Invermere Museum ... still there with the dedication plaque acknowledging both clubs.

Calling All Scribes !!

We need YOU to volunteer to take minutes of our meetings in this new Rotary year.
The minutes help out those who don't make it to the meetings, and also help provide a historical record of our club.

Please volunteer!!

Contact Paul Gaudet to volunteer.

