

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

March 2nd, 2021

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

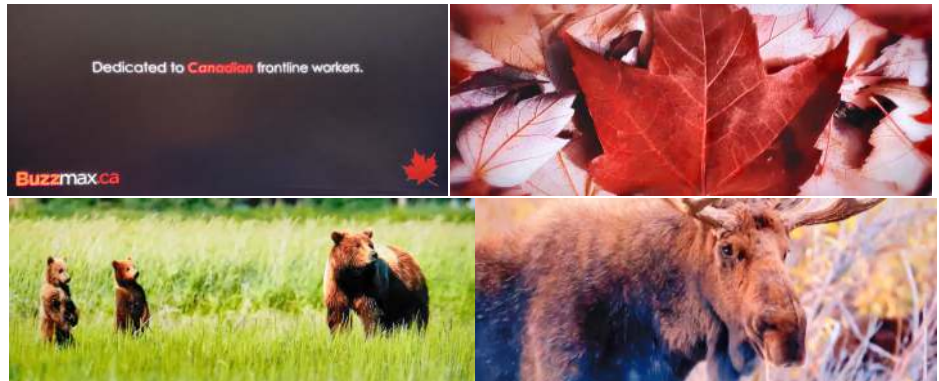
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Our "pre-meeting" chat today was dominated by an enthusiastic discussion about who has received their COVID vaccination, and those who are still waiting for their turn. Great to feel the positive vibe in the group!

President Rob opened our meeting at 12:05 by welcoming everyone and introducing a video of 'O Canada', an inspiring version featuring the beautiful nature of Canada, including photos of our native animals, wonderful landscapes and waterways, and ending with a shot of a beautiful snowy owl taking off. We had 30 participants on ZOOM today.



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 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.

Tammy announced her second "Just Because" Recognition Award. The recipient today is Stephen Pick. Tammy thanked Al Holt for having the foresight to sponsor Stephen to Chinook Rotary 20 years ago. Apparently Stephen and Anne began producing our award winning 'ARCH' even before he was inducted. Their most recent work includes 44 issues of our 'e-Arch' during COVID-19, quite an accomplishment indeed. Stephen is a former President of our Club, a multi-year participant on our Board and, together with Anne, remain tireless workers on our Club's behalf. Hearty congratulations and much appreciation to both Stephen and Anne!



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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

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Today's meeting was unique in that our feature program was to hear a **presentation by Past RI President (2017-2018) Ian Riseley**. We joined a Club in the United States (Idaho) to hear his presentation ZOOMing in from his home in Australia. His talk today introduced Rotary's new area of focus "Protecting our Environment".

Leading into Ian's presentation, the speaker talked about a number of the many environmental initiatives already taking place within Rotary, such as tree planting projects, bio-diversity and renewable energy projects. She introduced a video contest being sponsored by Rotary entitled "I Fixed the Planet" and encouraged Clubs to put together entries showing their environmental projects, both existing and new. Simply take up your phone and take a video (no more than 70 seconds in length). Details are provided at www.ifixedtheplanet.org

Rotary's New Area of Focus Ian Riseley, 2017-18 RI President



Ian Riseley joined his new Rotary Club as a charter member in 1977. He has always been interested in the environment, and during his year as RI President, his chosen theme was "Rotary Makes a Difference". As

President he initiated the program to plant a tree to represent every Rotarian, approx. 1.2 million, which actually led to many more than that being planted around the globe.

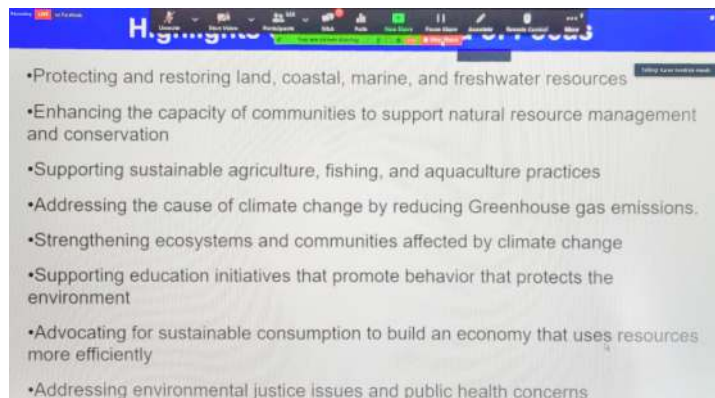
Ian started out by describing himself as a lifelong environmentalist but at the same time not a radical extremist, realizing that a balance in society is necessary. He noted that our environment is being degraded in many ways and in many places but is seldom being repaired. He spoke about the importance of performing environmental assessments for all new projects to ensure the effects are foreseeable and acceptable. He gave an example of a new dam being proposed in Australia which received many submissions from concerned citizens which, in turn, led to further studies and the ultimate cancellation of the project as major flaws were discovered. He emphasized that we must all be aware of the balance needed between saving our environment and the effect of doing so on populations, on jobs and on the economy.

He then discussed how the new Area of Focus on the Environment came to be. Rotary has always been involved in projects which

improved our environment (thus the existence of the Environmentally Sustainable Rotary Action Group) however the Board of Trustees became aware of a growing enthusiasm for environmental projects and a concern about 'Climate Change' generally which led to the creation of a Task Force to consider how to best proceed to meet this growing concern. They considered a number a approaches and decided in the end to create a seventh Area of Focus centered entirely on our Environment. Next they had to prepare details on what types of projects would be included and which would not, leading to robust discussion. This led to detailed recommendations which were unanimously approved by the Trustees and subsequently by the RI Board.

The following list of issues was presented as being representative of projects included in this new Area of Focus:

- protecting and restoring land, coastal, marine and freshwater resources
- enhancing the capacity of communities to support natural resource management and conservation
- supporting sustainable agriculture, fishing and aquaculture practices
- addressing the cause of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- strengthening ecosystems and communities affected by climate change
- supporting education initiatives that promote behaviour that protects the environment
- advocating for sustainable consumption to build an economy that uses resources more efficiently
- addressing environmental justice issues and public health concerns



Rotary wants this new Area of Focus to develop from the bottom up (from the members) desiring to rectify damage being done to the environment. The new focus will increase the number of applications for grants, which is great, and we will need to advocate financial support for this new area.

After thanking the speaker, the floor was opened to questions. Many were specific in nature regarding whether certain projects would be eligible for support, and they were referred to the report on RI's website for further details. Ian did take the opportunity to highlight that sustainability will be a key focus for this new area of focus, as it is for all the other areas.

Another question referred to whether this new area might be useful to attract new members, and Ian agreed that it should have a positive impact on both new membership and retention. He believes that it will make Rotary more interesting and more relevant to the public.

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YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW!

So how did we become known as the ROTARY CLUB of CALGARY CHINOOK?

Back in 1976, the ROTARY CLUB of CALGARY (aka Downtown) and the ROTARY CLUB of SOUTH CALGARY, created a committee to create a new club to be located further into south

Calgary. Initially the committee and candidates met at The Foresters Club facility, then located near the MacDonalds and former Ranchmans on Macleod Trail.

Candidates proposed by members of both the founding clubs and the combined committee, were carefully selected, by classification, submitted and eventually approved for membership in the new club, with a defined territory between the Stampeder Hotel to the north and Anderson Road to the south. Rotary was all male membership then, and classifications followed the ideals of RI to ensure diversity of interests at club lunch meetings. All were in management or professions, and the majority were at the Chinook Shopping Centre or very near by, hence the name.

Charter President Greg McLellan, Classification Christianity R.C., was a member of the Calgary South Club, and was recruited to

lead us in the formation process. The District Governor was Harold Allen, whose son Fred was a charter member. John Zaozirny, Classification Law, was a charter member and later became Minister of Natural Resources in the provincial government.

In those days we had ,a 'Senior Active' member, who by taking that title, allowed his classification to be available to someone else. To be Senior Active, you had to have been in Rotary for a number of years first.

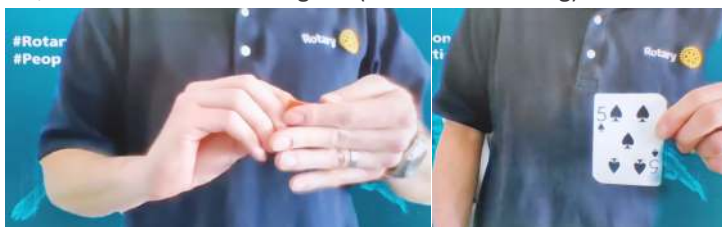
Another form of classification was 'Additional Active', the candidate filling the classification of the Senior Active member. Larry Ryder, charter member, Classification Hotels, became our host site for meetings at the Tradewinds Hotel located across Macleod Trail from Chinook Centre, where BMO and A&W are now located. The hotel was later torn down, and Tom Sorenson and I were delegated to find a new place for luncheon meetings. After looking at limited opportunities in the area, we settled on the Carriage House where we have been ever since.

We were 30 members when we were chartered, and inducted 3 more members the night of our induction ceremony. The podium, club bell, Province and Canada flags and song books were gifts from other clubs, presented at the induction ceremony. Club formation began 45 years ago, charter in RI was conducted 44 years ago on March 14th 1977. Only 4 charter members remain active today. Each served the club as President at some interval in the club's past.

ZOOM Meeting Minutes

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We left our American Rotary friends at 1pm and returned to our normal meeting ZOOM format. Our first job was to hold our **Chase the Ace draw** and it seemed appropriate that Stephen Pick was our weekly winner (earning \$78). Thankfully for the rest of us, he chose the 5 of spades which meant that our current jackpot of \$734 would continue to grow (39 cards remaining).



Jim Thompson took the opportunity to note that Chinook has a long record of environmental activity in our community, including our Nature Park and planting trees in Glenmore Park. He noted the current environmental problem created by two active volcanos spewing carbon into the atmosphere with no apparent solution available.

President Rob thanked all the members and spouses who participated in last week's **wine tasting event**. It was well attended (estimated 60) by members from several clubs and the wine was excellent. He also thanked our members who dedicated two consecutive Saturday mornings to participate in **District Leadership Training** which will help our Club get ready for the next Rotary year.

On the **Good News/Bad News** front, Anthony told us about their son Spencer's wedding (to Kourtney) last year at the Sunshine Village resort. Apparently some of their wedding photos were

submitted as part of a very large competition (some 60,000 submissions) and they were recently advised that one of their photos had made the final 48, and then the top ten! We asked Anthony to send some examples to Rob so we

could enjoy them at our next meeting. Congratulations to Anthony and Bev for their good genes, and to Spencer and Kourtney's photographer for the excellent photos. Good luck, we hope you are the winners!



Rob encouraged all our members to sign up for this year's **District Conference** (being held on ZOOM on May 1st). The cost is only \$20 and there will be many good speakers. It is a great opportunity to attend such a conference from your own living room ... don't miss the chance!

Our **Birthdays/Anniversaries** for March will be presented at our next meeting on the 16th. For these having birthdays or anniversaries in March, don't forget to send photos to Bev.

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Water and Sanitation Month

March 16th

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

DG Mary Turner — District Update

March 25th

Dixon's Evening Networking Meeting — via ZOOM @ 7pm

Speaker: Scott Orban, McKenzie Meadows Golf Club

'How COVID Has Impacted the Golf Industry'

Maternal and Child Health Month

April 6th

Veronica Lawrence, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter

April 20th

Francis Akinouye — "Youth Issues"

Events/Happenings

May 1st

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



ZOOM Meeting Minutes

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Our **Sgt at Arms** consisted of a few video cartoons which brought smiles to all.

Our **next meeting** will be on Tuesday, March 16th at noon. At this meeting Dean will present information on recent additions to our website. Our District Governor Mary Turner, a good friend of our Club, will update us on what's happening at the District.

Rob wrapped our meeting by asking members to help increase our participation for DG Mary by reaching out to those members who are not regular attenders on ZOOM, and to any others who may be interested in Rotary, and to invite them to join us on ZOOM on the 16th.

Jim reminded us that our Club Anniversary will be on the 14th.

Rob wished everyone a great Rotary week, enjoy the great weather but watch out for ice ... no falls please!

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.



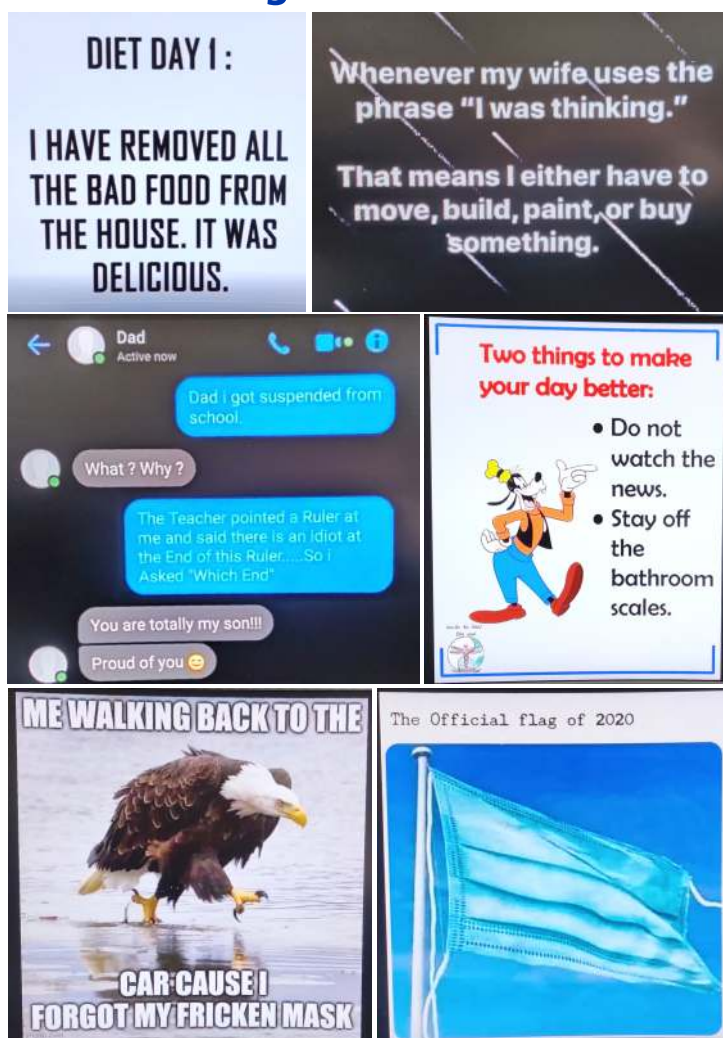
Calling All Scribes !!

Scribes needed!!

Please help!!
Contact Paul Gaudet
to volunteer.



Sergeant at Arms



The Cynical Philosopher

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

Money talks ..but all mine ever says is good-bye.