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Did You Know ?



2024-2025 Officers and Directors

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Anthony Tonkinson, Past President
Dale Perret, Secretary
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Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania USA
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Rotary Club of Calgary Fish Creek

Gems for Gems

Jordan Guildford, Founder



Our guest speaker today was Jordan Guildford who created 'Gems for Gems'.

Mission Statement

Gems for Gems is committed to ending the cycle of domestic abuse by focussing on the economic recovery and empowerment of survivors. Their scholarship program, Hope's Cradle, Ambassador Program and more, are solution focussed and provide high transformational impact to survivors of abuse.

Jordan began her presentation with a theme ... "worst things can be a spark for better times".

At the age of 14, Jordan and her sister noticed that their mother did not have certain things, so they put together \$20 each, which allowed them to buy her a bracelet. Amazing things happened as a result of this gift from her daughters, and it led their mother to view herself differently, and to give her a new outlook going forward. This change had a profound effect on Jordan.

Their family moved to Calgary when Jordan was 27. She decided to collect used jewelry in order to give small gifts to mothers generally. She had been abused as a child so she put the two ideas together to collect used jewelry, and due to the generosity of a particular business associate, she was able to put together 436 used jewelry packages which were given to women in the shelters.

Gems for Gems is committed to ending the cycle of domestic abuse by focussing on the economic recovery and empowerment of survivors. They created a 'Thrive Program' to help victims of abuse move from basic survival to thriving.

There are four pillars included in this 'Thrive Program':

- Financial literacy
- Coping skills from a psychologist
- Resilience from a speaker who has experienced abuse
- Preventative self-defense

One of the common challenges seen by supporters of abused victims is that no matter how bad it seems to get, the victims continue time after time to return to the abuser. Jordan advises that while such behaviour is on the face very difficult to understand, it is important that we continue to support the victim as much as possible through this difficult time. She advises that it takes abused women 5 to 7 attempts to leave the source of the abuse before successfully leaving.

They have established a scholarship program with a focus on trade schools in order to give the abuse victims a path forward. There are a number of training facilities and programs which have agreed to provide a free scholarship

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Rotary
Club of Calgary Chinook



120
YEARS OF ROTARY



President Rob called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance.

Indigenous Fact : The CPS Indigenous Liaison

- The Calgary Police Service is committed to building and maintaining partnerships with all communities in Calgary. The

Calgary Police Service Indigenous Liaison Officer works to improve communication and community relationships with all Indigenous peoples in Calgary. The Indigenous Liaison Officer works with several different organizations and programs to promote education and awareness towards current and long standing concerns within the community.

- The Indigenous Liaison Officer also works with numerous agencies and programs to help promote awareness and healing within the community. This collaboration serves to better educate the Calgary Police Service of current issues, as well as provide opportunities to assist the community in its own healing.

On This Day in History

March 18, 1852 In New York City, Henry Wells and William G. Fargo join with several other investors to launch their namesake business, today one of the world's largest banks.

1881 Barnum & Bailey Circus, travelling as "The Greatest Show on Earth", debuts at Madison Square Garden in New York City following the merger of two existing circus groups.

1892 Lord Stanley presents silver challenge cup for hockey (the Stanley Cup).

1942 2 black players, Jackie Robinson and Nate Moreland, request a tryout with the Chicago White Sox, they are allowed to work out.

1981 Buffalo Sabres set NHL record of 9 goals in 1 period (vs Toronto).

March 14th, 1977. our Club Charter date
Chinook Club Anniversary !!

Rob recognized our two living Charter and Life Honorary Members who are still active in the Club ... Ian Burgess and Jim Thompson.

1977 The average price of gasoline in Canada was around 59 cents per US gallon.

1977 House Prices: the report indicated that the average MLS residential house price in Calgary in 1977 was approximately \$75,270.

We had 28 **participants** at our meeting today which included our guest speaker Jordan Guildford. She was introduced by Rob and welcomed with our "Welcome to Rotary" song.

Rob **thanked** Paul for being our scribe today. He also thanked Sharon and Alex for being our Greeters today and for making everyone feel welcome. He thanked Stephen and Anne for all they do for our Club, most notably the regular production of our e-Arch. He thanked Paul Hussey for arranging our meeting set up. In addition we also wish to thank both Hank and Neil for operating our payment system.

Club Business

Bev highlighted several issues for our consideration.

- She noted that several of our members have already arranged for a 'Home Hospitality' dinner event (Peter and Sharon, Garth and Barb with John and Margaret, Bev and Anthony with Henry and Janet) to entertain a number of our visiting Rotarians to the Convention. Please consider hosting a similar event.
- Alpha House — we have received donations of men's toiletries from a number of our members, and request additional donations by month end, when Bev plans to deliver our collection to the charity.
- Clubrunner — kindly update your personal information.
- Rotary App — please consider downloading this app onto your mobile phone for your own use.
- Registration fees for our upcoming International Convention will be going up on April 1st, so sign up now.
- Bev thanked those who contributed bottles/cans to our collection last week.

Human Trafficking Educational Session

Sharon provided a brief report on a recent meeting she attended with Keith Wellon on the subject of human trafficking, hosted by the Tsuut'ina Nation Elders. It was an extremely moving discussion including information on the Indigenous culture and community. (see page 4)



Good News/Bad News

Rob donated \$20 'Good News Bucks' in honour of having the privilege of attending the recent Ceremony at which our member, Sharon Fraiman, was presented the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her life of helping others. Congratulations to Sharon! (see page 5)



Chase the Ace

Bev didn't win the pot last week, so

another ticket was drawn, resulting in it being Anthony's turn this week! He won \$64 for today's win (\$84 to our Club) but missed the pot so we will be continuing our 3 draws next month. Kindly send \$30 to Vlad to participate in our three April draws. We are down to 20 cards remaining in our deck, great odds!



Sunshine Report

Pat was at today's meeting, and reported that Ian has been quite ill recently, but is recovering and is planning to move into an assisted living facility shortly. Pat is also making a similar move with the assistance of Dawn Rennie. Keith Wellon is currently visiting family in Newfoundland. Rob has been in touch with George VS who is still recovering from a recent fall.

Guest Speaker

Our guest Speaker today was Jordan Guildford, who created "Gems for Gems".

Dates to Remember

- Next Thursday evening (March 27th) is our New Membership Reception at the Carriage House, and all members are asked to attend, and to take a new potential member as a guest. The cost will be \$33 per member, guests will be free. There will be food and an open bar.
- Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1st at noon at the Carriage House.
- We are planning a visit to Village Brewery for our evening meeting on April 24th as a joint event with Calgary East.

Rob thanked everyone for attending today, and asked all to stand and help close our meeting with a reading of Rotary's 4 Way Test.

Remember, "The Magic of Rotary". Have a great Rotary week!
Meeting adjourned at 1:34pm.



Gems for Gems

... cont'd from page 1

to abuse victims who decide to further their education in order to create an employment opportunity. Jordan advises that aesthetics training is the favourite choice to date. She advises that this program was launched in 2019, and that 100% of the scholars are now small business owners.

Hope's Cradle

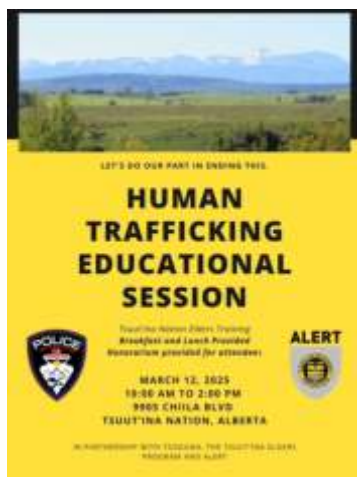
Hope's Cradle is a collaborative initiative to support mothers in need, and save infants from an unsafe abandonment. Gems for Gems is working with Fire Departments across the province and beyond, to ensure that a safe place to surrender babies is available to all in need. The reasons which lead women to this difficult choice vary, but most are in extremely desperate situations and feel there are no alternatives. They are asking for help for as many women and children as possible. This is a global epidemic which needs men and women to act now. Women who are trafficked and get pregnant result in potential abandoned babies.

Their Scholarship Program, Hope's Cradle, Ambassador Program and more, are solution focussed and provide high, transformational impact to survivors of abuse.

Jordan concluded her remarks by telling us about one of their newer initiatives, called 'Gems House', which will be a self-sustaining ecosystem for abuse victims where they can live (together with pets where necessary). This facility will provide a place where women can get prepared to move on with their lives to the next level.

Peter thanked Jordan for her excellent presentation.





It was fascinating joining a Human Trafficking Educational Session with Tsuut'ina Nation Elders. The training was well organized. We learned so much about the Indigenous culture and community. As a CMDA Western Region Director, and as a Calgary Chinook Rotary Club Director, it was my privilege and honour to participate in this PARTNERSHIP WITH TOSGUNA, and THE TSUUT'INA ELDERS PROGRAM AND ALERT. Thank you Chief Lee Crowchild for inviting me. I appreciate our friendship during the years. You are a very special leader. Thank you Keith Wellon for joining me.



Our Nature Park

by Jim Thompson

This photo was taken a few days ago off the new bridge connecting our Nature Park with the west side of the Bow River (the Chaparral Community). The activity in the river and shore of our Park is terrific! Photo taken by Joyce Garside, a frequent Park visitor.



Fairview Mentoring March 14th



Environmental Month

April 1st
April 8th
April 15th
April 24th

Michelle Eng, Pastor, FAC Refugee Sponsorship Program
Lager @ The Legion
Nelda Schulte, Maturepreneurs
Evening Meeting @ the Village Brewery Taproom, 5:30 - 7pm

Youth Service Month

May 6th
May 20th

Jay McNeil, President, Calgary Stampeders
Ray McPhee, Human Trafficking

Scholarship



Dean White and Dale Perret attended the Awards night at St. Mary's University to share dinner with our scholarship recipient from Chinook Rotary.

Congratulations Sharon !!



Did You Know ?

Jim Thompson, Charter Member, President 81/82

In our 48th year as a Rotary Club, as a Charter Member, I can reflect back all the way to the beginning, on events and happenings I most remember as the best or most interesting in our history. We do have an amazing history collection available for any member interested in reviewing it first hand, stored at Moe Tynans business. Check it out.

I recall the Charter Night party in 1977, and the meeting function gifts we received from the other area clubs. The resigning of member John Zarazony to become Energy Minister of the Alberta government. The death of Dr Dave Chevalier on holiday in Mexico and later being told by a person with him, that they believe he was murdered. The first RI convention we attended in Rome 1979, at our own expense (no funding assistance from club). Serving as President in 1981/82, a total of 5 years on the Board. Hosting exchange students. The startup of a long association with Spruce Meadows. Our annual High School Debate program, recognized as Best club program by the District. The fun. Family gatherings at Costellos ranch, the Anderson ranch at Water Valley, north of Cochrane. Our first home at the Tradewinds Hotel. Fund raising: book sales, corn sales and inventory audits at the Bay. The '96 RI Convention, golf events, The Kootenay Klassic, ski trips to Panorama and Fernie. Doing make-up meetings at clubs around the world! The development of the Nature Park, a particularly

special memory, as was visiting RI headquarters ... twice. Ron Smith, Tom Sorenson, Howard Gardner, Norm Moro, Norm Russel, Gregg McLellan and many others that passed on while active members. Tammy Truman's super Christmas parties both for members and seniors.

There is so much more that I recall on this Rotary journey. I hope other members do too, and all of us making more memories in the future with present and future members.



Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook

Chartered March 14th, 1977

Charter Night March 17th, 1977

