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Calgary Airport Authority & The Mustard Seed Laura Wong, Administrative Assistant



Rob introduced our speaker, Laura Wong from the Calgary Airport Authority. Laura has supported the Calgary Airport Authority (CAA) in giving back to the community, as its Administrative Assistant, Infrastructure for the last 6 years. With a degree in General Studies and Development Art, she is passionate about giving back and developing meaningful connections with The Mustard Seed and contractors.

At the CAA, Laura is responsible for organizing team building events and celebrations, and coordinating volunteers for The Mustard Seed. In this role, she has been instrumental in documenting and streamlining the process for volunteers to ensure they are able to build on their connections with their teams, and give back to their communities by serving a hearty meal.

Outside of work, Laura enjoys photography, baking, and learning to play the steel tongue drum.

Laura's presentation was pertaining to the CAA's support of The Mustard Seed, of which for over 2 decades, they have been a proud partner. On one day each month, CAA staff prepare and serve up to 375 meals at the Foothills location. For the approximate cost of \$2.47, they provide guests with a hearty plate of veggie, beef and macaroni casserole, salad and a bun, which has become their signature dish. In 2024, 70 members of CAA spent 360 volunteer hours, and served over 4,300 meals.

Following the brief presentation, there were a number of questions regarding the airport operation.

- Annual passenger traffic in 2018 was 19 million. Following the pandemic reduction, it was 18.6 in 2023.
 - There are approximately 500 'White Hatters', who volunteer in hospitality to answer questions in both pre and post security. (See info and link on page 3.)
- Hank thanked Laura for her presentation and presented her with a polio certificate.



2023-2024 Officers and Directors

Rob Wolfson, President
Wayne Wiebe, President Elect
Anthony Tonkinson, Past President
Dale Perret, Secretary
Vlad Sasarman, Treasurer

Pam Montgomery, International Service
Dean White, Youth Service
Brennen Pell, Community Service
Neil Beatty, Club Service
Keith Wellon, Club Operations
Peter Bickham, Club Financial
Sharon Fraiman, Membership
John Charrett, Rotary Foundation

RI President Stephanie Urchick
Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania USA
District 5360 Governor Christina Hassan
Rotary Club of Calgary Fish Creek



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President Rob opened the meeting with **Indigenous Facts:**

- with 220,700 Albertans self-identifying as Aboriginal, Alberta is home to the third largest population in Canada
- the median age of Alberta's Aboriginal population is 25 years
- Edmonton is home to 61,785 Aboriginal people, and Calgary has 33,375
- there are 48 First Nations and 140 reserves in Alberta, covering 3 treaty areas: Treaty 6 (central), Treaty 7 (south), and Treaty 8 (north)

On This Day in History

- 1793
- Louis XVI of France is executed by guillotine in Paris, following his conviction for high treason during the French revolution
 - British crime writer, Agatha Christie, publishes her first novel, "The Mysterious Affair at Styles"
- 2002
- The Canadian dollar sets an all time low against the US dollar

Attendance

27 including 3 guests who were introduced by John C, our Greeter. Sonny Abed from Cardston Rotary, Laura Wong, Calgary Airport Authority, and Mackenzie Murphy CAA (late arrival)



Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

Chase the Ace

Garth P won \$63, the club gained \$84, the pot of \$1,707 is there for winning if Garth draws the Ace of Spades.



Announcements



- Dean W is asking for volunteers to mentor youths at his school on Friday afternoons
- Bev presented 2 club banners from Brazil, obtained in November, when she and Anthony visited on a Rotary



Friendship Exchange

- Rob advised that the Millarville Market is seeking assistance at their casino on March 4/5
- Rob announced that The Carriage House has increased lunch prices. Our cost will be \$33, effective March 1st.
- Thanks to Bev for being our Convention Club Champion

Guest Speaker

Rob introduced our speaker, Laura Wong from the Calgary Airport Authority.

After Laura's presentation, Rob closed the meeting, leading the members with the 4 Way Test.

The next meeting is February 4th. We have an informal get-together — "Lager at the Legion" — scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th.

Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month

February 4th

Sharon Fraiman — Membership Update

Dean White — Youth Services Update

February 11th

Lager at the Legion

February 18th

Shaundra Bruvall, Director of Communications, AlphaHouse Society

February 27th

No Evening Meeting, due to the Curling Bonspiel

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

March 18th

Jordan Guildford — Gems for Gems

March 27th

Membership Mingler at Carriage House Inn @ 5:30pm



The White Hat Volunteer Program @ YYC Airport



Who are the White Hat Volunteers?

In 1991, the first team of our now-legendary White Hat Volunteers arrived at YYC Calgary International Airport, sporting brilliant white cowboy hats and red vests. Their mission was simple ... to be the face of Calgary, and show our warm western hospitality to anyone passing through our airport. More than 30 years later, the program continues – growing to include 31 languages, several hundred volunteers, and tens of thousands of volunteer hours each year.

The team is made up of regular folks from around our community, each believing in the power of a warm welcome and genuine compassion. At this time, we are currently not accepting

any new applications while we refresh and update our recruitment process. Please check back at a later date to see what volunteering opportunities may be available at YYC!

Get a great experience at YYC

Whether you're in a group or on your own, we're committed to making your YYC experience the best it can be. That experience starts with our White Hat Volunteers, who are easy to find and ready to lend a hand, answer questions and welcome you to our city.

Note: volunteers cannot assist with luggage, wheelchair mobility, security or customs, due to Transport Canada regulations.

www.yyc.com/en-us/get-involved/white-hat-volunteers

Evening Meeting @ The Pointe



Bottle Drive Fundraiser

Bring us your empties!!

Members and Friends, drop off your bottles/cans in Tonkinsons' driveway **on or before Tuesday March 11th !**

The address is **12119 Lake Louise Way SE**, in the community of Lake Bonavista. (phone # 403 271 4026)

Please put your bottles in plastic bags ... the bigger the better! Consider reaching out to family, friends and neighbours to increase your collection! If you have bottles but not the means to deliver them, please contact Paul G and we will try to arrange pick up. Any members who can help pick up bottles for delivery to Tonkinsons' driveway, please advise Paul.

Special thanks to Bev and Anthony for once again hosting the pick up site at their home.

