



The History of Christmas

Bart Dailley

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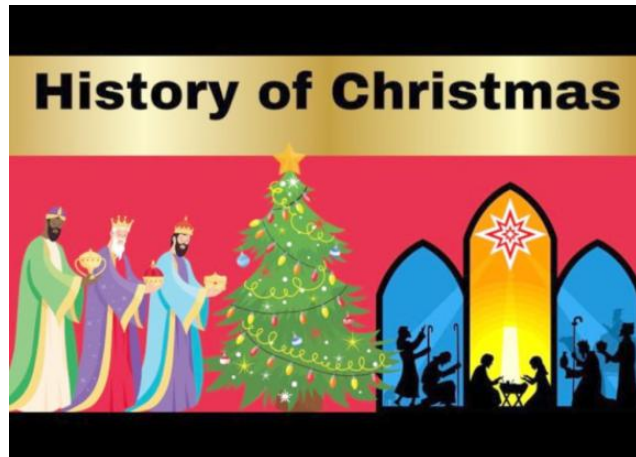
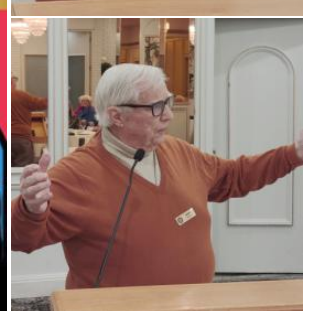
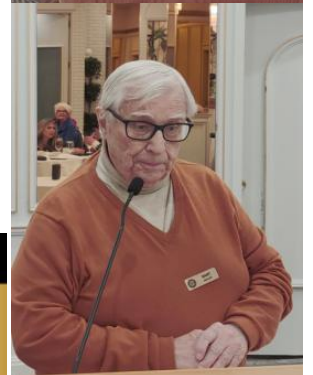
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Our guest speaker today was Bart Dailley, who was introduced by President Rob. Bart presented his entertaining “History of Christmas”, including numerous lively interpretations and anecdotes. He also related the story of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights.

Bart’s use of humor, mixed with factual historic names and dates, blends together into an entertaining presentation. When he includes stories involving Jesus, his real emotion and faith becomes evident, and is shared with the listeners. The resulting effect is both moving and enjoyable.

So I’ll simply report that our members and guests truly enjoyed Bart’s presentation, and we’ll all await with fond memories the next opportunity to hear it again.

Rob thanked Bart for his excellent presentation on this wonderful subject. He advised Bart that our Rotary Club would be making a donation to the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation in appreciation.



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 called our meeting to order at 12:18, welcoming all in attendance.

Indigenous Fact

Sweat Lodge: The sweat lodge is a ceremony for purification, healing and praying. It takes place in a dome shaped hut with hot steam inside. The hut is a sacred place, likened to the womb of Mother Earth. The water and steam are meant to purify the participants. At the end of the ceremony, each person emerges “reborn” so to speak. The ritual is facilitated by an elder or a healer. The elder leads the sacred rituals. Ancient songs and drum beats may also be performed. The steam in a sweat lodge is created by pouring water onto heated rocks in a pit at the center of the hut.

On This Day In History

- 1903 the Wright Brothers make the first sustained motorized aircraft flight at 10:35am, piloted by Orville Wright at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina
- 1941 German troops led by Rommel begin retreating in North Africa
- 1957 the last episode of the Nat King Cole show airs on NBC,

- 1964 cancelled due to lack of national sponsorship “Goldfinger”, the third James Bond film, starring Sean Connery, premieres in London
- 1989 “The Simpsons” premieres on Fox TV as a fully animated series

Guests



We had 37 participants at our meeting today which included 6 guests: Lois Beatty, Lyla Stevens, Bev Pettigrew, Nancy Soutar, Barbara Dailley, and Copelan Manzer (representing Inclusion Alberta). We also note that Bruce and Pat Williams, two of our Honorary Members, were in attendance. Our guests were introduced by Bruce Bohnet and welcomed with our “Welcome to Rotary” verse.



Photos courtesy George Van Schaick and Sharon Fraiman

Rob **thanked** Paul for being our scribe today. He also thanked Bruce and Ted for being our Greeters 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. In addition we also wish to thank both Hank and Neil for operating our payment system.



Copeland Manzer introduced herself to our Club as the new contact under the **Rotary Employment Partnership with Inclusion Alberta**. The Partnership has been busy with nearly 70 new jobs being filled province wide (two Rotary Districts) this year. This brings the total number of jobs filled since the inception of the partnership to 869.

Rob welcomed Bruce and Pat Williams (both of whom are Honorary Members of Chinook Rotary) and congratulated them on becoming the largest Rotary donors in Canada by donating \$1million USD. We are honored that they are supporters of Rotary as well as Honorary Members of Chinook.

Chase the Ace

Bart selected our winning ticket which turned out to be held by Bruce Bohnet. Unfortunately for Bruce, but good for the rest of us, he chose the Ace of Hearts which means that he didn't win the pot today. The winnings to Bruce is \$51, \$68 goes to the Club, and our overall pot is now \$1,581.



AGM

Rob opened our Annual General Meeting by offering a special thanks to all of our Club members who volunteered their time during the year, and to our Club leaders who provided guidance and direction.

President Rob's Update

The first item covered was regarding nominations for our 2025/2026 Board, specifically for the President Elect and three new Director positions. Rob noted that we have not received any nominations to date, so further efforts will be necessary by the Board to fill these positions.

The next area of discussion was an interim report provided by Rob and our directors, outlining the projects which we have been involved with during the first six months of the current Rotary year.

Rob noted that our Chase the Ace fundraising project continues to provide a reasonable level of funds, and has raised \$1,208 year to date. He then noted our offsite luncheon meeting at The Inn at Officers' Garden which was arranged by Keith Mellon, as well as the Stampede luncheon (with entertainment) which was provided

by Brennan Pell at his business site in Southeast Calgary. Rob also highlighted that our evening Pub Meetings will continue in January, and that our joint meeting (with Calgary East) at the Village Brewery will be in February.

Treasurer's Review



Our Treasurer Vlad noted that our latest year end financial statements (June 30th, 2024) were presented to our membership in October, and he highlighted several key numbers such as our bank balances at year end of \$50,000 in our Club account, and \$32,000 in our Casino account. He also noted that our latest Casino (in August) earned \$84,000 which will be budgeted over a two year period (as Casinos are available every second year).

Club Financial

Peter (Director of Club Financial) began by advising us that his directorship was specifically concerned with encouraging donations to the Rotary Foundation, as well as to the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation, and to the area of fundraising projects, including the search for new projects and the further development of existing ones.



He thanked John Charrett for leading our efforts with TRF, and confirmed that our Club has been encouraging contributions for all segments of the Rotary Foundation, the Rotary Permanent Fund, the Annual Fund and the Polio Plus Fund. Our contributions to date this year currently exceed \$8,000 and we believe it is likely that we will exceed our target budget for the year.

Our Club's Calgary Rotary Club Foundation activity is led by Rob and contributions to date are approximately \$2,500 (our budget is \$3,000). Peter highlighted that the CRCF foundation continues to grow based on member contributions, and that the revenue generated by the principal balance is distributed each year to the specific Clubs which have invested in the Foundation. This distribution to our Club is now approaching \$13,000 per year and is directed to our Society.

As noted by Vlad, our recent Casino was very successful raising over \$84,000. Peter thanked Bruce and Joe for leading our Casino activity.

Our Fund Raising Committee is led by Garth and Bev, and they have organized a number of successful projects this year. We supported Ribfest in September on a 'volunteer only' basis and earned more than \$8,000. Our Ranchman's evening of country music (Jeff Cato Band) raised \$5,700 and we hope to repeat this next summer. We helped out at the Millarville Christmas Market and made \$367, and we believe there is good potential to improve this amount in the future.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Calgary, we helped out with their annual book sale and raised \$10,000 for our efforts (in May, just prior to the beginning of our current year).

Vocational Service Month

January 7th Alisha Reynolds, President and CEO, Tourism Calgary
 January 21st Mackenzie Murphy, Corporate Communications Coordinator, Calgary Airport Authority
 January 30th Evening Meeting at The Point @ 5:30pm

Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month

February 4th Directors' Updates
 February 18th Shaundra Bruvall, Director of Communications, AlphaHouse Society
 February 27th Evening Meeting at Village Brewery @ 5:30pm with Calgary East Club

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

March 18th Jordan Guildford — Gems for Gems
 March 27th Membership Mingler at Carriage House Inn @ 5:30pm



Meeting Minutes

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Community Service

Neil is our Community Service Director and Rob highlighted their activity with "Meals on Wheels", thanks to the organizing by Monty and his team. In addition, we continue to work with the Mustard Seed, funding and volunteering to feed the homeless.

Youth Service

As Dean White was unavailable to attend today's meeting, Rob detailed the information on youth services for which Dean is the director. Youth Services is an active portfolio, including sending two students to RYPEN at a cost of \$600 each, two students to RYLA also at \$600 each, and two students to attend RAYEC at \$1,100 each. We also budget \$2000 each to support our ROTARACT and INTERACT Clubs. Our mentoring activity supporting Fairview School students continues to have a major effect and carries a budget of \$4,500. We also award bursaries totaling \$9,700 to graduating students from local high schools and provide \$700 in support to a nearby Scout Troop.

International Service

Pam Montgomery leads this Directorship and Graham Boone is the Chair. Rob thanked Graham for his successful and lengthy term chairing this important area of service, and noted that Neil Beatty has agreed to step into Graham's role going forward.



Graham outlined seven of our recent international projects: the first providing 3,800 girls in the Dominican Republic with hygiene kits. The remaining projects have a similar structure with our Club supporting projects led by other Clubs, by way of a \$2,000 donation and applying for a \$5,000 District Grant to help fund each project. As Graham highlighted, "this structure results in \$10,000 turning into \$55,000". These projects include two specific projects in Guatemala, one to enhance education and the second to provide freshwater to residential communities. The third project is an education project in Cambodia, the fourth was developed to help walking by providing braces in Columbia. The fifth is a sanitation project in Ghana, and the sixth providing furniture for schools in Mexico.

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Local Donations, Club Operations, Membership & Speakers

Rob thanked Brennen for leading our local donations activity, and noted that we have budgeted \$10,000 for this community support.

He thanked Keith for leading our Club Operations, ensuring that our meetings are well organized.

Rob thanked Sharon for leading our search for new members, as well as seeing that our existing members stay actively committed. We have added two new members year to date, and are encouraging a prospective member who we hope to welcome early in the new year. We are also organizing a new membership mingler in March of 2025.

Rob thanked Michael who is responsible for finding interesting and informative speakers for each of our meetings. This is a very important role and Michael continues to do it well.

Rotary Remembers

Rob thanked Jim Hennessy for his efforts in organizing "Rotary Remembers", held at the Carriage House on November 11th. It was a sell out again this year with two excellent speakers.

Sunshine Report



Anthony noted that he has been in touch with Terry Green recently and that Terry is recovering from his recent heart attack. In addition, Rob advised that he had heard from Jim Thompson, who is recovering from December 13th surgery for a detached retina in his left eye.

We wish a speedy recovery to both of our friends.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker today was Bart Dailley who was introduced by President Rob.

Dates to Remember

Due to the holiday season, our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7th at the Carriage House, at which our guest speaker will be Alyshia Reynolds from Tourism Calgary.

The following regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 21st at the Carriage House, and our guest speaker will be Mackenzie Murphy from the Calgary Airport Authority.

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

Have a great Rotary week!