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The Olympics ... Paris just 24 days away!

Bart Dailley



The Games were not always the commercial, political billion dollar extravaganzas that they are today. Some evidence suggests the Games were held as early as 1,000 BC. Some bronze tripods dating back to that era have been unearthed thought to be winners' prizes.

The popular conception is that the Games began in 775 BC, held at the foot of Mount Olympus. Contestants came from as far west as Spain, and as far east as Turkey. The first Games were much ado about nothing ... athletes travelling and coming together to run a 600 metre foot race and then go home. A scribe even recorded the winner of the race in 776 BC. It was Koroibos, a cook from Elis just a stone's throw from Mount Olympus. That's the way it was for 52 years or the first 13 Olympiads ... one race of approximately 600 yards.

The Games were held every 4 years, and they eventually added events like various distance races, jumping events and strength events. The Games continued until 393 AD, but by then Rome over-shadowed Greece, and Emperor Theodosius banned the Games, dismissing them as paganism, and a threat to Christianity.

Then the Games went dormant for about 1500 years.

They tried to revive the Games in Sweden in the 1830s but it never got any traction. In 1862 and 1867, the folks in Liverpool staged some Games but again, nothing happened.

A Greek philanthropist, Evenagelos Zappas, singlehandedly financed some Games in Athens in 1870 and 1875, and the spark flickered.

In 1894, Baron de Coubertain, a French sportsman, advanced an idea to start the Olympics anew in 1900. He formed the International Olympic Committee. His goal was to hold the first Games of the new Olympics in Paris in 1900, but his Committee members were bung ho. They opted to start in 1896 in Athens. And they did ... with 14 nations, 43 events and 241 athletes, although 164 of them were tourists who were asked if they wanted to compete.

The second modern Olympics were held in Paris in 1900 in conjunction with the World Expo. Everyone flocked to Paris for Expo 1900. Hardly a soul even knew the Olympic Games were occurring. Athletes participated

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July 2nd, 2024

Attendance

34, including one guest

Greeters

Tammy and Keith

Pres Anthony opened the meeting and soon became Past President, when **handing over** to President Rob.

Bev announced **Birthdays and Anniversaries** as follows:

Birthdays:

Members - Bart, Jim T, Bob M, Bev

Spouses - Bernice B, Jeanette H

Anniversaries - Jack & Patsy Steen - 56 yrs, Bart & Barbara D - 53 yrs, Bruce & Bernice B - 52 yrs, Paul & Beti Gaudet - 50 yrs, Ron & Lise M - 28 yrs, Rob & Ang W - 24 yrs

Chase the Ace

Michael S won the week's \$78, and at the previous meeting, Al H. won the \$75. The Ace rides for another meeting!

Meeting Minutes

Scribe: **Bob Montgomery**

August 26/27. All shifts must be filled in order for Chinook to operate a casino.

George announced that the club will be attending the Okotoks **Dawgs baseball game** on Tuesday evening, July 30th.

Paul G. advised of a **Bottles/Cans Pick-up** at Tonkinsons' on July 17th. Bring your empties any time before that.

President Rob gave an update on **CRCF contributions**. For the year ending June 20, 2024, totals were \$12,175. The interest for the next 12 months will be \$12949.

President Rob introduced the **Board for the new Rotary year**, beginning July 1st, 2024. They appear in the Arch on page 1.

Speaker

Bart gave an entertaining presentation on the history of the Olympics, which begin in Paris on July 26th.

Following Bart's remarks, Rob led us through the Rotary and closed the meeting.

Stampede Sneak-A-Peek & Grandstand Show



Photos courtesy George Van Schaick



without knowing they were in the Olympics! Margaret Abbott of the United States won the gold medal in golf, but died 55 years later, never knowing that she was an Olympic champion.

But the Olympics were off and running. They were to be held every four years. Wars prevented the Games of 1916, 1940 and 1944. Terrorists upset the 1972 Games in Munich, and the International Olympic Committee, to their everlasting shame, continued with the Games after 2 Israeli athletes were slain and 9 others held hostage. The hostages would also die in a futile rescue attempt. Avery Brundage and the IOC said "Let the Games continue". Shame. Shame.

Many nations boycotted the 1980 Games in Moscow due to Russia's presence in Afghanistan. That probably cost Canada's Diane Jones Konhowski a gold medal as she was head and shoulders the best at the Pentathlon at that time.

The Russians and Soviet Bloc nations boycotted the Los Angeles Games in 1984 as payback for 1960, and the 2020 Games were delayed a year because of COVID.

There have been problems. The Summer Games in 2008 were in Beijing, and many objected to allowing Red China to host the Games ... but they did, and the Winter Games in 2022 as well. Beijing alone is the only venue to host both the summer and winter Games. The 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro were plagued with high temperatures and polluted water.

The Olympic Oath was initiated in 1920 at Antwerp. Now it is recited at the official opening by 2 athletes, 2 judges and 2 coaches.

"In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the true spirit of sportsmanship for the glory of sport, and the honour of our teams."

The Olympic Flame in the high cauldron was introduced in Amsterdam in 1928. The Torch Relay (was anyone here part of the 1988 Torch Relay?) was started in 1936 at the Games in Berlin.

The Olympic Motto - *Citius. Altius. Fortius.* Swifter. Higher. Stronger.

Our athletes have been no slouches at the Olympics. Right from the get go, Canadian athletes have been there.

- 1900 Paris, George Orton was the first Olympic gold medalist for Canada, winning the 2500 metre steeplechase.
- 1904 in St. Louis, we won gold in individual golf, the 56lb weight throw, and team gold in soccer and lacrosse.
 - 1908 in London, we won gold in lacrosse again.
- Our great track athletes won 4 golds in Amsterdam in 1928. Perhaps you've heard of Percy Williams of Hamilton, and Bobbie Rosefeld of Toronto.
- Golds in boxing and the high jump in 1932 in Los Angeles.
- At Hitler's Olympics in 1936 in Berlin, Frank Amyot won gold in the 1000 metre canoe event.
- One gold in 1952 in Helsinki, and 2 more in 1956 in Melbourne.
- Now we're getting into the age of television at the Olympics. In Tokyo in 1964, Roger Jackson and Earl Hungerford won in pairs rowing.

- Do you remember watching on TV, the last event on the last day of the Mexico City Olympics in 1968 when Canada's Jim Day, Tom Gayford, and Jim Elder won the equestrian team jumping?
- The Montreal Olympics of 1976 ... alas Canada did not win any gold, but Greg Joy won a silver in the high jump.
- Canada was one of many nations to boycott the 1980 Games in Moscow because of the Russian involvement in Afghanistan. That boycott probably cost Diane Konihowski a gold medal. She was the best pentathlete in the whole world of women athletics, winning scores of first place finishes in the years preceding the 1980 Games. I met her at the 1976 Montreal Games, and if you have been in this club for awhile, you'll remember her addressing this August group on two different occasions in the 90s and early in this century.
- We won 10 gold medals at the Los Angeles Games in 1984.
- Three golds in Seoul in 1988 ... Lennox Lewis, Carolyn Waldo and Michele Cameron.
- In 1992 in Barcelona, Mark Tewksbury and Sylvie Frechette won gold in the pool. And then 4 team golds in rowing, and another for Mark McCoy in the 100 metre hurdles.
- Then came Atlanta in 1996, and Donovan Bailey won gold in the 100 metres, and then anchored the 4 by 100 team to win another gold to go with one by Marnie MacBean and Kathleen Heddie in rowing.
- We won 3 more in Sydney in 2000, and 3 more in Athens in 2004.
- 2 golds in Beijing in 2008, 2 in London in 2012, and 4 golds for Canada in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.
- The most recent Games, in Tokyo in 2021, saw Canada bring home 7 golds, and the Canadian women scored 5 of them, including team gold in soccer led by the great Christine Sinclair.

The most interesting and fascinating Olympic event for me is the marathon. I have always admired marathoners. There have been 40 gold medals handed out in the marathon, and three individuals have actually won it twice. They were runners from Ethiopia, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), and Kenya.

The marathon is an endurance race of 26 miles, 385 yards, and it is the central point in one of the craziest sports stories of all time. The marathon is so named because of Marathon in Greece. In 530BC, the Persians were besieging Athens and they had a showdown at Marathon against an understaffed and poorly equipped Athenian army. This was a David and Goliath match-up and once again, as so often happens in sports and in life, the underdog triumphed. Someway, somehow the outmanned rag tag Athenians routed the Persians. The Athenians had hoped to hold the fort until reinforcements arrived from Athens, but victory was achieved that day at Marathon. A high ranking Greek officer turned to a messenger named Phidippides and said "Hey Dipp, get your ass down to Athens and tell them we don't need any help". So Phidippides headed out over hill and dale, bound for Athens 26 miles away. He reached Athens and burst into the Areopagus and yelled "Nikomen" .. 'we won'. Out of that came the marathon race of 26 miles ... the distance from Marathon to Athens.



Maternal and Child Health Month

July 16th TBA
 July 12th Club Social — Stampede lunch meeting @ Norse Landscaping
 Thank you Brennen !! (see poster below for details)
 July 30th Dawgs Baseball Game, Fortis Patio, Seaman Stadium, Okotoks

Membership and New Club Development Month

August 13th Annual Nature Park meeting
 August 20th Rob Wolfson — Rotary International Convention presentation
 Joe Hooper — Rotary Curling 2024/25
 August 26th - 27th Casino fundraiser @ 'Pure Casino', 1420 Meridian Rd NE
 — contact Bruce Bohnet to sign up

Rotary Foundation Month

November Friendship Exchange to Brazil



Canada Day @ Millarville Races

by Keith Wellon

Chinookers volunteering at the 119th running of the Millarville Canada Day races ... Neil Beatty & his son Jeff, and Keith Wellon. Brennen Pell & his wife were also attending. Not in the group picture was Mo, who was there for her annual customer hosting tents.



Dawgs Baseball Fun!! — Tuesday July 30th

Remember the Dawgs baseball game, on the Fortis Patio on the third base line. We still need a few more attendees to get to our minimum of 20 before we can book the Patio location, as we need to pay a \$900 non refundable booking fee (20 x \$45 pp) at the time of booking. We can host up to 40 once we reach the minimum. The cost per person is \$45 which includes the entry, use of the Patio, and a food item, soft drink and bag of chips. The choices for the food item are a hot dog, hamburger, beef brisket sandwich, or a steak (note the steak will cost an additional \$10). They deliver our food to our Patio shortly after the game starts. Email Paul (gaudetco@shaw.ca) confirming your decision to attend, and selecting your meal choice. The email will commit you to pay the \$45 pp. E-transfer the funds to Paul, or hand them to him at one of our upcoming meetings. *George Kimura and Paul Gaudet*



Chinook Rotary Annual Dues ... \$300 due now ! IT'S TIME!

If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so!
 You can easily pay by e-transfer to info@chinookrotary.org

Pay \$300 now ... or wait til September and pay \$350!

