



Royal Canadian Legion Branch #285

Kent Griffiths, President

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Rob introduced our guest speaker, Kent Griffiths, President of Legion 285, which is located on Horton Road. Kent has been President of this Legion Branch for over a year. He joined the military in 1976 when he was 18, the Highlanders in Winnipeg. The major reason he joined the military was to be among amazing people. He was a Peace Keeper in Egypt, and subsequently decided to leave full time military service (however stayed long term in the Reserves), and commenced a career in the custom service.



Major Griffiths retired from the Army Reserves with over 43 years of service, having been appointed as the RSM of The Calgary Highlanders, The Algonquin Regiment, and 41 CBG. He was also the Army Reserve Sergeant Major, and the CWO of all Canadian Reserves and Cadets. He has received the CF Ombudsman Award for Ethics, the Head of The Public Service Award, the CBSA President's Award, LFWA Commander's Commendation, and was invested in the Order of Military Merit. Kent was instrumental in support of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, and he actively supports a number of charities and non-profit organizations, and participates as an executive member of two or three associations at a time, as well as two Regimental Senates and multiple committees.

Kent described the Legion as a service group focused on ex-military and their families, and also their community. It is the largest veteran support organization. After the First World War, returning vets were under a great deal of stress and were told to keep a "stiff upper lip". This resulted in them basically self-medicating with alcohol, and spending time with fellow veterans, which allowed them to discuss how they felt and the experiences they had. The Legion was established to provide an opportunity for veterans to share their experiences and to find the support they needed to build a new life back home in Canada. The Legion is a not-for-profit, not a charity. They rent out their facility and do fundraisers, including the sale of food and beverages in their premises. They also are permitted to host casinos and earn funds in this manner.

The Legion also offers many social activities for its members, and provides volunteers for not only their own projects and operations, but also to assist others. The Legion adopted the puppy as a symbol in 1921. It also produces the Legion magazine which is a first class publication. They offer the assistance of "service officers" who provide programs to help veterans, and encourage them to participate in these programs. The Centennial Legion on Horton Road puts on a "Hoods on Horton Car Show" each year. They present approximately 350 cars to the public, and the funds raised through this event are donated to support the Veterans' Association Food Bank.

Kent talked about how Rotary and the Legion can help each other and work together to improve our communities. As the Legion is not a charity, fundraising remains an important activity for their members. The gaming funds which they earn at their Casino go to other organizations which need support. The Legion appreciates all donations, and would be pleased to provide volunteers for our own Rotary casino if needed in the future.

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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
Hank Popoff, 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 12:15, welcoming all in attendance.

Indigenous Fact

Tsuut'ina means "many people" or "beaver people". The Tsuut'ina are Dene speakers. Although the Tsuut'ina language has been declared extinct, many efforts remain to revive it by the

few fluent speakers still alive. Thanks to the time and tireless dedication to the large task of recording the language into a dictionary, written in the Tsuut'ina orthography, the language can now live on.

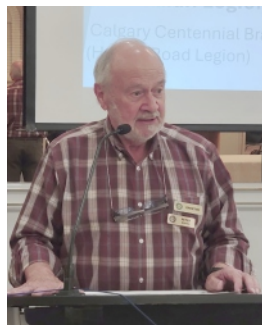
Interesting Facts

Rob noted several events which took place on the same date as today, October 15th:

- 1973 Country star Dolly Parton released her hit song Jolene
- 1989 Los Angeles King Wayne Gretzky breaks Gordie Howe's points record (1,850) in the final period of a game against the Edmonton Oilers
- 1990 Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev wins the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in ending Cold War tensions

We had 31 participants at our meeting today, which included 8

Guests: District Governor Christina Hassan, Guest Speaker Kent Griffiths, Josette Fraiman, Haim Fraiman, Kim Levenson, Bob



Levenson, (guests of Sharon Fraiman), Lois Beatty and Margaret Johnson. Our guests were introduced by Peter Bickham and welcomed with our "Welcome to Rotary" verse.



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

Club Business

Volunteer Opportunities

Rob reported that we have been asked by Calgary East to assist them with their upcoming Casino being held on October 27th and 28th.

He also advised that he has been contacted by the managers of the Millarville Christmas Market (which is coming up November 7th-10th and 14th-17th), and they have asked us for volunteer assistance in various roles. They will pay us \$15 per hour per person. They can be contacted through this link

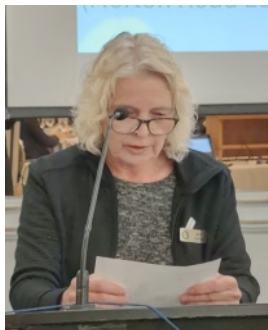
www.volunteersignup.org/XBXFC

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bev announced our Birthdays for October. We have seven member birthdays during the month with Paul Hussey and Keith Wellon starting us off on October 1st, Peter Bickham on the 2nd, Michael Spears on the 8th, Hank Popoff on the 18th, John Charrett

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

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Barb Plunkett (52nd) on October 7th.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

on the 23rd, and Fred Jesse on the 24th.

Our Spousal Birthdays during October are Grace Wada on the 25th, and Glenda Wellon on the 30th.

Our Anniversaries for the month are Hank and Janet Popoff (58th) on October 8th, and Garth and



collect our donation so we will be ready for our next bottle drop off date early in the new year. These bags are available from Bev.



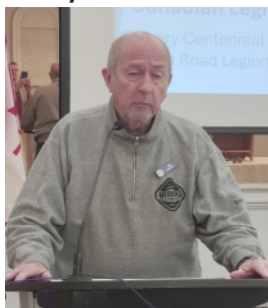
Calgary Book Sale Results

Garth Plunkett provided us with an update regarding the Calgary Big Book Sale which was held in May. Our members (24 participated) were asked by the Rotary Club Of Calgary to provide volunteers to act as parkers for this event. It gathers donated books from the community and resells them to the public with the proceeds used to improve children's literacy in Alberta.

Our club received \$10,000 for our parking services. We are asked to donate these funds to a local charity that is working with families and educators to support language and literacy development in children from birth to a date.

Rotary Minutes

Rotary Remembers



Jim Hennessey reminded us that 'Rotary Remembers' is coming soon, and recommended attendance for this educational and entertaining event. This year there will be three speakers who will present unique perspectives.

Polio Plus

John Charrett provided a report regarding Rotary's progress with the eradication of polio from our world. As World Polio Day is on October 24th, we would like to highlight our progress in this regard, and to request our members to consider donating to Polio Plus so we can continue our progress in this challenging effort.

The number of people suffering polio had gone down from approximately

350,000 to 10. The hold-outs being in the countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, we are starting to see new cases in the Middle East, specifically in Gaza. We note that the war being fought in this area was paused so that children could be immunized from polio. Marlene Doherty, District Polio Chair, initiated the Polio Plus Society whereby individuals agreed to donate \$100 per year until the disease is eradicated. Hank, Anthony and Bev are members of this group, and 12 members of our club are sustaining members. While elimination of this disease is proving to be extremely difficult to accomplish, all of our investment in immunization around the world continues to make a significant difference.



Bottle Recycling

Paul reminded us about our scheduled bottle and can drop off which has a deadline of today at the Tonkinson residence located in Lake Bonavista. He showed us a large bag which has been provided by our bottle and can contractor to be used by each of us to



Chinook Rotary Society AGM

Joe Hooper, Chairman of our Society for 2024, chaired our Society AGM and began by thanking Peter Bickham, who has been the past Chairman for a number of years. Joe then moved adoption of the Society's June 30th, 2024 financial statements (seconded by Neil Beatty and Peter Bickham). Motion carried.



He then introduced Vlad Sasarman, our Club Treasurer, who briefly reviewed the June 30, 2024 financial statements. Joe then proceeded to thank the current board comprised of Tammy Truman, Secretary, Vlad Sasarman, Treasurer, John Charrett, Dean White and Bev Tonkinson.

Past Presidents' Meeting

Past President Anthony advised that we have scheduled a Past Presidents'

luncheon meeting at the No. 285 Legion on Horton Road on Tuesday, October 29th at noon. While any subjects may be discussed, the primary item will be the need to find a President Elect and three Directors for the Rotary year 2025/26.

New Member Inductions

Bob Montgomery performed the inductions of Kim Levenson and Haim Fraiman, our two newest members.

It is an exciting day when we are able to welcome two new members, and we congratulate and thank them for joining



We received this note of thanks from the RAYEC Youth Program run by the District. Chinook Rotary supports 2 students to this program.



Who are we thankful for? YOU! Just wanted to say a very heartfelt thank you for your club's sponsorship of the 26th version of the Rotary Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp (RAYEC). It was a jam-packed week of business fun with 58 campers, 10 youth leaders and 19 adults at Eagles Nest Ranch. Just over \$12,000 was exchanged during the week, and campers took anywhere from \$45 to \$122 home with them after paying back expenses. Some of the products developed by campers included keychains, baking in a jar, vintage designed t-shirts, candles, orb lights ... and so much more! It wasn't all work though – campers enjoyed the Burma bridge, paintball, campfire, lip sync battle, and the other fun stuff that just happens. Many new friends were made, and tears were shed saying goodbye on the last day.

We invite you to head to our website and take a look at all of our sponsors. Please share this email with others in your club who may be interested in learning more about RAYEC – and follow us on

Facebook for updates throughout the year. From all of us on Team RAYEC 2024, thanks again for helping us teach youth about entrepreneurship in such a fabulous setting. We really couldn't do it without you!

Jodie Eckert, On behalf of the RAYEC Committee

Mustard Seed Dinner October 23rd

from Wayne Wiebe

On October 23rd our club purchased the food, and served a delicious meal to 370 homeless folks at the Mustard Seed south east location. Thanks to Tammy Truman, Joe Hooper, Lyla Stevens, Bill and Maria Stemp, and Brennen Pell for their help in serving this meal. MS management has offered their sincere thanks to our club for this Community Service event. Thanks again to our club for purchasing the food and to everyone who helped make this happen!



Royal Canadian Legion ... cont'd from page 1

Kent opened the floor to questions and noted that there are seven Legions in Calgary and approximately 500 Across Canada. Their own particular Legion, number 285, currently has approximately 1,500 members, although not all are active.

Rob thanked Kent for his presentation and advised him that a donation would be made to Rotary's Polio Plus Campaign in appreciation of his joining us today.



KUDOS to the Foundation

A great place to consider for a donation to Polio Plus (matched by the Gates Foundation), disaster relief, and the permanent fund. Donations to the Annual Fund come back to 5360 as District designated funds that help support our various projects.



Photos courtesy George Van Schaick and Sharon Fraiman



Past Presidents' Meeting October 29th



Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

Rotary Foundation Month

November Friendship Exchange to Brazil
 November 5th Stacy Glaubitz — Calgary Food Bank
 November 7-10th Millarville Christmas Market ... volunteer assistance in various roles
 & November 14-17th contact them at www.volunteersignup.org/XBXFC
 November 11th Rotary Remembers — 10am @ the Carriage House Inn
 November 19th Garth Mann, owner and CEO — Statesman Group of Companies and Advanced Medical & Surgery Clinics
 @ The Inn on Officers Garden, 150 Dieppe Drive SW
 November 28th Fellowship Pub Meeting, jointly with Calgary East Club
 @ Village Brewery, 2nd Floor, 5000 - 12A Street SE



Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

December 3rd Nicole Oulette — Light Up the World
 December 14th Club Christmas Party — 5:30pm @ Grey Eagle Resort & Casino
 December 17th Club AGM and Bart Dailley



Meeting Minutes

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Chinook Rotary. We look forward to working beside them in community service, fundraising and fellowship.

Sharon Fraiman Introduced our two New Members



Haim Fraiman was a handball player on the Israeli National Team. At the age of 27, he was a principal of a physical education college. He did his MA at Boston University and then he did his PhD in physical education. Following that he was a Vice President of Kaye College of Education. Haim was a supervisor at the Ministry of Education and above all, initiated unique programs for students to receive their

matriculation exams with scholarship plans. Haim was a true leader and mentor to all teachers, professors and students. He created a new era in the education field. Currently he is a CMDA board member and a great volunteer. Sharon emphasizes that she couldn't ask for a better father, mentor, lighthouse and teacher. She's very proud to have her dad become a new Rotarian.

Kim Levenson is a 4th generation Albertan, who was born in Calgary. She is a very caring person and strongly believes in philanthropy and being of service. She finds it personally satisfying to help make people's lives better, whether it be through counselling, or donating money or time to other charities. Kim was director of the Ethical Hypnosis Society of Alberta, a non-profit organization that helped train doctors, psychiatrists, counselors or psychologists in hypno-therapy to be more effective working with their patients. She is currently a member of the IODE, a charitable women's organization based in Canada, providing scholarships, bursaries and other philanthropic pursuits.

She donates her time and money to other charities and feels honoured to be a part of the Rotary. She works hard and is very conscientious.

Chase the Ace

The winner of today's draw was Neil Beatty. Lois missed picking the correct card, so Neil won our weekly prize of \$66, the Club received \$88, and our jackpot is now \$1,350. Our next draw will be from a 33 card deck, and will be made at our October 24th dinner meeting.



Sunshine Report

Peter Bickham advised that he has been in touch with Pat Hutchinson. Pat has been hospitalized for a week and has experienced a set back recently. We wish Pat a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him soon.

Guest Speaker

Rob introduced our guest speaker, Kent Griffiths, President of Legion 285 which is located on Horton Road.

Dates to Remember

- Board Meeting tomorrow night at the Legion
- Evening meeting next week will be a dinner get together on Thursday, October 24th at Karma Fine Indian Cuisine
- Past Presidents' meeting at the Legion, noon October 29th
- Next meeting: Tuesday, November 5th at the Carriage House

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!

