

Picnic in the Park - Rotary Nature Park

Jim Thompson, Charter Member

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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



Rob thanked Jim Thompson for arranging today's meeting at our Rotary Nature Park as well as the staff of McKenzie Meadows Golf Course for catering our luncheon. He then handed the meeting over to Jim to tell us about the history of the Nature Park.

The Park history began in 1992 when a number of local businessmen were asked to build a golf course adjacent to the Bow River across from Fish Creek Provincial Park. The golf course ultimately proceeded and became the McKenzie Meadows Golf Club. There was additional land available around the corner of the river, but it held a number of utility corridors which made it unsuitable for the golf course development.

As a result, the land became the Rotary Nature Park thanks to many Rotary volunteers and area businessmen who provided financial and volunteer support. The Park opened in the year 2000, and over the 24 years since, it has been improved with cairns, plaques/notices and gazebos. Jim reports that the Provincial Government has supported the Park from the beginning and continues to do so. They do not require written agreements or commitments, and work with us to see that the Park remains a natural park area for the enjoyment of the public.



They just completed a \$2 million dollar investment to build a pathway paved bridge over the Bow River, connecting the two communities on either side of the River, and delivering walkers and bikers to within 300 feet from our Park gazebo.



Jim advised that we have two projects in mind to improve the Park further: a platform for wheelchair enjoyment of the park, and secondly an amphitheater for the use of area school children to help educate them on the natural features of the Park. Dale asked about allowing our local Scout troop to assist in maintaining the Park, and Jim told us that the Government has decided not to use volunteers in Park maintenance anymore. Apparently there had been an accident in another Park that caused injury, which proved difficult and led to their decision not to allow volunteer assistance in the parks.

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P.O. Box # 42041
Southland Crossing RPO
Calgary, Alberta T2J 7A6
info@chinookrotary.org
www.ChinookRotary.org



On a beautiful day we shared the gazebo with members and guests, and enjoyed a lovely lunch provided by the staff of McKenzie Meadows Golf Course.

Our report also highlighted the Rotary Anniversaries during September of Joe Hooper 54 yrs, John Charrett 43 yrs, Moe Tynan 32 yrs, Dick Snel 29 yrs, and Graham Boone 20 yrs.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!



Following lunch, Rob took over and began our meeting by asking a member at each of four tables to introduce the guests at their table. Once all guests were introduced, we welcomed them with our standard welcome song. We had 32 in attendance.

Indigenous Fact

118,164 First Nations people live in Alberta, representing 14 per cent of all First Nations people in Canada. Alberta has the only recognized Metis land base in Canada: the eight Metis Settlements (pop. 4,858). Alberta is home to 96,865 Metis people, the largest Metis population in Canada.

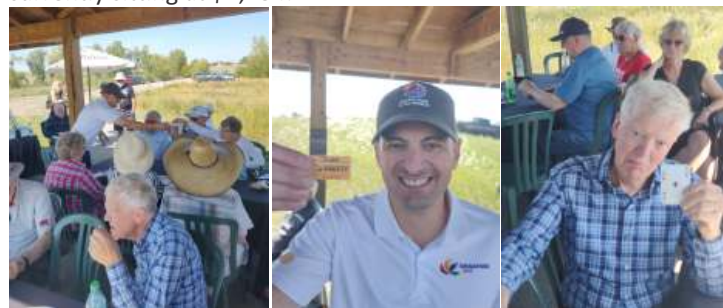
Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bev announced our birthdays for September. We have six member birthdays during the month with Paul G. starting us off on the 1st, Ron May on the 3rd, Wayne Wiebe on the 7th, Janet Popoff on the 16th, Alex Soutar on the 17th, and Bill Stemp on the 27th. Our Spousal Birthdays during September are Anne Pick on the 2nd, and Muriel Wiebe on the 27th.

Our Anniversaries for the month are Fred and May Jessee who have been married for 76 years on the 2nd, Pat and Joan Hutchinson for 65 years on the 5th, Paul and Connie Hussey for 64 years on the 3rd, Alex and Nancy Soutar for 56 years on the 14th, and Dean and Eeva White for 28 years on the 3rd.

Chase the Ace

Rob moved on to Chase the Ace. Our previous weekly winner was Paul Gaudet whose name was chosen at our evening meeting at 403 Pub. Unfortunately for him he did not pick the Ace so we proceeded with this week's selection, and John Charrett's name was chosen. John selected the Ace of Diamonds so our Ace of Spades remains in the deck, and our Raffle moves on. There are 37 cards remaining, and 24 players for September. John wins \$78 for his weekly win, the Club received \$104, and the pot is currently sitting at \$1,134.



Ribfest 2024

Rob noted that Ribfest is coming up this weekend, and thanked Paul G for scheduling the volunteers, Dale for helping to line up Globalfest volunteers, and Bev for reminding him of many subjects which required action. He also reminded all our volunteers not to wear past Ribfest shirts as they highlight past sponsors which aren't applicable for this year.

The Summer Round Up with Jeff Catto

This evening of fun and fellowship is being held as a fundraiser at **Ranchmans on Tuesday evening, September 17th**. The modest

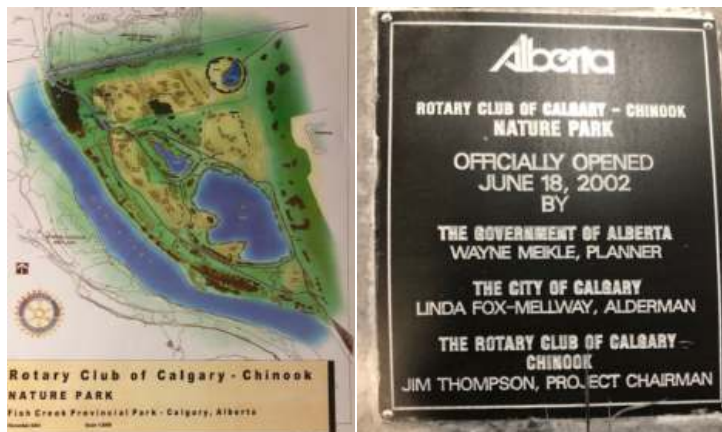
Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

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The Rotary Chinook Nature Park, part of the very large Fish Creek Provincial Park, is located on the east side of the Bow River, in SE Calgary. Rumors of how it evolved have been circulating for years. These are the facts ...

The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook was chartered in 1977. Almost right away, discussions among members began about developing our special footprint in the community. The tree planting in South Glenmore Park in Calgary went on for several years, hundreds of trees were planted, the city took over.

1993 saw the Mackenzie Meadows GC started on Provincial Park lands, on the east side of the Bow River, separated from the main park. The investment group included two past District Governors of Rotary, plus me at the helm in the development. One portion of the land committed for golf, was divided by the highway running through the property. It was compromised by a massive utility corridor running parallel to the highway. In 1996 when the Golf Course opened, I as President / CEO, presented to the board the problem with considering any development on the other side due to the utility issues that would see a shut down on 30 days notice. Club member Ed Maclean and I had been searching for the ideal community project for Rotary Chinook. I approached the Alberta Parks people with the idea of withdrawing any further golf related development and suggested a Nature Park Dedication might be ideal. The investment group of Mackenzie Meadows GC were in agreement, and supported the idea of a new park. The rest is history. The land was secured for the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook, the Nature Park was developed, and the plan was



implemented, developing the special Natural Park in an urban setting with financial help from businesses, and on site help from others. The Park officially opened June 18th 2002, with club members, city officials, and Parks officials present. A fly over of American white pelicans was a pleasant happening at that time.

The Park has been shut down from time to time ... highway expansion, utility corridor needs, the flood of 2013 etc. The Park features 5 gazebos, 4 dedicated to the 4-Way Test, 1 to the Rotary motto, 2 wildlife display readers, there are plans for 2 final additions — a small natural amphitheater and a wheel chair observation platform. Stay tuned !

Photos courtesy Brennen Pell



In Memoriam

Jack Steen

1943 - 2024

Jack Steen passed suddenly on August 15th 2024. A Rotarian since 1988, Jack joined the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook in 2008. He is greatly missed by his many friends in the Club.

Celebration of Life

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Friday, September 20, 2024

Highland Stock Farms West House, 232152

Range Road 52

Bragg Creek, Alberta, Canada



The full obituary can be seen at:

<https://mhfh.com/tribute/details/50672/Jack-Steen/obituary.html>



Photos courtesy George Van Schaick & Stephen Pick

Proposed New Members

The following new **Member** proposals were accepted by the Board for membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook:

KIM LEVENSON

Proposed by: Sharon Fraiman
Classification: Hypnotherapist

HAIM FRAIMAN

Proposed by: Sharon Fraiman
Classification: Education

MICHAEL PERETZ

Proposed by: Sharon Fraiman
Classification: Bylaw Officer

In accordance with Club Bylaws, Article XI, Section 5:
Method of electing New Members

"If no written objection to the proposal, stating reasons, is received by the Board from any member (other than Honorary) of the Club within seven (7) dates following publication of information about the prospective member, that person, upon payment of admission fee (if not Honorary membership) as prescribed in the bylaws, shall be considered to be elected to membership. If any such objection has been filed with the Board, it shall vote on this matter at its next meeting. If approved despite the objection, the proposed member, upon payment of the admission fee, shall be considered to be elected to membership."

Dale Perret, Secretary
403-629-6166 • info@chinookrotary.org

THE SUMMER ROUND UP

Rotary



RANCHMANS COOKHOUSE & DANCE HALL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM

PURCHASE TICKETS AT :

www.showpass.com

\$30 PER TICKET

INCLUDEDS : BEEF ON A BUN



SCAN ME !

50 - 50 DRAW AND SILENT AUCTION

LIVE BANDS: THE WANDERING V'S - 7-8PM

JEFF CATTO - 8:30 TO 10PM



Basic Education and Literacy Month

September 10th
September 17th

District Governor Christina Hassan visit
'The Summer Round-Up' @ Ranchmans

Community Economic Development Month

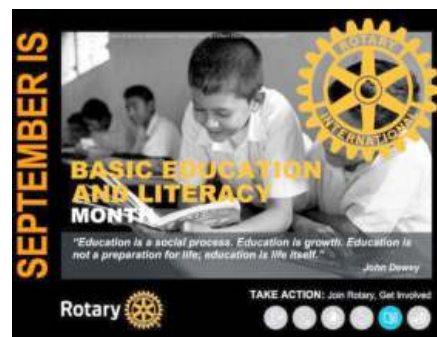
October 1st
October 15th

Gem Munro, Co-Founder and Director, Amarok Society
Kent Griffiths, Royal Canadian Legion, Centennial Calgary Branch #285

Rotary Foundation Month

November
November 5th

Friendship Exchange to Brazil
Speaker from the Calgary Food Bank



Meeting Minutes

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cost of \$30 per person includes dinner and an evening of great country music. Rob asked each and every member to buy at least two tickets, and to encourage your friends and families to attend. Bev advised that Hank and Janet purchased 4 tickets and gave them to Bev to distribute due to being on an Alaskan Cruise that weekend. Bev has given them to contacts who generously donated to our Silent Auction.



Rob thanked Sharon for arranging the Silent Auction which will be available during this event, and also Brennen and Norse Contracting for sponsoring the opening band, The Wandering V's, which will also entertain us that evening.

He then let us know that the International Service Committee requires a Chairperson to take over from Graham Boone ... kindly consider taking on this rewarding job, arranging our participation in International projects.

Brennen Pell and his family business, Norse Landscapes, for sponsoring the opening act for the Concert.

Rob led us in reciting Rotary's 4-Way Test.

Our next meeting will be at the Carriage House next week, September 10th, at noon. Our District Governor Christina Hassan will be visiting our Club to outline her goals for the Rotary year, so please do your best to attend the meeting. We would like to reflect our respect for the DG with as large an attendance as possible.

There will be no noon meeting on Tuesday the 17th as our Concert is the same evening and we wish to encourage our members to spend their \$30 to attend the Concert, rather than a regular meeting luncheon.

Good News / Bad News

Joe thanked everyone who volunteered at our recent Casino, and also thanked Dale for finding a number of volunteers so we could successfully fill our volunteer requirement.

Dale reported that she is putting together an order from the Rotary on-line merchandise source, so if anyone wants a Rotary hat, shirt, pin or other items, email the details to Dale and she will add it to our order.

Hank donated \$10 for the Good News that he and Janet are leaving on an Alaskan Cruise in 8 days.

Ron May told us about Lise taking a fall recently while they were in Montreal, during which she experienced several painful injuries. She is now in recovery.

Guest Speaker

Rob thanked Jim Thompson for arranging today's meeting at our Rotary Nature Park as well as the staff of McKenzie Meadows Golf Course for catering our luncheon. He then handed the meeting over to Jim to tell us about the history of the Nature Park.

Rob wrapped up our meeting by thanking everyone for visiting the Park for our annual Nature Park meeting. He also thanked Sharon for organizing our Silent Auction for our upcoming Concert and

Rotary Nature Park

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