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**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022!**

2020-2021 Officers and Directors

George Van Schaick, President
Bev Tonkinson, President Elect
Rob Wolfson, Past President
Dale Perret, Secretary
Al Holt, Treasurer

Syed Ahmed, International Service
Dean White, Youth Service
Neil Beatty, Community Service
Bruce Bohnet, Club Service
Sandy Swan, Club Operations
Garth Plunkett, Club Financial

RI President Shekhar Mehta
Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal India

District 5360 Governor Martin Parnell
Rotary Club of Cochrane

Meeting Minutes

December 21st, 2021

Scribe: Paul Gaudet



Rob called our meeting to order at 12:15pm, welcoming all participants and then, for the second time in 21 months, asked everyone to stand and join Ruth Wiley on the piano in singing our National Anthem.

We had 21 members and one guest in attendance today, and it was great to see our friends once again.

Rob opened our meeting with a toast to the Christmas Season, noted that Paul is our scribe, and then proceeded to introduce our guest, Karen Murray from Inclusion Alberta.



Rob asked for any information on the health of our members and there was no information provided. As usual we take this lack of information to be a good sign.

He then introduced our **Chase the Ace** segment by advising that today we are generating \$140 for our Club, with \$105 for the weekly winner. There is \$537 in the "Pot" should the winner select the Ace of Spades. Rhea Graham won the weekly prize and, as she wasn't in attendance today, Rob will contact her and give her the opportunity to select a card.

As Anthony and Bev are enjoying a winter vacation in Mexico, Rob stepped in and announced our **Birthdays and Anniversaries** for the month of December. It turns out that none of our members have a birthday this month, however we do have three spousal birthdays: Lois Beatty, Sharon Bickham and Jim Swan. Best wishes to all for a wonderful birthday. We have two wedding anniversaries during December: Stephen and Anne Pick (20th - 52 years) and Wayne and Muriel Wiebe (28th - 58 years). Congratulations and best wishes to both couples. Rob requested that anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in January, please send pictures (to Rob) so he can highlight them at our upcoming meeting.

Rob called Karen Murray of Inclusion Alberta up to the podium and presented her with our Club's donation of \$2,000. Karen is well known to our

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members who have been attending our meetings on ZOOM as she has been a regular all year. She is the Rotary contact for Inclusion Alberta, and has done an excellent job building a strong relationship with our Clubs. Karen thanked us for our donation and advised that their major fundraiser has generated \$400,000 this year, which will allow them to assist people with intellectual disabilities in finding meaningful employment opportunities. She specifically thanked Tammy Truman who has been a long time employer of an intellectually disabled person under the Inclusion Alberta program. Tammy told us about how rewarding this relationship has been to all her staff, not just the particular employee.



Rob explained why our former members (and good friends), Pat and Sally Wierzba, who are visiting family and friends in Calgary over Christmas, could not attend our meeting today. They instead sent a letter with Rob who read it to our members. We have repeated it here:

“To Our Dear Friends and Fellow Rotarians at Chinook Rotary Club

We are very sorry that we can't be with you today in person. Unfortunately, Pat has come down with COVID and we are in quarantine. We had multiple clear tests just before we left, so did our best, but suppose any travel right now is risky. Rob has kindly volunteered to read a message from us.

We brought a banner from our club — Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club — which we will get to you when we are healthy, and we hope to be able to take your banner back with us to Norfolk, U.K.

Our times as a member (Pat), and as a helper (Sally) with you all were so very rewarding that one of the first things we did when we arrived in the U.K. was to join our local Rotary Club. It is a small club compared to Chinook, but our sincere gathering of 30+ members work hard in the Rotary tradition to earn a several thousand pounds each year to distribute to various causes.

One of our causes recently was the drilling of a well in Africa. We can never thank Chinook enough for your kindness and generosity to help that goal to become a reality. We merely await the blessing of head office in the U.S., which, like almost everything else these days, is delayed by COVID. This water hole will make a difference to many hundreds of people, especially children who will be able to go to school because of it, and to a large number of families — as they enjoy some level of health and hygiene. We look forward to sending a final report.

Our club has two main fund-raising efforts per year to date. One is the Classic Car Show in September, which has gone ahead both years as it is an outside event. Pat and I have greatly increased the collections there by introducing 50/50 to the event. Our

second large fund-raising effort is “Santa’s Sleigh”. A brave male club member has to dress up as Santa, sit atop a sleigh being pulled by a vehicle, and Rotary “elves” go door to door in family neighbourhoods collecting.

The causes we support include:

- *Air Ambulance;*
- *a Trust that hosts disabled people for a holiday on the Norfolk Broad rivers*
- *an agency supporting victims of family violence*
- *an agency supporting abused children*
- *The Owl Trust*
- *an organization that houses and educates those with leprosy, and widows, in India*
- *the Foodbank*
- *Shelterbox*

We feel great gratitude for the fellowship we enjoyed at Chinook, it set us on a course to where Rotary is an important part of our lives. It has enabled us to enjoy a new community of admirable people in our new home. And, perhaps most importantly, it gives us wonderful memories of your fellowship to draw upon in these testing times. We look forward to being able to be with you in the future, and wish you all health and prosperity in 2022.

*Have a Very Merry Christmas,
Pat and Sally”*

As we are almost six months into our Rotary year, tradition calls for a **“mid year update”** from our Directors advising us about activities to date. Rob introduced Garth Plunkett, Director of Club Financial, to get us started.

Club Financial Update

Garth confirmed that the effect of COVID lockdowns and restrictions has undoubtedly had a negative effect on our normal activities in this area of service. The most significant sectors are fund raising and our two Rotary Foundations. Garth reported on our 2021 RibFest which was held in partnership with Calgary Centennial and Calgary East Clubs. Due to COVID this project was a “Drive Thru” event taking place over the August long weekend at McMahon Stadium in northeast Calgary. Net proceeds were \$9,029 which, while less than we had hoped for, was an improvement over our first attempt in 2019.



Garth then provided a brief update on our “Thank the Teachers with a Rose” project. We have completed the flower presentation to Dr. E P Scarlett and Henry Wise Wood High Schools, and will be completing the project in March with Fairview Junior High and the Alternative High School. The presentations went very well with very appreciative school administration, teachers and other support staff. The fundraising portion, while covering costs, has yet to generate the level of donations we had anticipated. Garth thanked the committee for their work on

this project and offered special thanks to Ted and Grace Wada for their expertise and guidance in acquiring and preparing the roses for presentation, and also to Ron May for using his school connections to arrange and help conduct the presentation ceremonies. We have received support (by way of a donation) from the majority of our members (thanks for supporting our project) and will be accepting further donations for this project up until we make our final presentations.

Our Foundations have been negatively affected by not being able to meet in person, however there is still lots of time to arrange for a donation to TRF or CRCF. Garth advised that Rob Wolfson has agreed to be our rep for the CRCF as Bev will be busy as incoming Club President. Peter Bickham has been doing a good job for some time administering our Club's support of TRF, however we are seeking a volunteer to replace Peter as chair of this important committee. Anyone interested should speak to Peter about what is involved.

Our next Casino is scheduled for June 16th and 17th at the Elbow River Casino. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the Casinos remain open so the numerous charities (which rely on the revenue produced) can recharge their operations.

Garth wrapped up his update by thanking Anne Dale for facilitating our Club's participation in the District's "Move for Polio" project which ran this Fall. Chinook raised approx \$4,000 which was an excellent result.

Community Service Update

Neil Beatty is our Director of Community Service and reported that our Club has been doing a remarkable job during the period of COVID, which has stifled many opportunities. He singled out "Meals on Wheels", "Community Kitchens" and "Salvation Army Kettles" as examples of areas where we have been active. Neil confirmed that our members have provided over 600 hours of service in these and other projects.



International Service Update

Graham Boone stood in for Syed Ahmed to provide this update. His report was detailed and included many photos which helped us understand the actual projects being discussed. We have presented his report (unfortunately without pictures) for the purpose of our minutes.



- In August we participated in the Guatemalan Literacy Project by donating \$ 500 to it. More than 600 clubs and 80 districts have been working together since 1997 to improve education for under-served students in Guatemala. The program involves the training of teachers, provision of textbooks and computer technology and youth scholarships. Last year's project totalled \$507,692 and was managed by the Windsor

Roseland Club. This year's project is being managed by the Rotary Clubs of Guatemala de la Asunción (D-4250) and Yorba Linda Sunrise, and upwards of 200 clubs and Districts will no doubt be contributing to it.

- The global grant application to provide equipment to help expand an existing dental clinic in Gyumri, Armenia, submitted by the Rotary Club of Gyumri and the Rotary Club of Sydney-Sunrise, has been approved by The Rotary Foundation. The clinic will serve 13,000-17,000 children a year. The project cost is US\$ 103,225.00. Chinook provided a donation of \$5,000 towards this project.

- Over the years we have donated funds to the APU Malawi Education Foundation to provide for sponsorships for many girls, housing duplexes for teachers, completion of the cafeteria, lockers for all the girls, cafeteria cooking equipment, computers, and solar panelling for the buildings on the site. Christie Johnson now advises that the Foundation will voluntarily ask CRA to revoke its charitable status as it is handing over the reigns of its 14 year partnership entirely to the Trustees of APU Malawi. The school is no longer a charity and is known as ATSIKANA PA ULENDO PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOL

- With respect to our "Girl Empowerment in the Dominican Republic" project we have received commitments from 3 clubs which provides us with funding amounting to \$84,300. That means we only need another \$20,700 to complete the funding for the project. The \$105,000 should provide for the manufacture of 10,000 personal hygiene care kits and Menstrual Health education for girls in the rural Batey regions of the country. The global grant application for this project is in progress but cannot be submitted until May 2022.

- Earlier this year we forwarded a donation of \$9,700 to Medical Mercy Canada for it to arrange to have their TB Clinic in Kovel, Ukraine insulated. Funds have recently been delivered to the Clinic and the project manager can now make arrangements for the purchase and installation of the insulation.

- Funds have been transferred to Guatemala and the \$142,000+ RACHEL project is ready to start. RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning) is a portable, battery-powered, device that contains copies of educational websites in offline format. This means RACHEL can go anywhere in the world and wirelessly deliver free digital educational content to nearby tablets, laptops, or smartphones with no internet or data plans required. RACHEL has been taken to over 53 countries since its creation, serving students in rural villages, townships, and even prisons. As a result of our applying for DDF as a supporting club to the Gig Harbour RC of Washington, we provided \$11,000 of funding for this project, as did Lethbridge and Heritage Park Rotaries. Schools are expected to open again in February so orders can then be initiated for the laptops and RACHEL servers. It is expected to provide the servers and laptops to 16 schools in the first year of this three year project.

- We agreed to support the drilling of a borehole close to the Kambule Provincial STEM Secondary school at Mongu, Zambia. This will supply clean and constant water for the 872 students and staff at the school. The sponsor for the project is the Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club in the United Kingdom. Some 1,500 pounds has been forwarded to that club. The project was brought to our attention by our former member Pat Wierzba.



BC Fire and Flood Relief



Rotary Club of Merritt 

**HELL OR HIGH WATER
CONCERT & ONLINE
TELETHON FUNDRAISER**

Concert:
January 28th, 2022

Telethon:
February 13th, 2022

British Columbia communities, villages and people affected by the fires and floods of 2021 have endured terrible losses and heartache.

The “Brothers of Tourism” at EH Canada Travel, Kenny Hess (Founder of Rockin’ River Music Festival), the Citw Nlaka’pamux Assembly representing the Nooaitch, Coldwater, Shackan, and Cook’s Ferry Indian Bands, Tourism Nicola Valley, Experience Nicola Valley and the Rotary Club of Merritt are all proud to step up and present the “Hell or High Water Fundraiser”. It is an all out two-part on-line fundraiser consisting of a live music concert, followed up by a 12 hour online telethon. All in an effort to raise money for the people of the fire and flood ravaged communities in British Columbia, Canada.

Musicians, celebrities, dignitaries, media, corporations, companies, and people just like you and us are all coming together to raise money for our friends in trouble in British Columbia, Canada. We are accepting donations now, prior to our headliner concert and telethon. Donate today, so you can enjoy the show. It promises to be an event filled with music, special guests, entertainment, shout outs, personal messages, videos, live streaming, and, we hope, some much needed bloopers bringing smiles to our faces when they are harder to come by.

Show Me More www.hellorhighwater.ca

The **Hell or High Water Fundraiser** includes a live concert in Mission BC Canada, a 12 hour virtual online telethon broadcast from Merritt BC Canada and some great giveaway contest prizes. Here are some icon links below which explains it a lot better than we can...



Vocational Service Month

** All January meetings will be via ZOOM **

- January 4th Diane Stevenson, Life Coach — New Year's Goals
- January 18th Jorge Torres — Habitat for Humanity
- January 27th Dixon's Networking Night, 7 - 8:30pm
Speaker: Dr. Lal Mattu, Calgary Fish Creek — Third Academy



Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

- February 1st Danielle Murphy and Lori Wilson — Kerby Center

Water and Sanitation Month

- March 22nd Richard Moxley, Debt Counselor and Author

Meeting Minutes

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• Lake Atitán is renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world and is one of Guatemala's most important national and international tourist attractions. Heritage Park Rotary Club just submitted its Global Grant application for the \$138,614 USD "Save Lake Atitán Phase 3" project. Chinook provided \$1,800 of funding for this project. This 50 square mile lake is under extreme threat from pollution caused by population growth. Lots of untreated wastewater (human sewage) flows into the lake causing intense bacteria outbreaks that cloud the water, cause algae blooms on the surface, and create horrendous public health problems in the local community. Currently, around 350,000 people live around the lake in 15 towns and cities; that number is expected to double in the next 20-30 years. Most of their wastewater flows untreated into the lake — there are currently 14 wastewater treatment plants, whereas 80 are needed.

Youth Service Update

Dean White is our Director for this area and not surprisingly, he reported that with all the challenges being experienced in the schools generally, we were encountering challenges attempting to stay involved with our youth activities. One of our successes however was with Dale's chairmanship of our scholarship and bursary activity and through her determination, we were able to complete our programmed awards.

We continue to work with reestablishing our two Interact Clubs and hope to see progress in the new year. In the next 6 months we also hope to sponsor participants into Rotary's youth leadership camps, RYLA and RYPEN.

Dean is planning on starting our mentorship program with Fairview students on January 10th pending what restrictions might be in place re COVID. In this regard we require some volunteers to help out with mentoring students during this program. We are also looking at various Student Exchange opportunities and will provide feedback as appropriate.

Rob thanked our Directors for their updates and noted that our Club continues to remain active providing service wherever workable.

Rob then presented a series of cartoons complete with background music, which brought smiles and chuckles around the room. He called for any **Good News/ Bad News** comments and Dave Wylie related a story about visiting family members catching COVID.

Rob advised that our Christmas Dinner at the McKenzie Meadows Golf Club was scheduled for tomorrow evening (December 22nd) and that attendees should plan to arrive between 6:15pm and 7. We have had confirmation from 29 people.

Our next two meetings will be on Tuesday, January 4th at noon, and Tuesday, January 18th, also at noon. These meetings will both be back on ZOOM as we anticipate the current COVID variant discouraging in-person meetings for a while. The speaker for our meeting on the 4th will be Diane Stevenson, a life coach.

Have a great Rotary week!

Photos courtesy Rob Wolfson and Dean White



Our meeting is on ZOOM ... Join in today @ noon! 