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## ZOOM Meeting Minutes

June 29th, 2021

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

### In This Issue

- 1 ZOOM Meeting Minutes June 29th
- 2 ZOOM Meeting Minutes June 29th cont'd  
President's Report
- 3 ZOOM Meeting Minutes June 29th cont'd
- 4 ZOOM Meeting Minutes June 29th cont'd
- 5 Board Year-End Social  
You May Want to Know!
- 6 What's Up !!  
Sergeant at Arms June 29th  
Rotary YYC RibFest  
Calling All Scribes!  
Dues Are Due!



### 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



President Rob opened our meeting at 12:05 by welcoming everyone and introducing the same O Canada version we used for last year's Canada Day, a unique version performed by "Walk Off the Earth". We had 31 participants on ZOOM today.



Rob noted that today's scribe would be Paul G. We are in need of volunteers to help prepare our minutes each month, so please step up. Rob thanked Stephen and Anne for all their work preparing and distributing our e-Arch each Tuesday.

As our program today is Rob's Year End Report, he decided to deal first with some club business.

Our **Sunshine Report** started off by Rob noting that two of our members who have been under the weather were, in fact, participating in our meeting today: John McBean and John Charrett. Welcome back guys, great to see you both. Rob updated us on Rick Istead who had recent surgery for a brain tumour. The surgery was successful and Rick is undergoing chemotherapy. Monty reported that he has spoken to Mary Billings and confirmed that Gord is in full-time care, and is unable to speak due to his dementia progression. Jim Thompson reported that he has spoken to Diane McLean and learned that Ed (former Club President and long time member now residing in Manitoba) is wheelchair-bound and not doing well as his Alzheimer's disease continues. We wish the very best for all our Rotary family and a speedy recovery and a return to the best health possible.



Bev reported that our **Second Bottle Drive** looks to be a big success (she showed us a video of the significant piles of bottles filling their garage). We'll report the numbers shortly. Thanks to everyone who participated.

*cont'd on page 2 ...*

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George VS reminded everyone that he had sent out a **Committee Selection** request to all members recently and would appreciate if they would take a few moments to consider the opportunities and select one or two in which they would like to participate during the upcoming Rotary year. He has received 10 responses to date, and promised to resend the list as we need responses from more of our members. He would really appreciate everyone getting involved.

Paul advised that he and George K were arranging our **President's Dinner** (which will be in person) which has been scheduled at McKenzie Meadows on Tuesday evening, August 24th. Details to follow. Please mark the date and plan on attending.



Rob highlighted that our incoming DG (Martin) is seeking a Club Representative to organize our participation in the **District's "Move for Polio" Project**, which is designed to encourage our members to get active, and to raise money for Polio Plus. We need a Champion so please consider taking this job on, and reach out to Rob for details.

It was then time for our **Chase the Ace** draw and it was George Kimura who was our weekly winner (earning \$102). He chose the ten of clubs so the big pot remains available! The Jackpot is up to \$1,454! Don't forget to send in your \$20 to Al to take part in the draws for July.



## President's Report

Rob began his remarks by noting that Chinook Rotary is completing our 44th year, a year unlike any of the first 43. He noted that it had been an honour to be our President this year and proceeded to highlight our accomplishments:

- Chinook was awarded the Glen Peacock Award for being the Outstanding (medium sized) Rotary Club in District 5360. This award recognizes our Club Service, engagement in the Community and innovation.
- We learned (under Rob's guidance) how to adapt to ZOOM technology, which allowed the majority of our members to keep in touch and to continue serving.

- We funded a motorized vehicle under the "Go Baby Go" Program for a disabled 2 year old. The video of the presentation was priceless.
- We co-hosted a couple of nights of Drive In Theatre at McMahon Stadium, designed to keep the Rotary brand front and centre during the COVID shutdown.
- We still managed to get outside with our Rotary friends by meeting at the Nature Park, and by holding a Pizza Night at the Halls Wood picnic area in Fish Creek Provincial Park.
- We conducted our Strategic Plan under the chairmanship of Peter Bickham, and reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of our Club. We conducted a series of ZOOM meetings with our membership to encourage their input and ultimate 'buy-in' to any recommended changes. This process led to a change to our meeting schedule designed to be more flexible, and potentially attract a more diverse and inclusive membership. We now have only two noon-time meetings a month (first and third Tuesdays), an evening meeting in the fourth week, and the second week either used for fellowship purposes or remaining open (no meeting). We also reviewed a number of potential Signature Community Projects and decided to double down on our Nature Park.
- We partnered with Calgary West in 'Bingo 4 Polio' and raised \$1,725 for Polio Plus. This led to our participation in a meeting featuring RI President nominee Jennifer Jones, a very impressive Canadian.
- We held a virtual 'Rotary Remembers' celebration at which we learned about the Canadian Military's role in the liberation of Holland (thanks to Anthony for arranging this event).
- We opened our hearts and wallets to help support Anne Barrett in South Africa, after the passing of former Chinook member John Barrett (thanks to Dave Wylie for championing this effort).
- We hosted a virtual Christmas Party sharing family pictures, holiday stories and cartoons. We also raised \$1,050 for the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter.
- We (Roots2STEM, Chinook Rotary and our Club Society) collaborated to create the 'Roots2STEM Chinook Rotary Scholarship Program' which will be used to share a STEM education with underprivileged and indigenous youth in our community. Rob sees this exciting program as being a long-term community service for our Club (thanks to Dean, Peter, Al and Anthony).
- Rob noted that his daughter Kaiya, who learned about Rotary through Rob and Chinook projects, founded, chartered and was President of the new Strathcona Tweedsmuir Interact Club. Congratulations to Kaiya.
- We were able to award 6 High School Bursaries through the determination of chair Dale. We supported the U of C Rotaract Pitch Night, and donated \$1,000 to the winning group (led by Fund Raising Justine Wild) and their project, the 'Summer Book Bag Project'.
- Fund Raising was a challenge during COVID as our RibFest was cancelled in 2020, and will be a Drive Thru event this summer. We put together a new fundraiser, saying 'Thank You' to teachers and other staff from the schools with which we already have an existing relationship (through Mentorship and Interact Clubs), however this also was postponed to the Fall when COVID's third wave hit us in the spring months. We held a number of small projects such as 'Chase the Ace', two bottle drives, and sports pools ... just enough to keep Al active (thanks Al!).
- Our club continues to support both the Rotary Foundation (thanks to chair Peter), as well as the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (thanks to chair Bev). We have

seen many Paul Harris Fellowships presented through the year (each representing \$1,000 USD donated to TRF. Our annual distribution from CRCF this year was \$11,003 (interest earned).

- Rob was involved during the year in a District role of championing the 'Rotary Learning Centre'. This service consists of a library of interesting and informative videos on numerous subjects of interest to Rotarians worldwide. It is easily accessible on the Rotary International website. It is an excellent source of encouragement, enthusiasm and information, and Rob recommends that all of our members give it a try.

- Our 'Hands On' Community Service activities were essentially cancelled as the service agencies didn't want to risk the health of volunteers. There were a few exceptions such as the Acadia Food Bank (thanks Dale), Community Kitchens, and we took on a delivery route for Meals on Wheels (thanks Monty).

- Our Local Donations Committee (chaired by Dale) did a great job completing the analysis and sourcing of worthwhile local charities, and managed to approve and fund the following donations this year:

\$3,000 to Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter Services

\$3,000 to Acadia Food Pantry

\$2,000 to Calgary Seniors Resource Society

\$2,000 to Calgary Veterans' Services Society

\$2,000 to Salvation Army Kettles Program

- Rob noted the excellent work of our International Service Committee, which worked hard and managed to locate a number of projects for us to participate in. We tried unsuccessfully to generate RI support for a solar power project in Mexico, however we did our best, and the best part is that the project found key private support and is being completed. We supported Medical Mercy Canada for their TB clinic in the Ukraine, and joined other Rotary Clubs in supporting a children's educational project in Guatemala. We also supported Syed's project in Pakistan to educate and test children's hearing. This project's grant structure was difficult to complete so Syed is restructuring it to fit Rotary's requirements, and plans on re-applying as soon as possible. (thanks to Bev, Graham, Sandy and Syed for all their work).

- New membership remains a significant challenge for our Club, however our committee (chaired by Moe and Rhea) worked hard on a number of initiatives which we are hopeful will result in new leads in the near future. Our challenge is to have each of our members acting as if they were on the membership committee, ever on the lookout for potential interest ... "it takes a village".

- Rob thanked Dean for his work on updating our website, and

cont'd on page 4 ...



noted that it is in the best shape he has seen in some time. All our members should make a point of reviewing our website on a regular basis to keep yourself updated on our Club activities.

- Rob noted that one of his goals was to make sure we kept having fun and anyone who participated in our ZOOM meetings would agree that this goal was achieved. Between our monthly Birthday Celebrations (thanks Bev) and our regular Sergeant at Arms videos (thanks Jim), we saw lots of great humour. We also enjoyed a diverse list of speakers, activities (visited a South American Winery) and visits to other Clubs.
- Rob thanked Stephen and Anne Pick for all their work preparing our e-ARCH on a weekly basis for the benefit of all our members who wished to keep updated on our current activities as well as our upcoming schedule.
- Thanks also to Michael Spears who organized the majority of our ZOOM meeting speakers and programs. Michael's job responsibilities resulted in him having difficulty attending our noon meetings, however he continued to play a significant role in the success we enjoyed with our programs.
- Our unique Thursday evening meetings (3rd week of each month) were the subject of a write-up in Rotary International's monthly magazine (worldwide distribution) highlighting our networking themed programs. This initiative was Rob's creation and it is truly fun to attend and participate in these meetings.
- Thanks to Tammy "just because", for being the supporter and champion for Chinook that she continues to be. Thanks to Paul G for his mentorship and for being there to provide assistance when needed.
- Lastly, thanks to all our Board members for their patience and leadership throughout the year.

Rob then "closed the books on Chinook Rotary 2020/2021, a year like no other". He proceeded to proudly pass the gavel over to President Elect George Van Schaick, and wished him the very best for Rotary 2021/2022.



George introduced his **Board for the new Rotary Year** and thanked them for agreeing to provide Chinook with their guidance:

Past President	Rob Wolfson
President Elect	Bev Tonkinson
Secretary	Dale Perret
Treasurer	Al Holt
Director of Youth Services	Dean White
Director of Community Service	Neil Beatty
Director of Club Financial	Garth Plunkett
Director of Club Operations	Sandy Swan
Director of Club Service	Bruce Bohnet
Director of Club Financial	Syed Ahmed

Rob advised us that George's new career responsibilities have resulted in an arrangement whereby Rob will continue to chair our meetings throughout the summer (as George adjusts to his career) and they will reassess in the fall.

Rob then introduced an inspirational video by our incoming **RI President Shekhar Mehta** who introduced Rotary's new theme for

2021-2022: "Serve to Change Lives". This theme will serve as an inspiration for all Rotarians and be a rallying call for our efforts during the Rotary year. He emphasized the importance of increasing our membership by increasing our diversity and inclusion, and announced our goal to reach 1.3 million members by July 2022. He believes that we can meet this goal if each Rotarian could bring in one new member.

He urged us to "think of others before we think of ourselves", and pointed out that this is what Rotarians already do, "how else do we carry out so many international and community projects?" "Rotarians keep serving because we want to change lives". He urged us to lead by example by joining hands with other Clubs to change the lives of others.



Rob followed up on our new RI President's membership goal by announcing that he will donate \$20 to CRCF for each new member prospect that attends one of our meetings during the new Rotary Year. Let's help spend his money by stepping up our recruitment efforts!

In our **Good News/Bad News** section, Rob announced that Angela and he have received their second dose of vaccine... congratulations to both. Ian told us about his daughter Doreen moving in with them and also took the opportunity to support vaccines, urging everyone to get double dosed.

Our **Sergeant at Arms** (thanks to Jim) included several funny cartoons sure to put a smile on your face.

Rob reminded us that the first invoice for our **Annual Dues** has gone out by email so it's time to kindly pay up by sending a cheque or email transfer to Al.

He congratulated **Rhea Graham** who has agreed to be an **Assistant District Governor** covering the Rotary Club of Calgary, Calgary North and Calgary Olympic. Good for you Rhea, the District and your three Clubs will benefit from your knowledge and leadership.

Our **next meeting** will be next Tuesday noon, July 6th, and our speaker will be our new President George outlining his goals for Chinook during the year ahead.

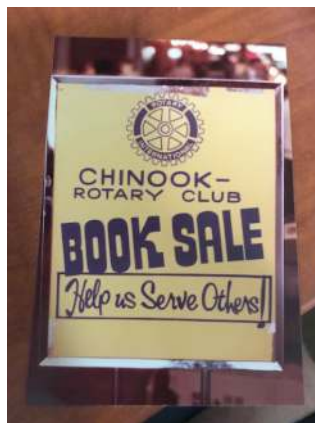


## You May Want to Know

*Jim Thompson, Past President 81/82, Club Historian*

The early 80s were the real formation years of the all male club. In fact all of RI was male only, not to be changed to include female members until the mid 90s with a move in California which was to effect all of RI, in terms of inclusion.

In 1983 our annual BOOK SALE fund raiser was going strong, requiring all hands on deck in the South Centre Mall, including as many spouses that could volunteer to help man the table displays of slightly used books for sale. Our big rig trailer was stocked with inventory we felt would take years to sell, and donations of books continued at a fast pace.



*1983 Book Sale fundraiser, held for several years at South Centre*

The big rig trailer later served as the inventory pod for our corn sale, after we gave our books away to another group to do their thing in fund raising. Corn sale enthusiasm faded after a couple of years and the trailer was sold.

Our South Glenmore Park tree planting program, introduced in the early 80s with the support of the City of Calgary Parks Department, was a specific way of recognizing new members, exchange students, District Governors and every active member of the club from the very start. The city-paved pathway going east from the Yacht Club, was festooned with planted trees, several meters apart. We had the holes pre-dug each year, the stock of fairly large transplant specimens were delivered, then our members, at a regular Tuesday meeting time, would roll up their sleeves and plant the stock assigned for that year. Nearly 300 trees were planted, mapped out and named before we stopped. We had our lunch offering in the Park catered by the then Tradewinds Hotel, and often some of the fellas would adjourn for a cool beer afterwards at the neighbouring Point & Feather Pub. It was more good mix of community contribution and Rotary fellowship. Sadly the trees were ravaged by vermin attacking

roots, a lack of regular watering and the City unwilling to help maintain the beautification plan. Mayor Ralph Klein showed his support in 1985 by joining us in the labour of planting. His successors did not share the vision, and Parks decided tree additions be in clusters. Our dedication stone remains near the pathway on site.



*Tree Planting at South Glenmore Park, 1985 Mayor Ralph Klein and exchange student*

In the mid 90s, the club decided to try a Pro Am golf venture, in co-operation with McKenzie Meadows Golf Course. The purpose was a fund raiser and had obvious support of the golf industry, with every foursome entered lead by a local Golf Pro from one of the many clubs in the area. It was very well thought out and planned by several of our members and a few golf pros, and supported by a full slate of teams. Unfortunately not so profitable for the Rotary Club but mostly the pro golfers received nice financial rewards. We had hoped to carry on the planned annual event but it was decided by the Board that the risks of success were too unpredictable.



Member Herb Assman, owner of Byers Transport, donated a magnificent trophy for the recognition of the winning foursome. It was only presented once in 1997, and now remains in our historic archives, awaiting another event it might better serve in the future.

## New Rotary Year Begins

July 6th  
July 14th - 15th  
July 20th  
July 30th - August 2nd

Club Assembly — New President George van Schaick — The Year's Goals  
Rocky Mountaineer Train Trip — contact Bev Tonkinson to see if there are any seats left  
Andrew Reinhardt — RibFest / Billy's BBQ  
Rotary YYC RibFest Drive Through Event @ McMahon Stadium — volunteers needed, details to come



## Membership and New Club Development Month

August 10th District Governor Martin Parnell visit via ZOOM  
August 24th President's Dinner @ McKenzie Meadows — details to come

## Basic Education and Literacy Month

September 17th - 19th Annual Peace Park "Reach Across the Border" — watch for details



## ZOOM Meeting Minutes - Sergeant at Arms

... cont'd from page 4



## Calling All Scribes !!

We need YOU to volunteer to take minutes of our meetings in this new Rotary year. The minutes help out those who don't make it to the meetings, and also help provide a historical record of our club.

**Please help!!**

**Contact Paul Gaudet to volunteer.**



## Chinook Rotary Annual Dues \$300 due now

If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so ASAP. You can easily do so by cheque credit card to Al Holt or e-transfer to [info@chinookrotary.org](mailto:info@chinookrotary.org)

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

