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## In This Issue

### 1 ZOOM Meeting Minutes November 2nd

Speaker: Grace Munro  
'Amorak Society'

### 2 ZOOM Meeting Minutes November 2nd cont'd

### 3 ZOOM Meeting Minutes November 2nd cont'd

### 4 ZOOM Meeting Minutes November 2nd cont'd

In Memoriam

### 5 What's Up !!

November Birthdays & Anniversaries



## 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

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



## ZOOM Meeting Minutes

November 2nd, 2021

Scribe: Paul Gaudet



President George opened our meeting at 12:05 by welcoming everyone and introducing O Canada. We had 31 participants on Zoom today. George noted our two guests, Garfield Ganong who is our Assistant District Governor, and Grace Munro who is our guest speaker today.



George noted that today's scribe would be Paul G, and thanked Stephen and Anne for all their work preparing and distributing our e-Arch each Tuesday. He also thanked everyone who helps out by sending in information to them to help create such a great Club bulletin.

He called on Dean White to provide an update on Rotary programs at Roots2STEM. They identified several classes that would complement their current programs, and have reached out to the Urban Society of Aboriginal Youth, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, United Way, All in for Youth and several schools to find under-served youth that could benefit from such programs. Discussions are ongoing, and Dean is confident that students will soon be in place. Roots2STEM has acquired the license to host the Calgary Maker Faire next Spring. This event will bring people from Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatchewan and British Columbia to exhibit and participate in the Faire. Their website can be seen at [www.Calgary.makerfaire.com](http://www.Calgary.makerfaire.com)

## Amorak Society Grace Munro



*Amorak Society*  
*Teach a Mother, Change the World*

George introduced Grace Munro, our guest speaker. Grace has been active with the Amorak Society for 15 years, training teachers and developing

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**Rotary**  
Club of Calgary Chinook





curriculum (*search Amorak Society for more details*). She also has a degree in Psychology.

This educational non-profit society is a family operation and

was begun by her parents, Tanyas and Gem Munro. They began their life in education by working in Canada's north with our disadvantaged indigenous people, and ultimately moved on to the third world, and currently work almost exclusively in Bangladesh.

Grace told us about specific children in Bangladesh and the challenges they face in building a life in that country. She started with a young boy who couldn't attend school due to the cost, but also because he had to work to support his family. The school system, even if he could find a way to attend, is challenged by overcrowding, lack of teachers and if they manage to find teachers, then they are poorly paid and poorly trained. Grace highlighted that this is a challenge for most third world countries, not just Bangladesh. She reported that 250 million children of school age are not attending school, which locks them into a challenging life.

Amorak builds schools and starts out by filling them with mothers from the surrounding community. These mothers then in turn teach micro-schools of 5 students each. This is a cost effective and sustainable approach. Mothers are dedicated and can hold classes after normal working hours. These mothers are becoming more confident in their abilities to provide basic education and other social issues. They champion women's rights, children's

rights, run food banks, and are becoming leaders in their communities.

It's even more difficult for girls. Grace told us about a girl who was married at the age of 11, due to the culture of the dowry system. As girls grow older their dowry (paid by the parents of the girls) increases. The effect of this is that the parents feel great pressure to marry their girls off early to save money. In Bangladesh, 4.5 million under-aged girls are married annually. Amorak mothers have started a dowry "strike", and began educating people about the tragedy of children's marriage. These efforts have led to the effective elimination of the dowry system in Amorak school communities.

In addition, this education system and the leadership shown by the 'mothers' is having a positive effect on the traditional male domination/subservient female culture. Another of the challenges in Bangladesh is the growing strength of extremism, and one way to limit this growth is through education of its youth.

Grace opened the floor to questions, and we were advised that currently the Amorak Society is active only in Bangladesh. They would like to expand their system but are constrained by fundraising being reduced during COVID. The level of education their schools provide is basically primary. Their goal is to get their students to the high school level. The roadblocks they face are many, starting with lack of belief that their system will work, husbands being against having their wives become teachers, and of course fundraising to create more schools.

President George thanked Grace for presenting to us today and told her that we would be making a donation to Rotary's Polio Plus program in appreciation of her participation.

cont'd on page 3 ...







George asked our members if they had any information to share on the **health of our membership** and reported that one of our Charter members, George Raham, has passed away. George stayed in Rotary after he left Chinook, in the Canmore Club, where his family loved the mountain life and access to nearby skiing. There were no other reports.

It was then time for our **Chase the Ace** draw (51 cards remaining) and it was Alex Soutar who won again ... the second week in a row (earning \$84). We are building a new jackpot with a new deck of cards after Garth Sabirsh won our \$2,100 jackpot two weeks ago.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Harry Nazarchuk is enjoying his birthday today, and joining him in celebration during November is Sandy Swan (4th), Rob Wolfson (11th), John Charrett (23rd), Moe Tynan (23rd), Ted Wada (28th), and Dean White also on the 28th. Spousal birthdays include Eva White on the 5th and Nancy Soutar on the 25th. Happy Birthday to all!



We only have two anniversaries to celebrate this month: Ian and Gwen Burgess are celebrating their 60th, and Ted and Grace Wada their 49th. Congratulations to both couples!

Rob and Bev played their monthly birthday/anniversary video which is truly delightful to watch and enjoy. George thanked both for preparing these videos and creating a fun meeting activity.

## Rotary Minutes:

Rob announced that our **Pick a Second Flames Pool** has begun and that Stephen Pick won \$20 for the recent home game. There are still a number of seconds available (\$20 each) so please contact Rob if you would like to join.



Rob reported that at our **Dixon's Evening Meeting** last week we had 10 Chinook members in attendance. This was a little embarrassing as we had 4 from Fish Creek, one from Sarcee, one from Calgary East, and

Karen from Inclusion Alberta. We were almost outnumbered at our own meeting. Rob reminded us that our Club has formally changed our meeting schedule from four noon-time meetings a month, to two noon-time meetings (on the first and third Tuesday of each month) followed by an evening meeting (7pm) on Thursday of the fourth week (we refer to it as Dixon's). So we ask our members to not think of our monthly evening meeting as solely a networking evening, but rather as one of our regular meetings, one with a unique and very interesting format. We hope to see more of our members joining us at these evening meetings.

In his role as Past President, Rob announced that our **AGM** is scheduled for December 7th and at this meeting we would (if required) hold an **election** to decide our three Directors (two year terms) and President Elect (one year term) for Rotary year 2022/23. Our Nomination Committee is preparing a slate of nominees for these positions however, if we have more nominees than positions, then an election would be held. We ask our members to consider nominating one (or more) of their fellow members for either position. It is important to note however that if a person is nominated, they must agree up front to accept the position if elected.



Ted Wada, in his position of organizer for our **Salvation Army Kettle** community service, announced that he has arranged for our members to cover 4 days of attending at Army Kettles at the Chinook Centre (note-not at South Centre this year). The dates are November 24th (Wednesday) and 25th (Thursday) and December 1st (Wednesday) and 2nd (Thursday). The shifts are either 2 hrs or

1.5 hrs, starting at 10am and ending at 7pm each day. This is a fun activity with much positive feedback during the entire shift, so we encourage our members to sign up. Please contact Ted and he will sign you up.

Bev reminded everyone about **Inclusion Alberta's** upcoming virtual fund raising morning event, November 4th from 7:30 to 8:30am. Please register, get the link and join the group. This is a fundraising event so attendees will be asked for support, however there is obligation. This is a very important and rewarding program whereby people with disabilities are provided with employment opportunities. Their lives are greatly improved.



Anthony took the floor to update us on the upcoming **Rotary Remembers**. This is an "in-person" event being held at the



Carriage House on November 11th. Doors open at 10am and the service starts at 10:30. Go to the District website and sign up. The cost is \$35 per person which includes the

cont'd on page 4 ...

wonderful presentation highlighting heroes from Calgary as well as lunch. You can also sign up to attend virtually from home at no cost. You must sign up right away, and remember you cannot buy a ticket at the door. If you are having difficulty signing up please contact Anthony, but do it right away.

George thanked everyone who participated in our recent **Bottle Drive** and especially thanked both Anthony and Bev for allowing us to utilize their garage and driveway as our collection site. In the three events we held this year we have earned \$772. We hope to schedule our next event early in the new year, so kindly save your bottles if you can.

Next up was our **Sergeant at Arms** for which Rob played a video of humorous cartoons with a Halloween theme.

George followed up on this theme by updating us on the downward trend in the number of Trick or Treaters at his home this year. The general input from our members agreed with this assessment highlighted by Ron May commenting that at their home in Bragg Creek, they haven't had a single child call at their door for 30 years!

George VS reminded everyone that our **next ZOOM meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th at which Gary Webster, a Rotarian from the Centennial Club, will be our speaker.

George wrapped the meeting by thanking all those in attendance and wishing everyone a great Rotary week.

*Given our anniversary records, our club is seriously falling short of the sixteen expected quota of spouses in a lifetime! ...  
"4 richer, 4 poorer, 4 better, 4 worse"  
... that comes to 16 in my book!*

## Sergeant at Arms



## In Memoriam

### George Lewis RAHAM

April 26, 1931, Toronto, ON - October 24, 2021, Canmore, AB

*George remained a Rotarian in Canmore after moving there years ago. He was an very active member of our club, good friend of many, and eager participant in our many fellowship junkets to ski at Panorama. He placed our club banner higher than all other clubs, at the base camp of Mt Everest! I, and many others in our club, will miss this friend, a much loved Charter Member of our club.*

*Jim Thompson, President 81/82 Charter member*

George had three life-long loves in his life, the first being his 1951 MG sports car that he bought in 1951, the second his wife of 66 years, Marian, and third great love was skiing. He started when only 5 years old and was still skiing when he was 89 years old.

With the purchase of a small cabin in Harvie Heights, the family spent nearly every weekend there. In 1991 he retired to Harvie Heights. George spent most winter days on the ski hills. In later years he joined the Rut Runners at Mt Norquay and still skied with them in his 89th year. He was so well known for his ski collection, that the CBC filmed an interview with him that was shown on local and national TV. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/skiing-canmore-george-raham-rocky-mountains-1.4937693>

George was a solid Rotarian, joining the Chinook Rotary Club of Calgary in 1977, and in 2005-06 was voted Rotarian of the Year. He also earned a Paul Harris Fellowship Award in 2009.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to a fund set up in George's name by the Canmore Rotary would be appreciated.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/t/65857>

The full obituary is online at : <https://necrocanada.com/obituaries-2021/george-raham-apr-26-1931-oct-24-2021/>

Our most sincere sympathies to the family and friends of George Raham.

*In Memoriam*





**Rotary Foundation Month**  
November 16th

November 24th & 25th

Gary Webster, Centennial Club  
Child Adolescent Mental Health Park Project  
Salvation Army Kettles @ Chinook Centre  
5 shifts — contact Ted Wada to volunteer

**Disease Prevention and Treatment Month**

December 1st & 2nd

December 7th

Salvation Army Kettles @ Chinook Centre  
5 shifts — contact Ted Wada to volunteer  
ZOOM Meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!  
AGM & Election of President Elect & 3 Directors  
Speaker: TBD or Classification Talks



## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

