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Evening ZOOM Meeting Minutes cont'd
Sergeant at Arms

Calling All Scribes!

Skip the Depot Fundraiser #3

2020-2021 Officers and Directors

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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!



Evening ZOOM Meeting Minutes

September 30th, 2021

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

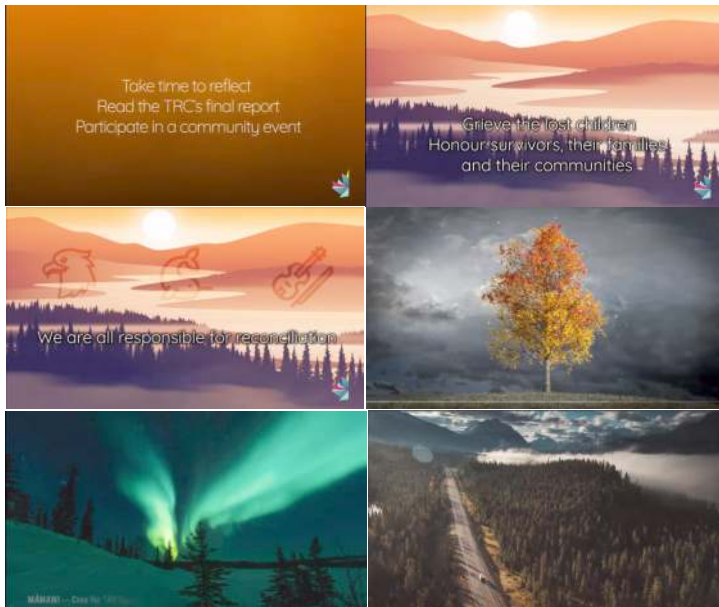


Our meeting was called to order at 7:07pm. Rob welcomed everyone to our meeting on this first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation by reading our land acknowledgement statement, and then presenting a brief video honouring this day and speaking about the truth of the Residential School Program in Canada. It recommends that we take the time to read the Truth and Reconciliation Report and learn about our history. He then called for a moment of silence in honour of all who have lost family members in the Residential School Program.

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He then introduced our National Anthem with the moving version which includes an introduction by Richard Harrison, and features a number of Canadian artists.



Rob acknowledged our guests including Judy Cochran from Calgary West, Rick Istead, former DG and a member of Fish Creek, Barbara Larsen from Fish Creek, Brian Carnahan, President of Calgary East, Christine Rendell (partner of Brian), former DG and member of Calgary East, Dan Doherty, former DG and member of Calgary West, and Jeff Beatty, Friend of Calgary Chinook (and son of Neil).

BelCanFran Exchange Foundation Ron & Lise May

Rob introduced Ron and Lise May, who are our guest speakers for tonight, to tell us about the student exchange program they have been leading since 2004. The name of the program is BelCanFran Exchange Foundation and, in essence, it is a reciprocal family exchange between French immersion students in Alberta, and similar students from Belgium and France. It is a not-for-profit charity registered both federally and provincially.

Both Ron and Lise have many years of experience in the area of youth exchange and have developed many contacts and proven



ability in such programs. There are three major parts to the program: the families of the young exchange students, the coordinators of the program (Ron and Lise are Calgary based

coordinators), and of course the students fortunate enough to be selected to participate.

The program selects two French immersion students from grades 8 to 11, one from Alberta and one from either France or Belgium, and then they travel to each other's home and spend approx 11 weeks living in the other's home, school and culture. After one period has been completed, both students travel to the other's country to do basically the same thing there. The students attend school and do everything their partner does in his/her culture. They are not to be treated as guests but rather as another family member, and are expected to do their share of chores and responsibilities.

There are many significant benefits for the participants, including development of new lifelong friendships, further development of their ability to speak French, and exposure to new cultures. The feedback from graduates has been extraordinary with most calling it a life changing experience.

They started with 60 students taking part, grew to 120 and have been restricted in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID risk. Nonetheless they are planning on proceeding this fall if possible. The school administrations involved in all three countries are big advocates of this exchange as the benefits are well documented and everything is completely handled privately. They find appropriate spots for the visiting students to be situated, and keep an eye on their activity but basically have no further responsibility.

The cost of the program is \$3,900 per student, payable in three instalments. This fee covers the costs involved (the program is non-profit). There are many guidelines and directions involved for all parts of the program which are based on many successful years of operation. The Foundation's website is www.belcanfran.com and everyone is encouraged to go to this site for all the details needed. In addition, as Ron is a long time member and former President (2004) of Calgary Chinook, both he and Lise would be happy to chat with anyone interested in this wonderful youth development program.

Both Lise and Ron are to be congratulated for putting so much personal capital into this wonderful program, making huge differences to the lives of so many young Alberta families. We are proud they are members of our Chinook family. Ron advises that every time they consider retiring, they think of the incredible successes and can't give it up.

Rob thanked Ron and Lise for their presentation and played the Polio Plus video which highlights Rotary's goal to change the world by ending Polio, and noted that a donation will be made to this effort as a thank you for their participation at today's meeting.

cont'd on page 3 ...



Rotary Remembers

**Thursday, November 11th
@ The Carriage House Inn**

*Remembering the sacrifice of those who fought
and died for us.*

"Without freedom there can be no ensuring peace and
without peace, no enduring freedom."

— King George VI



BELCANFRAN
Exchange foundation

www.belcanfran.com



Reciprocal family student exchange between Alberta families and families in France, Belgium and Spain

Exchange dates
11 weeks



From Europe:
- Students arrive in mid-August
- Students return during the 1st week of November
The exchange must be less than 90 days

From Alberta:
- Students leave at the beginning of February
- Students return at the end of April
The exchange must be less than 90 days



WHY SHOULD YOU DO AN EXCHANGE?

- to host an exchange student
- to live in France, Belgium or Spain for up to three months and attend school
- to be immersed in a 2nd language
- to be a member of your exchange partner's family



Coordinators play an important role in the exchange program by:

- Presenting exchange information to students and parents
- Evaluating the students' candidacy
- Matching student partners according to gender, age and interests
- Facilitating the transition for the students to their new school for the 3 month experience
- Coordinating exchange students' life at schools and with the exchange partner



Other roles of the coordinator

- Run June family orientation for European student arrival
- Run a three hour orientation session before departure
- Connect with other coordinators to ensure the smooth operation of the program
- Support hosting families by responding to individual needs
- Meet the students for airport arrivals and departures
- Maintain contact with the exchange student to ensure a positive experience for all

Family Responsibilities

Meet with the school (counsellor + principal) to set up a school placement and program

Host an exchange student for up to 3 months

Treat the student like a family member

Provide a receptive, friendly, and secure family atmosphere for the student

Provide transportation to and from school

Provide 3 meals per day, including the school lunch

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Family responsibilities (cont.)

Help the student adapt to the new environment

Facilitate the learning of the language and to improve cultural awareness (it is important that the student participates in a variety of family activities that favor cultural awareness)

Involve the student partner as a family member not as a guest.

Involve in the everyday function of the host family leads to easier adaptation



Cost of the program
11 weeks

Payments:

The cost of the program is **\$3900.00**

\$400 - Program Registration
\$1,100.00 - Sent in with final application
\$1,200.00 - e-transfer July 15th
\$1,200.00 - e-transfer November 15th

REGISTRATION

This program requires parental authorization

It is not a school sponsored program, however the principal must indicate acceptance of the French/Spanish exchange student into the school program.

The registration process is divided into two steps:

- 1) Application & school recommendation form
- 2) Family file completion

www.belcanfran.com



Belcanfran exchange foundation
Lisa & Ron May
Exchange program coordinators
Tel: 403-948-3815
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www.belcanfran@gmail.com
lisa@belcanfran.com
403-886-8742 (Home)
Alberta, T1A 0A6

As is usual at these evening meetings, the attendees are given the opportunity to briefly outline details and developments from their personal, business or Rotary life. From a viewpoint of taking minutes of this very interesting part of our meeting, we encourage our members to join the group so they can hear numerous interesting updates. We simply can't make notes fast enough to outline them all. Nonetheless we can give you some fleeting notes to give you an idea of how it works:

- Rick Istead reported that Fish Creek has 32 members, is staying with ZOOM until November, and is finding ways to perform a number of Community Service projects.



- Judy Cochran from Calgary West is involved with Youth Service and reports a challenge establishing a new Interact Club, and that they are looking at involvement with short term youth exchange.

- Brian Carnahan, and his partner and former DG Christine, updated us on Calgary East and the International Interact Conference scheduled for March 2022 here in Calgary. Brian noted the passing of long time Rotarian Jim Smith.



- Dan Doherty spoke about the significance of Truth and Reconciliation Day and noted that his daughter in law and grandchildren are indigenous. Dan will be our guest speaker on Tuesday, October 5th.



- George delivered an update on Chinook noting our ZOOM meetings are being continued until November at least. We haven't got back into community service due to COVID, however are seeking opportunities to do so. Prospects for higher natural gas prices are strong so consider fixing your cost by giving George a call.

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- Rob discussed Roots 2 STEM and noted that, after a very busy summer camp period, they are looking forward to employing their program to educate less privileged children through Scholarships provided by our Club Society.



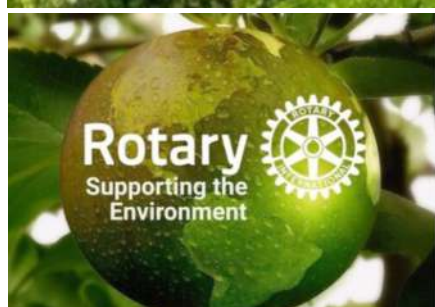
- Rob also noted that his business partnership has completed a new podcast based on "Banded Peak Brewing" and suggested we give it a listen. Their podcasts are available under the title "Dollars and Sense with a couple of gents".



One other interesting note, during the District Webinar on Wednesday evening on the role of District Governor, Rob was bowling. He wanted to participate in the webinar however, so he took his smaller electronic device and did his best to participate between his bowling activity. For whatever reason, he registered one of the best 4 game scores of his very successful bowling career. His 4 game score was 1,298. His teammates will undoubtedly want Rob to continue wearing earphones in the future.

5360 District Conference

May 14, 2022



THE DETAILS

Date: Saturday, May 14th, 2022
 Location: Alliance Church, Cochrane, AB
 Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm, registration open at 8:00am
 Social: MacKay's Ice Cream following conference
 Cost: Rotarians \$100, Guests \$100, Youth \$20
 Charity of Choice: ShelterBox



Our Rotary sponsors are so important; we accomplish a lot together. Thank you for your generous support!

Hi Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, EarlyActors and Guests,

I am very happy to announce that registration is now open for the 5360 District Conference on Saturday May 14th 2022. The theme of this one day Conference is **"Supporting the Environment"** and it will be held at the Alliance Church in Cochrane.

Registration can be found at the District Conference website: www.discon5360.ca which includes information on pricing, speakers, sponsorship and our charity partner Shelter box.

Join the Family of Rotary and Guests to learn about Rotary's new 7th Area of Focus, while making new connections and catching up with old acquaintances. Sign up early and be eligible for prize draws on November 1st, December 1st and January. 1st.

If you have any questions please contact Conference Chair Karen Greene (karend.greene@gmail.com) or myself.

Looking forward to seeing you in Cochrane.

Yours in Rotary,

Martin

Martin Parnell (he/him/his)
Rotary Club of Cochrane
District Governor 2021/2022
Rotary International District 5360
info@martinparnell.com
403-922-0562



OUR SPEAKERS WILL BE FOCUSING ON THE FOUR ELEMENTS: LAND, WATER, AIR AND FIRE AS WE EXPLORE WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT.

REGISTER EARLY TO WIN PRIZES!

MONTHLY DRAWS: NOV 1ST, DEC 1ST AND JAN 1ST

For the November 1st draw, Cochrane Toyota is donating a beautiful painting by Simone McLeod titled "Celebrating Partnerships".



Economic and Community Development Month

October 5th ZOOM meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!
Speaker: Dan Doherty — Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Rotary

October 19th ZOOM meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!
Speaker: Damen Heron, the 'man inside Darth Vader'

October 25th / 26th "Skip the Depot" Bottle Drive #3 — drop your empties off on Tonkinsons' driveway — 12119 Lake Louise Way SE

October 28th Dixon's Evening Meeting — on ZOOM @ 7pm
Speaker: TBA



Rotary Foundation Month

November 11th Rotary Remembers @ The Carriage House Inn

November 16th Gary Webster, Centennial Club
Child Adolescent Mental Health Park Project



Rotary Remembers
November 11th, 2021
The Carriage House Inn

Evening ZOOM Meeting Minutes

... cont'd from page 3

You see the challenge of scribing through this section of our meeting, so join us on October 28th (our next evening meeting) to hear the actual updates from around our District, and to perhaps add your own.

After a Sergeant at Arms video providing some humorous cartoons, "Things that make you go hmmmm ...", Rob wrapped up our meeting and thanked everyone for attending.



'Skip the Depot' Fundraiser #3

Hold on to your empties!!

Members and Friends, drop off your bottles/cans in Tonkinsons' driveway on

Monday/Tuesday October 25th or 26th !

The address is **12119 Lake Louise Way SE**, in the community of Lake Bonavista. (phone # 403 271 4026)

Please put your bottles in plastic bags ... the bigger the better!
Consider reaching out to family, friends and neighbours to increase your collection!

If you have bottles but not the means to deliver them, please contact Paul G and we will try to arrange pick up. Any members who can help pick up bottles for delivery to Tonkinsons' driveway, please advise Paul.

Special thanks to Bev and Anthony for once again hosting the pick up site at their home.



FUNDRAISING



Pssst ... don't tell Bev and Anthony ... but let's get enough bottles/cans etc to fill their garage so they have to park outside !!!

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.