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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

Roots 2 STEM

Dean White, Director of Youth Services



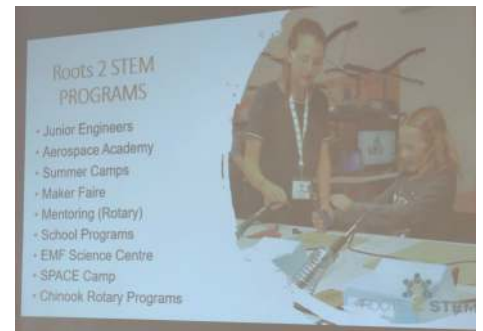
George called on our Director of Youth Services, Dean White, who told us about Roots 2 STEM, the business he has created to provide a "STEM" education to the youth in our community.

Dean is an engineer by profession and truly loves STEM education, which is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. He believes that it is challenging for our regular schools to provide this area of instruction as they lack both trained instructors and the proper tools.

Roots 2 STEM is a non profit operation which began in 2014 and reaches 1600 students per year. It operates out of a 7,100 sq ft facility in SE Calgary which has been entirely set up for STEM education, including large rooms for demonstrations as well as individual lab facilities.

Roots 2 STEM conducts many and varied types of training to a wide spectrum of students, including:

- Junior Engineers
- Aerospace Academy
- Summer Camps
- Maker Faire
- Rotary Mentoring
- Space Camp (launch actual rockets)
- Chinook Rotary Programs for Indigenous and underprivileged youth



Their operation relies on the support of volunteers to provide low student to adult ratios and closer assistance.

They are developing partnerships with service groups (such as Rotary), community groups and corporations.



John Charret took the podium to give the perspective of a Rotary volunteer, and reported that the facility is extremely impressive. We have been involved with Fairview Junior High for 25 years and currently provide 10 learning sessions for their students at Roots 2 STEM during the January to May period. The school administration continues to express their appreciation for this partnership. John notes that we will continue to require volunteers from Chinook to make this program work. John thanked those members who volunteered this year (Bev and Anthony, Rhea, Dale, Hank, Paul G., and a number of Tammy's staff (which she graciously provides), and of course John himself. He urges members to select Youth Service as a volunteer activity for the upcoming year.

Dean reported on the Chinook Rotary Society Programs which involve providing training to underprivileged youth, and includes providing

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 Calgary, Alberta T2J 7A6
 info@chinookrotary.org
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President George called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all participants, followed by the singing of O Canada with Ruth on the piano.

After lunch, he recalled our meeting to order at 12:45. He thanked Stephen and Anne for the great job they do in creating and distributing our e-Arch, and then thanked Paul Hussey for his work in organizing our House Committee which sees that our meetings are set up properly, and then noted that Paul G. would be our Scribe for today's meeting. He also thanked Dave Wylie for helping us with technical matters, and Ruth Wylie for providing her piano talent for our musical efforts.

Joe Hooper reminded us that our **upcoming Casino** on June 16th and 17th is still short 4 volunteers. This event is critical as a fundraiser for our Club, and we need to provide adequate numbers of volunteers. Please consider joining your fellow members and call Joe Hooper for details.



George noted that our numbers in attendance today were lower than normal due partially to the Rotary International Convention being held in Houston, and thanked the Carriage House staff for working with us to proceed with our meeting.

Chase the Ace



George introduced our Chase the Ace segment by advising that we have 24 members playing for June, and that our weekly prize would be \$72. This week's ticket was drawn and Paul Gaudet was the winner. He chose the 5 of Clubs, so our larger pot continues to grow (currently at \$537).

George noted that we will postpone our regular birthday segment to our next meeting.

Sunshine Report

George welcomed Ian Burgess back to our meeting and also noted that John McBean was in attendance ... great to see them both! It was reported that Al Pettigrew is dealing with a case of shingles, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Good News/Bad News

Dave Wylie reported that he gave his son in law a valuable birthday gift, a full tank of gas! John Charrett told us about a

recent visit to the UK where they walked a rigorous 143 km trail, 1/2 the length of Wales. We're glad he has returned looking strong and healthy!

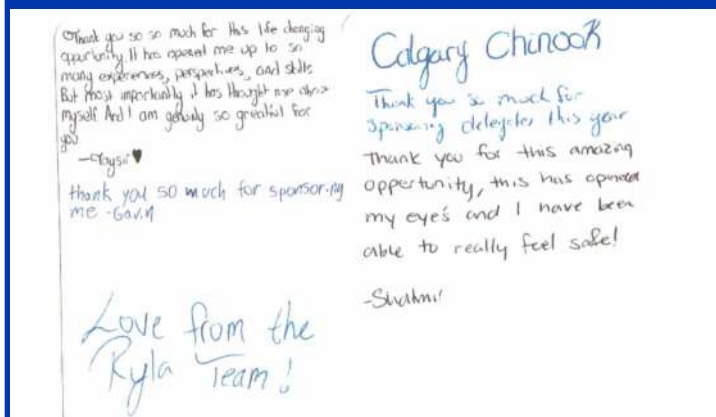
Rotary Minutes

- Dave Wylie announced that Meals on Wheels is very short on drivers, and encouraged our members to consider joining this service. He notes that the shifts are generally around 2.5 hours. Please contact Dave if you are interested in helping.
- President George shared an interesting story about his mother who resides in a seniors' home in Prince George and who will be turning 90 in August. She wasn't feeling well so took herself to the hospital where she was diagnosed with COVID. As the worst was behind her, the staff discharged her to a cab ride back to her seniors' home without advising anyone of her diagnosis. This doesn't seem to be the best way to protect others?
- George reminded us that we are having a **bottle drop off fundraiser event** at the Tonkinsons' home (driveway) in Lake Bonavista on Tuesday, June 28th. Kindly collect your cans and bottles and drop them off.
- In addition he highlighted that we are holding our annual **President's Dinner** at McKenzie Meadows Golf Course on Thursday, June 30th. This is a tradition of our Club (cost is \$60 per person) where we show our President that we appreciate his/her making the time and effort to lead our Club activities. Please consider joining us. Send your money by e-transfer to AI, or call him with your credit card number.

Our **next meeting** will be on Tuesday, June 21st at noon and will include Directors' Reports outlining our various activities during the current Rotary Year. Please join us for fellowship and our year's review.

George thanked everyone for attending today and offered best wishes to all. Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Thank You Card from RYLA Students





President George called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all participants, followed by the singing of O Canada with Ruth on the piano. After lunch, he recalled our meeting to order at 12:30.

He thanked Stephen and Anne for the great job they do in creating our e-Arch, and then thanked Paul Hussey for his work in organizing our House Committee which sees that our meetings are set up properly with Greeters to welcome us. He noted that Paul G. would be our Scribe for today's meeting, and also thanked Dave Wylie for helping us with technical matters and Ruth Wylie for providing her piano talent for our musical efforts.

George then advised that we are looking forward to planning our summer luncheon at our Nature Park, and to holding a couple of other fellowship events during the summer. He asked us to consider the idea of postponing our "in-person" meetings during July and August, and basically replacing them with the social events. Another factor would be that we will be asking our members to step up and volunteer for several shifts at our RibFest in September. He asked us to think about the idea, and that further discussion would occur. A couple of comments noted that the effect on our relationship with the Carriage House should be considered, and also the effect on our regular attendees.

Chase the Ace

George introduced our Chase the Ace segment by advising that we have 28 members playing for June, and that our weekly prize would be \$84. This week's ticket was drawn and Michael Spears was the winner. As Michael is not in attendance today, George will contact him and give him the opportunity to pick the Ace of Spades and win the pot (currently at \$621).

Birthdays and Anniversaries

As Rob was attending the CRCF meeting today and had to miss ours, George used our traditional method of reporting the birthdays and anniversaries for June. Our **birthdays** are Syed Ahmed, Dave Wylie, Joe Hooper, Al Pettigrew and Rhea Graham. Our **spousal birthdays** are Michael Dale, Madalene Imler and Barbara Plunkett. Our **anniversaries** are Peter and Sharon Bickham (51 years), Al and Jeanette Holt (49 yrs), and Anthony and Bev Tonkinson (44 years). Best wishes to all!

Sunshine Report

- Neil reported that Graham Boone was in the hospital going through a diagnosis process and hoped to be home soon.
- Hank reported that Al Pettigrew has been in and out of the hospital recently with an infection however that he sounds great. We hope to see him soon.
- Hank also reported that Pat and Sally



Wiersba were in town visiting family and had intended on attending our meeting today. Unfortunately, Sally had to be hospitalized on Sunday and diagnostic testing is on-going.

Rotary Minutes



- Joe reported that our **Casino** has been completed successfully. Our volunteers showed up as anticipated and did a good job. The expected revenue from this two day event is somewhere between \$65,000 to \$75,000, a very significant amount for our Club. Joe thanked all our volunteers for their support.

Hank asked for a show of hands from those interested in attending an **Okotoks Dawgs baseball game** in late July. There was a positive response so we should be hearing more soon.

- Ian told us about media coverage he had heard regarding the World Health Organization's comments on the eradication of **Polio**. Apparently we are still having challenges in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but remain very optimistic of ultimate success.

- George reminded us that we are having a **bottle drop off fundraiser event** at the Tonkinsons' home (driveway) in Lake Bonavista on Tuesday, June 28th. Kindly collect your cans and bottles and drop them off.

- In addition he highlighted that we are holding our annual **President's Dinner** at McKenzie Meadows Golf Course on Thursday, June 30th. This is a tradition of our Club (cost is \$60 per person) where we show our President that we appreciate his/her making the time and effort to lead our Club activities. Please consider joining us. Send your money by e-transfer to Al or call him with your credit card number.



Sergeant at Arms

Hank was in charge today and generally stuck to fines of one loonie at a time. He noted that some members who were fined at our last meeting couldn't pay because they didn't have coins. He proceeded to point out blank sheets of paper on each table for preparing "IOUs" as necessary.

He noted that each of us were invited recently to participate by ZOOM in our District Governor's final meeting and an introduction of our new DG. We didn't have many attendees from Chinook. He fined everyone who didn't participate, one loonie each.



scholarships for such students to attend summer camp. They also include regular programs for Indigenous groups which are very much appreciated.

Dean then spoke of the Calgary Maker Faire which is a two day event held at BMO Centre. He describes it as a real cool project which involves robotics and other STEM projects for families to enjoy. Dean introduced Richard Cleveland who hosted and participated at this year's fair. His area of interest is the use of 3D printing. He describes the fair as a place to show how things are made, to model ideas and to spark imaginations.

Dean feels this fair can serve as a focal point for the activities performed by Roots 2 STEM and lead to new and high potential partnerships.



President George thanked Dean (as well as John and Richard) for updating us on Roots2STEM and for the excellent service they are providing to underprivileged youth in our community.

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

Meeting Minutes June 21st

... cont'd from page 3

Dave Wylie has been having some minor facial surgery and, in his own words, he will be looking better both inside and out. He challenged Ruth to pay \$20 for the pleasure of having a husband with improved looks.

Good News/Bad News

- Rhea told us that June is her birthday month (28th) and that she wanted to celebrate her Rotary family, which includes Dale Perret and Anthony Tonkinson for being the Club Presidents at both times she joined Chinook, Bev Tonkinson for her service to Rotary, Hank Popoff for his leadership, Janet Popoff for her fun and fellowship, and Anne Dale for her mentorship and coaching. Rhea is turning 80 and will donate \$80 for this opportunity to celebrate her Rotary Family.
- Hank donated \$5 for the privilege of being the Sergeant at Arms today.

Directors' Reports

Garth Plunkett, Director of Club Financial.



Garth firstly discussed our fundraising activity which includes a variety of projects, large and small. The largest and the one with the most potential is our RibFest, being held this year at McMahon Stadium on September 9th, 10, and 11th. Our RibFest for the Rotary year just ending was a "Drive Thru" event due to COVID, also at McMahon. It was a partnership between Chinook, Centennial and Calgary East and raised a total of \$9,000.

We just held our Casino on June 16th and 17th and we anticipate raising between \$65,000 and \$75,000 from this event.

Our Fundraising Committee worked hard developing our "Roses for Teachers" project through which we thanked the staff of the three schools with which we have a long relationship (two Interact Clubs and our Mentorship program). We completed Henry Wise Wood and Dr E P Scarlett this winter, and expect to complete Fairview Junior High in the Fall. We consider this event to be an excellent way to improve our identity within the community and to hopefully make a small profit. Garth also noted our Bottle Dive

activity, our Value Village project, our many sports pools and our weekly Chase the Ace pool. Garth thanked Rob and the Fundraising Committee for their efforts in making these events successful.

Garth then thanked Anne Dale who chaired the Foundation Committee this year. We have a total of 27 members who donate monthly to the Rotary Foundation and many Paul Harris Fellowships are awarded each year. Rob is chairing our CRFC Foundation and we recently received a \$11,000 dividend (interest earned from our total contributions) which will help our Society provide educational services to the less fortunate.

Neil Beatty, Club International Report



Our next Director to the podium was Neil Beatty who is the Director of Club International. Graham would normally be making this International report however he is currently hospitalized. Neil was pleased to present his report.

- A global grant application for the training of teachers for the improvement of hearing and the rehabilitation of children's hearing in Pakistan has been submitted to the Rotary Foundation.
- We have received commitments and grants for the funds necessary for our girl empowerment project in the Dominican Republic.
- Some \$9,700 was previously forwarded to the Medical Mercy TB Clinic in Kovel, Ukraine. The funds will remain designated until such time that it is safe to carry out the project.
- We have supported the "RACHEL" children's educational project in Guatemala which brings a digital library facility to offline communities.
- We are helping (with a \$1,500 donation) a UK Rotary Club with their project to drill a borehole for the provision of clean water for a STEM school in Zambia.
- have agreed to support (with a \$2,400 donation) a school project in Guatemala which will provide desks, chairs and kitchen equipment. We have applied for a District Grant to further fund this project.
- We are helping Calgary North with

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their planned global project in Nigeria which will supply 4 brick making machines to assist in the reconstruction of damaged houses. Our DDF grant for \$5,000 has been approved.

- A \$4,000 donation has been paid to the Rotary Foundation (Canada) to go towards the Ukraine Disaster Response and our District will be matching our donation.

We currently have \$2,060 of our original \$25,000 budget not allocated.

Neil Beatty, Community Service Report

Neil then changed hats and announced that he would also be presenting the Community Service Report as Director Dale Perret was unavailable to attend today's meeting.

Our Community Service budget was \$20,000 and it has been allocated as follows:

- \$10,500 to the Acadia Food Pantry which distributes food hampers to the needy.
- \$5,000 to the Kerby Centre which provides housing support for seniors.
- \$2,000 to Inclusion Alberta to support employment for special needs employees.
- \$2,000 to Community Kitchens towards the purchase of a new vehicle.
- \$500 to the All Chairs initiative to improve technology.

Sandy Swan, Director of Club Operations



Our next presenter was Sandy Swan who is the Director of Club Operations. This covers Greeters, Scribes, Club visits to other Clubs, and our Membership Committee. Paul H is doing a good job handling greeters and Paul G is handling Scribes.

COVID has limited visits to other Clubs but hopefully we can encourage this to restart soon. This is a simple concept and calls for

our members to attend the meetings of other Rotary Clubs and return with any ideas which might make sense for our Club to adopt.

Our efforts to increase our membership have been very challenged, and Sandy notes that such challenges are being experienced worldwide. Our Committee (chaired by Michael Spears) has tried hard to find a way to attract new members but unfortunately success has yet to occur. The committee contacted the majority of ex-members who have left the Club in recent years, and have outlined our new meeting structure in the hope that they might return. We do have a number who have expressed interest but nothing solid as of yet. We worked with RI's guide for finding new members by asking our membership to recommend their various contacts so our committee could reach out to them, however this has not yet generated new leads. The committee also recommended to our Board that we take a look at creating several new membership categories (such as a family plan and categories for younger members) which might carry reduced dues for some period. These recommendations are under review and further information is being gathered. We are also looking at new initiatives to integrate the important areas of Inclusion and Diversity into our membership structure and our Club generally.

Lastly, we are planning to have a tent at our RibFest filled with Rotary information and volunteers to provide information and encouragement to visitors to join Rotary.

Dean White, Director of Youth Service



Our final Director to take the floor was Dean White who represents Youth Service. Dean began by thanking his Youth Committee comprised of Ron May, Dale Perret and Rhea Graham. • He reported that 7 local high school students have received \$1,000 bursaries plus a personal plaque. The Father Greg bursary is for \$2,000.

- We supported 4 students at Rotary's RYLA leadership program at a cost of \$2,000 each.
- Our Mentorship Program with Fairview Junior High went forward this spring and included 16 students being hosted by Roots2STEM, and involved a number of Club volunteers. Dean characterized the program as a great success. In the fall we hope to be involved with Rotary's Rypen program for local students.
- Our Scout Canada troop is getting back into activity now that COVID is permitting them to do so.
- The committee is looking at several options with regard to getting involved with Youth Exchange in some fashion, and Dean will be preparing a report with recommendations.
 - Our two Interact clubs have been fairly inactive during COVID and we are looking forward to encouraging their return to activity in the Fall.
- Rhea highlighted that we have done a good job keeping our Youth programs reasonably active during the year.

President George thanked all the Directors for their work during the year and for presenting their reports today. He also thanked all our members who worked on all our committees, doing their best to serve our community. He took the opportunity to encourage all our members to consider Bev's request for committee participation, and to reply to her as soon as possible.

Our **next meeting** will be on Tuesday, July 5th at noon and will include the "Passing of the Gavel" and the opportunity to welcome in our new President and our new Board. Please don't miss this opportunity to start our new Rotary year in the best possible fashion.

George thanked everyone for attending today and offered best wishes to all. Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick



President-Elect Bev Tonkinson presenting a bursary @ Diefenbaker HS in June



Rotary 

JULY IS
LEADERSHIP MONTH

"IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND
BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER."
- JOHN QUINCY ADAMS



Photos courtesy Bev Tonkinson & Rob Wolfson

President/President Elect Celebration

Tuesday June 14th, 2022
Rotary Challenger Park
10416 46 Ave NE, T3J 1C8

Rotary 

YEAR
END
CELEBRATION

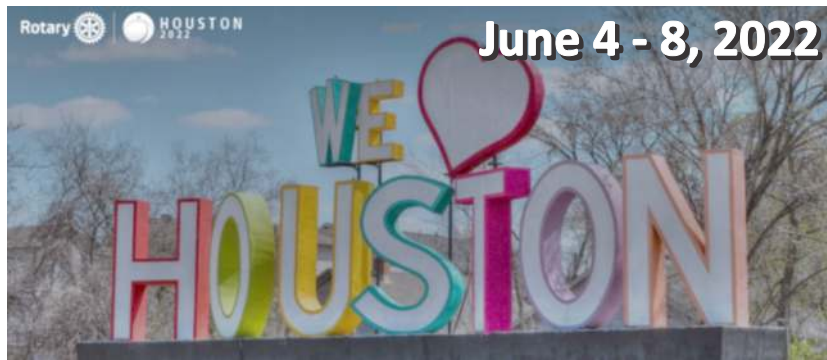
Calgary & Area Presidents
&
Presidents Elect

5:30 pm Fellowship
6:30 pm Dinner
8:30 - Presidents Final Update
9 - Challenge + 2 Successes
Introduction of CEY
Awards for next year!

Changes to your Rotary Contact Manual at 1023.982.5452 or
www.rotary.org/canada



Photos courtesy George Van Schaick



Construction by the Gazebo in our Nature Park

There is activity adjacent to our assembly gazebo, initiated by city or provincial contractors building a pedestrian bridge across the river at this point to Chaparral, Blue Devil GC on the west side.

by Rob Wolfson



New Rotary Year Begins

July 5th Passing of the Gavel from George to Be

Membership and New Club Development Month

August 2nd Rob Wolfson — RibFest Promotion

Basic Education and Literacy Month

September 9th, 10th, 11th RibFest at McMahon Stadium



Okotoks Dawgs Baseball

We have an opportunity to attend a Dawgs baseball game as a group in Okotoks on **Friday, August 5th.**



The price is \$40.00 and includes a meal. Game time is 7:05pm. We usually go out an hour before game time to enjoy the meal and a beverage before the first pitch.

We need to have a commitment from 30 persons to make this a go and it's critical that we get our **number fixed no later than Wednesday, July 6th.**

Please reply to me by email at popoffh@telus.net to confirm your attendance.

Many thanks!

Hank Popoff



IMAGINE ROTARY

In Memoriam



Gordon Murray Billings
February 22, 1935 - June 29, 2022

Gordon Billings, beloved husband of Mary Billings (nee Shipway) of Calgary, AB, passed away on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at the age of 87 years.

Gordon was born on February 22, 1935, in MacGregor, Manitoba to parents John and Marjorie Billings. Gordon spent his working career with Scotiabank, retiring in 1994. Gordon met Mary Selina Shipway in Kenora,

Ontario at a softball game and married her in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on April 11, 1959. They were married 63 years and remained together until his passing. Gordon enjoyed many things in life — family, camping, and travel were amongst his favourite things, but his greatest passion was bird hunting. He had four beloved dogs to help him track pheasant ... Duke, Duchess, Lady, and Belle. He was an avid member and supporter of the Rotary Club (since 1997), Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever.

Funeral Services will be held at McInnis & Holloway (Fish Creek, 14441 Bannister Road SE, Calgary, AB) on Friday, July 8, 2022, at 10:00 am.



Edith Montgomery
August 5 1937 - June 8, 2022

It is with great sadness that the family of Edith Montgomery, wife of long time member, Bob Montgomery, announces her passing at the South Health Campus in Calgary on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at the age of 84. Edith was born in Hartland N.B.

In 1959 she and Robert were married and lived in Fredericton while he attended UNB. In 1961, they moved to Hamilton, Ontario, and then finally settled in Calgary in 1979. She and Bob loved to travel and had many adventures together. Edith was a compassionate person who saw the good in all people and loved her 25 years of volunteering with the CNIB.

If friends desire, memorial donations may be made in Edith's name to the Alzheimer Society.

In Memoriam

