



## Passing of the Gavel July 18th

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The first order of business in this new Rotary year was to 'Pass the Gavel' from Outgoing President Bev to Incoming President Anthony.



Bev called up her entire Board of Directors so she could personally thank each of them with a big hug. Thanks to Al, Dale, George VS, Ted, Bruce, Neil, Dean, Stephen, Anthony as P/E, and George K as membership chair.



Anthony asked this year's Board to come forward for a group picture; PP Bev, PE Rob, Dale (Secretary), Stephen (Treasurer), Neil, Ted, Sharon, Pam, Paul, Dean, and George K as Membership chair.



### 2023-2024 Officers and Directors

Anthony Tonkinson, President  
Rob Wolfson, President Elect  
Bev Tonkinson, Past President  
Dale Perret, Secretary  
Stephen Pick, Treasurer

Pam Montgomery, International Service  
Dean White, Youth Service  
Ted Wada, Community Service  
Sharon Fraiman, Club Service  
Neil Beatty, Club Operations  
Paul Gaudet, Club Financial  
TBD, Membership Chair  
TBD, Rotary Foundation Chair

RI President Gordon R. McNally  
Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Lothian Scotland  
District 5360 Governor Kurt Kowalchuk  
Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

### 2023/2024 Presidential Theme: "Create Hope in the World"

RI President Gordon R McNally calls for Rotary to Create Hope I the world by working for peace and mental well being. He urges members to engage in tough conversations and earn the trust that's necessary to realize these values. "Turning ethos into action."

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President Anthony called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance. He noted that our RI President is Gordon R. McNally, and that his Rotary Theme for this year is "Create Hope in the World". Anthony then led us in the singing of O Canada.

We had 35 participants at our meeting today, which included 5 guests and 30 Club

members. Our **Guests** included a visiting Rotarian from Mumbai, India (who exchanged banners with our Club) and Vlad from Kamloops (who is being inducted to Chinook at today's meeting). Our other visitors were Cynthia (friend of Bev's and potential member), Jeff Shaw (friend of Sharon), and Aida Sasarman (Vlad's wife).



H and his volunteers for ensuring that our meeting room is set up and ready for our meetings each day. In addition we also wish to thank both Hank and Neil for operating our payment system and seeing that we all pay for lunch.

Anthony presented a **Rotary Fun Fact**. The first Rotary Banner to orbit the moon (from the Houston Space Centre) was carried by Astronaut Frank Borman, a Houston Rotarian who also had Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong in the same Club.

### Club Business

The first order of business in this new Rotary year was to **'Pass the Gavel'** from Past President Bev to President Anthony. First up was Bev who thanked everyone for all their support during her year and for their service to others. She then called up her entire Board of Directors so she could personally thank each of them with a big hug. Thanks to Al, Dale, George VS, Ted, Bruce, Neil, Dean, Stephen, Anthony as P/E, and George K as membership chair. The group photo will be available in our next e-Arch.

Our **Indigenous Fact** for the day is that Canada has the 2nd highest indigenous population after New Zealand.



Anthony thanked Paul for being our scribe today. He also thanked Bruce and John for being our greeters today, and for making everyone feel welcome. Bruce introduced our guests and we welcomed them with our



enthusiastic song.

Anthony called us back to order and thanked Stephen and Anne for all they do for our Club, most notably the regular production of our e-Arch. He also thanked Paul



Bev then passed the gavel over to Anthony and it was his turn to talk about his year. Anthony started out his new year by thanking PP Bev for all her hard work and her commitment to the implementation of new ideas. She documented responsibilities for Board leadership, introduced the Indigenous and Rotary Facts, closing meetings with the 4 Way Test, Pints at Peanuts, and Lager at the Legion, trying out a Dinner Club to name a few. She (scribe's comment) chaired her meetings with a style filled with enthusiasm and personal warmth, which led to improving attendance as the year progressed.



Anthony advised that outlining his plans for the coming year would have to be delayed as they were still in development. It has been a very busy time with personal issues lately (including their latest grandchild being born a month early and still in NICU at Foothills, and family get togethers for Bev's 70th), and he wishes to give the proper time into the development of these plans. He did advise that our nomination committee this year will be comprised of a group of our Past Presidents so there will more pressure on those members approached

to be on our Board next year. The common reasons of being too busy or doing too much travel tend to fade when we look at Dr Ian being a full time Pediatrician while being our President for a year and a half, and look at the travel Bev and Anthony did last year between BC, Mexico twice, and Australia, all accomplished with the support of George as needed.

Anthony then explained that the reason he is taking on the Presidency this year is that he doesn't want to let down the great members in this Club. He went on to single out a number of members whom he wanted to thank publicly: Paul G for always being so helpful, Dale P for all her work as Secretary, George VS for taking the podium for all those weeks they were travelling, Al for being our treasurer so well for 10 years, Stephen for agreeing to takeover from Al, Neil for continuing to be a Board member over many years to provide continuity of leadership, Pam and Sharon as new members who agreed to join our Board when it is all so new, Joe for agreeing to take over as Chair of our Society (from Peter who needed to step down), and finally Rob, an amazing Rotarian in so many ways. As PE Rob will be in a position to be our President in 2025 when our International Convention returns to Calgary.

Finally, Anthony pointed out that we are still awaiting receipt of committee selection choices from a number of our members, and asks them to kindly submit them so we can fill our committees and see that our members get involved in the business and service of Chinook.

Anthony asked this year's Board to come forward for a group picture; PP Bev, PE Rob, Dale (Secretary), Stephen (Treasurer), Neil, Ted, Sharon, Pam, Paul, Dean, and George as Membership chair.

## Induction

One of the best events in Rotary is when you have the opportunity to induct a new member. Our newest member is Vlad Sasarman who was introduced by Hank Popoff.

Vlad was born in Bucharest, Romania, began his education and met his wife, Aida in 1992. They were married in 1994. They subsequently relocated to Canada and Vlad earned an MBA from McGill. They saw many parts of Canada with stops in Montreal, Ottawa, NWT and British Columbia. Vlad first joined Rotary in Kimberly in 2002. He served as International Director, TRF Director and Club President. At the District level he has worked as District Treasurer, ADG, and District Foundation Chair. He is a Rotary Foundation Benefactor and Paul Harris Fellow, Level 5.

Vlad has been in Commercial Banking for 25 years, and is currently Senior Corporate and Commercial Credit Manager with Connect First Credit Union.

Bob Montgomery formally inducted Vlad to Chinook after which he was warmly welcomed by our members.

## Sunshine Report

Jim Thompson sends his regrets as he continues to deal with post surgery leg issues. We wish him the best for a full recovery.

## Good news / Bad News

- Al donated \$20 to announce that he is off to Ottawa to meet his his new 9.4 pound grandchild.
- Monty told us how excited he is with his new hip to be moving around essentially pain free.
- Vlad joined in, announcing how glad he is to be a new Chinook Rotarian.
- Anthony also donated \$20 and while I missed why, I'm pretty sure it was in honour of their new grandchild.

## Sergeant at Arms:

Our regular Sergeant at Arms segment was postponed today for timing reasons.

## Chase the Ace

Rob advised that we have only 11 cards remaining. Today's winner, John Charrett won the daily pot of \$81, and chose the 3 of Spades.

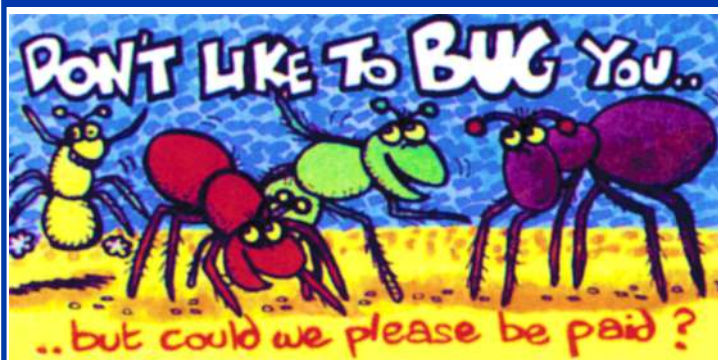


Our pot is now \$3,483, so be sure to buy your tickets for August (if its not awarded this week at Limericks).

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## Annual Dues



**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 or  
credit card at the meeting check-in desk  
or by e-transfer to [info@chinookrotary.org](mailto:info@chinookrotary.org)

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





## Ribfest Update

Rob provided an update report on our Ribfest event taking place on September 8th, 9th and 10th ... only 7 weeks away! He reported that the Centennial Club has withdrawn as financial partner as they don't believe they can take the risk of another loss. We will be proceeding with the risk on our shoulders as we believe we can generate a profit with greater attention to reducing set-up costs and other event costs,

together with a larger crowd as more people become aware of this fun event. As an example we have reduced our site costs by over \$10,000 as we implement lessons from last year (thanks to George K). We should note that Centennial and East Clubs have both committed to help out by providing volunteers. We have received confirmation from two Rotoract Clubs that they will

FREE ENTRY      FREE PARKING      LIVE BANDS



LOCAL VENDORS      50/50      BEER & RIBS

**Rotary Ribfest YYC**  
 McMahon Stadium parking lot  
**September 8-10, 2023**

[www.YYCRotaryRibfest.ca](http://www.YYCRotaryRibfest.ca)  
 @RotaryRibfestYYC 

also help out with volunteering as their members return to Calgary for the College year.

Rob reported that we have a strong retail market lined up and new food trucks supplementing the four different Rib Trucks. We have excellent local bands lined up (including Scott Pettigrew). The Star Wars figures, Children's Area, and Village Beer partnership are all in place and we will have a Rotary info booth set up (managed by Dale) to tell visitors about Chinook and Rotary generally (and to encourage new membership).

We continue to work hard on attracting sponsors as this directly affects our profitability, and Bev and Rob continue to build our totals. We continue to ask everyone to pass on potential sponsor leads to Bev or Rob as we can still offer them media and signage advertising for our event. We have arranged professional media assistance through a number of local stations and social media coverage through Bell media.

## Dates to Remember

- July 27th      Fellowship Meeting at Limericks, 5:30 to 7:00
- August 1st      Regular noon meeting at the Carriage House
- August 8th      Picnic Meeting at Rotary Nature Park

Anthony thanked everyone for attending today and asked all to stand and help close our meeting with a reading of our 4 Way Test.

Remember ... "Create Hope in the World".

Our meeting adjourned at 1:30.

*Photos courtesy George Van Schaick*

## Evening Meeting @ Limericks July 27th



Great food, fun and an opportunity to socialize. It was a beautiful evening, 29 attendees total ... Rotarians, family and friends. A BIG THANK YOU to Paul Gaudet and George Kimura for organizing !!



### Membership and New Club Development Month

August 1st Vlad Sasarman Classification Talk  
 August 8th Meeting at Rotary Park, Jim Thompson and District Governor Kurt Kowalchuk  
 August 15th Review of Ribfest and Curling League promotion

### Basic Education and Literacy Month

September 5th Matthew Janz, Annual Giving and Stewardship Coordinator at PaceKids School  
 September 8th, 9th, 10th Ribfest !!!!  
 September 19th Pete Desrochers, President of the Alberta Arbitration and Mediation Society

### Economic and Community Development Month

October 3rd Randy Young, Director of Donor Ministry, Samaritans Purse Canada  
 October 17th Dan and Marlene Doherty — 'Homes of Hope' 2024

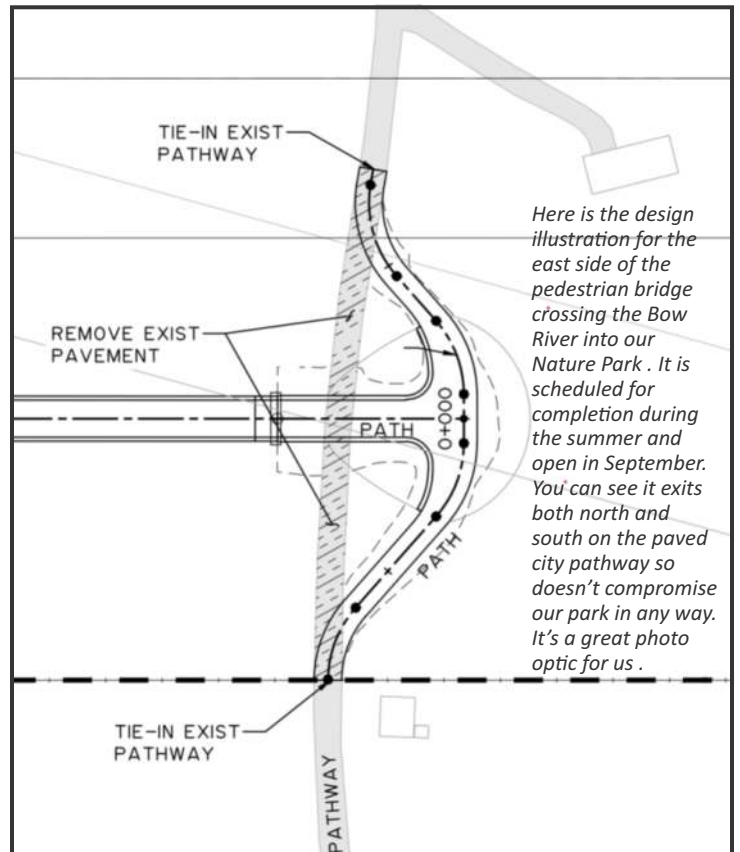


## Club History Revisited

*by Jim Thompson, Club Historian / Charter Member*

The land our community park is on, is a portion of provincial park lands known as Fish Creek Provincial Park, isolated from the rest of the park by the Bow River. It had been a gravel pit business before a land trade with the provincial government after the gravel mining was exhausted. The MacKenzie Meadows golf group I represented, secured the lands on a long term lease basis, including the portion south of highway 22 (now our Nature Park), after negotiations I made in 1992. It became apparent that the piece south of highway 22, compromised by major utility rights of way, was not going to be feasible for any golf enterprise, especially with a clause in the lease that stated that portion would have to be vacated on short notice as utilities needed to be accessed. I proposed it could be developed as a minimally developed natural park. Our club liked the idea ... a perpetual Rotary Park, no land cost, no lease, just the costs of a few shelters, pathways of gravel and re-defined ponds left by the gravel operations. Done and done. Provincial Parks agreed on the basis of custodial only 3rd party interest, and we got started in late 1999.

The park opened officially in June 2000, with the fixed facilities we have to this day. Outside financial support by Calgary businesses was super and are acknowledged in the park. As predicted, the Park was interrupted numerous times by expanding utilities, highway expansion, the flood of 2013, and more recently, further highway bridge expansion, and a separate pedestrian bridge over the Bow River anchored on the east side in our park ... an amazing feature allowing more visitors easy access from west side communities.



In the beginning, our members were enlisted annually for clean-up and plantings. Now Parks insists on qualified machine operators service, so the MacKenzie Meadow's crew, at no cost, have filled the void.

The new pedestrian bridge will open next month, the east side anchor in our park is shown. My two sons, both RYLA recipients and Paul Harris Fellows, were part of the 3rd party financial contributors, neither are residents of Calgary anymore. The golf course initially, and on going, has been exceptional in support and in catering to our annual picnic needs.

I hope all our members, and those who are members of other clubs in Calgary, identified on the permanent benches in the park, visit to see our club's community footprint in the form of this, a Nature Park in an urban setting. Enjoy Everyone and be proud of yet another RI identified initiative brought about by The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook.



*Charter Member/ Past President 81/82 Jim Thompson and sons Gavin and Miles, both RYLA recipients and donors to the Park infrastructure through employers.*