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2023-2024 Officers and Directors

Anthony Tonkinson, President
Rob Wolfson, President Elect
Bev Tonkinson, Past President
Dale Perret, Secretary
Vlad Sasarman, 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

General Assembly

**Dale Perret, Chair of Local Donations and
Pam Montgomery, Director of International Service**

Today's meeting is one of two General Assembly Meetings held during our Rotary year. Anthony pointed out that today's program is designed to tell our membership where our hard earned dollars are being spent.

Local Donations:



Dale provided a "Food for Thought" page on our tables in an effort to have us understand what issues can occur to a family working on the edge of poverty. Unplanned occurrences deplete financial resources well past the point of affordability. A very scary read for sure. A great reminder of our blessings.

Dale advised that our current year's budget was still a work in progress, so she highlighted our two donations her committee made last year. Their mandate is to assist with food insecurity and mental health. Last year we supported "Acadia Food Bank" and "Inn from the Cold".

Acadia Food Bank collects food donations from the community, and uses public donations to purchase fresh food that has a shorter shelf life. They open their food availability one day a month (the third Tuesday in the month) at McDougall United Church. Every month since April 2019, the Acadia Food Pantry has provided free food to anyone experiencing food insecurity in their community. In 2021, the Pantry served an average of 110 people each month. With increasing inflation, more and more of their neighbours are finding it difficult to afford food for their families. As a volunteer organization supported by residents of Acadia as well as Christ Moravian Church, the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, and McDougall United Church, the Pantry depends fully on donations to operate. 100% of every donation is used to buy food and supplies, and donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

For over 25 years, **Inn from the Cold** has supported families in finding stability during times of crisis. They empower independence and foster resilience, guided by their belief that every child and family should have a safe and stable place to call home. To help bring their vision to life, they provide three main programs: homelessness prevention and diversion, emergency family shelter, and supportive housing. Trauma-informed and housing-first principles guide everything they do and they strive to adapt their programs to meet the unique needs of each family they serve.

Dale told us about the "**Community Donation Rotary Chair Group**" which has been set up to allow all our area Rotary Clubs to share information about various charities seeking donations. The group is referred to as "**YYC Helps**" and each application goes to a predetermined contact who shares it with the group, and they determine whether it can be supported. As of October they have received 41 applications, 14 have been supported, and Rotary grant funds are included where possible.

International Service:

Pam is Director of International Service and works closely with her committee to complete existing projects to which we are committed, and also to consider new

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President Anthony called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance. Anthony noted that our Rotary Theme is to “Create Hope in the World”, then led us in the singing of O Canada.



We had 28 participants at our meeting today which included a single **guest**, our newest member (being inducted today), Keith Wellon.

Anthony **thanked** Paul for being our scribe today as well as Monty and Michael for being our greeters and for making everyone feel welcome. He had a special thank you for Dave Wylie for setting up our AV system which will allow improved sound and video presentations going forward.

Anthony thanked Stephen and Anne for all they do for our Club, most notably the regular production of our e-Arch. He also thanked Paul 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 Peter and Neil for operating our payment system.

Club Business

Anthony reported that our November 11th “Rotary Remembers” was a successful event with a big crowd and great speaker.

New Member Induction



The most exciting event in Rotary is the induction of a new member. Pat Hutchinson, as sponsor, introduced Keith Wellon, and George Van Schaick read the induction.

Keith is an engineer with a Masters Degree from Memorial University in Newfoundland. His 40 year business career includes roles with Imperial Oil, a

large manufacturing company, Fortis, and Enmax. He retired during COVID as VP Indigenous Relations and Business Development for the Cahill Group. He has the certified designation of the Institute of Corporate Directors, and has been a Board member of over 20 organizations. Keith has also been active on the service side with roles with Kiwanis, multiple charities, and not for profit organizations over the years. He is married to Glenda. Welcome to Keith.

We ask all of our members to be sure to introduce themselves to our new members: Keith this week, and Brennen Pell at our last meeting. Ask them how we can help them reach their goals in Rotary.



Sunshine Report

Pat reported that John McBean is moving into a new home and that details will be provided shortly. There was no further news re the health of our Club.

Pat announced that his Golf Club (Earl Grey) would be hosting an **LPGA Tournament** next July (22nd), and there will be opportunities to volunteer if any of our members are interested? Simply reach out to Pat and he will send you an application form.



Get to Know Our Members

This feature is an opportunity for us to get to know our fellow members a little better.

This week it was **George Van Schaick** who told us about his background.



George has been a member of Chinook for 7 years. He was born and raised in Grande Prairie. His dad was foreman at Scott National, and at a young age he had George moving a broom around at the shop. This led in quick time to packing and moving product and loading trucks, and ultimately to a 27 year career. He moved from physical responsibilities to purchasing and ultimately to selling.

His success led to numerous transfers over the years: to Regina, Kelowna, Calgary, back to Regina, Edmonton, and back to Calgary. In 2005, Scott National was acquired by another entity which led to George being let go.

George stayed in the sales area since then with various types of investment vehicles. So we can see that he has had a very diverse business history. He reached out to uncle David Wylie who introduced him to Chinook Rotary. (Thanks to Dave for doing so!)

Chase the Ace

Rob proceeded with our new cycle with the 4th pick, meaning we have 49 cards from which to pick. We have 26 members playing for November which generates a \$78 daily prize, \$104 to the Club, and our pot is at \$345. Our daily winner was Rob himself (ticket duly chosen by a third party), who picked the 6 of Hearts. Our next draw will be next week at our Thursday evening meeting (November 30th), probably at Dixon's Pub (TBD).

Rob noted that members who wish to play Chase the Ace are asked to send their funds by e-transfer to our treasurer in the final week of the previous month. So to play in December, please send your \$10 per draw (there will be two draws in December so send \$20) during the last week of November.



Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation

Rob is our Club Chair for the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation and presented a series of slides detailing data compiled through a recent audit of Rotary members. They asked about CRCF's role, how donors perceive their work, and how they can best support the Clubs in communicating why membership should support Rotary. The survey shows that 51% of Rotarians identify as donors to Rotary and overall want more communication. Clubs want to hear impact stories, the value of donating through CRCF and details on how Clubs are using their distributions.

The communications audit highlighted three key messages:

- 1) CRCF accepts, stewards and disburses endowment funds for local Rotary Club Initiatives.
- 2) CRCF supports Clubs and their members with information on how they can invest in their community through Rotary.
- 3) CRCF celebrate the impact that Rotarians' giving is having on

the communities we serve.

Rob noted that last year (2022) Chinook received a distribution of \$11,563 from CRCF, whereas this year we will receive \$12,147. Our donations continue to build our investment base which is held for perpetuity, earning distributions of 5% of the value of our contributions, annually to our Club. The money you donate continues to support our Club and ultimately our service projects long after we are gone.

Rob asks that we consider supporting CRCF as it is a very worthwhile cause.

Today's Program:

As today's meeting is one of two General Assembly Meetings held during our Rotary year, Anthony pointed out that today's program is designed to tell our membership where our hard earned dollars are being spent. More specifically, Dale as Chair of Local Donations, and Pam as Director of International Service will tell us about their projects.

Dates to Remember

- Networking/Fellowship Meeting: Thursday, November 30th
- Next regular noon meeting: Tuesday, December 5th at the Carriage House
- December 12th: Lager at the Legion
- December 15th: Chinook Christmas Party at Garrison Curling Club, 2288-47th Avenue SW. Take the Crowchild Trail / 50th Avenue SW exit (east side) and the first left off 50th. Thanks to George for organizing this event. Tickets are \$50 per person.

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

Remember, "Create Hope in the World".

Have a great Rotary week. Our meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick

Speaker January 2nd

Alvin Law

Alvin Law is one of us ... sort of. He is an Honorary Life Member of Calgary Rotary East, and an Honorary Paul Harris Fellow. He has presented to Rotary District events as far away as Uganda. Alvin believes that the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" may be one of the best mission statements ever.



That will be the focus of a short program we will be privileged to experience for our first meeting of 2024, and what a way to kick things off! Alvin is a member of the Canadian Professional Speakers Hall of Fame, and he was inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in 2018. Alvin said that was an incredible honour, but also caused some internal conflict, as his family taught him there was no such thing as a "disability", just some human beings with a bigger challenge than the rest. And indeed, Alvin may appear "challenged". He has no arms. He will explain why in a story that will leave everyone with a powerful impression about him, and Rotary. This is a meeting you don't want to miss.

projects. She highlighted that Graham Boone has done a phenomenal job over the past nine years, managing our International projects and utilizing RI and District grants whenever practical. His knowledge and experience are invaluable to our ability to participate in numerous Rotary joint projects throughout the world.



As an example of what we have been involved with, Pam presented four separate projects in which Chinook has played a role:

Girl Empowerment in the Dominican Republic

Chinook is the lead club on this project. It dates back to August of 2021 and just this week we have been able to see the results. The girls who grow up in these areas have no access to feminine hygiene and the stigma keeps them out of school. There is also the risk of sexual abuse and child trafficking. Thanks to this project, almost 4,000 girls have been given these washable, reusable kits. The kits are made in local sewing facilities, employing the women who make them. Each kit can be used for three years. Total project costs are \$105,000 USD of which Chinook contributed \$6,516, the District \$21,263 and the World Fund 17,010. The balance comes from other Rotary Clubs and NGOs.

Quiacquix Water Project in Guatemala

The Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park is the lead with this project. It takes place in a very poor area that has no opportunity for regular jobs. They grow corn, beans and squash and weave textiles for the tourist trade. This project connects an existing deep well to an uphill tank and develops a distribution system to 4 sectors of the community. It provides water, sanitation and hygiene training to the community. It will provide water to approximately 500 families. Community members were involved in completing the construction. Chinook provided \$2,700, the District \$6,750, and the World Fund \$5,400.

Help Walking Project in Columbia

The Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park is the lead for this Project. It involves providing leg braces to kids born with clubfoot. In the 1950s a treatment developed based on providing a series of casts and braces that eliminated the need for surgery. This project provided 3,278 splints so that 823 children with clubfoot can complete their treatment to age 5. In addition, 400 parents and caregivers received training. Chinook provided \$2,600, the District \$6,750 and the World Fund \$5,400. The total budget was \$131,000 USD.

Literacy Project in Cambodia

The Rotary Club of Calgary is the lead. The project provides teacher training and classroom resources to kindergarten teachers and students in Pursat Province, Cambodia, one of the poorest provinces in one of the poorest countries in the world. 57% of the children miss out on early education. At the primary school level, 25% of children are unable to write a single word. Only one in three children attend secondary school. Chinook donated \$2,750,

the District \$6,750, and the World Fund \$5,400. Total budget is \$56,800 USD.

Pam's presentation included many pictures which brought these projects to life. They highlight the variety of international projects we help provide funds for, and also the wonderful multiplying effect of utilizing District and World Fund grants.

Pam wrapped up her presentation by emphasizing that every single penny invested in these projects has been life changing.

Anthony thanked Dale and Pam for their presentations. They remind our membership that we are still accomplishing important service, both locally and internationally.

**THE FOUR WAY TEST
OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO**



FIRST

IS IT THE TRUTH?

IS IT FAIR

TO ALL CONCERNED?

SECOND

THIRD

WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

FOURTH

Jim Thompson, Charter Member, President 81/82

Here we are, days away from having another special social gathering to celebrate Christmas, at another new venue.

The club started what has become a tradition, just a year after chartering in 1977. We had moved to our new home, The Tradewinds Hotel on Macleod Trail across the road from Chinook Centre. In the 2nd year, we decided to host a small group of senior residents from a nearby public access facility, and sponsor the Bowness Boys Choir as well. In exchange for them entertaining us in attendance, we donated a few hundred dollars to the choir, and a feed of hotdogs, chips and soft drinks before their bus scooped them up and took them back to school. The seniors and our members attending were thrilled with their performance. They returned for a few more years. The seniors group got a bit larger annually too.

After we relocated to the Carriage House Inn, the party became much larger, entertainment focused more on the seniors, and the committee budget grew considerably! Tammy Truman played a very important role in organizing and hosting.

We have had different venues over the years: the Blackfoot Inn, McKenzie Meadows Golf Course, The Glencoe Club, to mention a few, and this year, the Garrison Curling Club, all of which are always festive and fun places to celebrate the coming of Christmas. COVID did suspend the annual celebration, but we are back on track now. Let's make this the great social success the club has enjoyed in the past!!

Chinook Christmas Celebration



Friday, December 15th, 2023

Garrison Curling Club — 2288 47th Avenue SW
 Upper floor (elevator available)
 5: 30pm for Cocktails
 6:30pm for Dinner (roast turkey)
 8:00pm we will have a Chinese Gift Exchange
 Cost: \$50.00 per person

You may ask what Chinese gift exchange is. Should you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift (maximum \$20.00 value) ... the funnier or more unusual the better. That is one gift per couple. Each party participating will be allowed to pick a gift when called. The first person will select from the gift table, and open and leave it in front of them. Then we proceed to the next. That person can pick from the gift table or choose one that has already been taken. If you select one that has been taken, then that person gets to select from the gift table. So on until all the gifts are selected.

Please confirm attendance and number to:
 George Kimura
 Email: geokim@telusplanet.net
 or text or phone: 403 803 1555



E-transfer payment to: The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook
info@chinookrotary.org
 indicate Christmas

Come join the fun! Looking forward to seeing you there!



Salvation Army Toy Program

Ted Wada, Community Service Director

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers for their Christmas Toy Program this year. If interested you can sign up directly with them.

There are some very exciting changes to this year's Christmas Toy Program. Parents/Guardians will now have the opportunity to shop for their children's Christmas gifts, with the assistance of our "Personal Shopper" volunteers. Volunteers will work in a supervised environment with our wonderful Christmas Toy Program Staff, and will help with a variety of tasks including Personal Shopping, Toy Sorting, Greeters, and Intake Volunteers. Volunteers must be 18 years of age to volunteer with the Christmas Toy Program and will be required to view the Christmas Toy Program Orientation.

We are looking to fill the following Christmas Toy Program Volunteer Shifts at the East Campus location (5115 - 17th Ave SE):

- December 12
 - 9 am – 1 pm 4 volunteers needed
 - 5 pm – 8 pm 8 volunteers needed
- December 19
 - 2 pm – 5 pm 8 volunteers needed
- December 20
 - 9 am – 1 pm 4 volunteers needed
 - 2 pm – 5 pm 2 volunteers needed
 - 5 pm – 8 pm 20 volunteers needed
- December 21
 - 5 pm – 8 pm 13 volunteers needed
- December 22:
 - 1 pm – 4 pm 5 volunteers needed



How to Sign Up: If you are interested in volunteering with the Christmas Toy Program, please sign-up through MyImpact, or email CSCalgary at VolunteerServices@salvationarmy.ca

MyImpact Instructions:

- Step 1: Login to MyImpact
- Step 2: Click "Opportunities" tab -> "Opportunities List"
- Step 3: Select "Forest Lawn – Christmas Toy Program", located under Christmas Toy Program Volunteer Opportunities
- Step 4: Review volunteer shifts and click "Sign Up" to register for the volunteer shift

Email Instructions:

Email CSCalgary at VolunteerServices@salvationarmy.ca and include the following information: Full Name, Shift Date Request, and Shift Time Request

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

December 5th
 December 13th
 December 15th
 December 19th

Sharon Fraiman — Canadian Magen David Adom
 Mustard Seed supper service — call Wayne Wiebe to volunteer
Chinook Christmas Celebration !! @ the Garrison Curling Club
 Bart Dailley — Christmas Traditions and their Histories



2024

Vocational Service Month

January 2nd
 January 16th

Alvin Law — New Year Motivation
 Jeff Ross, District Membership Director — Rotary Membership and Growth

Days For Girls Project

Submitted by Graham Boone

We initiated this project on August 21, 2021. The project was originally declined by the Foundation, but partially accepted later on. Some 1,064 kits were distributed to girls in October! Our project is actually taking place and making a bunch of girls very happy.



Evening Meeting November 30th @ The Point Public House

