



January 2nd, 2024
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Canadian Magen David Adom Sharon Fraiman, Western Region Director

In This Issue

- 1 Speaker December 5th
Sharon Fraiman
"Canadian Magen David Adom"
- 2 Meeting Minutes December 5th
- 3 Meeting Minutes December 5th cont'd
RI President Elect 2024-25
- 4 Rotary Chinook Bursary Program
- 5
- 6 Christmas Dinner December 15th
- 7
- 8 What's Up!
Canadian Magen David Adom cont'd
RI Convention 2024



Our program this week is from Sharon Fraiman, who will be telling us about her personal background and career development. She began her remarks with "This is a story about the girl who always wanted to be a humanitarian".

Sharon is currently the Western Region Director of Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA), which is a member of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Society, and works tirelessly saving lives in Israel and around the world.

She told us about growing up in Israel with a loving family who taught her how to share, respect and always show kindness. One of her grandfathers was a prisoner of war in Egypt, and the other was a holocaust survivor who also became a soldier. She's a proud granddaughter to two brave fighters. Sharon's son (Sazar), was with the IDF in Israel, but is now a sheriff with the Alberta Sheriffs Branch here in Calgary. Her daughter (Roni) is a manager at Earl's downtown, and is studying Psychology and Biological Anthropology.



Sharon's first career was as a teacher for 25 years in Israel. She specialized in being a special needs teacher to kids with disabilities. She received an award from the Ministry of Education for writing the special needs curriculum which is still in use today.

Sharon emigrated to Canada 8 yrs ago and after considering her career options, she decided that she wanted to save lives in Israel and elsewhere, and that the most effective way to do this was to become a fundraiser for CMDA. This role finds her working to support 32,000 dedicated volunteers who operate ambulance teams in Israel. These teams are able to perform mobile intensive care and actual life saving surgeries. This extensive volunteer medical system is funded through the donations of the public from around the world. Donors also provide medical equipment, blood units and ambulances.



Sharon then spoke about the attack by Hamas terrorists on Israel on October 7th. This attack has been well documented and resulted in the death of 1,500 civilians, and the kidnapping of 240 more. The ensuing invasion by the IDF continues with an on-going death count, as they do their best to eradicate the Hamas terrorists. Sharon highlights that as the war continues, the MDA is in desperate need of additional ambulances, medical equipment

cont'd on page 8 ...

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

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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.

Due to the Christmas season, the hotel was packed today resulting in our location being in a new spot (for us at least), right beside their restaurant. While it was cozy, everyone worked together to see that the meeting went well and it certainly did. The smaller facility gave Anthony a good opportunity to highlight the importance of letting George know if you are planning to attend one of our meetings so our host can provide both the space and food we require.

We had 37 participants at our meeting today, which included 5 **Guests:** Haim Fraiman, Josette Fraiman and Dan Sharpe, all guests of Sharon, Teagan Macza, our connection with Inclusion Alberta, and Jeanette Holt. Our guests were introduced by Garth Sabirsh and serenaded by our “Welcome to Rotary” verse.



Anthony thanked Paul for being our scribe today. He also thanked Garth S. for being our greeter today and for making everyone feel welcome. 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 Hank for operating our payment system.

Club Business

Your scribe was sitting at a table with Pat Hutchinson and heard two interesting anecdotes: Oor newest member (Keith Wellon) happens to be in the Cayman Islands and plans to attend a Rotary meeting while there. Also, Pat showed me a note he has received from Gordon McInally, the President of Rotary International, thanking him for sponsoring a new member.

George Kimura reported that we need a lot more people to join us at our Christmas Party on December 15th at the Garrison Curling Club.

Getting to Know a Rotarian — Hank Popoff

Hank was born in rural Saskatchewan and was raised with his family speaking mostly Russian. His Dad came from Russia and his mother came from the Ukraine and knew little English. She was able to adjust to her husband’s Russian so Hank communicated with her in that language for her entire life. He was raised in the Doukhorbor Faith until the age of 22. Their services are conducted in Russian, and they believe that violence is unjustifiable under any circumstances, including war. Hank played a piano accordion in his youth at family get-togethers, and played in a 4 piece band at dances during the same period.



He earned a BSc degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan in 1965, and promptly moved to Alberta to join the oil industry. He enjoyed a 28 year career in this, retiring in 1993 at the age of 50. Two of his fondest memories during those years were, firstly the 2.5 years spent in London seeing and doing many incredible activities. London is still their favourite international city. Secondly, his business connections led to his being invited into a family home in China (a rare event at that time). The family were living in a state of near poverty yet they fed him well and opened their doors to his visit. Hank recalls the grandma having him use a broomstick to roll and make Jowza (Chinese dumplings).

We can’t talk about Hank without mentioning his ties to Rotary. It came into his life 48 years ago during a two year assignment in Montrose, Scotland. Two friends saw that he visited Rotary in that city and pressured him to join. Since then he has belonged to Clubs at Calgary Downtown, London, England, back to Calgary Downtown, and to Chinook in 2009. Hank has also been very active at the District level. He is a strong believer and supporter of the Rotary Foundation and the good it creates worldwide.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

George Van Schaick announced our single member birthday for December, Jim Hennessy on the 13th.

We have three spousal birthdays during December: Lois Beatty on the 16th, Sharon Bickham on the 21st, and Jim Swan on the 31st.



We have two Anniversaries this month: Stephen and Anne Pick are celebrating their 54th on the 20th, and Wayne and Muriel Wiebe their 60th on the 28th

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Good news / Bad News

Moe advised that she has spoken to John McBean. He is residing in a senior home in the Seton area, and reports that he is not doing well these days.

Monty visited Harry Nazarchuk who is living in a very nice seniors' home. Harry looks good and wished all his Rotary friends best wishes.

Chase the Ace

Rob noted that our last draw was held at our meeting last Thursday evening and Ron May was the winner. As a result we began today by having Ron try to draw the Ace of Spades ... he chose the 7 of Hearts, so our pot grows.



We then proceeded with today's draw, and it was George Kimura who was the winner. He chose the 7 of Spades. He did win the weekly prize of \$69 and our Club earned \$92. Our pot is \$489.

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 January, please send your \$10 per draw, during the last week of December.



Youth Services Report

Dean White delivered a report on Youth Services which had been rescheduled from our Club assembly. He outlined a number of the programs which are included in our Youth Services activity:

- RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) — \$600 per participant. This is a 4 day camp for aspiring youth leadership.
- RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) — \$600 per participant. An annual conference for mutual growth and success.

- RAYEC (Rotary Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship) — \$1,100 per participant. This is a week long camp held in August to educate youth re business concepts.
- INTERACT — a Rotary group in local high schools to perform fundraisers and community projects.
- ROTARACT — a Rotary group of older youth (ages 18 and older) developing leadership skills through fundraising and community service.
- BURSARIES — individual awards presented to graduating students for the pursuit of further education. We provide the funds, and the high school administration select the winners. Our budget is \$9,000 annually.
- SCOUTS — we support a Scout group located in the Somerset/Bridlewood communities. We support their fundraising campaigns.
- CHINOOK ROTARY MENTORING PROGRAM — this is an on-going mentoring program with Fairview School. Teachers select students to visit Roots2STEM, and our members volunteer to assist.

Our total budget last year for Youth Services was \$21,200 and the current year's budget is still being considered.

Guest Speaker

Our program this week is from Sharon Fraiman, who will be telling us about her personal background and career development.

Dates to Remember

- December 12th Lager at the Legion
- December 15th Rotary Christmas Party at the Garrison Curling Club
- December 19th Regular noon meeting at the Carriage House, Bart Dailley will be our speaker

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

RI President-Elect 2024-25

Stephanie A. Urchick

Rotary Club of McMurray
Pennsylvania, USA



Stephanie Urchick is a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA. She will serve RI as President in 2024-25.

She has been an RI Director and Rotary Foundation Trustee. She has served RI in numerous capacities, including as training leader, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, and RI president's representative. In addition, Stephanie was a representative and member-at-large to three sessions of the Council on Legislation. A Rotary member since 1991, Stephanie has participated in a variety of international service projects.

The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook Bursary Program

Our club currently awards a Bursary of \$1,000.00 to 7 High Schools as follows: Alternative High School, Dr E.P. Scarlett High School, Henry Wise Wood High School, James Fowler High School, John G. Diefenbaker High School, Lord Beaverbrook Senior High School, and Our Lady of the Rockies High School (formerly Bishop Grandin). We also provide a \$2,000.00 Bursary through St Mary's University in honour of one of our Charter Members who has passed away, Father Greg McLellan.

Tom Sorenson, Charter Member, was Chair for many years and, as a former Principal, he was devoted to the program. When I was first asked to take over as Chair, I endeavoured to carry on his great work with the schools.

The intent of our awards is to share Rotary values and strengthen our relationship with youth in Calgary. The schools select the student to receive our Bursary, and after attending a few of the award ceremonies, I was concerned that the values of Rotary in our "Service Above Self" were not necessarily part of the school assessment for Recognition of Excellence in their endeavours. Many students were often receiving more than one Bursary or Scholarship as the highest mark achievers. Many students, especially in these times, often support families through part-time work, and therefore may not be able to dedicate their time entirely to achieving the highest grades. We also felt that students who participate and support school needs such as tutoring students, championing school clubs, or involved in their community were worthy of our support. Therefore the schools are reminded at the start of the year of our mandate to support students that do their best in achieving excellence in school marks, but also display the Rotary "Service Above Self" that we value.

Our program follows the same format each year. Award ceremonies are held in May/June, with the exception of Lord

Beaverbrook which holds theirs in November. I reach out to our membership to participate in the presentation of these awards, and there is a great response to do so.

Chinook Rotary provides the following:

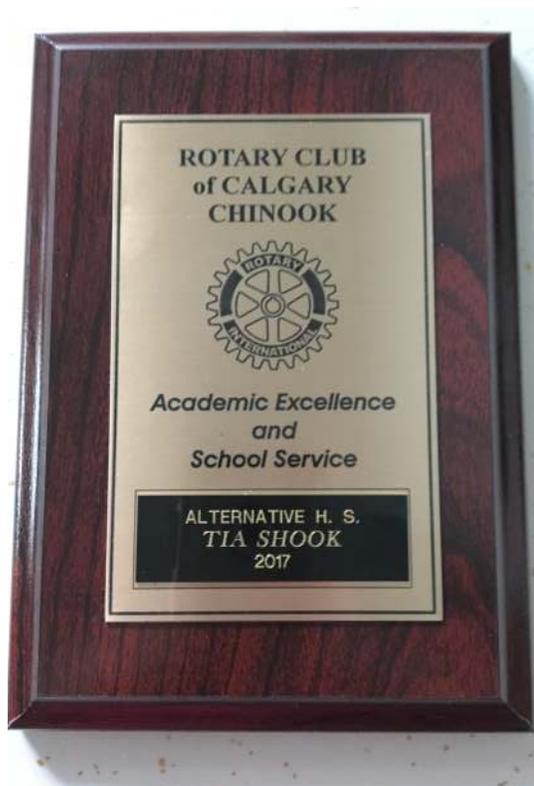
- School trophy which remains with the school, and we replace as needed when full. The school is responsible for ordering and paying for the name plate.
- Keeper plaque with their name and school which is presented to the student along with the letter of congratulations.

The letter also contains instructions on how to access the Bursary. We do not issue a cheque to the student. It is sent directly to the post secondary Institution in their name. We recognize post secondary as any accredited learning institution beyond high school, such as Universities, Colleges, SAIT etc.

The student must provide us with their letter of acceptance from the Institution, as well as a record of their class enrolments. This is to ensure that the student is enrolled as required to receive the Bursary. There have been occasions where a student has decided not to further their education and therefore they do not qualify. This has not happened often.

In our Letter of Congratulations, we also provide information and encouragement to seek out a Rotaract Club at their post secondary Institution or community. They are also made aware of the Scholarships/Fellowships that are available from Rotary International and District programs. With the cost of higher education beyond high school becoming out of reach for many, there is a great need to continue with our program. The schools are tremendously grateful for the support of Chinook Rotary.

Dale Perret, Chair - Bursary Program





November 23rd, 2023

Jonas Daye,
Lord Beaverbrook SeniorHigh School

Dear Jonas:

It is indeed a pleasure for the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook to present you with our Academic Excellence and School Service Award of a \$1,000. Bursary. We congratulate you on your outstanding achievement and encourage you to continue to pursue academic excellence in post secondary studies. As Rotarians we value "Service Above Self" and recognize the contribution you have also shown in that area and trust it continues where possible in your busy life ahead.

As Rotarians, we endeavour to recognize achievement such as yours on a number of fronts both locally and internationally. Rotary International is noted for its' special scholarship and group study programs throughout the world. We encourage you to consider joining a Rotaract Club should one exist in your post secondary community. Subsequently, opportunities can be a orded to you to pursue study at the international level through the Group Study Exchange and International Scholarship programs. Once you have established yourself in a business or professional position, by becoming a member of a Rotary Club in your area you can attain both collaboration and community service opportunities.

Once again, our congratulations on your achievements this past school year and we wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Also attached is an outline on how we process the Bursary and please feel free to contact me at dale.rotary@shaw.ca or 403 454 4700 if you have any questions or concerns

Respectfully and
In Service of Rotary,

Dale Perret
Chair - Bursary/Scholarship Committee
Past President 2015 - 2016

On behalf of
Beverly Tonkinson, President 2022 -23

Anthony Tonkinson, President Elect 2023-24

Dean White, Youth Services Director 2022 -23

The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook
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Biography:

My name is Taran, and I am attending Mount Royal University for elementary education, with the intention of becoming a teacher for grades kindergarten through grade 6. I am from Calgary, Alberta and I come from a family where education was of utmost importance, with many of my family members being educators themselves. Having grown up around people who were very heavily involved in early childhood education, it sparked an interest in helping others and furthering their educational understanding. Throughout my personal journey in early education, I enjoyed helping others to grow, learn, and further their understanding of the content being taught. This also helped others to learn more about themselves and what works best for them. In my future I intend to continue to help early education students in this and provide an environment where all students can learn to the best of their abilities.

Prior to attending Mount Royal University, I attended Lord Beaverbrook High school. Throughout my high school experience I was given many opportunities to expand my knowledge and to help out wherever I could for the community. I earned service awards in all three years of school for my many contributions to various school clubs. The clubs gave an incredible insight into what could be my future, and what to expect, which made me very inspired and excited. During my senior year I took it upon myself to take on new responsibility by obtaining a retail occupation. I started by working evenings and weekends throughout the school weeks, and worked my way up to working full time in the summer. By doing this I have helped myself and my family by giving me the opportunity to partake in a new adventure that is my post secondary education. This work experience has helped me grow so much as a person and I have fostered so many new relationships, that I can't wait to transfer all the skills I have learned into my everyday life in university. Though I will miss working full time at Mark's I am excited to be taking on this degree and am excited for my future.

As I approach the time where I will be working less at Mark's, I am sad because of all that I was taught about myself there. I learned about my strong work ethic and furthered my understanding of how much I enjoy helping others, whether they are customers or my coworkers. I used my work ethic to help me learn and develop skills for every department which drove me to do my best and help wherever I could. I hope to use this work ethic in my university and push myself to be the best I can be. The Chinook Rotary bursary will help me to continue in pursuing my dreams of becoming a teacher one day, and to make my journey successful.





Vocational Service Month

January 2nd
January 16th

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

Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

February 6th
February 20th

Jeromy Farkas — "Pathfinder" presentation
Kurt Kowalchuk, District Governor

Youth Service Month

May 4th - 5th

District 5360 Convention — Drumheller — www.discon5360.ca



Canadian Magen David Adom

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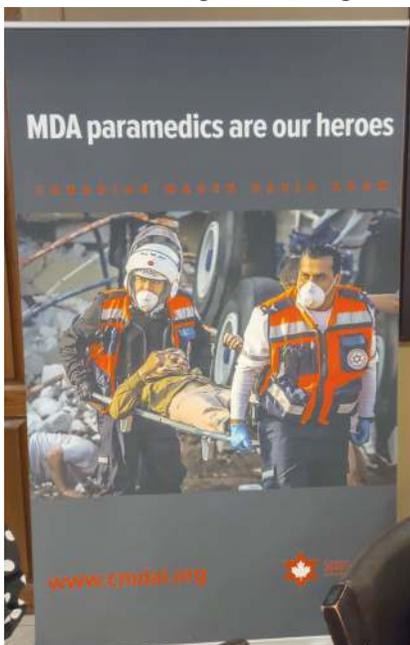
and other supplies. She asks us to consider providing donation support as the MDA is incurring costs in excess of \$350,000 per day to keep up with the emergency medical needs of Israel. She also asks that we share this information with friends, family and colleagues.



Sharon then introduced her friend, Don Sharpe, who is a retired (after 40 years on the job) ambulance driver and paramedic from Alberta. Don had been raised in a Jewish community and when the opportunity arose, he volunteered in Israel with their MDA volunteer medical system. He expressed a great deal of respect for the completely volunteer mobile medical system in Israel. He felt it would be good if we could attract more volunteers into the Canadian medical system. Don is awaiting another request to volunteer in Israel and supports the CMDA in Canada.

Don hopes everyone will attend the fundraising dinner being planned for January, "Calgarians for Israel". This dinner event will take place at the Regency Palace Restaurant on Sunday, January 21st, 2024 between 5pm and 9pm. It will include a 10 course Chinese Banquet, a live and silent Auction, and live entertainment. Tickets are \$88 or \$1,260 per table.

Anthony thanked Sharon for her emotional presentation and highlighted her ability as a fundraiser, noting that she raised \$5,000 for Ribfest by requesting support from one of her contacts.




RI Convention 2024

Singapore awaits !!

The Rotary Convention is where friendship and learning come together to inspire you. In Singapore you'll connect with people of action from around the globe, at Rotary's biggest event of the year.

We'll share fresh perspectives, inspiration, and hope – with each other and the world! The convention features world-class dining and cultural attractions, distinguished speakers, energizing breakout sessions, and much more.

Join us 25-29 May 2024 in Singapore where we'll be Sharing Hope With the World!