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PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

FEBRUARY

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”
— John F. Kennedy

2025-2026 Officers and Directors

Wayne Wiebe, President
Keith Wellon, President Elect
Rob Wolfson, Past President
Dale Perret, Secretary
Vlad Sasarman, Treasurer

Bev Tonkinson, International Service
Dean White, Youth Service
Ted Wada, Community Service
Neil Beatty, Club Service
Brennen Pell, Club Operations
Peter Bickham, Club Financial
Sharon Fraiman, Membership
John Charrett, Rotary Foundation

RI President Francesco Arezzo
Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

District 5360 Governor Manon Mitchell
Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown

Habitat for Humanity Jeff Hodgson, Director of ReStore Operations



George Kimura introduced our guest speaker, Jeff Hodgson, Director of ReStore Operations, “Habitat for Humanity”.

After over 25 years of managing the business operations of Heritage Park, Jeff joined Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta in the role of Director, ReStore Operations in September of 2022. Jeff is committed to making a positive impact in our community and believes in giving back whenever possible. He has served on the boards of the Calgary Winter Festival Foundation, and Southern Alberta Institute of Technology’s Hospitality 100 Club. He has also volunteered as a canvasser with Diabetes Canada, and as a soccer coach with the Calgary Minor Soccer Association. He is most proud of raising two now adult children with his wife Andrea.



Habitat for Humanity started with a simple idea: when families help build their own homes, they gain a sense of security and a better future. Since 1976, that idea has grown into a global movement working in more than 70 countries.

In Canada, Habitat began in 1985 with the first Habitat home in Winkler, Manitoba. Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta was established in 1990 to bring this vision to families in our region. Since then, they’ve partnered with more than 400 families to help them buy safe, affordable homes in communities across Southern Alberta. Today, they are one of 45 local Habitat affiliates in Canada. As an independent non-profit organization, they work alongside Habitat for Humanity Canada volunteers, donors, and community partners. Together, they are building more homes and creating more opportunities for families to put down roots and plan for the future.

At Habitat for Humanity there is a popular misconception that they are giving away homes. This is not true. In fact, they provide zero interest and zero down payment mortgages. They are not in a rental program. If you’re looking to buy an affordable home in Southern Alberta, Habitat gives you a way to make it happen. You won’t be given a home for free — you’ll partner

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President Wayne called our meeting to order at 12:15, welcoming all in attendance, and reminded everyone of Rotary's theme for this year, "UNITE FOR GOOD".

District Conference

Wayne reminded everyone about our District Conference in Red Deer which is happening from May 1 to 3rd. The registration cost is \$399 with a early bird discount of 15%, expiring on February 15th. There is also a 30% discount for first time attendees (no expiration). Rob provided additional information regarding the Conference, such as entertainment provided by dueling pianos, hotel discounts, and the opportunity for Rotary Fellowship.



Indigenous Fact

by Keith Wellon

The Indigenous peoples of Canada are comprised of three main groups: First Nations, Inuit and Métis. According to the 2021 census, 624,220 people in Canada identified as Métis representing a third of the country's Indigenous population. The population is largely concentrated in Western Canada and Ontario, with Alberta (127,475) and British Columbia (97,865)

having the highest numbers. In Alberta, the Métis Nation is divided into five Territories and 22 Districts. Calgary North is District 5 and Calgary South is District 6.



Generators for Ukraine

Sheila Tyminski

Sheila reported on the ongoing war in Ukraine. There have been approximately 1.5 million people killed or maimed to date. The Russian army has been targeting energy facilities and this has resulted in major problems throughout the Ukraine, knocking out power and heat to many parts of the country. Rotary has developed

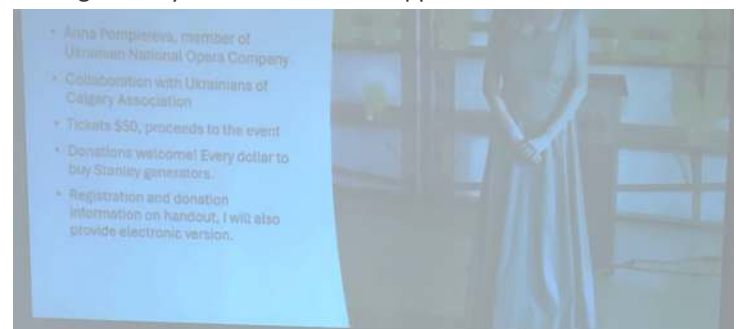
a program to assist by providing generators which currently cost \$500 USD each, and delivering them through Rotary Clubs in Sweden to the Ukraine. Sweden has initiated a competition to raise \$100,000 to purchase additional generators through Rotary Club members in all parts of the world. Sweden has already reached the \$100,000 level and many Canadian Rotary Clubs have committed to do their best to help match this level of support. Sheila provided information regarding a fundraiser which is taking place in Calgary on February 7th. She noted that our District is leading the way in Canada for the support of Ukraine.

Club Business

We had 25 members at our meeting today and 7 guests. Our guests included 5 visiting Rotarians: Sheila Tyminski (Heritage Park Club), Bob Taylor and Madeline King (both from the Rotary Club of Calgary), Asif Abdul and John Hickie (both from the Millennium Club). In addition, Nick Croushon (guest of Sharon) and our guest speaker, Jeff Hodgson, rounded out our guest list. Our guests were introduced by Moe Tynan.



Wayne thanked Paul G. for being our scribe today. He also thanked Moe Tynan and Gordon Juricic for being our Greeters today and for making everyone feel welcome. In addition we also wish to thank both Hank and Janet for operating our payment system.



Member Minutes

Eradication of Polio

Wayne called on Rob in order to thank him for his support of Rotary's Polio Plus Society Club Challenge as a continuing donor. He was presented with an appropriate certificate and pin as tokens of appreciation.



• Garth Plunkett thanked the many Club members (and others) who have reached out to him in support after his recent health issue. He acknowledged his serious medical situation and advised that he expected to begin radiation and chemotherapy within the next week or so. Notwithstanding this situation, he tells us that he feels good at this point and will keep us up to date as his treatment continues.

- Joe Hooper told us about the upcoming Annual Chinese Dinner organized by the Rotary Club Of Calgary Stampede, being held on Friday evening, February 27th. Chinook members have supported this event for many years and Joe advises that we have already signed up 15 attendees and we have confirmed seating for 20. He is encouraging anybody who would like to attend to contact him so arrangements can be made for them to join the Chinook group.



- Bruce Bohnet advised our members about our upcoming Casino being held this year on May 13 and 14th at the Elbow River Casino. We require quite a few volunteers to manage this very important fundraising opportunity for our club. Bruce and Joe Hooper organize this event and request that our members consider signing up for a shift during these two days. It is important to realize that this event (which is held every two years) provides approximately \$70,000 for our club, which is used in servicing our community projects to support those in need.



- Ted Wada reminded us about our community service event providing a meal at the Mustard Seed for approximately 400 people who are currently living on the street. The meal is being provided on February 12th from 5:30 pm to 8 pm. Ted advises that it is a relatively simple task as long as one can stand on their feet and serve from a buffet line for approximately 2 to 2 1/2 hours. We still need volunteers to complete this event. Please contact Ted to join this group in helping others.

Sergeant at Arms

Bart Dailley

It has been quite some time since we have enjoyed the 'Sergeant at Arms' activity at our club. Bart volunteered to make it happen and as usual did a wonderful job in raising a few dollars for our club. He noted that there were a lot of indiscretions during our meeting and highlighted a few with applicable one dollar fines for the perpetrators. For example, he called out President Wayne for calling Rob to the front of the room for three different purposes at three different times during the meeting. He fined Stephen Pick for deciding to retire from publishing our bi monthly e-Arch at the end of this Rotary year. He fined Hank for enlisting Janet to help him collect our lunch money at today's meeting. He fined today's greeters, Gordon and Moe, for being busy elsewhere in the room when he arrived at the meeting. As a result, he was not properly greeted, and this cost them one dollar each. He also fined everyone who used their telephone for any purpose after our meeting commenced today.



Bart asked anyone who would like to see the 'Sergeant at Arms' section of our meeting returned to our agenda to please advise President Wayne accordingly.

Chase the Ace

Garth Plunkett's ticket was drawn resulting in his winning \$75 (with \$100 to our Club). We have 42 cards left in our deck so the odds are getting better. Our next draw will be on February 17th for the \$730 jackpot as Garth didn't pick the Ace of Spades. Wayne encourages our membership to support this draw two or three times a month, by transferring \$10 per meeting to our Treasurer or by paying at the door.



Sunshine Report

Bill Stemp has had a mild heart attack and hopes to be back at our meetings in a couple of weeks.

Guest Speaker

George Kimura introduced our guest speaker, Jeff Hodgson, Director of ReStore Operations, "Habitat for Humanity".

Dates to Remember

- We will be meeting at the Legion for a casual lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, February 10th.
- Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17th at noon at the Carriage House. Our speaker will be our Director of Membership and President Elect (after Keith), Sharon Fraiman, who will be giving us a presentation about CMDA, who they are and what they do. She will bring an advanced care paramedic who will speak as well.
- We are planning our evening fellowship meeting (5:30 to 7pm) on Thursday, February 26th. Details to be provided.

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

Have a great Rotary week! Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.






District Conference 2026 / May 1-3

**Register now
and join in on
the learning
and fellowship!!**



Please help !!!

The 50th Anniversary Committee is seeking fun photos of club activities during the past 50 years. You can help make our **50th Anniversary Booklet** a success.

You can help by submitting a comical picture —or a serious one — to help round out the story of our Club. The Committee would appreciate any and all photos and stories.

As an example, here is a photo of Charter Member Norm Russell, and second President Jim Costello in the coveralls that Blake Anderson skis in.



Photos and stories and/or captions can be emailed to Jim Thompson at thompsonmp@hotmail.com

Mustard Seed Service

On February 12th, Ted Wada, Director of Community Service arranged for our club to once again supply and serve a delicious dinner to about 300+ homeless people! Thanks to Mo, Keith, Gordon, and Wayne for volunteering to help in this worthwhile opportunity!



Casino Volunteers

We are booked for our casino on **May 13th and 14th, 2026** at Elbow River Casino. Please block these times in your calendar so you can be available to volunteer.



This is Chinook Rotary's major project to raise money for our charitable commitments.

Further details will be provided by Bruce Bohnet and Joe Hooper.

Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month

February 17th Sharon Fraiman — MADA (Canadian Magen David Adom)
 February 26th Evening Pub Meeting — 5:30-7pm at 'Limericks', 7304 Macleod Trail SE

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

March 3rd Emily Braun — Distress Center
 March 17th Charlotte Holmlund — Ujamaa Grandmas, Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

Environmental Month

April 7th Thomas Cell — Prostate Cancer
 April 21st Richard Gotfield

Youth Service Month

May 1st - 3rd District Conference 2026 in Red Deer ... register before February 15th to take advantage of Early Bird rates
 May 5th Jay McNeil, President, Stampeters
 May 13th & 14th Casino volunteers needed — Elbow River Casino
 May 19th Rob Dempsey



Habitat for Humanity

... cont'd from page 1

with Habitat to purchase it through their affordable home ownership program. They retain ownership of the property until such time as the mortgage is repaid and the partner family "graduates". At that time, title to the property is transferred to the family, and they can hold that title for as long as they would like, or sell the property back to Habitat at some point in order to assist an additional family.



Habitat partners with working families who have a steady income and strong goals but can't qualify for a traditional mortgage through a bank. These families include essential workers like teachers, healthcare aides, transit drivers, and tradespeople — people who help our communities thrive.

You might qualify to buy an affordable home if you:

- have children under the age of 18 living with you
- are working and earning a steady income
- have good credit and no large debts
- can't get approved for a mortgage through a bank
- are willing to volunteer 500 hours with Habitat

Habitat homes are located in communities across Southern Alberta. They build a variety of homes from duplexes to row townhomes, and stacked townhomes. You'll find Habitat homes in places like:
 Calgary, Airdrie, Chestermere, Okotoks, High River, Medicine Hat.

Habitat is confident that they are offering a valuable opportunity to many families across Canada, and some of the reasons come from their experiences:

- The new homes which are built for them are generally located in safer communities than they have previously lived in.
- Once the family has a more stable home, then the quality of their employment improves.
- 70% of the Habitat families donate time and money to charity.
- The children of the Habitat families are more likely to further their education.

How can Rotary help Habitat for Humanity:

- Habitat is currently constructing homes in the Chestermere area, and are always happy to see new volunteers visit their site and help out.
- Rotarians can simply make a donation.
- Rotarians can assist through participating in third-party fundraisers.
- Rotarians can shop at Habitat's ReStores.
- Rotarians can donate used furniture and other assets to ReStores.
- Rotarians are encouraged to follow Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta on social media at habitat.org



Jeff advises that there are two Habitat ReStores in Calgary and also an online store. The store accepts donations of a variety of assets, including furniture and equipment, and are able to provide the donor with a tax deductible receipt for the value of the donation. He confirms that last year the ReStore group of stores raised approximately \$1.6 million for Habitat, which provided a strong base for building more homes and acquiring additional land.

Their website is:
www.habitatsouthernab.ca

Bruce thanked Jeff for his presentation and advised him that we would be making a donation to Rotary's Polio Plus in appreciation for his presenting to us today.

