

I was married when I was 18 years old. My husband came from a family of 9 children. His father was a truck driver, and his mother stayed home, raising the children. They raised 9 children in a one bedroom, one bathroom, home. The children had two bedrooms in the attic. Boys on one side, girls on the other.

The first year we were married, we went home for Christmas, and planned to stay through New Years. We stayed at my grandparents' home, but I knew we would be spending quite a bit of time at my husband's family home. Being newly domesticated, believing "nothing says lovin' like something from the oven" and wanting to contribute and impress, I did a bunch of baking to share with my husband's family.

We had a lovely Christmas, but I will never forget New Year's Eve. My mother in law spent most of the day in the kitchen, working hard to make a beautiful meal. When it came time to sit down to dinner, my father in law was not yet home, but as was the tradition of the day, was sharing a few drinks and swapping stories with the guys at work in the truck garage.

By the time he came home, he was fairly tipsy, and my mother in law was fairly angry. We sat down to family dinner, but it wasn't long before the two of them were at each other about him drinking and being late for supper. I felt awkward being at the table, but little did I know how awkward I would feel...

Thinking he was dealing the ultimate blow, my father in law said, "... and by the way, those tarts you put in my lunch taste like sh_t." The room went silent, and you could have heard a pin drop. My father in law was obviously surprised by the reaction, but then my husband spoke up and said, "Dad, don't you know, Penny made those butter tarts." Catching on to the situation quickly, but being an honest man, my father in law looked at me very kindly and said, "I am sorry dear, but your tarts do taste like sh_t"

I have never made pastry again. I learned that Tenderflake makes beautiful frozen pastry in pie and tart shells, so why do all the work and take on all that risk?

Along the way, another close family friend shared with me that if I put three tablespoons of cream in the butter tart mixture, it would improve the consistency. I seldom have cream in my house, but I always have Bailey's, which seems to work just as well. And then, it evolved to, if you drink the Bailey's with the tarts, who cares what the pastry tastes like, or the consistency of the filling...



So, once again, we are at the time of year, when I say "Thank God, and Hallelujah for Tenderflake frozen tart shells and Bailey's liqueur. I hope everyone enjoys the Christmas baking season, whether you are on the "egg beating side" or the "treat eating" side. Celebrate your Christmas baking traditions and enjoy.



Penny Leckie, President

I am going to turn the program over to **Darlene Whitmore** for our Christmas social.

U Go Girl. Darlene Whitmore began by thanking President Penny. We are living in an unprecedented world and this year, our Christmas Cheer and Luncheon takes on a new and different environment through Zoom.

We will be sharing toasts towards the end of the program, so please ensure that you have your glass of eggnog, wine, or libation of choice available nearby for those toasts later. Not that I am encouraging "day drinking".

The Social Committee has been hearing that what Members miss most is Fellowship and feeling connected. Therefore, in the spirit of Christmas with our Christmas Sweaters, we have chosen two breakout rooms that will help us to enjoy fellowship and laughs with one another again.

Our theme is Memories of Christmases Past, be it Rotary Christmases or personal memories. Once in the breakout rooms, you will have a Social Committee Member to help keep conversation flowing, but it is not about us, it is about YOU connecting with your fellow Rotarians. Keep it fun, keep it light, keep it Christmas-y.

The Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park has a multitude of talent, so we have called on some of our talented Members to provide us with Christmas Entertainment; I am so excited to hear their offerings. Some chose to be interactive, some will entertain.

Our first Member is **Murray Flegel**, a very seasoned and talented performer. Enjoy!

Murray, assisted by Arlene, entertained us with a rendition of Jingle Bells (incidentally, the first Christmas carol sung from space). Thank you Murray, that was lovely!



Next, we have **Corrinne Wilkinson** presenting her Rotary version of "The Night Before Christmas". Take it away Corinne.

T'was the Night Before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore
"Re-framed" by Corinne Wilkinson

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through Rotary House
not a creature was stirring, not even Chas.
Our Rotary logo'd stockings were hung by our own chimney with care,
in hopes that President Penny soon would be there.
We Rotarians were nestled all snug in our chairs,
while visions of pea soup and ham croissant sandwiches danced in our heads.
And Roselyn in her beautiful silk 'kerchief, and I in my Santa Hat,
had just settled our butts for a wonderful holiday luncheon chat
When out on BMO Centre roof there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my table, spilling my tea over everyone, to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
I tore (like I mean literally tore) the dusty old blinds and threw up the sash.
The sun on the breast of the oddly yellow snow,
gave the lustre of midday to our little resident bunnies below,
When, what to my wondering deer in the headlight eyes should appear,
but a miniature chuckwagon and eight tiny (well ok, not really tiny) bulls.
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be Santa Jim Burns
More rapid than Joe Connelly speaks, those raging bulls came,
Santa Jim Burns whistled and shouted and called them by name:
"Now Flegel! Now Richardson! Now, Devitt, and Hamm! – Oh, and not to leave out you young whipper snappers - On, Ruberto! On, Albers! On Hason and Vandezande!
(Notice there aren't any females pulling Santa Jim Burns sleigh! Don't worry ladies, I've got your back)
To the top of Weadickville,
To the top of the WestJet ride!
Now hang on for eight seconds,
we'll beat that darn buzzer, and dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before Calgary Chinooks they fly,
when they meet with our -35 degree snow blizzards, mount to the sky
So up to the BMO Center, the bulls they raged,
with the sleigh full of Rotary pens, and ties, and pins, and flags, and t-shirts, and Hawaii green shirts, and vests, and – oh ya -
Santa Jim Burns.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on our own Rotary House roof
the prancing and pawing and snorting of eight bull's hooves
As I drew in my head from the blinds I had torn. I was turning around to see President Penny filling our Rotary stockings, but
down our Rotary House chimney - Santa Jim Burns came with a bound.
He was dressed all in Burnco attire, from his head to his foot,
and his clothes were all tarnished with cement and with soot.
A bundle of Rotary nametags he had flung on his back,
he looked like a District Governor just opening his sack.
His eyes--how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His cute little mouth was singing a tune
and the accordion on his chest was playing so merry.
The stump of a harmonica he held tight in his teeth,
and the wondrous music, it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of Rotary blue jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye, an accordion song, and a twist of his head
soon gave all of us to know, we had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
and filled our Rotary stockings with.... Burnco gravel, then turned with a jerk.
And stepping his foot on top of Clive's six-foot frame,
Clive gave him a hand to hoist little Santa Jim Burns up the chimney again
He sprang to his chuckwagon, to his bulls gave a whistle,
And away they all thrashed like the final second of the rodeo.
But I heard Santa Jim Burns exclaim, as he rounded the final corner,
looking back for his outriders, and then out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all you wonderful Rotarians, and to all of you - and yours - a very good night!"



Moving forward with our program, we had **Lisa Fernandes** with "The Christmas Song". Chestnuts, Jack Frost and Santa's Reindeer will certainly make us all feel nostalgic of Christmases Past. Thank you, Lisa, for all you have done for our Club through the years.



Next on the agenda was our recent birthday boy, **Hugh Delaney**, with the mellifluous tones, to sing "Silent Night". I personally love listening to Hugh sing our Rotary Grace and our Welcome song. Listen to his unique cadence as he charms us with one of his favourite Christmas offerings... That was perfect Hugh! Thank you; there is no voice like yours!

Another very talented Member, since "the blue bird has gone away" the "new bird" told me that he is accomplished on accordion and is an incredible pianist. **Jim Burns** has chosen White Christmas and Silver Bells (with assistance from Pat on the bells) to grace us with

on his piano. Jim, I am excited to hear you play two of my very favourite holiday selections. Wow, this is the friendliest Rotary Club or any Service Club, and there is so much talent! I am so proud to be a Member!



Last, but not least, is our very entertaining Member and his Partner, **Jim and Maureen** Hutchens. We suggested to Jim that we would like them to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and, knowing them, it will have an interesting fun spin. I knew they would not disappoint! Always so much fun! Thank you Jim and Maureen!

In between the entertainment, a couple of breakout sessions gave us time to connect and reminisce with other Members and Partners. It is refreshing to spend time, albeit virtually, chatting together. Being the social butterfly that I am, this is what I have missed most in the past few weeks. I am sure that many Members share this sentiment. Thank you to everyone who participated and for bringing us so much fun, laughter and Christmas Cheer.

I will now hand the next portion of our virtual Christmas Luncheon to our lovely **President Penny Leckie** and the Christmas Toasts: On behalf of the members of the club, I want to express gratitude to the members of the social committee involved in organizing a tremendous program for us. It has been wonderful. The specific members are: committee **Chair Kathy Demorest**, who is fighting a flu bug, **Keith Davis**, **Toby Oswald-Felker**, **Corinne Wilkinson**, **Deb Sands**, **Phil Jackson**, **Glenn Richardson** and last but not least, Christmas Team Captain, **Darlene Whitmore**. I also want to express gratitude to everyone who has performed for us today. Without this amazing team, this would be a very dull social. We would have all felt like we got a piece of coal in our stocking. Instead, we got diamonds.

Traditionally, the President Elect gives a toast to the Partners. **President Elect Craig** had to leave our meeting early today to attend a Stampede Lotteries meeting, so asked **President Elect Nominee, Jim Fitzowich** to do the honours. The fact that Jim said yes immediately when asked, demonstrates his commitment to our Club, and I know we have a great succession plan in place. I am not so sure how I feel about him continuing to call me "Mrs. Thatcher" and telling me he considers it a compliment. I am working on figuring out an appropriate name for him. Until that time, I give you our **President Elect Nominee, Jim Fitzowich**:

I would like to start by saying how pleased I am to have the opportunity to toast the partners for our first ever online Christmas celebration. My thanks to President Elect Craig Stokke for asking me, and to the clubs Social Committee for organizing such a festive and fun program.

I think it may be a bit of an understatement to say that 2020 has been a bit of a "Grinch year" in too many ways for too many people. With that said, even the Grinch was able to see the blessings of the Christmas season. I quote... ***"It comes without ribbons, it comes without tags. It comes without packages, boxes, or bags." "Maybe Christmas (he thought) doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more."***



...and maybe that little bit more, is in fact a whole lot more. Maybe it is perhaps the only things that really matter... Such as Community like our Rotary Club, family, faith and friends, including the love and support of each of our life partners, who remind us to focus on making a life first, and a living second.

So with that in our hearts and minds, please raise your glasses in a Christmas toast to all of our partners.

MERRY CHRISTMAS Everyone! Firstly I would like to thank 2021 Jim Fitzowich for his kind words to the Partners. I am **Rhonda Yaskowich** and I am the 1st. Vice-President of the Partners Club. Unfortunately our President, **Denise MacLeod** is unable to join us today but she asked me to take her place and give the toast to the Rotarians. These words which I will read are hers but they are also thoughts that I share.

If there is one thing that 2020 has shown, it is that big change can happen in the blink of an eye. We have all looked for ways to stay connected and stay in each other's lives. I would like to thank all those who achieved this by the zoom meetings, phone calls and emails.

As Partners, we are so blessed to have the connection with this club. I am reminded of the quote "The greatness of a community is most accurately measure by the compassionate actions of its members." I want to give a big thank you to President Penny for her friendship and leadership. I am hopping we will join each other in upcoming events in 2021.

I'd like to share a Christmas poem with you that is very fitting-

*May your holidays be happy days,
filled with love and laughter.
And may each day bring joy your way
in the year that follows after!*

So on behalf of President Denise and myself I ask the Partners to please raise your glasses in a toast to the Rotarians, who continue to support and encourage us. To the ROTARIANS!

President Penny closed the meeting: Before I give my Christmas toast, I just want to say a couple of words about next week's program. It is the Clevel Awards program, and we will also be remembering **Past President Ron Prokosch**. I hope you will plan to attend.

Now, the Christmas Toast from the President:

The last few Decembers, I have run around like a chicken with my head cut off, trying to be everything to everyone. I want to be amazing for my clients and provide them with great tax planning and advice before the year end. I am doing Christmas baking, decorating my home, buying parcels, sending out Christmas cards, doing all the things I believe a woman should do for her family at Christmas. I am running around to Christmas parties, trying to take advantage of business networking opportunities, and enjoy social events with special friends. The description goes on and on. It usually meant going to bed around midnight and getting up at 4 am.

A few years ago, a friend who is a lawyer and professional colleague, in a similar situation, said to me, "Sometime ago, a friend told me something that I consider to be very wise, and I am going to share it with you." She said, "Just because something doesn't happen one Christmas, doesn't mean it will never happen again." She meant, if you don't get Christmas cards out, or if you don't get the baking done, or something else doesn't happen, its okay, you don't have to punish yourself. You can pick it up and do it next year. Since I heard her words, they have given me sanity in this hectic season.

But as I think about this Christmas, I think those words mean even more, and give us some perspective for the different Christmas we will have this year. I repeat, "Just because something doesn't happen one Christmas, doesn't mean it will never happen again."

I heard on the radio the other day that 1 in 4 children have indicated they are happier in the current times, than they have been in the past. They are able to spend more time with their parents and because their parents are working from home, they have a better understanding of what they do. Even though this Christmas will be different, and just because some things won't happen, this Christmas will still have its own magic and miracles.

At this time, I would like to propose a toast, and hope you will join me.

I wish everyone joy, peace and quiet calm, so we can all see, savour and learn from the unique magic and miracles of Christmas 2020. To Christmas 2020.

Have a great week everyone, and as they used to say on Hillstreet Blues, "Hey, let's be careful out there."

MERRY CHRISTMAS





Our first, and hopefully our last, virtual Christmas celebration was held via ZOOM today, with about 70 participants. A good turnout. Good afternoon Rotarians and Guests. Welcome to the December 10th meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. I am the Club's President for 2020/2021 – **Penny Leckie**.

We continue with our theme for December – Miracles.

Isn't it a miracle that we are all healthy, we are watching this meeting from somewhere warm, we have the technology and the ability to have this meeting, we each have a special cup of cheer and we have enough clothes that we can opt to wear something ugly for today's meeting. Again, it is a miracle, and we are truly blessed.

It is also a blessing that we have Lisa Fernandes live to sing O Canada for us. Please rise and join **Lisa Fernandes** with the singing of O Canada.

Announcements

A reminder of the toy drive that we are conducting. Toys may be dropped off at Allan Johnson's business, Sheraton Labels. Al has indicated he will accept toys for the Salvation Army until the end of business tomorrow. He will be delivering the toys on the weekend. Also, Al has told me he is willing to pick up toys if there is anyone who has some but isn't able to deliver them.



Picture of Toys donated so far: Submitted by Corinne Wilkinson

Bulletin Editor is **Bev Osterman** Bulletin Photographer: **Clive Pringle**

Health and Wellness

Dorothea chatted with **Mahesh Shah**. Mahesh says that neither he nor Batul are well. The confinement is challenging for them, but he is able to run some small errands. If you have time, consider giving them a call or sending them a card.

Condolences to **Jamie Moorhouse** and his family. Jamie's father passed away late yesterday, so please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Dorothea Schaab is organizing a group of elves to deliver some packages from Santa to our members. When **Bev Ostermann** heard this, he asked Dorothea not to put the reindeer in the harness just yet, because the Club's Roster should be back from the printer any day, and he is going to load them in the sleigh as well. Stay tuned.

I want to say a special hello and welcome to all the Partners who are joining us today. They will be toasted more formally later in the program. Yesterday, I participated in the Partners' Christmas Social which was held on ZOOM. It was great to share in the positive energy, Christmas spirit, and laughter. The Partners group is one of the miracles that this Club benefits from.

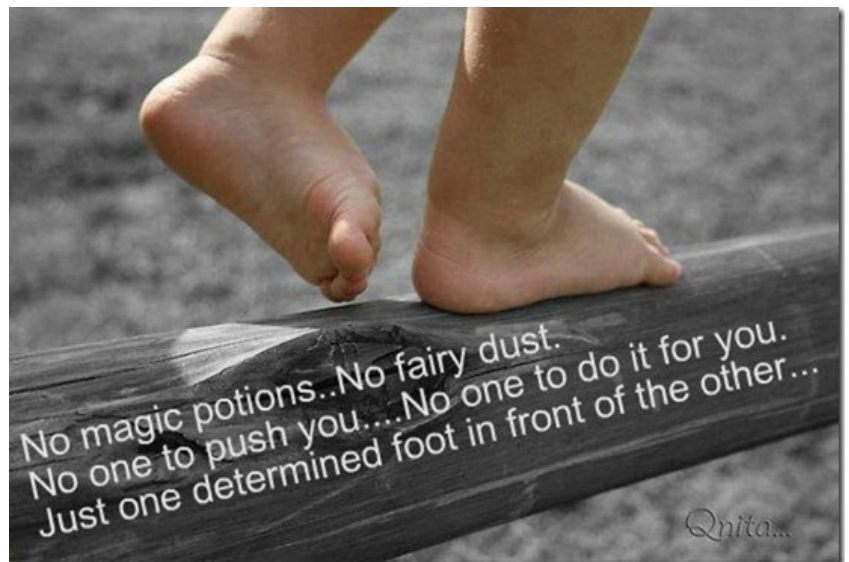
DID YOU KNOW?

1. The Waterton Peace Park Assembly has been scheduled for September 17–19, 2021 in Waterton.
2. The new 2020/21 Roster is now being printed and will be available for distribution very soon.

Carburn Park in SE Calgary was created in large part by our own **Jim Burns'** BURNCO, as a lasting legacy from their gravel mining operations in the area. **PP Clayton Carroll** was part of the consortium.

SUBMITTED BY: BULLETIN CHAIR, BEV OSTERMANN

WE ARE
STRONGER TOGETHER



SUBMITTED BY
HANS TIEDEMANN



Jennifer Jones will be the first Woman President of Rotary International and is a Canadian from the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland.

We believe this is a great opportunity to hear from Jennifer on a very local level. The meeting will be in webinar format (sign up required) and will last one hour. The entire meeting will be dedicated to Jennifer's presentation (with maybe a little Santa Claus mixed in). There will be a short Q and A session as part of the meeting.

If you are prepared to make this a regular club meeting let us know and we will recognize the club on the webinar.

Email Pat Killoran killoran.rotary@gmail.com However, any and all members are welcome on **December 21**. We encourage Rotarians to register for the webinar at the following link recording Firstname Lastname – club

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wbBX8NgzQs2ilrgSrsoYw

After registering, they will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Even if the club is not making this their weekly meeting, we ask for your assistance in announcing and promoting this rare opportunity at your upcoming meetings and in your newsletter. Please call or email me if you have any questions.

Yours in Rotary

Pat Killoran
Membership Chair
RC of Lethbridge
403 328 7600
Killoran.rotary@gmail.com

The Partners held a Christmas Zoom Gathering today and 21 attended. Our guest was **President Penny Leckie**.

After a warm welcome by everyone, we enjoyed some laughter over Christmas hats and attire.

Arlene Flegel gave a heartfelt blessing to everyone and it was a reminder of the spirit of the holiday season.

A Christmas Quiz was held of a mixture of easy and hard questions. The winner was **Joan Walton**.

President Penny, Jeanette King and Rhonda Yaskowich told wonderful Christmas memories and it was marvelous to hear the laughter and see all the smiling faces.

A reading of the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was given by **Kelly Brittain** with most attendees knowing the words and following along.

To end the gathering, **Maureen Hutchens** sang 4 wonderful Christmas songs with all of us singing our hearts out (on mute).

This was an amazing way to connect before Christmas as we all know it will be a difficult time to be away from family and friends.

I want to thank **Maureen Hutchens** again for suggesting this wonderful get together. It came at a time where we all needed a little Christmas cheer.

From my house to yours, wherever that might be, Happy Holidays and may you all be healthy and safe.

Denise MacLeod
President, Rotary Partners



An exciting opportunity has presented itself!

We are seeking four (4) "***passionate about youth***" Rotarians to mentor 4 aspiring Interact leaders who are members of the inaugural District 5360 Interact Committee.

Hibah Syed, District Board Member at Large, is the Chair of this exciting new committee and she is thrilled about this opportunity to connect Interactors with Rotarians! Please email her should you have any questions or simply wish to apply at:
hbhsyed@gmail.com

The deadline to apply is December 16th, 2020

Here are the requirements for the Rotarian mentors:

- Attend bi-monthly virtual meetings (starting in January 2021) and give their insight on initiatives.
- Provide assistance to their Interact mentee and help them complete tasks. These tasks could include writing emails, connecting them to district committees, and brainstorming ideas.
- Communicate with their Interact mentee outside of meeting times if needed to complete tasks.

Here are the descriptions of the roles for Interactors they will be paired with (each Rotarian mentor will be paired with one interactor):

Conference Sub Chairperson:

This role involves the creation and planning of the Interaction Committee in order to host the annual Interaction Symposium. They will be responsible for reporting back to the DIC of advancements made in the planning. They will also act as a liaison to other district youth Interact conferences occurring such as the All Interact Presidents Forum.

Workshop Sub Chairperson:

This role involves the implementation of district-wide Interact workshops. These workshops will aim to foster professional development, financial planning, life skills, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion amongst Rotary. This person will work in collaboration with other committees and guests to organize these sessions.

Special Projects Sub Chairperson:

This role requires a person that will introduce new projects that create the opportunity for Interact members to cross club collaborate. These projects can involve group volunteering, group fundraising projects, social media challenges as well as advocacy for chosen causes.

Clubs Management Sub Chairperson:

This role will be the glue of the gaps between the Interact clubs in the District by creating and managing a social media platform for all Interact clubs to showcase their achievements. They will also work to keep members involved by attending Interact President meetings and manage the email account of Interact.

Let's support our young leaders and their passion for Service above Self!

December Birthday Fun Facts

- * As you well know, you share your birth month with a ton of festive religious holidays, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. It's like the whole month is lit up in your honor!
- * The birthstone of December is the turquoise, which represents prosperity, success, and good fortune.
- * December's flower is the narcissus, which symbolizes rebirth and respect.
- * The zodiac signs associated with December are Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec.21), which is characterized as extroverted and optimistic, and Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19), which can be described as professional and organized. Which one are you?



Happy Birthday !

Spencer Tonkinson	Dec 5
Dana Hunter	Dec 12
Ted Stack	Dec 12
Kevin MacLeod	Dec 13
Deb Sands	Dec 14
Craig Stokke	Dec 14
Manny Rai	Dec 15
Don Bacon	Dec 16
Marilyn Balfour	Dec 18
Stan Cichon	Dec 23
Terry Allen	Dec 26
Carol Graham	Dec 30
Rick Jakubec	Dec 30
Rudy Ruberto	Dec 30
Ken Copithorne	Dec 31
Gena Rotstein	Dec 31

"Believe" we will see and hug each other soon

Photo taken by Corinne



Happy December
Birthdays

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Dec 17th Cleven Awards ONLINE**
- Dec 24th Christmas Social ONLINE**
- Dec 31st New Year's Eve Celebration ONLINE**
- Jan 7th President's State of the Union Address**
- Jan 14th Judge John Reilley: "Bad Law"**
- Jan 21st Minister of Health: Hon. Tyler Shandro**
- Jan 28th Burns Day Celebration**
- Feb 4th Dr. Ted Morton**
- Feb 11th Annual Valentines Day Luncheon with Partners**
- Feb 18th Legacy Project Update: Stampede Foundation**
- Feb 25th Rotary Profiles: Hugh Delaney**
- Mar 4th International Women's Day**
- Mar 11th St. Patrick's Day Celebration**
- Mar 18th Sue Ozdemir, CEO: Exro Technologies**
- Mar 25th TBA**
- Apr 1st TBA**
- Apr 8th TBA**
- Apr 15th Large Grants Presentation**
- Apr 22nd TBA**
- Apr 29th Rotary Profile: Jim Burns**

WEEKLY ZOOM MEETINGS

- A link will be sent out every Monday or Tuesday
- There is a reminder an hour before the meeting
- Save the link and join us at 11:45 am On THURSDAYS
- Please don't request the link after 11:45 am as the meeting is already in progress
- If anyone would like to join but struggles with Zoom please either help them or reach out to the Tech Committee or Kathyann for assistance

President	Penny Leckie
President-Elect	Craig Stokke
Past President	Chas Filipski
Club Secretary	Larry Stein
Treasurer	Don Mintz
Partners President	Denise MacLeod
Club Service Operations	Gena Rotstein
Club Service Membership and Social	Tony Fisher
Club Service Ways & Means	Ted Stack
Community Service Local	Jamie Moorhouse
Community Service: Ways and Means	Mark Ambrose
International and Vocational Service	Mike Ruttan
Youth Service	Wendy Giuffre

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CONTACT FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Kathy Demorest: Contact by email: kathylynn@shaw.ca or Phone: (403) 818-3457