



Club of Calgary  
at Stampede Park



## RCCSP Weekly Bulletin February 23rd, 2023 Volume Number 68, Issue Number 30

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**Welcome to the February 23rd meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park.**

**Head Table:** (L to R) Carolyn Ferguson (RI Foundation), **Mike Ruttan**, **Sherry Austin**, **President Jim Fitzowich**, Rob Hemstock, and **John Fitzsimmons**.



### President Jim Fitzowich

Today we are going to get an update on carbon policy and our electricity costs. Some interesting facts about the electric industry in Alberta:

**1874** – the first coal powered electric plant is completed outside of Lethbridge to power the area coal mines. Electricity is later provided to the City of Lethbridge in 1893.

**1887** – The Calgary Electric light company is formed to supply streetlights from the Eau Claire sawmill power plant. Electrification comes to Edmonton in 1891, also fired by coal.

**1950** – The Calgary Power Company, successor to Calgary Electric, builds its first large scale 600 MW power plant near Wabamun, to power Alberta's booming post war economy. Another 5900 MW is added over the years, with the last 450 MW Keephills plant started in 2007 (by yours truly).

**1996** – Alberta de-regulates its power industry, following the U.K., U.S. and many other free trade countries.

**2015** – On June 25 all of this starts to unwind with a new government policy...

... and the rest will wait for our speaker's presentation.

Please join **Glen Potter** for the singing of O Canada followed by Rotary Grace.





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## Announcements:

**President Jim** was pleased to announce that we had received a letter from RI indicating that today Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> was the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our Club. Congratulations on “A milestone day!” It is also Rotary International’s 118th Anniversary. Here’s to 118 more!

## Visitors and Guests:

**Greg Smyth** introduced the few guests we had today and we sang them our beloved welcome song!



## Health and Wellness:

**Hugh Delaney** will be the contact for Health and Wellness for the balance of January and February. For updates please reach out to Hugh at; 403-255-0422 or [hughdelaney02@gmail.com](mailto:hughdelaney02@gmail.com)

## 50/50:

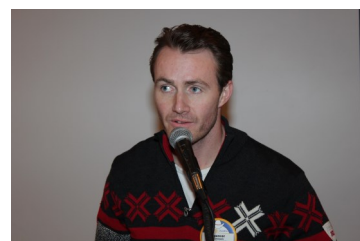
**Jim Smith** had all the jokes today! He informed us the pot was \$500, however the payout would be considerably less! He took a few minutes trying to find “an HONEST face” to draw the winning ticket. Natasha Richardson won the pot and donated it to the Ukrainian Relief fund even if Jim tried to say she donated it to him. *We never did find out the winning amount!!*



## Sergeant at Arms:

**Spencer Tonkinson** announced that he and his wife were expecting their second child and he donated 50 HAPPY DOLLARS. He went to better his history of “lame” jokes with, jokes about our current weather scene – our 40 degree temperature change along with a large dump of snow.

He asked **Stan Cichon**, “what country was tied with Russia as the coldest in the world?” Stan differed and we were informed it was CANADA! “What is our average temperature?” – answer -5.6 degrees. Stan paid \$4.00.



Next up was **Kevin MacLeod** – “What city or town in Canada has the record for the largest temperature swing in a day?” answer – Pincher Creek! - from MINUS 19 to PLUS 22 in one hour.

To everyone – “on average, how many people a year die from the cold in Canada.” - answer 108.

**Terry Allen** – “Canada invented the UV index.” When – Terry replied 1962. The answer was 1992. He too paid up!



## Special Guest Speaker: Carolyn Ferguson - R.I. Foundation

A special guest today was Carolyn Ferguson. She is here representing the Rotary Foundation. Carolyn has been a fulltime foundation staff member for twelve years based in Hamilton, Ontario.



She thanked President Jim for giving her the opportunity to speak at today's meeting, and spoke of the vision of Paul Harris who founded Rotary for the purpose of bringing together members of the business community in Chicago in 1905. He felt that there were challenges in the community that Rotary needed to address. The first of many projects was the constructing of a public toilet in downtown Chicago.

One of the frequent questions she is asked is, how does the foundation work in the various communities. Its important to realize that the concept of "matching funds" is the opportunity to give back to the community in a broader way. The unique 3 year investment cycle means Rotary has a 4 Star Rating in the control of cost and governance. To date our club has donated over \$658,000 to the fund over the years. There are 24 major donors whom she cannot name but she is able and pleased to recognize **Glen and Jeanette Richardson** for their major contributions which resulted in the Arch Klumph Society recognition. Congratulations!! Four of our members are involved in utilizing the Estate Plan method of donating. Carolyn encourages all our members to find out more about the various ways you can contribute to the foundation.



**\*Side note\*** If you remember **Fitz** ran up and took Keith's camera last week when Keith was at the podium, which still resulted in a great photo of Keith, seen here, well Keith got his payback on Fitz today!! HAHA



## Main Guest Speaker: Rob Hemstock - Alberta Carbon Tax

### Speaker Intro: John Fitzsimmons

(Fitz didn't get to say his full intro as time was of the essence but writing it in full here \*see the recording for what he said\*)

Rob is a semi-retired senior executive with over 20 years of experience in Canada's electricity and natural gas industries. He studied business at the University of Alberta and went on to complete his Law Degree at University of Calgary.

Rob began his legal career in private practice in Calgary in 1990. In 1995 he began working in house in the energy industry when he joined Enron Canada where his work focused on natural gas and electricity regulatory law and energy policy issues. In 2022, he joined Direct Energy in Calgary and was part of the Direct Energy team that negotiated the purchase of ATCO's regulated natural gas and electricity businesses in Alberta.

**\*Keith got his payback on President Jim as well today! No gavels made contact with any heads!!\***



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In 2006, he joined ENMAX Corporation as Executive Vice-President, Regulatory, Legal and Public Policy where he worked for over 10 years, until his retirement at the end of 2016. This role included responsibility for government affairs and overseeing the development of Enmax's position on energy policy matters, including environmental advocacy.

In semi-retirement, Rob's primary focus has been on his desire to operate an entrepreneurial business. Over the past six years Rob has developed a portfolio of residential real estate investments and presently manages those properties.



Rob is a strong believer in supporting his community. He held the role of Co-Executive Sponsor of Enmax's United Way Campaign. He was a volunteer in his community of Springbank as a Board Member of the Springbank Park for All Seasons for 19 years, with five of those years as President. He was a hockey coach, and organized the Springbank Senior's Men's Hockey League for 24 seasons. Rob and his wife Peggy have three adult Children.

### Main Guest Speaker: Rob Hemstock - Alberta Carbon Tax

Mr. Hemstock began with an explanation about how the Provincial Government lost over 2 billion dollars in the move to de-regulate the electrical supply in Alberta. He gave a short explanation of how the PPA program works and how he was involved in the changing of the wording in the PPA clause.

He pointed out what "went wrong" in June 2015 when the current NDP government decided to double the price of the carbon tax. The problem was two-fold – the government didn't consult or do "due diligence" and didn't realize that while power prices were low changing the tax structure had a significant impact on current PPA electricity contracts. The industry realized that the carbon taxes were only going to continue to rise and the consequence was that many of the PPA's were turned back and now the taxpayer was "on the hook" for over \$1.3 billion dollars. He described in detail, negotiations between government officials and the industry, the issuing of "press releases" which never really correctly informed the public and has left many totally "unaware" of the consequences of the governments' actions.

Mr. Hemstock, due to the nature of the press releases, found that he had to embark on a lawsuit against the government to not only "clear his name" but to also draw the public's attention to the whole mess. His legal fees amounted to over \$200,000 and when he finally was able to obtain the amount under the "freedom of information act", the government had paid out over \$400,000 in legal fees fighting his suit. The suit was settled out of court to the "satisfaction" of both parties!! He pointed out that today, on all our power statements is a line item which deducts a significant amount to repay the billions the government incurred.

*This was a very complicated and detailed address. You are encouraged to consult the video for the more graphic details.*

To view Rob's PowerPoint presentation please click [here](#)

### Thanking the Speaker:

**Sherry Austin** thanked the speaker and pointed out how "elected officials are often suspected of NOT TELLING the TRUTH! Something is very wrong when the "good guys" have to spend so much time, energy and monies to "get at the truth". Thanks for your courage and tenacity.





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**THIS WEEK'S MEETING LINK:** <https://youtu.be/MREET0qJ-gk>

## In Closing:

**Next Week's meeting:** is International Women's Day celebration with Dr. Kristin Baetz, Dean of the UofC's Science Faculty as guest speaker. Visitors and Guests are always welcome at Rotary, and next week will be of interest to anyone interested in science, women's issues or the University of Calgary.

Looking forward in seeing you all on Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Final words:

Thought for the coming week is from Thomas Jefferson:

"When tyranny becomes law, rebellion becomes our duty."

And with that, our meeting is adjourned.

**Thank you for coming. Have a great Rotary week!**

**Final reminder to register for next week's Meeting by 9am tomorrow!!**



[www.rotarystampedepark.com](http://www.rotarystampedepark.com)



## NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

**Evan Strong** has been proposed for active membership to the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park as Sponsored by **Craig Stokke** and Seconded by **Luanne Whitmarsh** with a proposed Classification of **Funeral Home Owner**.

If any Member objects to **Evan Strong** joining our Club or to HIS/HER proposed classification an objection must be filed in writing with the Club Secretary, Luanne Whitmarsh: [secretary@rotarycs.org](mailto:secretary@rotarycs.org) prior to March 9th, 2023.

Are you going to the 2023 Rotary International Convention? This time in Melbourne, Australia! If you are planning to go please let me ([admin@rotarycs.org](mailto:admin@rotarycs.org)) know so I can update the names on our Website. <https://rotarycs.org/page/who-s-going-to-the-convention/> As well as the District Convention in Lethbridge.



## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY !!!

Volunteers are required to build Good Food Boxes.

### March 27th, 2023 - 5-8pm Monday evening shift

April 17th, 2023 - 5-8pm Monday evening shift

June 6th, 2023- 1-3pm Tuesday shift (usually a daytime shift but I could make this an evening shift starting at 5PM)

Email Earl or Ken to sign up for a shift.

Earl Huson (403) 686-0828/ [ehuslink@telusplanet.net](mailto:ehuslink@telusplanet.net) Ken Farn: (403) 560-6770/ [kcfarn@telusplanet.net](mailto:kcfarn@telusplanet.net) **EARL AND KEN REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!! THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!!!**



## Social Club



A great time was had by all at OMO with the Social Club!  
Don't miss the next event (see below)

**Social Committee is taking you to Grey Eagle Resort Event Centre to see the Legends Show on March 31.** Get your tickets by calling Sjoert Zuidhof.. 403- 471-6275 or email him at [zuidhofsjoert@gmail.com](mailto:zuidhofsjoert@gmail.com)  
Tickets still available for Legends Show at Grey Eagle Resort...March 31...\$58.  
Tickets are going fast so don't delay!!

Rotary



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Calendar of Events

**March 2nd: Dr. Baetz - International Woman's Day**



**March 9th: David Flemming - Banff Historian**



**March 16th: Joe Connelly and Hugh Delaney - St. Patrick's Day**



**March 23rd: Sherry Austin - Stampede Foundation**



**March 30th: TBA**



**District 5360 Convention in Lethbridge - May 5th and 6th**

Rotary  
District 5360

