



Club of Calgary
at Stampede Park



RCCSP Weekly Bulletin March 16th, 2023 Volume Number 68, Issue Number 33

Bulletin Editor: Luanne Whitmarsh

Photography: Paul Brick

Videography: Steve Mason and Jamie Moorhouse

Administrator: Sarah Brown

Welcome to the March 16th meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park.

Head Table: (L to R) "Cam O'Flage" (PE Bryan Walton), Sgt Chas Filipski, Hugh Delaney, President Jim Fitzowich, Irish Vice Consul Laureen Regan, and Joe Connelly.



President Jim Fitzowich

Today we are going to have our annual St. Patrick's Celebration, brought to us by our own Irish Impresarios "Big" Joe Connelly and the dulcet tones of Hugh Delaney. A few facts from the Calgary Herald archives about the Irish in Calgary:

1880's – Irish born immigrants start to settle in the Ft. Macleod area. Many were ex-NWMP that received their service land grants.

1916 - By this date the Federal census stated there were approx. 6500 Irish Immigrants in Calgary, out of a total Provincial Irish population of approximately 51,000. Curiously, most were from Ulster (the northern counties) and all came for the pioneer opportunities available in Alberta.

1920's – St. Patrick's Day celebrations become more popular in the Calgary area after the 1916 rebellion tensions in Ireland subsided.

1930 – Our favorite Irish Baritone **Hugh Delaney** is born...

...and the rest will have to wait for our program.

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





Announcements:

Visitors and Guests: Brenda McKinley presented all of our guests and we sung a rumbunctious Irish rendition of our Welcome Song!



Health and Wellness:

Health and Wellness contact for March is **Dorothea Schaab** Tel 403-660-6232 schaabd@gmail.com



50/50: Michael Zacharki. Michael gave \$140.00 to **Jim Cairns** who smiled widely all the way back to his chair!

Sergeant at Arms:

Chas Filipski Chas had a lot of fun hanging onto his Guinness Beer! First, he had the lasses stand up with our drinks and he asked us questions. If the lasses got it right, they got to drink BUT, it turns out to be a rouse so that Chas can drink! Then it was time for the lads to stand up and they also got the questions – but this time Chas made the lads drink after each of the questions! Chas finished off with a statistic ‘research shows 4.2 drinks per person are drunk on St. Patrick’s Day’ so everyone, let’s get cracking!!



Guest Speaker: Laureen Regan

Speaker Intro: Joe Connelly

President Jim was happy to be able to sit down as **Big Joe Connelly** became the MC.

Joe Connelly introduced our guest speaker Laureen Regan. She is the Irish Vice Consul for Investment and Trade. Laureen is a business woman and is well known in the Calgary Community. If you go on the Vancouver SkyTrain, you would have heard her lovely voice announcing all of the stops!



Guest Speaker: Laureen Regan

May I say how delighted I am to be invited to share a few remarks with you today, on the eve of St. Patrick’s Day. I would like to start by bringing each of you greetings from His Excellency Eamonn McKee, Ireland’s Ambassador to Canada and Cathy Geagen, Consul General for Ireland in Vancouver.



Guest Speaker: Laureen Regan

Laureen asked by a show of hands 'who here is Irish born or claims Irish Heritage' and lots of hands went up. Then she asked 'who here has been to Ireland' and way more hands went up! She asked 'what are some things you think about when you think about the Irish, and the membership had lots of examples. Laureen then said the Irish are resilient, hard-working, innovative, persistent, daring and gentle and many more attributes. Ireland is not a large island, but we have had a large impact on the world. 70 million people around the world claim Irish ancestry with 40 million in Canada and over 500K in Alberta.



The Irish have a long history of coming to Canada for better opportunities, to connect with family and most well-known, to escape hardship and starvation – either by force or by choice. The earliest known people from Ireland living in Alberta were ranchers near Fort Macleod in the 1870s and 1880s. The Canadian government promoted the Western Prairies as the main area of settlement and gave new settlers 160 acres of land for free. By 1916, Alberta has around 6,500 Irish immigrants.

March 10th marked the second anniversary of the declaration of being Irish Heritage Month throughout Canada to celebrate the contributions the Irish have made in Canada. The Irish influence in Canada has been significant in building this wonderful country from bridges to buildings, canals and the railway we helped lay down the foundations of the country as we know it today. And, we have been deeply rooted Irish communities throughout Alberta – Irish people in our province have contributed to politics, journalism, arts, building, exploration, business and more. 19

In the past year and half, we have seen significant interest in bi-lateral trade between Alberta and Ireland. We share a wealth of similarities from a young and highly educated workforce, low tax rates, access to larger economic markets, similar population size a focus on market diversification and more. Last year we did two investment missions to Ireland which involved stakeholders from both Ireland and Alberta to foster collaboration and understanding between us on a face-to-face basis, build awareness of each other's strengths and the synergies of various sectors and to identify opportunities and long term connections for future growth. In May we are bringing over 10 Alberta companies to Ireland in the Agribusiness sector who are looking at Ireland and the EU for future growth.

Now, back to the fun part – St. Patrick's Day!

Laureen teased **President Jim** as Jim had already stated some of the information that Laureen was about to share!

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world. In the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland it is a public holiday, BUT it is also a holiday in Newfoundland and Labrador.





Guest Speaker: Laureen Regan

The Toronto Maple Leafs of the NHL used to be known as Toronto St. Patricks from 1919 – 1927 and they wore green jerseys. In 1999 when they had a nationally televised game on St. Patrick's night, they wore green again. Why March 17th? The date marks the saint's death. Patrick died in 461 in County Down. He is buried in the grounds of Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, County Down. The first St. Patrick's Day parade actually took place in Boston in 1737. Ireland's first parade was held in Waterford in 1903. But Canada has the longest running St. Patrick's parade held in Montreal uninterrupted from 1827 – 2019.

Was St. Patrick Irish? No, he wasn't born in Ireland. He was thought to have originally come from either Wales or Scotland. Why do people wear green? The colour green is now synonymous with St. Patrick's Day and Irish prided but until the 19th century the colour associated with St. Patrick was actually blue! Why is St. Patrick associated with shamrocks? According to legend, St. Patrick used the shamrock as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he first introduced Christianity to Ireland.

Today we celebrate more than a century of independence. We celebrate over 50 year membership in the EU and next month marks 25 years of the Good Friday agreement bringing peace, hope and reconciliation to the island of Ireland. St. Patrick's day is our special opportunity to deepen and celebrate the bonds of heritage and affection which link the global Irish family and its friends world-wide. I bring each of you a message of friendship, of laughter and of fun as you look to celebrate St. Patrick's day and your own Irishness! Slainte! Happy St. Patrick's Day!



We were then treated to a wonderful dancing Irish group! They were totally awesome! Following this, our own **Hugh Delaney** had us join with him singing 'When Irish Eyes are Shining' and then he presented 'Dear of Donegal'. What an absolute treat!



Thanking the Speaker:

Some guy called 'Cam O'Flage' (**Bryan Walton**) thanked our guests for coming in and sharing their information and dances. He then wished us all 'Dia D'hurt'.





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THIS WEEK'S MEETING LINK: <https://youtu.be/7E4SKM92itE>

In Closing:

Next Week's meeting: Will be a presentation on the Stampede Foundation, as organized by PP **Sherry Austin**. Visitors and Guests are always welcome at Rotary.

Looking forward in seeing you all on Thursday March 23rd. Registration deadline is tomorrow March 17th.

Final words:

Thoughts for the coming week are from Irish wit Oscar Wilde:

"Always be yourself. Everyone else is already taken."

"Whenever people agree with me, I feel I must be wrong."

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



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) 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 Ken Farn: (403) 560-6770/ kgfarn@telusplanet.net **EARL AND KEN REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!! THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!!!**



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WATER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Apr 25, 2023 11:45 AM - 2nd Annual James Wheeler Davidson Luncheon (JWD)—**Downtown Rotary Club (optional)**

We celebrate the legacy of James Wheeler Davidson by focusing on the impact of clean water and sanitation projects around the world.

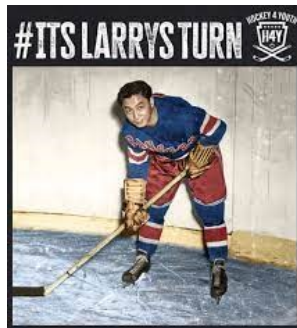
Without JWD's persistence and diplomacy where would we be as an international organization? Many of the clubs in our district partner with Rotary and organizations such as CAWST to provide the education and services needed to provide a basic human right: clean water.

Join us as we connect learn and grow in celebration of JWD and all the WASH (Water and Sanitation and Hygiene) projects we've run Internationally. Get your tickets [here](#)

Let's Get Larry Kwong Into the Hockey Hall of Fame!

Please sign the petition "**Induct Larry Kwong into the Hockey Hall of Fame #ITSLARRYSTURN**"

The goal is to reach 10,000 signatures and we need your support. You can read more and sign the petition here: <https://chng.it/2xfDKTtJR4>



Tomato Guy - Dave Read has tomato plants ready for pick-up end of March. Please phone or text if you are interested. Limited number available. Thank you.

Cell 403-921-5856

Home 403-271-5856





Social Club

We had a wonderful Rotary Dinner Club gathering on Saturday hosted by Susan and **Paul Brick**. The company, conversation, meal, and the Bricks' hospitality (and their beautiful home!) made it all very special. - **Corinne Wilkinson**



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
Tickets still available for Legends Show at Grey Eagle Resort...March 31...\$58.

Tickets are going fast so don't delay!!

Bill Sumner Family Thank You Card

We received this beautiful card from the Sumner Family. We sure miss Bill a lot!! We were so pleased to be his extended family and were grateful for our time with him. Thanks to everyone who went to see him and made time to chat, as evidenced by this card it was surely appreciated!

& we know it was also a huge source of joy for our Dad & part of his legacy.
The club has been so generous to our family during this difficult time. Thank you for the lovely catered lunch platters for the family the morning of the celebration. It was so appreciated & enjoyed! You made a difference to our day.
Much gratitude,
Carolyn, Janine & Glen

Dear Jim, Rhonda & the many friends to Bill at the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park,
A belated but extremely heartfelt thank you for all the support & messages of concern for our Dad, Bill Sumner over the past several months. They brought much comfort to him & ours. ♥
Glen, Janine & I are so proud of our Dad's involvement in Rotary. It was an inspiration



Partners in Print

ROTARY PARTNERS BOOK CLUB MARCH 20, 2023

Our next meeting is on March 20th at The Calgary Golf and Country Club. We meet at 9:30 for a lovely breakfast buffet of scones, muffins, cheeses, fruit, coffee and tea. The cost is \$20.

Please be ready to share your books and thoughts. Please email janetopp@shaw.ca by March 16th if you plan to attend so we can reserve your spot.

Maureen and I look forward to sharing the morning with you.

Maureen Hutchens and Jane Topp



Hiking Club

Today took 4 hikers back out to the Bragg Creek area. We all enjoyed the beautiful blue skies while hiking the 7 km 175 m elevation gain of Snowy Owl to Ranger Summit Loop. We found a log about half way to stop and enjoy our lunch.



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 23rd: Sherry Austin – Stampede Foundation



March 30th: Rotary International President Elect Nominee –
Stephanie Urchick

Meeting in the Blue Room



April 6th: Rotary Profile – Don Taylor



April 13th: Premier of Alberta – Danielle Smith

Meeting in the Blue Room



April 20th: **No Meeting** in lieu of New Member Event on April
21st.



District 5360 Convention in Lethbridge – May 5th and 6th

