



Erin O'Reilly: Closer to Home Community Services



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Bulletin Chair: Bev Ostermann
Editor: Bev Ostermann
Photographer: Clive Pringle

Luke DaSilva introduced our Guest Speaker, **Erin O'Reilly**, Associate Director of Closer to Home Community Services, where she has been for 15 years. **Erin** has worked with children and families for nearly 20 years and has served on regional and provincial committees regarding child and family services and programs. She is currently the Chair of the Teaching-Family Association Certification and Ethics Committee, supporting international agencies in their implementation of the Teaching-Family Model, an evidence based, best practice model for children and youth with severe emotional and behavioural challenges.

Closer to Home's mission is to empower families to stay together. It is committed to contributing to a future where every child will belong to a family and feel valued and secure. Quoting from their annual report ...“Over the past 20 years Closer to Home has evolved into an essential community and family support provider. The agency offers a continuum of services including early intervention and early childhood development, supports for parents experiencing family violence and parent-child conflict, and programs that provide out-of-home care until family reunification is feasible. Closer to Home also provides specialized services for Aboriginal families and children with mental health and complex behavioural issues. Underpinning the development of all programs and services is an unwavering commitment to empowering children and families to make positive changes and achieve their full potential.”

They provide Early Intervention for communities through their West Central Community Resource Centre. Services include early childhood development programs, parent education and support, new Canadian services, and youth community programs.



Erin O'Reilly: Closer to Home Community Services

In Home Family Support is aimed at the preservation of families. It provided services to families experiencing parent-child conflict, parenting issues and neglect, or environments that put children at risk, such as poverty, addictions, etc. It is intended to create an atmosphere that will prevent apprehension of the children by Child Services.

In Care Programs provide 3 parented group homes, with up to 5 youth per home, often with mental health and behavioural challenges. They are under the supervision of professional live-in couples and the focus is on reunification with family. Also, 25 foster care beds are spread across Calgary and rural areas for younger children that have been neglected, abused or are medically fragile.

Aboriginal Services provide early childhood development, in-home support to build parenting skills, parent education classes, access to Elders and spiritual guidance, provision of ceremonies, crafts, history and traditions.

Results and impacts are impressive. Over 1,500 children and families are supported annually. Reunification results – 70%; preservation results – 95%. Kids are being successfully kept home with their families. In twenty years, over 50,000 parents and children have been supported.

Future goals include expansion of outreach capacity and early intervention through a capital campaign, enhancing services for Aboriginal families, and adding specialized services to support those experiencing domestic violence.

“Every program Closer to Home offers is more than a one-time stop. We don’t fix their problem – we teach them how to fix their problems through the tools and resources we provide. The best is when we see a family moving forward, seeing the change and keeping the family together.”

Jim Fitzowich thanked **Erin** by observing “you can only have a strong civilization if it sits on the foundation of strong families.”

President Murray made a donation to the Stay In School Program in honour of our speaker.



RCCS: CLUB NEWS

This Day in History: President Murray provided us with more useful trivia:

- 1931: Alka Seltzer goes on sale
- 1967: first successful heart transplant was performed
- One of the first commercially sold artificial Christmas trees was made from toilet brushes
- National Apple Pie Day

President Murray Flegel opened the meeting by asking **Lisa Fernandes** to accompany us in the singing of O'Canada and Rotary Grace, followed by a moment of silence to mark the passing of former Member, **Mick Starr**.



President Murray introduced the head table – new members **Ted Stack** and **John Labun**, **Gord Weicker**, **Craig Stokke**, **Luke DaSilva**, and our guest speaker, **Erin O'Reilly**.



Visitors and Guests: **Jim Hutchens**, following a joke at **Jim Smith's** expense, ... "A small Scotsman amongst big Texans is like a dime amongst pennies" ..., introduced our visitors and guests, including our exchange student, **Annina Arvo**.

50/50 Draw: **Bill Sumner** awarded the 50/50 draw to **Annina**, who somehow just happened to end up with the winning number. **Anni** was also selling some amazing looking ginger bread men to help fund her upcoming trip to Yellowknife, so we hope the day helped meet her goal.



Winners of the Grey Cup pool were announced: Grand Prize of \$300 to **Gui Salazar**, \$100 to **Luke DaSilva** and to **Jeanette King**.

Casino: **Bill Sumner** advised that the funds from the last casino have not been received yet, but that our next casino will take place in April – June, 2017.

Health of the Club: **Earl Huson** advised that **Wayne Smith** is doing well and welcomes visitors, **Gui Salazar** is back home after a hospital stay for fluid on the brain, and **Dorothea Schaab** continues to recover.



Christmas Luncheon: **Keith Davis** awarded **Al Johnson** the pre-luncheon draw prize of a complete Christmas turkey meal from Safeway (courtesy of **Arnie Felker**). Although we must say the pseudo-turkey accompanying the prize looked pretty tough and stringy. Hope the real one is better!





RCCS: CLUB NEWS

Sergeant at Arms: John Fitzsimmons, as always, picked the pockets of many with an eclectic selection of victims.

Paul Harris Fellows: Jack Thompson recognized some more Paul Harris Fellows:

- **Jim Fitzowich** PHF +2 and 3
- **Phil Jackson** PHF +5
- **Tony Ng** PHF +8



Jack noted that we are about 50% of the way to our \$50,000 Club target for this year, and reminded us that matching funds of up to \$500 US are available for any donations.

Dream Home Moment: Charlie Gouldsbrough reminded us that the Dream Home is only 7 months away. Today we honoured **Art Borzel** for 26 years of exemplary service looking after funds and finances in the Dream Home office, with the presentation of a custom Dream Home belt buckle. Congratulations, **Art!!**

Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation: President Murray announced that a second donation of \$500,000 has been received from the estate of **Mario Stella**.



Be a gift to the world



RCCS CLUB NEWS: INDUCTION OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Gord Weicker introduced **Ted Stack**. **Ted** was born in Edmonton (we won't hold that against him) and earned a BA and MBA at U of A. He joined ATCO in 1976, and after a 2 year contract in Saudi Arabia returned to join ATCO Development where his career in land development really began. In 1987 he formed his own company to capitalize on the opportunities associated with an aging population and building lifestyle communities anchored by major amenities like golf courses. This led to a contract to manage the development of Heritage Pointe, which is in the final stages of development. Recently retired, he is an avid Flames fan and hockey player, a new recruit for our South Calgary team. Married to **Kerry**, **Ted** has 3 children and 2 grandchildren. His mantra is "in giving you shall receive", which makes him an automatic Rotarian.

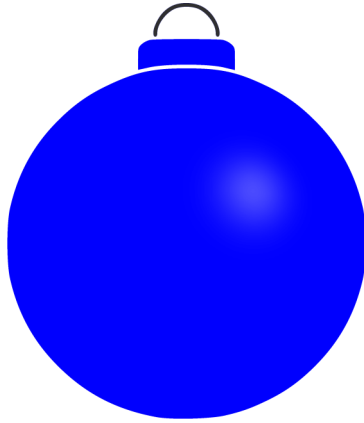
Craig Stokke introduced **John Labun**. A rare native Calgarian, **John** believes he was put on this earth to serve, which makes him a perfect fit for Calgary South. **John's** father was an Acadian and his mother was Cuban; this lineage definitely speaks to his larger than life personality and passion for life. **John** and wife **Ivonne** have an eight year old daughter, **Arianna**, and they are very active in the community. In 2008, he created the "Match Your Heart" initiative within his land banking firm, supporting and sponsoring over 35 local and international charities, many of which are familiar to us. He was recipient of the 2010 CTV Calgary Volunteer of the Year Award, and recently has committed to being puppy raisers for BC-Alberta Guide Dogs. He has 12 years of experience in real estate development and 20 years of experience in hospitality management. His philosophy is that "everyone needs to win in a transaction". Sounds like a Rotarian!

Sherry Austin inducted the new members. She noted that it is an honour to induct new Members into the Rotary family. The Rotary motto is "Service Above Self" and Rotarians are expected to conduct their personal and public lives in accordance with the "Four Way Test". Regular attendance at meetings is a way to learn more about Rotary and to get to know other Members. Make ups for missed meetings can be made at other clubs anywhere in the world and are encouraged. Committee work is the basis of service and Members will gain good experience by trying a number of different committees. Remember we are all part of the Rotary family and are here to support each other, and also remember that being accepted by Calgary South Rotary is something special.





Calgary South Rotary and the Food Bank Celebrate Christmas Together



As we can all imagine, the Food Bank will be a busy place this holiday season. Calgary South Rotary, in its typical giving and generous fashion, is once again a part of it.

We have two days of volunteering lined up – Tuesday, December 22 and Wednesday, December 23.

The shift time for both days is 2:45 pm – 5:30 pm. Both shifts are on

the distribution lines, meaning we are serving the clients directly, and helping pack their Christmas hampers. It is extremely well organized, with each person taking a role on the line. We simply place items in their hampers as it moves along the belt, and exchange merry greetings with the families who move with their hamper. Some of us help get the groceries to their vehicles.

We need 7 more volunteers for both December 22 and 23. There are a total of 18 Rotarians working each day. You can sign up to help by contacting Corinne Wilkinson at: corinne@whitehathospitality.com or phone at 403 471 2101 specifying which day you would prefer.

In addition, our club also collects donations for the Food Bank, for which you will receive a tax receipt. Those funds are passed on directly to the Food Bank. Corinne will be set up to take donations at our Christmas luncheon on December 10 at Canyon Meadows, as well as December 17 at Rotary House. We will have the Moneris machine there for those wishing to use credit cards.

Thanks everyone for all you do for our community, especially during this holiday season when we can help those who need us most.

Corinne Wilkinson



2015 RCCS: CALENDAR, HEALTH AND TRANSPORTATION

DECEMBER 2015

- Dec 10 Christmas Luncheon: Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club
Dec 17 Christmas Social
Dec 24 **NO MEETING DUE TO CHRISTMAS**
Dec 31 **NO MEETING DUE TO NEW YEAR'S EVE**



JANUARY 2016

- Jan 7 Mid Year State of the Union Address
Jan 14 CNS: Youth Justice Presentation
Jan 21 Robbie Burns Day
Jan 28 Social Committee Presentation



FEBRUARY 2016

- Feb 4 Honorable Brian Jean: Leader of Opposition
Feb 5 Larry Kwong Chinese New Year Dinner: Regency Palace
Feb 11 Valentine's Day Lunch: Dr. Brian Keating: "Love in the Wild"
At Rotary House this year
Feb 18 Blair MacNichol: Operation Eyesight
Feb 25 Kelsey Claeyes: Between Friends



MARCH 2016

- March 3 Legends Series: Reclassification Talk
March 10 To be announced
March 17 St. Patrick's Day
March 24 To be announced
March 31 Jay Ingram: Beakerhead



APRIL 2016

- April 7 To be announced
April 14 To be announced
April 21 **New Members Auction: Danish Canadian Club**
April 28 To be announced

MAY 2016

- May 5 Ian Anderson: Transmountain Pipeline
May 12 Linda Powell: STARS Air Ambulance
May 19 To be announced
May 26 **Stay In School Luncheon: Carriage House**



HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Contact Earl Huson at: 403 686 0828 or:
ehuslink@telusplanet.net if you know of anyone that is not well or is there
anyone you know that could use a visit.



TRANSPORTATION: Contact Gui Salazar at: (403) 875 5146 (Cell) or (403)
281 9719 (Home) if you know of anyone that may need a ride to meetings



ROTARY CHALLENGER PARK GALA



People in the picture:

Jack Thompson, Pat and Jim Burns, Lieutenant Governor Lois Mitchell, His Honour Doug Mitchell, CRCP Co-Chair, Leslie Weekes

Jim and Pat Burns were honoured at the Calgary Rotary Challenger Park Christmas Gala by Her Honour, Lieutenant Governor Lois Mitchell for their support of the park over the years and their significant donation to the Phase 4 Capital Campaign.



UPCOMING FIRESIDE FOR NEW MEMBERS ...

Dear Eligible Rotarians

We will be having a “**Fireside**” for:

- ◇ New Members inducted this 2015/2016 Rotary Year including their spouse/partner and their sponsor.
- ◇ Members from last year who have never attended a Fireside, and spouse/partner as well as sponsors
- ◇ President and Board of Directors and their spouses
- ◇ President of the Partners
- ◇ Members of the Fireside Committee and spouses



We usually have only one Fireside each Rotary year, and that will probably be next March or April at the Calgary Golf and Country Club

Plans will be made and notice given in time so that as many as possible can make arrangements to attend.

The purpose of Fireside is quite traditional: getting acquainted, having fellowship (around some refreshments) being introduced to the purposes and potential values of our Rotary membership. Our mottos, standards, and purposes will be emphasized

Thank you,

Peter Penner, Chair: Fireside Committee

Please email me at: justpen@telus.net if you have any questions



PARTNERS IN PRINT

November 28th was the Partners day to celebrate at our Brunch. It was a lovely mild day and we wore lots of Christmas red to add to the lovely decorations at the Country Club. We started the morning with several guests of our members and our very welcome guests from the South Calgary Rotary Club. This was the occasion when **Murray Flegel** as President presented us with the cheque for \$70,000.00 to acknowledge our participation in the Rotary Clubs projects during the year.

Karen Grant was introduced as our new second vice-present and a short business meeting took place which was followed by the Project Research recommendations. This committee led by Past President **Linda Legare** had investigated a large group of requests from various charities and can be researched on line. The report was read by Linda Legare and accepted by the members.

Sherry Austin gave an excellent outline of the work of the Calgary Rotary Foundation adding that several Partners had already contributed.

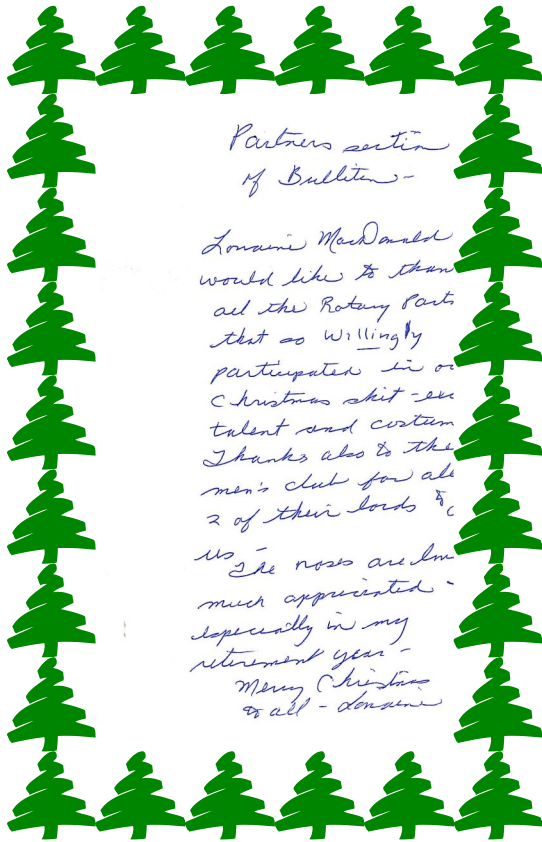
Then we relaxed while a very humorous presentation of The Twelve Days of Christmas was performed by a group of wandering minstrels and the energetic arrival of two very boisterous fellows in tutus and tights. A very joyful Christmas season to all and A Happy New Year.

Maureen Watson, Partners President





PARTNERS IN PRINT



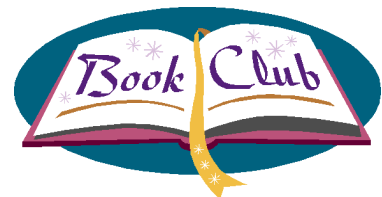
Partners Potluck



Ellen Smith has kindly offered to host a pot luck lunch on Dec. 17th. Several scenarios were entertained but this seems to be the best. Please let me know if you would be able to attend and what you would be willing to bring. I think salads, appetizers, desserts, wine, buns, would be the best categories. Please email me or call and leave a message if I am out.

Submitted by: Susan Brick

Book Club:



It is time to celebrate Christmas with our annual Book Club Pot Luck. A huge thanks to Arlene Flegel for opening her home.

Date: Monday, December 14 Time: 11am Address: 172 Douglas Woods Drive SE. Please bring your favorite savory or sweet appetizer.

Since the Elbow Valley ladies once again have graciously offered to host our June meeting, we want these ladies just to sit back and enjoy the festivities

Please email me at wandamcneil@shaw.ca OR call at 403-217-8407 to confirm your attendance.

Submitted by Wanda McNeil, Book Club Chair



WIENS BLOG AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Hi Friends,

Bob and I are nearing the end of our visit to Colombia.

I invite you to read our latest blog telling the story of our new and improved stroller for vulnerable children.

You will find it at:

www.capdcalgary.org/blog

Thanks for your interest in our work in Colombia.

Submitted by: Marlene Wiens



Contact Us

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Visit us at: www.rotarycs.org

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President: Murray Flegel
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Past President: Allan Johnson
Secretary: Ted Rowsell
Treasurer: Larry Kennedy
Partners President: Maureen Watson

2015-2016 Directors

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Club Service: Operations
Glenn Potter
Email: agpotter@telusplanet.net

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