



The Weekly Westerner

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3
Grey Eagle Hotel, 3777 Grey Eagle Drive (Corner of 37 St SW and Glenmore Drive)
Mondays 12.10 pm - 1.30 pm

President: Ben Kormos **President-Elect:** Tim Anderson **Past President:** Terry Felton
Secretary: Marlene Doherty **Treasurer:** Karl Herzog

Directors: Debbie Barry, Judy Cochran, Bill Fitzsimmons, Gustavo Jimenez, Gerry Meek,
Les Morgan, Orlin McMillan, Duncan Stanners

February 5, 2018 Edition: 51.25 Reporter: Don Campbell Editor: David Williams

The meeting was called to order in two languages at 12:18 pm by **President Ben Kormos**.

Debbie Barry spoke of the need for workers and deliverers for the Strawberry Shortcake fundraiser. Call her or Sa'adat if you can help.

President Ben told us about a new initiative between Calgary clubs to enhance cooperation with an emphasis in three areas: fundraising, awareness of Rotary and communication.

In April or May, a Hitman's game will be selected as an opportunity to highlight Rotary. Tickets will be \$15, but, if you cannot attend, they can be provided to students who otherwise could not afford to go. The purpose of this endeavour is to promote Rotary in Calgary.

Gerry Meek got us going on the singing of *O Canada*, and the spirited participation of all members included the phrase that is soon to fade off into history. Someone mentioned we live in changing times, but, in truth, everyone always has done.

The head table was introduced. It included **Marlene Ahern**, Managing Director of The Strongest Oak Energy Youth Opportunity, **Stace Wills**, VP, Energy for Innovative Calgary, who was the guest speaker, and **Darren Grierson**, who introduced the speaker.

David Watson introduced our guests, and we regaled them with our welcome song.

Sa'adat Keshavjee issued an appeal for orders for the Strawberry Shortcake fundraiser. He says you will not recognize the new product, which will be more appealing to those lucky enough to receive them. A package of six sells for \$42, which includes delivery by volunteers. More delivery people means it will go more quickly. Assembly and packaging of the shortcakes will take place at St. Mary's Hall, and delivery will take place on February 14.



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Bethany Ross of Brown Bagging for Children was presented with a cheque for \$5,000, which will provide lunch to 50 students for the rest of the school year at EP Scarlett High School.



Our guest, Marlene Ahern, won the 50/50 draw after nobody claimed the first ticket drawn.

Presentation

Several ago our guest speaker was Dave Irvine-Halliday, professor emeritus of electrical engineering at the University of Calgary. He had been touring in Nepal, and had come across a village with no modern infrastructure. The huts and the school had no windows, and were very dark inside. Small LEDs had just come on the market, and Dave had put nine of them into a tin can, held in place by plaster of Paris, and found that a small motorcycle battery would provide enough energy for the lights to perform for two days.

We funded his project, called Light Up the World, which is still in operation today, and our guest speaker Stace Wills brought us up to date on what is happening with it. Stace's organization is electrifying villages, and has introduced 'green internships' for local people to manage and keep in good repair. Each intern is responsible to train someone who can act for them during an absence, providing useful redundancy. Power is from solar cells installed in each village.

Sarcee, West and Centennial currently participate in funding this program. A compelling statistic is that graduation from high school has increased from 33% in 2016 to 50% in 2017 because of the ability of students in the villages to study at night. Chores can be done after school, and studying after sunset, providing a large increase in productivity because of the ability to see inside their homes at night.

May 4 - 6, 2018: District Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary
June 23 - 27, 2018: Rotary International Conference, Toronto



My Passion, My Moments, Our Rotary

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Reported benefits include extended learning hours, workers can continue to work during the day and attend meetings in the evening to do village business, and household duties can be done in the evening because of the presence of light.

Three villages in Burkina Faso, West Africa, have been electrified to date, and there are many more that can benefit from the provision of light. Two more villages are to be equipped this year, and interns trained to do installation and maintain them.

The cost for a village is \$42,000 with a clinic, and \$35,000 without. They are asking Calgary West for a contribution of \$5,000 with a need for it to be in place by May 18th, with a launch of June 18th. They are partnering with U of C to develop a solar hub, utilizing a field of solar cells and a much higher power production.

They have developed a 'lease to own' program to make the light units more affordable for the villagers, and when the hubs are in operation, have the participating villages lease to own them.

With electricity, the villages could greatly expand their micro manufacturing, hoping to grow the ability to trade outside their region.



Bill Fitzsimmons thanked speaker for his interesting and informative presentation.

There will be no meeting on February 12th, in order for us to work on the shortcakes.

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Coming Events

February: World Understanding Month	
5	Strongest Oak/Burkino Faso Solar Project
12	No Meeting: Strawberry Shortcakes preparation and delivery 13th and 14th
19	No Meeting: Family Day
26	"Never Too Late" Rotary Scholarship Awardees
March: Literacy Month	
5	Marianne Ryan, Alberta Ombudsman
12	Debra deWaal: "Safe and Sound" Personal Safety Training
19	Team Meeting
26	Member Introduction and Rotary Moment
April: Maternal and Child Health Month	
2	Assembly Meeting at noon
9	E C Manning Innovation Awards
16	Member Introduction and Rotary Moment
23	Habitat for Humanity: "Restore", "New Housing"
30	Stop the Shock on Electricity: Todd Beasley
May: Youth Service Month	
7	Member Introduction and Rotary Moment
14	TBA
21	No Meeting
28	Youth Programme: RYLA Adventures in Citizenship
June: Fellowship Month	
4	Rollin Stanley: GM of Urban Strategy, City of Calgary
11	TBA
18	Turnover Meeting: Induction of New President and Board
25	Special Canada Day Programme: RCMP Speaker TBA
July: Stampede and Okanagan Cherries Month	
2	No Meeting. Canada Day Holiday
9	Stampede Yahoo. Country Music and Dancing
16	TBA
23	TBA
30	TBA