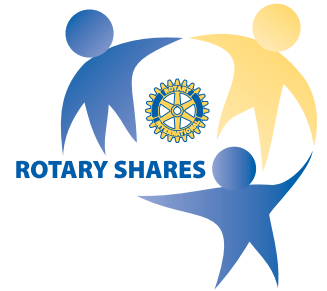




the Arch



April 29th, 2008
Volume 31, Issue 33

THE STORY OF HAITI

Ricot Leon

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Our Arch Supporters
..... THANKYOU !!!

When most North Americans think of the Caribbean, they think of warm beaches, tropical winds; an overall pleasant image. While this is true for some areas, some parts of the Caribbean are more like nightmares. Haiti is such a place; with poverty, a lack of clean water and very little natural vegetation remaining. There is a lack of basic education contributing to a systemic, generational hopelessness and a crying out for help that largely goes unnoticed.

The history of Haiti involves Spanish settlers basically exterminating its native inhabitants in early times, followed by the French who took over the western part of the island from the Spanish. They needed workers in the gold mines so they took in slaves from Africa. Ironically, this poverty stricken country was once very rich in natural resources and helped France become a rich country through the extraction of same. In 1792 a revolt began (slaves against the French) and in 1804, Haiti became the first black republic in the world. Unfortunately there was no leadership apparent which resulted in one dictatorship after another from 1804 to 1991. In 1991 their first democratic election was held and a President elected. Nevertheless chaos still reigns with inflation and poverty ravishing the Island.

Haiti (with 8.5 million people) is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Maternal and infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world and malnutrition is widespread. Illiteracy stands at 48%; six percent of urban dwellers are infected with HIV/AIDS. With unemployment hovering around 50%, some poorer Haitians take their chances on the high seas, hoping to secure a better life elsewhere.

99% of the trees in Haiti have been cut down to provide charcoal to cook and sell. As it is situated in a Hurricane belt, the rains then wash their top soil into the rivers (polluting their water) and ultimately out to sea. The cycle of poverty thus continues from season to season.

Ricot Leon was born in Haiti but was fortunate to be taken in by a missionary couple from Florida who had decided to live in Haiti and try to help its people. He was rescued from the effects of poverty and given access to a healthy diet and an education. After high school in Haiti, he came to Canada to attend the Alberta Bible College and, after graduating with his degree in 2007, decided that his true calling was to return to Haiti to give to his people as others had given to him.

With the help of the Oak Park Church of Christ in Calgary, a humanitarian Mission, the Heart for Home Mission, has been established in order to provide education, awareness and a hand out of poverty. They hope to adopt an entire community and see a major change happen.



www.heartforhome.wordpress.com

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The Arch is published weekly. Please forward any items for inclusion to Stephen Pick.

Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook

Chartered March 14th, 1977

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Meeting Minutes



April 22nd, 2008

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

President Pat kicked off the meeting at 12:15 sharp and with Betty French on the piano, we did our Anthem proud.

Mool Mehra was our greeter today and introduced our group of visitors and guests. Attendance today totaled 60; including 2 guests, 5 visiting Rotarians and 53 of our own members.

Pat reported that the President's Ball was a wonderful evening and he thanked those who organized the event, donated door prizes and flowers (Ted Wada).

Our District Conference (May 23 to 25th) is upcoming and Pat noted that we would like to have as many of our members as possible attend. Wayne Wiebe has sign up forms.

Pat read an email he had received from Rotary International reminding all Rotarians that today would have been Paul Harris' 140th birthday. As the founder of Rotary at age 37, he was a positive example for us all.

Pat presented an attendance award to a long term member of our Club who returned recently from wintering in Texas. Tom Ranson has 30 years of perfect attendance! Congratulations Tom.

Jim Moore invited us all to attend a fundraising night of joy and laughter at the Calgary Dream Centre on Thursday, June 12th from 7 pm to 10 pm. A comedian will be performing, gourmet desserts will be served and there will be a fantastic silent auction. All proceeds to the Dream Centre. Tickets are \$100 for which you qualify for an \$80 tax receipt.

Rob Whitfield announced that our inbound youth exchange student (Lucas) from Brazil will be arriving in August, and that we are now looking for host parents. It would be nice if we could arrange for some of our own club members to take on this opportunity. Please contact Barry Korpatnisky if you are interested.

Also, Rob announced that he is looking for a replacement for himself as chairman of this rewarding committee. He has done the job (an excellent one indeed) for 12 years and feels it's time for someone else to take it on. Rob is certainly prepared to

work with the new chairman through a transition period. Please contact Rob directly if you are interested.

Graham Hoard was our Sergeant at Arms and he started off by congratulating those four Rotarians who parked cars yesterday at Spruce Meadows: Joe Hooper, Gord Billings, Ron Smith and Alex Soutar. He then fined Garth Plunkett as a representative of those who didn't park cars. He also fined Terry Green for being an accountant, and Peter Bickham for pointing out a mistake he had made.

Happy Bucks this week included Rob Whitfield who discovered that high performance racing tires didn't work well in the snow, and President Pat who wanted to cheer on the Flames. Ron May had a happy buck for finally being able to get out of Bragg Creek, and he took the opportunity to remind us that our exchange student (Kwan) had only two more months before she would be heading home so now was the time to arrange to take her out on an excursion.

Bart introduced our guest speaker, Ricot Leon, a 25 year old Haitian citizen. He was raised by a missionary couple and after graduating from high school in Haiti, he moved to Canada to further his education in the study of theology. His goal is to return to Haiti to give something back to the people of his native country. Today he shared information about Haiti and why it needs help to defeat the ravages of poverty and disease.

President Pat thanked our speaker, presenting him with our LED Lighting Certificate in appreciation of his participation.

Our meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Greeters

April 29th	Bob Montgomery, John Charrett
May 6th	James Moore, Terry Craig
May 13th	Meeting May 14th @ Spruce Meadows
May 20th	Barry Moreland, Bart Dailley

If you are unable to GREET on your assigned day, please arrange a substitute.





Upcoming Events

April 29th	John Gilchrist — Herald Restaurant Critic
May 6th	John Hufnagel — Coach / GM, Calgary Stampeders
May 13th	No noon meeting re Spruce Meadows on the 14th
May 14th	Annual Spruce Meadows Organizationa Dinner and Tour — Tours @ 5:30, Dinner @ 6:30
May 20th	Dr. Chris Brooks — Lifeline Malawi
May 23rd-25th	District Conference, Lethbridge — "Rotary Is Light, Light for the World"
May 27th	Sidney Cyngiser — Holocaust Survivor
June 15-18th	Rotary International Conference, Los Angeles — "See The Stars"
June 24th	Kwan Uansri — Farewell Address Changing of the Guard from Pat Hutchinson to Bob Montgomery

Water Filters - A note from Jan Tollefson

Hi, Everyone,

It has been impossible for me to translate and pass on all of Eduardo's emails over the past few years. He writes tomes!! But since we are very near the end of this first project, I thought I'd pass on some photos he sent today and translate his email. When Norm is down there, perhaps he can investigate the need for some kind of transport mode for filters.

Thanks very much!
Jan

From: Eduardo Buitrago [mailto:buitrago@unoris.hlg.sld.cu]
Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2008 4:44 PM
To: Jan Tollefson
Subject: De Bui

Jan: un beso Jan, a kiss.

Te estoy enviando las fotos que te prometí de las distribución de los 30 filtros. *I'm sending the photos I promised you of the distribution of the 30 filters. (*note from Jan: these are the last filters.)*

Como verás los clientes fueron en su búsqueda. *As you will see, the clients were involved in coming to get them.*

Habíamos organizado para trasladarlos en un camión pero creimos más seguro que cada cual llevara el suyo. *We had organized to transport them in a truck but we thought it was safer if each one took their own.*

La realidad es que son muy difíciles de trasladar para nosotros, porque los camiones son muy altos. *The reality is that it is very difficult for us to transport them because the trucks are very high.*

Creo que deberemos inventar algo para su traslado. Incluso un comunitario sufrió una herida de 5 puntos en la rodilla. Esta noche iré a su casa para verlo e indagar que pasó realmente. *I think we should invent something for their transport. In fact, one community member suffered a wound with five stitches in his knee. Tonight I will go to his house to see him and investigate what exactly happened.*

Las calles nuestras están en muy mal

estado consecuencia de las aguas y el traslado se hace peligroso pues cada filtro deberá ser aguantado por una persona. *Our roads are in very bad condition as a consequences of the rains and the transport is made dangerous, so every filter should be endured (borne??) by a person. (doesn't translate well)*

José creo que dispone de una camioneta pequeña y baja donde caben alrededor de 10 filtros. *I think Jose has the availability of a small, low truck where they can fit around ten filters.*

Bueno ahí las fotos de 2 en 2. *Well, here are some photos, two by two.*

Espero antes de cierre de semana mandarte facturas restantes que liquidan la suma que ustedes entregaron. *I hope, before the close of the week, to send you the remaining receipts to liquidate the sum that y'all delivered.*

También te mandaré fotos de las instalaciones y las familias. *Also I will send photos of the installations and the families.*

Te debo la postal de fin de año. *I owe you the postcard from the year end.*

Estamos bien We are well...

Cuidate Buitrago





CLUB SERVICE

by Alex Soutar



My area of responsibility for the coming year is Club Service.

Club Service focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the smooth functioning of Rotary.

The following committees are included within club service:

- A. Programs and Tours
- B. Seniors Luncheon
- C. Sunshine and Birthdays
- D. Fellowship and firesides
- E. Sergeant at Arms
- F. Waterton Peace Park / District Conference

Programs and Tours plan for future upcoming events, and luncheon speakers.

The seniors lunch committee plans the groundwork for the Seniors Christmas luncheon held at the Kerby Centre with the blessing of the Calgary Seniors Resource Society. This has become a very successful yearly event, and is an excellent example of Rotary's motto: "Service Above Self".

Sunshine and Birthdays committee marks the birthdays and anniversaries of our club members and their partners, as well as sending flowers and best wishes to those who are experiencing the loss of a family member, and to the ill or infirm.

Fellowship and Firesides is an informal gathering of new club members and a mix of well seasoned Rotary members as a welcome and educational fellowship. This provides an opportunity for new members to learn about Rotary in general terms, as well as the Chinook Rotary Club in particular.

The Sergeant at Arms ensures a meeting tradition of an entertaining toll on the membership. Funds raised go to offsetting costs incurred by the club.

The District Conference at Waterton is a yearly conference assembling clubs from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Montana. This year's event takes place at East Glacier National Park in Montana. In addition to the meetings, this very busy weekend includes golf and bridge tournaments, keynote speakers, a banquet and dance, a church service on Sunday, and a great opportunity to renew friendships, past, present, and future.

SPRUCE MEADOWS ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL DINNER



Wednesday, May 14th, 2008
Congress Hall, Spruce Meadows (west side)

- 5:30pm Tours
- 6:00pm Drinks (cash bar)
- 6:30pm Dinner

Sign-up sheet is circulating at meetings.

Note: This will be the scheduled meeting that week - no noon meeting on May 13th.

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