

The Rotary Club of Calgary

Adult Literacy Bursaries

Dean Gertsen, Chair of the Club's Adult Literacy Committee, presented eight Rotary Adult Literacy Bursaries to students at the Bow Valley College Awards Ceremony on November 13, 2014.

"It feels good to provide opportunities to people who have a strong desire to further their education", said Gertsen. He was joined at the Awards Ceremony by Committee members Al McMillan and Walter Chayka. The Committee works with Bow Valley College to review Bursary Applications and identify students who have a strong commitment to continuing their education.



Dean Gjertsen was joined on stage by Dr. Keith Seel, Dean of the Centre for Excellence in Foundational Learning.

Dr. Seel thanked the Rotary Club of Calgary for their many years of support of students at Bow Valley College. The Rotary Literacy Bursaries are granted to full or part-time students registered in basic literacy programs.

In many cases recipients are looking after families while holding down jobs and continuing their education. There were lots of children at the Ceremony.

Dr. Seel made sure that after the Ceremony, all the balloons left with the children. "It was fun to watch the pride and joy on the faces of the children as their Mom or Dad received awards for their efforts", commented Al McMillan.

The Rotary Club of Calgary is a proud supporter of improving adult literacy in Calgary. The Club also supports adult literacy through the Adult Basic Literacy Education Program (ABLE) and the Speech Assisted Reading and Writing Program (SARAW).

ABLE supports students with physical or developmental disabilities studying at a grade 2 – 4 level. This is an inclusive education program with students studying alongside their non-disabled peers.

SARAW uses award winning specialty software that helps adults with disabilities improve their reading, writing and math skills. Students in that program are reading at a grade 1 – 6 level.

The Adult Literacy Committee has been part of the Rotary Club of Calgary for many years. Belle Auld, the SARAW and ABLE Coordinator expressed her thanks to the Committee for their support of these two programs. "Thanks to partners such as the Rotary Club of Calgary, we are able to help more low literate adults in more ways", said Auld.