

Rotary

Club of Camrose



December Newsletter

club contact: rotarycamrose@gmail.com

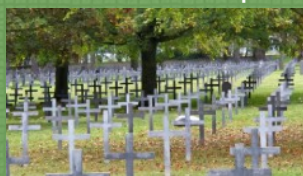
December Guest Speakers

December 4

Highlights from the
District 5370 Fall
Assembly

December 11
Evening meeting

Rob Rolf's European
battlefield trip



December 18

A Christmas
Message from Pastor
Dean Rostad

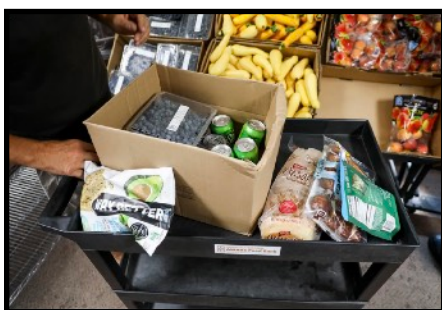


December 25

Christmas Day
No meeting



Reminders



Bring your food bank
donations to our December
4 or 11 meetings



An evening of **Christmas Cheer**
at the Roberts Saturday
December 16 Starting at 7 pm

2024 Rotary Cares Raffle

10 draws for \$1,000 Cash prize

\$100 per ticket • 300 tickets printed

Draws held at the:
Norsemen Inn
6505 - 48 Avenue, Camrose, AB

Rotary Club of Camrose
Box 1464, Camrose, AB T4V 1X4

Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase

License # 652525 Ticket # 003



2024 DRAW DATES

• January 29, 2024
• February 26, 2024
• March 25, 2024
• April 29, 2024
• May 27, 2024
• June 24, 2024
• September 30, 2024
• October 28, 2024
• November 25, 2024
• December 16, 2024

We have 300 tickets to sell to fund Rotary
Air Cadets. Contact Lou if you can help sell
tickets.

CAMROSE

CHASE THE ACE!

TWO CHANCES TO WIN!

- 1 Purchase a Ticket
- 2 One ticket is selected to win 20% of 14 days of ticket sales
- 3 The winner has the opportunity to draw the ACE OF SPADES to win the Jackpot

BUY YOUR TICKET

**Let's create some buzz about
the third Chase the Ace!**

To date the draws have
contributed \$75,000 to mostly
local charities

December Volunteer Opportunities

Serving is one of the pillars of Rotary. Here is a list of upcoming opportunities to "Create Hope in the World"

Adopt a Stocking for an Augustana student - drop off your stocking at the Rebus's between December 14 and 16

Camrose Kodiaks Community Event - December 17th at 1:30 pm - photo booth and prize table

Camrose Days for Girls - sewing/work bee January 20 and 27th - 9am to 3 pm

Contact Shirley Bergsma if you can help out bergsma.ts@gmail.com

November Speakers



November 6 DG Brent Collingwood

Brent covered a lot of ground in his presentation at our club meeting and visit with the executive. See the full page set aside to cover his presentation at page 4.



November 13 no meeting in deference to Remembrance Day the photograph shows the Air Cadets taking part in the ceremony.

Program Pillars



EDUCATIONAL

Receive information, strategies, and tools to live well with cancer. Programs include: Returning to Work, Brain Fog, Healing Journey, Money Matters.



MOVEMENT AND MEDITATION

Participate in programs featuring physical and mental activities to increase strength, build resilience, manage stress and calm the mind. Programs include Yoga, Tai Chi, Exercise and Education.



SELF CARE

Meet with others to share experiences and strategies, and benefit from learning and caring for yourself. Programs include: Food and Nutrition, Men's Issues, Cognitive Support.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Express yourself or escape cancer for a few hours through visual arts, writing, music and more. Programs include: Creative Journaling, Drawing, Digital Storytelling.

November 20 Wellspring Alberta

Sae Shigeto spoke about the range of support, resources and programs available to anyone living with cancer. They are working to expand services to more locations.

Website: wellspring.alberta.com

Executive

- President –
- President Elect – Kevin Smook
- Past President – Tina Myles
- Treasurer – Lou Henderson
- Secretary – Kim Boyco

Directors

- Club Service –
- Public Relations/Communications – Jenn Stone
- Youth Services – Tina Myles
- Community Service – Shirley Bergsma
- Membership – Roy Wallace
- Foundation – Ted Gillespie

November 27 Club Annual Meeting

Included were election of officers, presentation/approval of financials, appointment of auditors, and reports on the club's last year. Thanks to those who have agreed to serve in the coming year.

Other Items of Interest



Rotarians at work cleaning the food bank facility.



Rotary Club of Camrose 50th Augustana scholarship "award-iversary"

Why am I a Rotarian?

MY ROTARY EXPERIENCE

I joined the Rotary Club of Camrose in June of 1994 and joined Wetaskiwin Rotary while I worked there. I joined Rotary primarily to give me an opportunity to work with many of our local businesses and get to know them on a personal level. Being a member of Rotary really did give me this connection.

That is why I joined, but I stayed because of many other reasons. One of the biggest, is that Rotary is not affiliated with any religion or political party. Rotary welcomes all people, and religion or politics takes no part in who Rotarians try to help.

I am proud of the impact our club has made in Camrose over the years, with projects like the Four Seasons Park, Managing the Fountain for years, construction of the Youth Center, the Rotary Peace Path, annual sponsorship of the 644 Rotary Air Cadet Squadron. Recently we completed the construction of the Rotary Pavilion and the introduction of the Dolly Parton Book project to the Camrose area. Recent International projects include the installation of incubators in a hospital in Jamaica and providing portable ultrasound system to doctors in Africa.

Some of my favourite memories of my time in Rotary are participating in Rotary Friendship Exchanges. Several times, in Camrose, we hosted Rotarians from other parts of the world, and were able to show them what life is like in Camrose.

That is why I am a Rotarian.
Ted Gillespie



**Rotary Club
of Camrose**



ROTARY TO ANIMAL SHELTER

Lori Larsen, Camrose Rotarian
Camrose & Area Animal Shelter manager Matthew McKeil accepted a donation of \$515 from Rotary Club of Camrose director of Public Image Jenn Stone. The funds were part of the first round of the Chase the Ace Raffle surplus from administration totalling \$2,000 that was evenly distributed among the four not-for-profit organizations that had the least amount of money donated to them during the first round of the raffle.

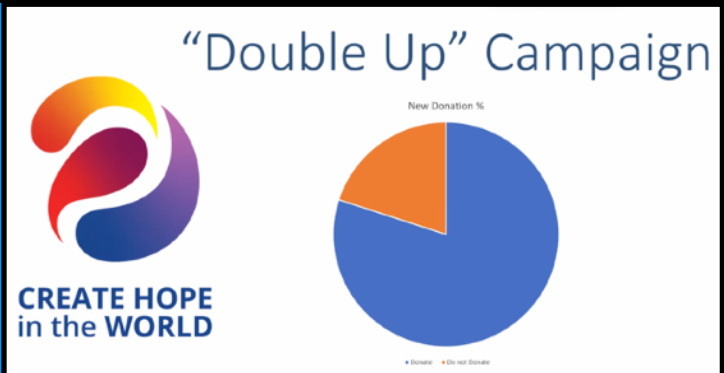
Summary of District Governor's Remarks

1. Rotary's Vision Statement, Theme and your club



1. How does your club reflect the vision and this year's theme of Rotary?
2. How would define your club's identity?
3. What are you most proud of? Who knows about it?
4. What is one goal your club has for the coming year?

3. Rotary Foundation goal - to "double up" the number of Rotarians in the district who donate to the foundation from 40 to 80 percent.



2. Campaign to erase the stigma associated with emotional well-being.



Rotarians are People of Action but not mental health professionals, so what we can do, personally and in your club, to advance this cause?

1. If you – or someone you know – is suffering in silence, speak up.
2. Speak to your family and friends about this issue and the importance of letting people know it's OK to not feel OK, and even more OK to ask for help.
3. Recognize the signs of change that might be symptoms of a mental health challenge.
4. Continue to build social connections, as it is one of the most powerful mental health interventions.
5. Use this poster on your website and any social media you have or make your own.
6. ragonmentalhealth.org

4. District Conference - our club pays the registration for any member who wishes to attend. It's an incredible learning opportunity.

Registration is Now Open!



- There is a link to the Mayfield Dinner Theatre Box Office for tickets to "Grease"
- Other highlights include:
 - Rotaract Service Project (TBD)
 - "Tartan Ball"
 - Order your Tartan Sash (ladies) Tie and Pocket Square (men) when registering
 - The RCMP Pipe & Drum Band will perform
 - Learning some Jigs and Reels



CREATE HOPE District Conference 2024
May 3-4, 2024

District conference keynote speakers - Michael Landserg, speaks on mental illness; Brian Rush, Vice Chair of the Joint Advisory Commity on Equity Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging; Paul Brandt, combatting human trafficking.

Rotary Youth Exchange

Simone's Second Month in France

Time seems to go quicker and quicker every day. This month the weather in France is cooling; it is officially autumn, and it rains all the time! At the start of October, I had a Rotary weekend with the other exchange students. These weekends are the highlight of the month for me because they all feel like family to me. This time at Mont Saint Michel with all the students from the northern part of the country. The weekend started at Omaha Beach, which is a memorial ground for the American soldiers in World War II. Then Saturday we had a guided tour around the base of the island of Mont Saint Michel through the leg-eating quick sand, and that evening all the students ate and had a dance party together. Finally, on Sunday, we were able to actually walk around the adorable cobblestone streets of the island.

The Wednesday after that trip, I was invited by my host family to go with my brother, the grandpa, and the uncle to watch a live football (soccer) game with retired FIFA players from Calais and a neighbouring town. It poured the whole game, but it was amazing to experience the energy of a soccer game again. Now for the next two weeks, the whole of France—students and most workers—have a fall break. So we took a 3-day family trip to the south to Nîmes, beside Marseille. We got guided around three historical sights. The day started with a Roman-inspired amphitheatre built around 100 CE, then we went to a Roman temple called the Maison Carre, and lastly, we went for a walk through a stunning outdoor garden to get a lookout point over the whole city. The south completely has my heart; the culture is there, the temperatures are amazing, and the architecture is so unique with both Spanish, Greek, and Italian influences, while still maintaining the overall juxtaposition of modern and ancient that's found all across France.

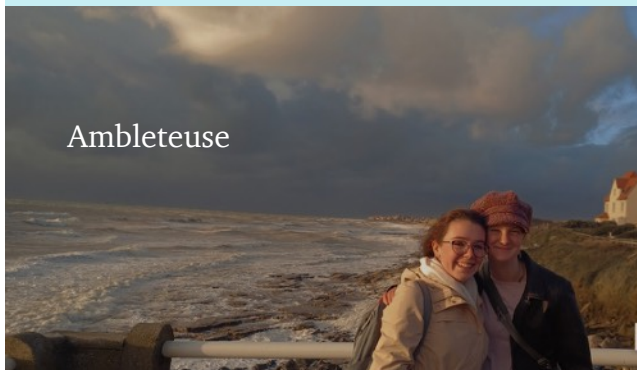
Once we came home again, I got to attend the birthday party of one of my new French friends. I loved it. We did an escape room game in French as well as karaoke. On Halloween, I felt some homesickness about missing the usual traditions that I do at home, so we bought pumpkins and made jack-o-lanterns. That night I had a Halloween party with some girls here too; we all dressed up, went trick or treating, watched the Addams Family in French, and had a sleepover.

The day after, I had a sleepover with Ella, a Swedish exchange student who lives in a neighbouring town. After I had a soiree with all my host families, they all seemed super caring. My second one is an older couple who lives in a different town, and the third is a family of four that is literally the neighbour of my current family. Finally, to wrap up my vacation, I was invited to go with an exchange student from America and her host family to their vacation home in Abletteuse. It was a house right on the beach, and although it rained for practically the entire weekend, we still profited from the sunshine with walks on the beach. We went to Nausicaa, a huge aquarium. This was the first aquarium I had ever been to, and it was wild. They had this glass tunnel that allowed you to walk through the fish tank and view it from all angles.

Yesterday I had my second Rotary meeting, as they only happen once a month, and I presented my trumpet to them and got my monthly pocket money. It's great to feel included by both my host family and the friends I'm making here. Although I never thought I would say it, I miss the snow. This rain is awful; it is flooding everything, and you never feel dry! I also miss school back in Canda as here they have such long days. Other than that I have nothing to complain about, I'm really enjoying myself and I think I'm also growing quite a bit. I am sure I will amaze everyone with who I've become at the end of this experience.

Thank you. I really can not say it enough for this experience, I wish everyone had the chance to see new ways of life I truly believe it would form global connection and promote peace.

sincerely,
Simone





The First 100 Years

The "Dirty Thirties"

The decade referred to on the prairies as the “Dirty Thirties” brought profound changes to the Community of Camrose. I felt a need to dig a little deeper into those changes, beyond my parents’ childhood Saskatchewan farm reminiscences, before I started writing this section.

In summary, the global stock market collapse of 1929 and the severe drought that began on the prairies in 1929 drastically slowed the booming economy, based largely on agriculture. While all of Canada, heavily reliant on exports, was hard hit by the depression, the prairies experienced some of the toughest time. In the first three years of the depression, the price of wheat tumbled from \$1.23 to 29 cents per bushel. Other economies invoked protectionism measures and the international market dried up.

The first two decades of the twentieth century had seen incredible growth in Alberta immigration as settlers came to establish farms. Prairie land was broken and native grasses and shrubs were replaced by planted crops, principally wheat. The decade-long drought of the 1930s, compounded by years of poor soil conservation techniques, devastated vast acres in south eastern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan and south western Manitoba.

Farmers struggled to maintain their farms and governments were slow to respond to the crisis. Banks began repossessing farms while other farms were simply abandoned. Canada lost 750,000 farms during the 1930s.

Where did the Camrose area fit in all this chaos? Certainly, the four-fold drop in wheat prices was devastating. During 1929, 1930 and 1932 the local drought prevented the Camrose Horticultural Show from being held. The local paper reported the 1929 crop at one half the size of the previous year and noted the Wheat Pool was pushing back against low wheat prices. Alberta’s Field Crop Commissioner spoke at the club’s 1933 “Farmers’ Night”. He had little hope of any grain price improvement for quite some time. He noted the average cost to produce wheat prior to the depression was 64 cents per bushel and that the experimental farm had reduced those costs to 44 cents by increasing the yield. In 1938, the Rotary District Governor from Regina, was impressed by the “obviously prosperous farming activities of the community”.

Perhaps the Camrose area farms were not as hard hit drought-wise as those further south, but the sale price and cost of production issue was a universal problem. I recall seeing advertisements about closeout sales, farm sales and suicides in the local paper of the day. Certainly, I saw a change in the Rotary Club’s projects and fundraisers.

The 1930s were a time when the whole community needed to pull together and support each other. At the time of our club's charter night in 1924, this appeared in the local news:

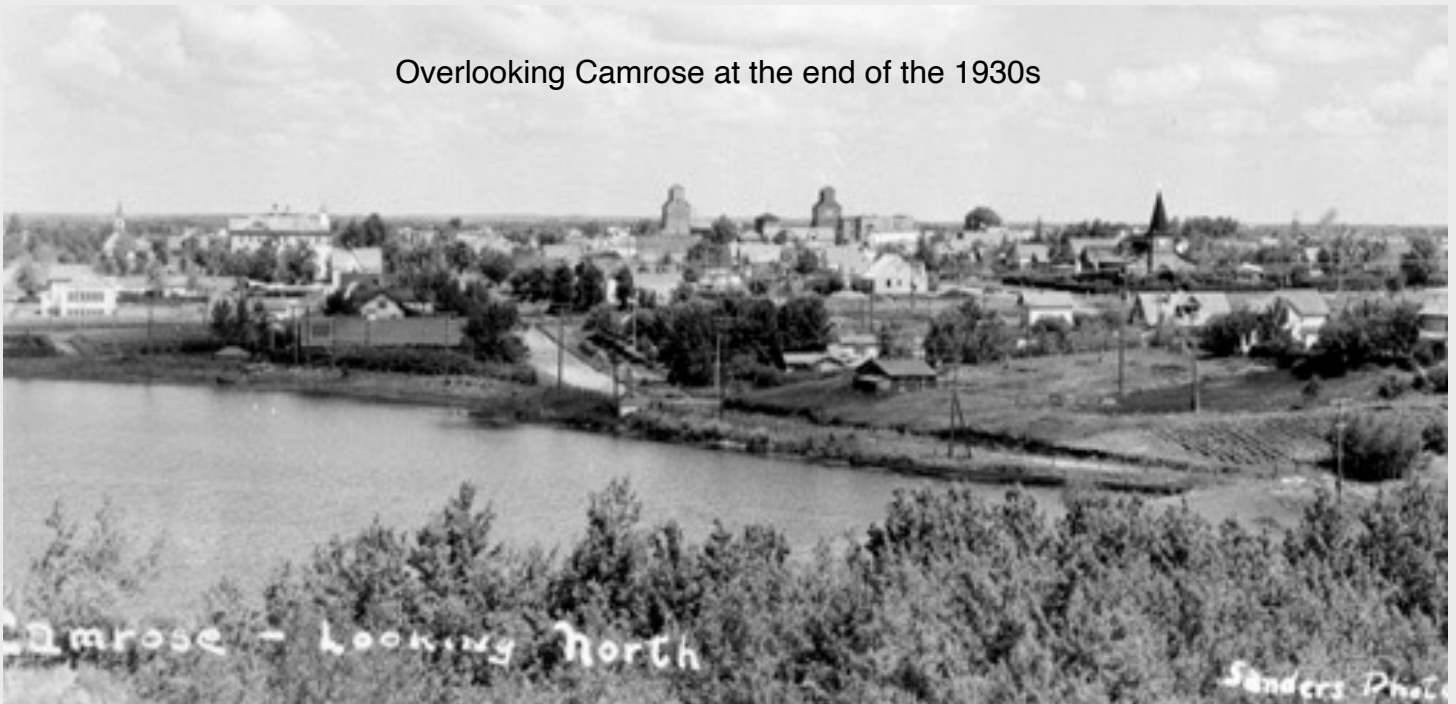
"Rotary Clubs are not expected to interfere in any way or take the place of any organization already in existence, but it is their duty to get behind such organizations and as individual members of these organizations assist them in becoming active agencies for good in the community. The object of Rotary is to serve in any capacity that the club may, in promoting the interests of the community, or developing good citizenship and in advancing understanding, good-will and international peace throughout the world."

The club took those words to heart and worked with a number of other local organizations. In 1930, Rotary supported the Camrose Exhibition in hosting a kids' day at the fair. Two thousand children were treated to free admission, merry-go-round rides, ice cream cones and a grandstand show. For its part, Rotary hosted a sports program and awarded prizes. There were races by age group and a rural school tug of war. First prize went to Dinant, second to Lake Demay and third to Round Hill.

In 1931, the Amateur Athletic Association was formed to promote child's play. The executive was heavily loaded with Rotary members. Also in that year, the Welfare League, headed by Rotarian Howcroft, reported the community needs in 1930 were greater than ever before and that year's requirements would be heavier. In response to requests for clothing, food and money, the club supported the league with a cash donation each year.

Another agency active in the community was the Red Cross. Perhaps we think of the Red Cross working in countries torn by war and other disasters. In the 1930s the Red Cross was "working in our schools, providing relief for crippled and sick children, needy ex-soldiers, needy mothers and destitute families". Rotary was there in the 1930s conducting Red Cross membership drives. The membership fee of \$1 supported the agency's work.

Overlooking Camrose at the end of the 1930s



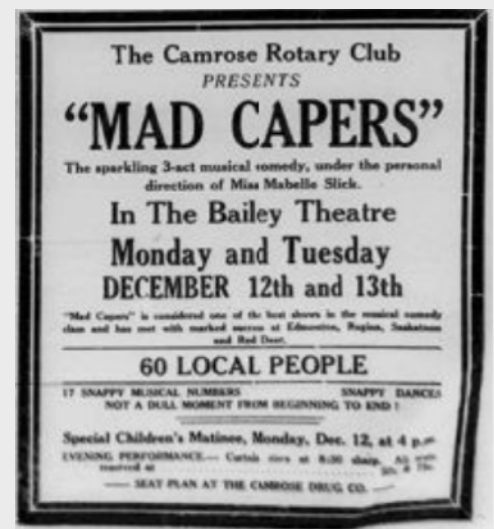
In the early 1930s, the community was attempting to start a “Fancy Skating Club”. There was little financial support but a strong desire to provide this opportunity for local children. Rotary stepped in to cover the cost of a professional instructor from Edmonton in order to get the club started.

Rotary sponsored three musical comedies, “O Dear Me”, “Mad Capers” and “The Big Broadcast”, at the Bailey Theatre in the 1930s. They were staged by Miss Mabelle Slick of Chicago with local performers. The participants received 12 days of training in dancing, chorus singing, dialogue and acting. By all accounts the productions were a resounding success.

Rotarians continued to have fun. They participated in the senior softball league which included teams of retailers, Rotarians, bankers, CNR, civil service and Elks. They seemed to be a source of local entertainment with the Mayor reportedly presiding over at least one game.

The Rotary Quartet of JWE Markle, Theo Bailey, Percy East and Frank Farley made its first appearance at a 1932 club meeting. They shared a rendition of “Bulldog on the Bank” and “Bullfrogs in the Pool”.

The club continued with special Rotary meetings. In 1931, they hosted a father-daughter banquet complete with a musical program. The “Rotarian Symphony Orchestra” of Hugh Bertles, Theo Bailey, Percy East and Bert Holroyd, provided the instrumental finale.



In 1934-35 the club won the district Emerson attendance shield. Six members and their spouses attended the District Conference in Edmonton to receive the reward. They were treated to a basketball game between the famous Edmonton Grads and the Tulsa Stenographers and enjoyed a reception at Government House. Later that year, the club hosted a dinner for the Edmonton club which came to Camrose by chartered bus. The guests provided the entertainment including community singing. The deputy minister of agriculture was the guest speaker at that year's Farmers Night.

Club members continued to be concerned for Camrose youth. In 1936, the club brought in Dr. Charles Barber to speak to the community and to the 12 to 16 age group. He referred to these as the formative years. High school, grade 8 and Normal School students were specifically invited. Later that year, forty boys attended the club luncheon meeting which included a variety show put on by rotarians.

A town plebiscite was held in 1939 to consider construction of a swimming pool, a facility that was still sadly missing in Camrose.

Fascinating speakers continued to inform and entertain the club. Rotarian Frank Farley spoke of his 41 years in Alberta and Rotarian J Adair Younge recalled Camrose of 33 years ago. The principal of the Camrose Normal School spoke about the progress of Alberta schools which had gone from being practically unheard of 60 years ago to 5,000 today. RCMP Sgt Frewin discussed methods of personal identification and the science of fingerprinting. Verne Craig spoke about his 3,500-mile car trip to the west coast. He remarked that the Caribou Trail was smooth and gravelled but had no protective railing. Ken Crighton talked about polarized light and its use in sunglasses, reading lamps and photography. Unfortunately, it was still too expensive to permit the average person to use it. And lastly, of the speakers I found of particular interest while perusing historic newspapers, was Rotarian Arnold Anderson, a sheep farmer from the Kelsey area. Arnold was said to, "farm in a big way. He has 700 acres of which he crops 450 acres".

In the tough times of the 1930s the club found new ways to support the community and to enjoy a bit of fun. They certainly exemplified the Rotary motto – **"Service above self"**.

