

SOTC Update, March 2023:

Greetings Shell Oil Timers Club members! It has been busy for the Board and for some new volunteers helping to make changes and plan events for our club. Here is a summary of what happened in late 2022 and early 2023, as well as information about some things to come in 2023.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions and invite more of you to help with planning and, of course, attend events in 2023!

- **2022 Fall Luncheon:** Was held at the Kerby Centre on October 26th, 2022. There were 82 attendees, enthusiastic to meet with each other again and to hear the guest speaker. The luncheon went very well and there were many positive comments on the location, meal, and speaker. Phil Walker, our Club President, gave an overview of the Member survey responses. The guest speaker Jason Klein, CEO of the LNG Canada project, did an excellent job providing information on the project and answering questions. He commented after the event that he was happy to be there and was impressed with the quality of the questions and level of interest and looks forward to providing an update in the future.
- **SOTC Website upgrades:** Check it out at [Home Page - Shell Oiltimers Alberta](#). The website has a new look and updates have been made to several of the pages to simplify and streamline content. Some of the modifications include: changes to the Home page; combining the Events and Activities into one page; and a Member Home page which replaces the Member Services Directory.
 - In addition, we would like to revitalize the Member News page which was originally created to allow members to share stories/photos and personal classified ads. If you have member stories or ads to share please email: shelloiltimersclub@gmail.com or sotc@shelloiltimers.com. We welcome your input!
- **Volunteer event at WINS:** Thanks to all the Shell Oil Timer volunteers and guests who participated in the WINS Fuelling Kindness event on November 23, 2023! We had a total of 32 volunteers split up between the morning shift (9 – 12) and afternoon shift (1 – 3:30). Your time and effort definitely made a positive impact to your community. By 3pm in the afternoon we had emptied all the bins and sorted all the donations in the warehouse. Our Shell retirees are usually overachievers in these events and our WINS hosts were pleasantly surprised! Also, thanks for your generous donations of clothing and toys (and the yummy desserts). Our host, Kevan, advised us that our donations helped WINS to offer their children's Christmas program with the toy donations they received, which was an uncertainty prior to the donations!
- **Powering Positivity Pilot for Shell Retirees:** 20 volunteers signed up quickly via the Evite in November 2023 and the pilot is now well underway. It gives the participants access to the online giving platform where they can choose from thousands of eligible charitable organizations, donate using credit card or Pay Pal and take advantage of the Shell 100% match up to \$1500 per year. It can also be used to log volunteer hours and receive \$20 per hour of volunteering that can be directed to an eligible charity of the volunteer's choice. The pilot will run for the rest of the 2023 with a survey of participants on their experience later in the year. If deemed successful, Shell will roll out the program to all retirees in 2024.

- **Wine and Cheese Social:** On February 22, 2023, 45 Oil Timers gathered on a frigid winter's night to taste 6 Australian and New Zealand wines, along with cheese and other goodies. Don was our lucky door prize winner. The next wine and cheese event is being planned for June. Hope to see you then!
- **Pickleball at the Kerby Centre:** Oil Timer member Derrick Ho-Chung-Qui offered to coordinate in late 2022 and received six enquiries from SOTC members. At least four members have attended and played with the group of regular Kerby players representing a range of experience and skill levels. With three courts, players alternate, allowing newcomers to participate and learn the scoring, rules, and strategies. There are no formal lessons or instructions; you learn as you play! Experienced players are helpful in providing guidance. All attendees play three or four games at a cost of \$3 per session with a modest amount of exercise. Currently the courts are open Mondays and Thursdays from 2:30 - 4:00 PM and Tuesday from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. The Kerby players are sociable and helpful in welcoming newcomers. Contact Derrick at pickleball@shelloiltimers.com
- **Shell OilTimers Outdoor Club (SOOC) and the City Walking Group**
 - This winter has been busy for our Nordic skiers! Despite the general lack of snow, until lately, we've managed to get out almost every week. In addition, there have been three overnight trips to BC and AB destinations to ski another 9 days. These outings have ranged from beginner friendly days at West Bragg Creek to more challenging skis into Sundance, Lake O'Hara and Shadow Lake lodges. We've even had a night ski followed by Christmas cheer at a local pub. Here are some photos of people and places this past season. There's something for everyone! If you're interested in learning the sport or joining the group, please contact Nancy Renaux at xcski@shelloiltimers.com.



- The City Walking Group is for Shell Family and Friends to meet up and walk in Calgary. Each participant takes a turn organising and emailing the other participants about when and where we will be walking the following Tuesday morning. We normally meet at 9:30 or 10:00 AM and walk for 1 to 1.5 hours. If the weather is terrible (such as the recent cold spell), we do not walk. We try to send out the email notice by Saturday or Sunday prior to the Tuesday walk. Contact Jennie Wolter at tuesdaywalks@shelloiltimers.com if you wish to join and participate with this group.
- **NEW: Shell OilTimers Facebook (FB) group has people connecting!** In late February 2023, we added a new element to our communications approach...introducing the Shell OilTimers Facebook group. Within the first week we already had 200 members! Many of these Facebook (FB) group members are not SOTC members (yet), so we are getting exposure to a whole new group of potential Oil Timers Club members. Feature topics on the Facebook page over the first few weeks include: Shell Collectibles; recent SOTC Event highlights; sharing of Shell memories. We are hoping this new group

will provide a vehicle for current, ongoing communications within our community. Send your ideas about topics/content to Oly Boersma or Janet Holmes by either tagging one of them in a FB post or sending a message via FB Messenger.

- If you have a Facebook account and would like to join the new group, you can either:
 1. Search for the 'Shell OilTimers Club (Alberta)' page and select 'Join', or
 2. Contact Oly Boersma or Janet Holmes at facebook@shelloiltimers.com and they will add you to the group.

- **Two positions are open on the Board of the SOTC:** to be voted on/appointed at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May, Please submit your own interest or nomination of another to Phil Walker, SOTC Board President at president@shelloiltimers.com preferably one week ahead of the AGM on May 15, 2023 or else, at the latest, in-person at the AGM:
 - **Treasurer:** We currently have an Interim Treasurer on the SOTC Board. In January, the Board accepted Phil Walker's resignation from the Treasurer position and approved the appointment of Nancy Matyas to the Interim Treasurer position until the AGM when a new vote will be held to fill the position permanently. Nancy plans to put her name forward for nomination for election to the Treasurer position, but the Board also welcomes other members to run for the position. The description of the Treasurer position is [here](#).
 - **Secretary:** We need a replacement for our long-time Secretary, Debbie Sobb, who has given notice to resign her post, effective from the date of our upcoming AGM on May 15, 2023. Debbie has been a steadfast presence on the Board since 2008 and we truly appreciate her contributions over the years. Thank you, Debbie! If you want to know more about the position, the description of the Secretary position is [here](#).

- **Member information updates:** a reminder to members to update your membership information especially whenever you have moved, changed emails/phone numbers. etc. using the "Personal Info update" button in the Member Home/Membership Documents section on the Members website.

- **Upcoming events:**
 - A new **Volunteer Event** will take place on **Monday, March 27th** at the Drop In (DI) Donation Centre at 3640 11a St NE. There will be two shifts that day, 9:00-11:00 AM and 1:00-4:00 PM. Rose Chan Mountain and Denise Burzminski coordinate these events. Watch for the Evite, recently sent out, with specific details and the opportunity to sign-up!
 - If you know of an agency or charity that could use hands-on help from our members, be it a small or large group of volunteers, please contact Rose Chan-Mountain or Denise Burzminski at volunteer@shelloiltimers.com about the opportunity.
 - The **summer hiking schedule for 2023** will be finalized on March 31. After that, the schedule will be sent to Shell Oil Timers & Friends (SO&F current list) and posted on the SOTC website. If you are not

on the current list, watch for the schedule and invitation to participate on the SOTC website in April. There will be an Evite sent for the summer season kick-off hike in May.

- **Stage West, Wednesday, May 10th.** “9 to 5 The Musical” is based on the seminal 1980 hit movie. It’s a hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era; it’s outrageous, thought-provoking, and even a little romantic. Dinner theatre and delicious buffet for \$48 each for member and guest; \$58 each for non-member guests. An Evite will be sent out in March with the details; deadline for tickets April 10 for the matinee performance on May 10.
 - Our all-important **Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Speaker Luncheon** will take place on **Monday, May 15th** at the Kerby Centre, 1133 – 7th Ave SW, Calgary. In addition to holding the AGM, we are pleased to confirm guest speaker Simon Paradis, Shell’s Canada Energy Transition Program Manager for this event. If you attend anything as a SOTC member, we want to see you at this meeting! The attendance at this event is what Shell uses as the basis for subsidizing our club with funds to help run events so please come to the luncheon, meet up with former colleagues, enjoy a good meal, participate in the meeting and hear about Shell’s Energy Transition Plan! An Evite will be sent out shortly with the details and requesting your reply to attend.
 - **Shell OilTimers Annual Golf Tournament Returns!** One of the highlights of the SOTC calendar has always been the annual golf tournament. Covid kind of messed with that! This year, we plan to bring it back. We are still in the preliminary phases of planning and are leaning towards a late July or early August date at a location somewhere in rural Alberta (likely High River). The format will likely be a Scramble with a shotgun start with prizes and a buffet meal to follow.
 - Oly Boersma and Chris Jones have agreed to do the initial investigation and coordination for the event. If you are interested in helping out, please contact either Oly or Chris at golf@shelloiltimers.com .
- **Volunteers and ideas are welcome!** If you have ideas for events and/or would like to help organize them, please send an email to Denise Burzminski at dirprog@shelloiltimers.com
 - Remember to look at our website regularly for information and updates and let us know your feedback and ideas for making our Shell Oil Timers Club even better! [Home Page - Shell Oiltimers Alberta](#)

Your SOTC Board: Phil Walker, President. Debbie Sobb, Secretary. Jennie Wolter, Membership Director. Denise Burzminski, Programs Director. Anne Davis, Communications Director. Nancy Matyas, Interim Treasurer. Allan Reid, Director-at-Large.