

SOTC Newsletter: November 2023

Greetings Shell Oil Timers Club members! We hope you had a great summer and fall and are looking forward to good things this winter! Here is a summary of what happened in our club since April 2023, as well as information about some things to come later this year and in early 2024. More details and photos can be found on the SOTC website at [Home Page - Shell Oiltimers Alberta](#)

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions... and if you're interested in helping with planning existing or new events/activities, let us know! Contact Denise Burzminski at dirprog@shelloiltimers.com

- **2023 AGM:** held on May 15th with 120 members and guests in attendance. Guest speaker Simon Paradis, Shell's Canada Energy Transition Program Manager spoke about Shell's Energy Transition Plan. We also voted in 2 new members to the SOTC Board and are now a full Board with the following positions and people:

Your SOTC Board Members

• President: Phil Walker	• Vice President: Oly Boersma
• Secretary: Colleen Ngai	• Treasurer: Nancy Matyas
• Director Membership: Jennie Wolter	• Director Programs: Denise Burzminski
• Director Communications: Anne Davis	• Director-at-large: Debbie Sobb
• Director-at-large: Allan Reid	

- **Volunteer events:** There have been several events in 2023 including...
 - 33 volunteers sorted donations at the Calgary Drop-In Donations Centre on March 27th.
 - 6 volunteers did yard and garden maintenance at The Alcove Addiction Recover for Women Centre in the Altadore community on May 25th.
 - Three times doing yard and garden maintenance at the Alex Community Food Centre with 9 volunteers on July 31st, 11 volunteers on August 28th, and 3 volunteers October 25th. We decided to try a regular monthly – or so – event at the Alex to help them keep up the maintenance of their yard and garden and we may do this again in 2024, stay tuned. Many thanks go to Sarah Russell Crow for agreeing to organize the regular events at the Alex CFC.
 - There was also an appeal put out to our members via the Facebook group in July to help with the community cleanup after an EF4 tornado hit Didsbury and Carstairs on Canada Day. Three members helped in the recovery and clean-up and their efforts were very much appreciated by families affected by the tornado.
- **Stage West:** On May 10, 2023, 72 people attend the musical '9-5' and on November 29, 2023, 40 people will be attending a musical 'Step by Step'. If you were not able to get tickets for the November 29th performance, members of the Chinook Club can purchase tickets to attend the same show on February 4, 2024.
- **Wine and Cheese Social:** In June, 53 people attended the Okanagan Wine and Cheese Social at Roxboro House in Calgary. It was great to see some new faces along with the core group! Members sampled 4 wines, 2 white and 2 red from Okanagan Valley wineries. To change things up a brisket was paired with the Red Rooster Syrah and lemon herbed chicken with the Calliope. As people socialized, additional wine and tasty snacks were served.
- **Disc Golf:** On Wednesday June 7, 2023, 14 Oiltimers met at the Parkland Community Park for an introductory disc golf clinic organized by member John Mannix, under the instruction of Amber Chiasson, a

Calgary pro disc golfer. Check out the photos on the website! Mark Twain supposedly once said that golf was a good walk spoiled. If so, disc golf is taking back that good walk. Gone are the cumbersome bag of clubs, manicured lawns and expensive green fees. Disc golfers head out into local parks and forests and simply wander about, throwing discs between or around trees and rocks into strategically placed metal baskets. There are four permanent City disc golf courses and several temporary ones in Calgary: <https://www.calgary.ca/parks/activities/disc-golf.html>. Check out this article in Avenue magazine for more information about disc golf: <https://www.avenuecalgary.com/things-to-do/disc-golf-in-calgary/>

- **Golf Tournament:** 42 members joined us in the 'Return of the Tourney' in High River on August 3rd. It was an 18-hole Scramble with a shotgun start at 1:00 PM with Prizes and a buffet dinner that followed. By all reports, everyone had a truly enjoyable time and based on the feedback we will be returning to the Highwood Golf Course in High River on July 25th, 2024. So, put this in your calendars now if you are interested and watch for an official Evite to sign up and pay in the spring.

- **Shell OilTimers Outdoor Club (SOOC)**
 - **Summer** (Ric Young, Peter Snell): 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of Tuesday summer hikes for Shell Oiltimers. Under the moniker 'Shell Oiltimers and Friends', we scheduled 'more' and 'less' strenuous hikes on 20 Tuesdays this past summer. A total of 107 folks participated in at least one hike and an average of 30 hikers per hike. Trail gate parties were organized on three occasions and were highly successful, as was the wind-up lunch in September at the Powderhorn Saloon in Bragg Creek. Smoke and inclement weather interfered on three occasions but otherwise, the more strenuous hikes were very well attended.
 - We are looking to make the 'less' strenuous hikes more appealing; anyone who is interested in helping with these hikes should contact us at shelloiltimersandfriends@gmail.com
 - The work of over a dozen volunteers helps make these hikes happen, as does the financial support from the Shell Oiltimers Club for use of the Evite system. Shoulder hikes are planned from week to week when Oiltimer winter activities aren't happening on Tuesdays, and we're organizing ourselves to have an exciting schedule of Tuesday hikes for the summer of 2024 and for the decade to come.
 - **Winter** (Nancy Renaux, Peter Snell): The snow conditions are starting to look good! We will hold weekly cross-country ski trips to the groomed trails in Bragg Creek, Kananaskis, or Banff/Lake Louise and weekly snowshoe/winter hikes, both on Tuesdays. We often have MS (More Strenuous) and LS (Less Strenuous) groups going out. For the XC skiing, we are "Classic" skiers – not "Skate" skiers.
 - An Information note was sent to those expressing interest in outdoor winter activities. If you did not receive this information and are interested in participating in either or both of XC skiing or Snowshoeing/winter hiking, send an email to peter.snell@shaw.ca. Evites will be sent out weekly when the conditions permit.

- **Tuesday City Walkers:** We are a group of retirees who walk in the city most Tuesday mornings starting between 9:30 and 10:00 AM for 1-1.5 hours, depending on the weather (i.e., we are fair weather walkers!). This is a self-directed group that relies on the participants to plan the walks. The walk planner chooses the location of the walk, sending out an email to the others, and lets them know where and when to meet. Email notices are usually sent out on the Saturday prior, again, weather dependent. Most walks are in the

SOTC Newsletter: November 2023

city, but if the walk planner wants to walk a little further from home, such as Glenbow Ranch or Bragg Creek, that is also quite acceptable. Participants respond via email if they can join the walk. We are an easy-going bunch who enjoy the outdoors and socializing. Our focus is on enjoyment rather than distance or speed. All new participants are welcome. If you are interested, contact Jennie Wolter or Teresa Tadman at tuesdaywalks@shelloiltimers.com

- **The Shell OilTimers Facebook (FB) group** continues to connect our members! In late February 2023, we added this new element to our communications approach, and we are now up to 325 members! Many of these Facebook (FB) group members are not SOTC members (yet), so we are hearing updates from many more of our former colleagues. This group continues to 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:
 - Search for the 'Shell OilTimers Club (Alberta)' page and select 'Join', or
 - Contact Oly Boersma or Janet Holmes at facebook@shelloiltimers.com to add you to the group.
- **Fall Breakfast:** held on November 7th at the Kerby Centre in downtown Calgary with 58 members and guests. We mixed and mingled with friends and former colleagues and enjoyed a breakfast buffet put out by the fine staff and volunteers at the Kerby Centre. After breakfast we heard from guest speakers from Shell, Stastia West - VP Integrated Gas, Colin Wickenheiser - Front End Development Manager Shales Canada, and Stefan vos de Wael - Commercial GM Canada Integrated Gas. They gave us updates on the LNG business and joint venture project in Canada and the ties to Shell's Groundbirch asset in northeast BC and they answered the many excellent questions that followed from the audience.
- **Powering Positivity Pilot for Shell Retirees:** The initial pilot for 20 Retirees has run its course in 2023 and Shell has agreed to extend the pilot to ALL Shell retirees in 2024. Participants in the program can choose from thousands of eligible charitable organizations on the Benevity platform using a credit card or PayPal. Shell will match 100% up to \$1500 per year, including donations to the eligible registered charities and matching volunteer hours for \$20 per hour of volunteering to go to an eligible charity of your choice. Registration will be open from January 8-19, 2024 for Retirees to send an email to SCAN-PoweringPositivity@shell.com indicating their interest to participate.

Information on the program can be found on the SOTC website [Club News- Shell Oiltimers Alberta](#), including an FAQ document outlining the program, how it differs from previous programs and other important information including a step-by-step guide on how to navigate the website and contact information. Shell will welcome your feedback as they continue to grow their Powering Positivity program.

 - If you know retirees who are not SOTC members, please let them know about this new program offered by Shell, because Shell does not have an email distribution list they can use for this purpose.
- **SOTC Membership:** With 18 new members added in 2023 (so far), there are 572 members in total.
 - **Personal 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.

SOTC Newsletter: November 2023

- **Please tell other Shell Retirees you know about our club** and direct them to our website to join at [Home Page - Shell Oiltimers Alberta](#). Shell is unable to provide us with names and contact information about retirees, so we rely on word of mouth to spread the news about our club.
- **SOTC Website:** 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 including:
 - 'Member News' page - we would like to hear from our members and make the Member News page a place for members to connect and share experiences. If you have travels or personal stories you would like to share, please email: shelloiltimersclub@gmail.com .
 - A new 'Photos' page is coming soon in the 'Members' section: Photos will be stored in a common location and organized by specific club activity or event. Members will be able to share comments and download photos.
- **Shell Oiltimers can now rejoin the Shell Chinook Club:** Debbie Sobb worked with the Chinook Club in the last year to update their bylaws, now allowing previous members whose memberships have lapsed in retirement to rejoin the club. Membership dues are \$60.00 per year, invoiced each February, but when you decide to rejoin it will be prorated for the months remaining for the yearly amount. This is the same annual rate as Regular Members currently employed with Shell. The Chinook Club offers many discounts including:
 - **Regular offers:** passes for West Edmonton Mall, Telus Spark, Cineplex and Landmark Movies, Heritage Park, Royal Tyrell Museum, Calgary Leisure Centres, Shell Canada Car Wash Flex passes, Parks Canada Discovery passes.
 - **Seasonal Offers:** Discounted gift cards and passes for Groceries (Save-On-Foods, Superstore, Sobeys/Safeway, Calgary Co-op), Ski Resorts (Sunshine, Lake Louise, RCR Rockies), Boom Group discounts, Greengate and Golden Acres Gardening Stores, and tickets for Stage West, Stampede Rodeo and Grandstand, GlobalFest, Cirque du Soleil, Calgary Winefest, Calgary Summer and Fall Jazz Festival, Purdy's Chocolates discount Christmas and Easter.
 - **External Offers:** Broadway Across Canada tickets, Canada Golf cards, Wash my ride discount, Beerfest tickets and more.

Payment for events/offers can be via Interac e-Transfer, cheque or if paying by credit card, a surcharge of 1.5% is added to the total cost. All tickets can be picked up in Shell's mailroom on the main floor.

Nigel Cairns is the new administrator for the club and if you would like to rejoin, please send an email to Chinook-Club@shell.com including your name, email address, phone number.

- **Shell is moving to the Bow in downtown Calgary:** The first departments will be moving to Bow Centre December 14, 2023, and all moves should be finished by the end of February 2024. Shell will occupy floors 36-41 with access to floors 54-55 where there is an auditorium on the 54th floor that will hold 250 people seated. On the 54th floor there is also a large multi-purpose room that will host 122 people theater style or 96 people seated at round tables of 8. There is no set catering for the building, but external caterers can be used and there is a kitchen to use. The mailing info will remain the same at Box 100, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2H5 if you have any correspondence to send them.

Upcoming events:

- **Our 3rd annual Volunteer Event at WINS** to sort clothing donations will be held on **Wednesday, December 13, 2023**. If we get enough volunteers for this event (35-40) we will do this in two shifts, morning 9:00 AM to

SOTC Newsletter: November 2023

Noon and afternoon 1:00-3:30 PM, with a pizza and Christmas treat lunch for all in between the shifts. The Evite was sent to all members on November 15th... look for it and 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 winter outdoor activity plan for 2024** has begun! If you are not already on the Evite distribution list and want to join, send an email to peter.snell@shaw.ca
- **Wine and Cheese Social:** will be scheduled for a date in February 2024. Watch for the Evite.
- **Powering Positivity Pilot:** Registration will be open from January 8 - 19 in 2024 for Retirees to send an email to SCAN-PoweringPositivity@shell.com indicating their interest to participate. Information on the program including an FAQ document outlining the program, how it differs from previous programs and other important information. Also included is a step-by-step guide on how to navigate the website and contact information should you have questions or require support can be found on the SOTC website [Club News-Shell Oiltimers Alberta](#).
 - If you know of retirees who are not SOTC members, please let them know about this new program offered by Shell, because Shell does not have an email distribution list they can use for this purpose.
- **The Annual AGM in 2024 will be held in May**, exact date to be announced. Please send your ideas for guest speakers/topics and if you have a particular preference for lunch or breakfast to dirprog@shelloiltimers.com
- **Stage West: May 1, 2024.** There will be 70 seats available for the musical "Beautiful". Watch for the Evite.
- **Shell OilTimers Club Golf Tournament, Highwood Golf Course, Thursday July 25, 2024.** The format will be the same as last year: an 18-hole Scramble with a shotgun start at 1:00 PM with prizes and a buffet dinner to follow. The cost will once again be approximately \$100 per person including golf, power cart, prizes, and buffet dinner and will be good for 1 member and 1 guest. If you want to bring more guests, there will be a somewhat higher cost for extra guests that will be announced in the Evite.
 - Oly Boersma and Chris Jones have agreed to coordinate the event again in 2024, and welcome others who want to help. Contact Oly or Chris at golf@shelloiltimers.com if you'd like to help.
- **SOTC member updates and joining information:** 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.
 - **Please tell other Shell Retirees you know about our club** and direct them to our website, to join, at [Home Page - Shell Oiltimers Alberta](#).

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

- Is anyone interested in helping to put together the semi-annual newsletter (like this one)? Contact 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](#)

From the SOTC Board to you, we wish you a happy and health Holiday Season and look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the coming year!