

Rotary Club of Calgary West  
(Where Rotary Works)

The *Monthly* WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3  
Danish Canadian Club, Fridays 12:15 pm

**President:** Mike French **President-Elect:** Garfield Ganong

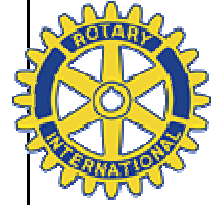
**Past President:** Chris Davis **Secretary:** George Edwards

**Treasurer:** Murray Hunter

**Directors:** Brent Barootes, Frank Burns, Stan Cichon, Marg Henschel,  
Bill Lawless, Brenda Sali

April Edition

Publisher: David Williams



**The mission of Calgary West is to uphold the ideals of Rotary in all avenues of service, with a focus on aiding the disadvantaged and developing the potential of youth, in Canada and internationally, in a spirit of fun and fellowship.**

### Mike's Mind

Well, it's just before Saint Patrick's Day and I am sitting down feeling sorry for myself with a miserable cold, when I think I'll write my April newsletter article, and right away I feel better.

I'm afraid it's not only because of the fun it is to write to you all, but more because I realize just how lucky I am to just have a cold. And not only that, but I have shelter, warmth, food and medicine; hey I'm really very lucky – I only have a cold!

It is really warming to think of the wonderful opportunity that Rotary provides us to serve and to make a difference in the world.

We could just write cheques to the various charities that force their way into our mailbox, but it is so much better being a Rotarian, being involved in the community and choosing, physically choosing, to be involved.

And in doing so we meet wonderful people; not just club members, but other Rotarians, Lions Club members, other volunteers and the ever gracious and grateful recipients. Strangely enough we have fun and fellowship

while we make a difference.  
What a deal!

And I know you appreciate it, because you bring friends and acquaintances along to meetings. Hopefully, some of the guests we bring along will feel the warmth and generosity of our club and decide to join with us to help others.

Gordon Rodrigues seems to like to do a count down for me, so I know time is running short for me to make a difference in our club. But actually it isn't me, and it won't be Garfield, it will always be you, the member that makes a difference by choosing to be active Rotarians.

There will be a three-year strategic plan being presented for approval at our assembly in May. This will be accompanied by a new set of by-laws. We will be moving into the new era in Rotary where we will need to look further into the future than one year at a time in order to achieve our aims and our goals.

It's all up for discussion, but projects are bigger and the needs are greater, so the commit-



ment needs to be longer. We believe we can achieve this and still leave enough flexibility for each club president to make their own mark on the Calgary West landscape.

We still have exciting projects being assessed and brought forward for approval. We have

much to do, but what is not accomplished this year won't disappear, Rotary goes on under new and energetic leaders year after year, and that's what makes Rotary exciting and why we continue to make a difference at Calgary West, "Where Rotary Works!"

*Welcome, Rotary Partners, Interested Rotarians  
and Friends of Calgary West Rotary!*

**The Partners' Coffee Party  
Wednesday, April 18, 10:30 AM**

*This is our opportunity to meet old friends, and new, at a casual morning event and share a cup of coffee or tea and a muffin! See you there!*

This will take place at the home of Bette Williams  
24 Christie Park Terrace SW  
Calgary, Alberta

For more details:  
Marie Rickard  
Phone: 244-7463 or 860-1763  
E-mail: [marie@rickard.ca](mailto:marie@rickard.ca)



### **Environmental Committee March, 2007, Update**

The chemicals used in flashlight and appliance **batteries** are harmful to the environment and **should not go into the landfill**. Now you can **bring them to Rotary** and we will take them to the fire department for safe disposal. Just deposit them in the **bin at the reception desk**.

Our next environment speaker, Jim



Miller, has had to reschedule for May 11<sup>th</sup>. His talk will be about the city's new Pine Creek Waste Water Treatment Facility. Later in May or June, Mark MacGillivray of The Green Party will talk to us about some of his party's initiatives for a greener Canada.

**Ron Brookes**

## Brent's Club Management Update

Here we are, past the winter blues and moving forward into the spring. They say April showers bring May flowers. In our case, it is hard work through the winter brings results in the spring. Please plan to **attend the club assembly on Wednesday, May 23**. Margot and her committee organizing the event will surely outdo their tremendous performance at the October assembly. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 23, at 5 pm. More details on location to follow. It will be a very informative assembly as President Mike recaps his year to date and President-elect Garfield outlines his plans for 2007-08!! If you want your input heard on planning, be sure to attend.

Just a reminder that the board confirmed that anyone who makes a donation to the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation before June 30, 2007, the club will match it up to \$200! What a great way to show your support of the club and the Foundation. What is more, all the interest each year comes back to our club for use to support projects we choose. Donate today!!

A reminder for all club members: If you have something submit to this monthly publication of the Westerner (a picture and caption of a club member hard at work - or not! - an article about something on a committee you are doing, kudos for a club member or anything else), please forward directly to me at [brent@partnershipgroup.ca](mailto:brent@partnershipgroup.ca). It is your newsletter, so the more we can tell each other and

record our activities and fun the better. I look forward to receiving your submissions! Submissions received on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month will appear in the next month's Westerner.



The vocational committee continues to work forward with both our weekly "roving reporter" and our monthly Westerner submission from Pauline Evans on different club members. (Great articles this month!!) Keep up the great work folks.

Ron Brookes and his environment committee continue to green our club with information, speakers and battery collection. Keep up the great work Ron!

As you will see from the article in this month's Westerner, we have outdone ourselves as a District in regards to donations to the RI Foundation. Well done! Our club donated more than ever before! We are a part of making so many international and local matched funding projects work! Keep up the great work.

All the best to Robyn Braley as he puts final touches on the submissions for District RI awards. Robyn, truly service above self! Thanks for all your efforts. I know we have prize winning submissions!!

That's it for April! Have a great month!

### Strategic Plan

The major focus of the May assembly will be the tactics associated with the strategies recommended as part of the strategic plan that has been sent to all members for review and comment. Please assist the committee and the board by taking the time to read the draft plan and **send comments to Bryden Horwood or Garfield Ganong by March 31st.**

President-elect Garfield Ganong

# Summary of the Board Meeting of March 19, 2007

Attended by: Mike French, Brent Barootes, Stan Cichon, Chris Davis, Garfield Ganong, Murray Hunter, Bill Lawless, Brenda Sali, and George Edwards

Regrets: Frank Burns, and Marg Henschel

The requirements for a quorum were met and the minutes from February 12, 2007 were approved.

## Business arising from previous meetings

- Guatemala Doctors Project tabled indefinitely.
- Applications for Rotary International and District Awards have either been submitted or will be submitted before the deadline.
- Harold Sharlow Songbook was tabled.
- We have been asked to support three casinos in August. Stan Cichon will attempt to move Calgary West's casino so that members are not overburdened.
- To support the District Conference, the board agreed to subsidize registration fees by \$100 to members who have joined the club within the last 18 months, providing they register for the full conference.
- The club will pay the annual Rotary Challenger Park membership fees for the president and a director designate.
- To recognise the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Evelyn and Clarence Buckley, the board will make a special presentation to them at the March 23 meeting.

## President's Report

- It was decided that the board would not pursue the potential of additional casinos on behalf of the Flames Foundation.
- Mike Fitzsimmons and his family will attend the April 13 meeting at the club's expense. Mike will give a short presentation.
- Amendments to the bylaws will be discussed at the next meeting.

## Treasurer's Report

- Some money has been collected and some money has been expended.
- Discussion item for the next meeting: *All future club events must have a detailed budget ap-*

*proved by the board before any expenses are paid by the club.*

## Secretary's Report

- Member attendance reports will once again be at the front desk at the beginning of every month. This gives members the opportunity to ensure the accuracy of the reports and to report missed make-ups.

## Directors' Reports

### Fund Raising

- Stan Cichon and Joe Klassen will keep the board informed about the progress of the Rotary Club of Calgary Sarcee's Art Auction fund raiser.

### Gifting

- Bill Lawless reported on preliminary ideas for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

### Youth

- The board passed a motion to support Fabio's District canoe trip.
- The board passed a motion to support the opening ceremonies of Radisson School. Radisson School will house programs that David D. Oughton School, to be closed, once provided.
- A motion to provide a high school student funding for a conference was defeated.
- Members of the board toured Westmount Charter School. The club supports the plan to develop alliances with Westmount and other school vis-à-vis exchange, RYLA and RYPEN programs.
- The guidelines for partnership with either the Calgary Board of Education or the Calgary Catholic School System will be reviewed. There is a question of whether or not our club can provide the resources that are required in partnerships that are being formed with the school districts today.

### Membership

- No report

### Activities

- No report

## Getting to know you!

This month we will be getting to know **John Rymes**, a distinguished member and past president, and **Brent Barootes**, a very energetic member of the Rotary Club of Calgary West.

John was inducted into the Rotary Club of Calgary West in 1968 with the classification of Mechanical Engineering.

John is now enjoying retirement from J E Rymes Engineering Company Limited, a small consulting company he owned. During his working years, he worked in many countries, which included Holland, England and Japan. His company was involved in equipment design for pipelines, mining and underwater operations.

John is very involved with the Rotary Foundation: he is the club's main contact for the Rotary International Foundation, helping with record keeping and making sure people get their tax receipts; and is presently chair of the Foundation Alumni, which he founded after he retired as District Foundation chair.

During his time in Rotary, John has distinguished himself by being the recipient of many Rotary Awards:

President's Award	Rotarian of the Year in 1985
Rotary Foundation	Paul Harris Fellow in 1986
Rotary International	Rotary Foundation District Service Award in 1991-2, 1993-4 Rotary Foundation, Citation for Meritorious Service 1995 District Service Award (given to 1 in 70 worldwide), presented by Past RI President Paul V. C. Costa 1995 Special Recognition Paul Harris Fellows and Family Luncheon – RI Convention Calgary, 1996, also presented by Paul Costa Four Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians – presented by Calgary West President, Mike Carlin in 1998
Rotary Foundation	Major Donor Recognition Constance M. and John E. Rymes in 2000.

Brent, one of our very busy members, was inducted into the Rotary Club of Calgary West in 2002 with the classification of Sponsorship Consulting.

Brent is the owner of a company called The Partnership Group which works with many companies and organizations, including Rotary, Charities, Sports Teams and Professional Events to help them maximize their potential to run a more profitable sponsorship program.

Brent has been able to put his experience to good use for Rotary by helping Calgary West Rotary Club and other Rotary clubs generate more sponsorship revenue. In particular, Brent has put his skills to great use with the Valentine Strawberry Shortcake Fundraiser, a great money maker for Calgary West Rotary Club.

Visiting clubs in other countries is one of the things that Brent really enjoys about being a Rotarian. He has visited many clubs in Canada, the USA and the United Kingdom.

Brent is a member of the board and is chair of the management committee, which includes overseeing 10 smaller committees.

## **Youth Directorate Update**

### **Director - Brenda Sali**

Well, the Rotary year is almost over and the club has accomplished many things this year. The Youth Directorate has handled many challenges and has contributed to many of these club accomplishments. Once again thank you to everyone for your participation and commitment to all of the wonderful youth programs Calgary West participates in.

#### **Youth Exchange – Chair – Brenda Sali**

Five members of Calgary West attended the Red Deer Orientation weekend – March 9-11<sup>th</sup>. Attendees included: Verneil Martin (outbound counsellor), Bernie Ward (inbound counsellor), Frank Burns (outbound counsellor 2008/09), Matthew Hanrahan (YEX committee chair 2007/08), Brenda Sali (Youth Director).

#### **LSHS Partnership – Chair – Walter Krawciw**

This partnership continues to evolve as the dynamics of LSHS are changing. The committee is continuing with initiatives that fit the current school requirements and look to new opportunities as LSHS and Central Memorial combine their campuses.

#### **RYLA/RYPEN/AIC – Chair – Roger Joki**

Roger's committee has selected Greg Tapuska (grandson of Bill Tapuska!) to be our representative at this year's Adventures in Citizenship program. Greg will attend a future meeting to share his experience and his essay that contributed to his successful selection. Roger is looking to select six students for RYLA this year, which takes places May 10-13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Ambassadorial Scholarships – Chair – Chuck Morrison**

Chuck and John Rymes have done an excellent job of proactively working with an interested candidate for this scholarship. Jillian Mellum is the university student that is working through the process and Chuck had Jillian out to our club recently.

#### **Four Way Speech Contest – Chair – Lynne Thornton**

After much discussion with some of the other Calgary clubs we have selected not to participate in this program for the 2006/07 Rotary year. It seems to be a bit of a moving target but we will be revisiting the program and possibly looking at a different level of involvement in the coming year. Thank you, Lynne, for your efforts on this.

#### **Scholarships – Chair – Stan Beveridge**

We have successfully contributed \$5,000 in scholarships this Rotary year. The breakdown was provided early in the Rotary year but to recap the majority of the scholarship monies went to various programs at Mount Royal College and SAIT.

#### **New & Emerging Programs – Chair – Bernie Ward**

The committee has evaluated several new youth opportunities throughout the year and we will consider a couple of new programs and budget accordingly for the 2007/08 Rotary year. I am looking for a chair for this committee next year, so anyone who is interested please contact me (Brenda Sali) directly.

## Hey, Little Bird ...

Challenges are a part of everyday life: how we handle them “refines and defines” our character – but some challenges appear daunting and insurmountable at first glance. These wake-up calls have the greatest potential to make or break us and certainly invoke deep personal discovery of what our life philosophy really is. It’s easy to chat about our perspective on life and what we’d likely do if we’re faced with one of these earth-shattering crossroads, but you can’t really know how your character will respond until it actually becomes reality for you personally.

But you certainly can prepare. Mitch Albom, in his best-seller, “Tuesdays with Morrie”, spends 15 weeks with his university mentor as Morrie prepares to die. They explore the real meaning of life together and Morrie suggests that every morning we should all arise and ask the little bird on our shoulder, “Is today the day, little bird? Am I ready?” Probably good advice, because frankly none of us knows when a Greyhound bus might hit us. While I’m definitely not recommending that we all focus daily on dying, the same lesson is certainly applicable to any major challenge in life (and we will have them!) because when it happens to you there’s no time to decide then how you will respond – your character will be instantly revealed right for what it is. And character is of major importance to a Rotarian. We need to practice character in the easy times so it ready for when times are tough.

In early March, we enjoyed a meeting speaker, Donna Doucette, from the Sisterhood Dragon

Boat Association. Donna is a breast cancer survivor and challenged the club to turn apparent tragedy in life into wonderful opportunity. I found it encouraging to hear from many of our club members that they found themselves recently at one of these “refining moments” and learnt a bit more about themselves and about life. What was really interesting was that we don’t need to have a life-threatening incident to feel the fork in the road – your skinned knee, broken leg or disappointing news is just as painful, right at that moment for you, as the instant pain someone else feels with news of breast cancer. And how our character responds to these “preparation” times will define how we handle the biggies should they ever happen.

I think “balance” is the toughest challenge in life. Balancing between living today to the fullest and saving for tomorrow’s retirement; between preparing your character for the tough times and a positive outlook that pretends they will never happen to you. I love the term: “educated ignorance”. The careful balance to ensure we’re always ready for the challenges (financially, mentally, emotionally and spiritually) and then live life to the fullest the way it was intended to be. Don’t fear life challenges – embrace them and learn from them. There’s treasure in their midst if you’ll look for it! One day your preparation might be just what you, or your friend, need to rise above these signposts of mortal life on Earth.



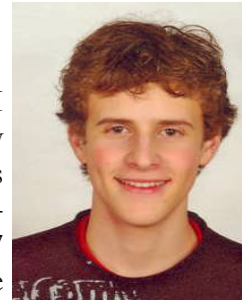
Doug Chisholm

<p><b>Rotary Club of Cochrane</b> The 16th anniversary celebrations will take place on Thursday evening, May 17, at the Cochrane Ranche House, commencing at 6.00 pm. The cost of the dinner is \$30 per person.</p>	<p>We would welcome as many members from Calgary West as possible.</p> <p>Dan Paarsmarkt is chairing the event so please contact Dan for tickets. Dan can be reached at 932-5483 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:allcare@pathcom.ca">allcare@pathcom.ca</a></p>
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## Monthly Report to the Rotary Club Calgary West

I cannot believe how fast time is going by. It seems to me like not even a month ago when I arrived in Calgary, met all the other exchange students and had my first day in a Canadian school. This is neither the case because my English is at the same level as when I came – many of you can probably confirm that - nor because I wouldn't have plenty of new and exciting experiences. I have heard before that the good times go by fast and the bad times stick to you for a long time. I can absolutely agree with this right now.

My last month was fairly balanced with friends from school, exchange students, Rotary, school and family. I actually have to agree that I have been studying fairly more than I wished and that was appropriate for an exchange year. Though, this is what I chose so I will have to accept it. In the beginning of last month Martin came over and we did the usual routine which is playing games on the computer or watch some TV. Furthermore I had to finish a so called Fast Track course for my online ELA course. We also went to a couple of movies together, which were Happy Feet and Ghost Rider. We especially liked Happy Feet because it is amusing, entertaining, cute, and also an attempt to remind people of over fishing. Besides my host family had a red & white dinner which is basically a tradition in the family. Everybody ought to bring some red or white food. An important step last month was also that I had to move to my third family. In the beginning I was fairly upset because I really didn't want to move. I just finished packing the day before I had to move so that I could meet Martin the next day. I hereby also want to apologize that I missed that Rotary lunch because I had a social test at the same time. Martin and I got together in order to watch a movie. Eventually we chose Breach and we were highly disappointed because the movie was far too predictable and even worse propagandistic for religion, the USA. In the evening Steve drove me over to my new host family. My stuff almost did-



n't fit in the truck because I had roughly 4 suitcases. My new host family is Gordon's (last year's outbound) parents. Thus I will have a 17 year old host brother for the first time which is going great so far. Once I arrived at the Lamb's my host mom, Carol showed me around. Following I unpacked which took me about two hours. Gordo also came home at 11 pm after he had finished work. Subsequently, I was lucky enough to meet my host sister who came home from university. On the weekend we went to their cabin so that we could go snowboarding or skiing on Sunday. My host sister, Heather, is doing Kinesiology in "University of Western Ontario". Since I am strongly interested in doing Kinesiology too I asked her a bunch of questions while we had lunch at the Fairmont hotel in Banff. Snowboarding on Sunday was fairly special because it was the first time for me at Lake Louise. There are a couple of upsides about Lake Louise compared to Sunshine. For instance the slopes are broader at Lake Louise and there are less flat spots. Though, there are more moguls, which are kind of inconvenient for snowboarders. We had a short pit stop at the cabin before we went back to Calgary. Of course I was one of the people that were watching the Oscars at 6 pm (that was for the first time for me). Fortunately I got a ride to school with Heather on Monday, just before she went back to Canmore in order to ski for 3 days with friends of hers. It usually takes me 1 hour and 40 minutes to get home from school and just slightly less in the morning. I thought it was going to be hard to get used to another family but it is actually quite easy and I feel like at home already. Furthermore compared to last year all my school marks are pretty high with an average of about 85%. Although I have to admit that my scholastic and academic work is fairly tiring, my exchange year is going great.

Fabio Magistris

## Rotary District Conference May 25-27 IT'S A SMALL WORLD

The District Conference will commence Friday evening May 25, and is for the entire district membership. The District Conference is such a major event that the Rotary International President attends or sends his personal representative. The conference will be presided over by our District Governor, Raju Paul. If you haven't been to a District Conference before, now is the time to start! If you have, this is the one you really don't want to miss.

**Why Attend?** A great weekend of Rotary Fellowship where you can renew old acquaintances and make new friends. An exciting and informative program including excellent speakers, fabulous entertainment - including a great live band on Saturday Evening at The District Governor's Gala. The rates at Red Deer Lodge are also very reasonable. Visit the District Site to register online.

### **Keynote Speakers - Speakers include:**

**Donald Cooper** - Donald draws from his unique experience as a world class manufacturer (Cooper Sports Equipment) and is an award winning retailer and international business speaker. He is respected throughout the world as a "thought leader" and a passionate visionary in the areas of marketing, service and business excellence.

**Chris Levy** - A University Professor and exceptionally entertaining speaker who gives a highly interesting and thought provoking talk on "Rotary and the 4 Way Test"

**Jean Irwin** - An Ambassadorial Scholar in 1989. Jean is from Reno Nevada and a Teacher of the Deaf. Her talk is an example of how Rotary can support a teacher to meet the challenges of the education of all of our children

**Friendship Room** - Need time to chill out? - A great place where delegates can come and visit, have a cup of coffee, tea, etc. Come and see some of the major projects that clubs have undertaken. Does your club have a project they would like to showcase?

**Accommodation** The official conference hotel is the Red Deer Lodge, 4311-49th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta (403) 346-8841 or 1-800-661-1657 for reservations. Rooms are block booked until May 1st. Don't forget to ask for Rotary rates: <http://www.reddeerlodge>.

# Calendar of Events

## April - Magazine Month

April 20 | Partners welcome

## May - Membership Awareness Month (Unofficial)

May 11 - 13 | RYLA

May 18 | Partners welcome

May 23 | Spring Assembly

May 25 | No meeting

May 25 - 27 | Rotary District Conference - Red Deer

## June - Rotary Fellowship Month

June 14 - 20 | Rotary International Convention - Salt Lake City

June 27 | President's Ball—TBC

## District 5360 Ranks High

As we all well know, there are over 1.3 million Rotarians worldwide in over 32,000 clubs and 529 Districts. **We are in District 5360.**

Recently Monty Audenart, past district governor from Red Deer and director-elect for Rotary International in 2007-2009, noted that our District, out of 529, ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in the world in total contributions to the Rotary Foundation to December 31, 2006. This is a level of which we all can be proud. It is important that we continue this pace so that this might be the benchmark for governors who follow.

As you are aware, our club contributions to the Rotary Foundation by December 31, 2006, exceeded the total of last full year's Rotary contributions. Congratulations to our club in doing our part in helping our district to be in the top 6% of total contributions worldwide! Well done!

**When you volunteer to help at the front desk, in any of the capacities given below, please be at the Danish Canadian Club by 11.15.  
Remember, folks, this is a team effort!**

Date	Cashier	Assistant	Greeter	Host	50/50 Ticket Sales
Apr 06	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>				
Apr. 13	Mike Carlin	Garth Evans	Margot McDermott	Stan Cichon	
Apr. 20	Garfield Gagnon	Roy Thurm	Margot McDermott	Carolyn Leece	Vasile Douros
Apr 27	Bill Lawless	Stan Beveridge	Clarence Buckley		Brenda Sali

## Photo Page





Des and Eileen DeFreitas gave a talk on March 2 about the marvelous work which Rotary is supporting - both financially and with 'hands-on' - in the Dominican Republic.

See the March 2 Westerner for further details.

On a day in March, these four brave, intrepid, fearless CWRC went curling. Unfortunately, I have no other details, so I should be obliged if someone would send in a report which could then appear in a Westerner




  
 Clarence and Evelyn Buckley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 23! Congratulations!
   


March 1st was, and always will be, St David's Day. Here we have President Mike and me saluting each other in a manner, the details of which I will leave to your vivid imagination! My Welsh readers can finish the following: "Twill dyn . . ."



So, Biggles Brookes did actually fly!!

Any guesses as to which part of the city this is?