

Rotary Club of Calgary West
(Service through Fellowship)

The *Monthly* WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3
Elbow River Casino, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Garfield Ganong **President-Elect:** Lynne Thornton

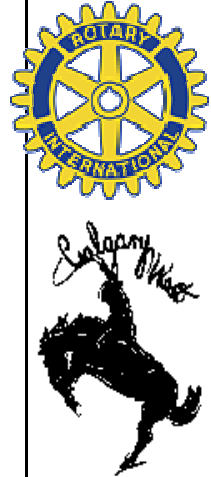
Past President: Mike French **Secretary:** George Edwards

Treasurer: Derek McClary

Directors: Brent Barootes, David Elson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali

December 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.

Garfield's Cogitations

Wow! I can't believe that it is December already. Where has the time gone? At the end of this month I will be half way through my term as your club president. It sure does bring home that the older one gets the faster time flies by. When I was a teenager, time seemed to creep by as I waited expectantly to reach the age of majority. Now, no matter how hard I try to hold on to time, it seems to speed by at ever increasing rates. I have therefore found that it is important to experience life and do things even if they are outside my immediate comfort zone. Like accepting the challenge of becoming your club president!

With Christmas coming, I find that December has become, for me at least, a time of personal reflection. A time to accept and be thankful for all of the blessings that each of us has, to appreciate our family, friends and loved ones and to take a moment to consider others. For many people Christmas is not a joyous occasion. Those who are alone, live on the streets and/or are not participating in the booming Calgary economy do not view this as a joyous time. In fact, seeing others cele-

brate in joy and happiness just makes it worse. I would encourage each of us particularly this month to reach out to someone less fortunate. Do a drop-in at Saint Mary's Church hall and help with Feed the Hungry, buy one less gift and

give the money to the Salvation Army kettle campaign, the Calgary Herald Christmas Fund, etc. You get the idea. Share your good fortune with others. At the same time, take a moment to hug your significant other and tell your kids that you love them.

To every one of you and your families from my family (Cheryl, Grayden, Roghan, Ryan Joel and I), we wish you a safe and merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season!

President Garfield
Service Through Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR DECEMBER – Garth Evans

Thanks to all the reporters for their continued commitment to the weekly newsletters. I will be sending out the reporter schedule to all reporters by December 5, 2007.

The Integrity Awards Event will be held in March, 2008, at Stage West. If any member knows of someone that would qualify as our recipient, please let George Edwards, Bill Lawless or Jim Willson know. Please refer to the weekly bulletin for November 23 for the criteria for selecting recipients.

We have made a few small changes to our webpage. Please check it out as there is a lot of information on the website: www.calgarywestrotaryclub.org.

The RI Foundation drive for November is now over, but remember donations can be made anytime and the club still matches your \$200 donation. Contribute before mid-December and get your tax receipt.

A Merry Christmas to everyone and *all the best* in 2008 from Garth and Pauline.



**PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S
YEAR-END CELEBRATION**

Wednesday, June 25th, 2008

at

**Southern Alberta Pioneer Memorial Building
3625 4th Street SW**

**Join Garfield and Cheryl for an evening
of merriment and dancing.**

This will be an evening to remember!



Beautiful location for both indoor and outdoor socializing

Put it in your diary now and make it a priority

More details nearer the date

Service and Matching Grants - Brent Barootes

FEED THE HUNGRY



As always, this annual event was a huge success. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this happen; with special thanks to Ron Morrison and Don Alexander for their leadership.

The board is also excited to announce the club's long term commitment to this partnership. The club has made a five-year commitment to Feed the Hungry to continue to support this project annually for \$4000 per year (plus inflationary costs) as well as volunteer labor each year for our own Sunday support.

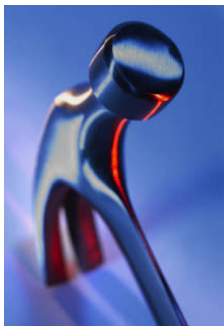
As well, the board has approved the motion to allocate a one-time gift of \$10,000 to Feed the Hungry for purchase of new kitchen equipment. This will be a huge boost for the organization. The club will receive appropriate recognition for the donation.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS KETTLES



The organization of this event has been undertaken by Chuck Morrison. As you read this December Westerner, members of our club are already manning the bells and kettles. Thanks to all who again have made this all come to be!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Great news!! The board has approved a motion to a three-casino commitment to Habitat for Humanity. This would be a commitment of two more casinos over the next few years, in addition to the one we have just completed this past August. Through this agreement, we would be committing to deliver approximately \$250,000 (two more casinos plus the one done in August 2007) to the local organization. In turn, we would be recognized as a top level supporter of their organization and garner a higher profile for our club in the community. In fact, this level of commitment would allow us to "build" one single family dwelling in our name. It would be a Rotary Club of Calgary West house with funding and volunteer labor by us! This is really exciting and members of the club can proudly say to friends, family and prospective new members, "You ask what we do, we are in the works of sole funding and providing volunteer labor for a single family home for Habitat for Humanity; an investment by our club of volunteer hours to build and \$250,000 cash!" Few organizations in Calgary can boast such a claim: our great club will be one that can!!

Congratulations to Mike and his team on all the work to move this forward and we look forward

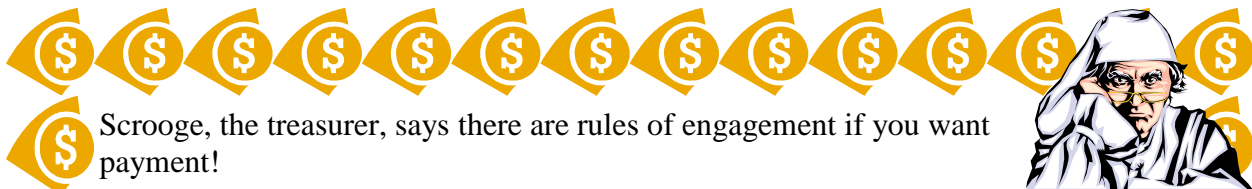
to the board approval for this project.

CLUB COMMITMENT TO MICROCREDIT AND EDUCATION



The board recently approved, with direction and recommendations from the international committee, a commitment of \$12,500 of club funds, plus, \$12,500 from the District, through the Sarcee Club auction, combined with a submission to Wild Rose to match the \$25,000 to deliver a \$50,000 gift to the Ghana MicroCredit program. This means our club will be raising 50% of the funds for this District's contribution of \$100,000 for this project. This project is spearheaded by our District and is a joint project with the San Diego District and the Bill Gates Foundation. The San Diego District will also raise \$100,000. The Gates Foundation will then match this \$200,000 with \$800,000 matching (4:1) for a program delivery of \$1,000,000. Boy did our \$12,500 ever go far!! Well done committee!

In addition, the board has encouraged the international committee to move forward with negotiation of a 50/50 partnership with the Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial for education of underprivileged children in Thailand. The projected total cost of the project is \$180,000 over three years. The required funding from RCCW will come from club funds, plus matching grants from Wild Rose Foundation, R.I. Foundation and CRCID. A Thai Rotary club is also involved, and our club member, Roy Thurm, will champion the project for the club and visit the project. Again, congratulations to the international committee on identifying a potential multiyear major project to meet the goals of our club and RI and help the poorest of the poor overseas.



Scrooge, the treasurer, says there are rules of engagement if you want payment!

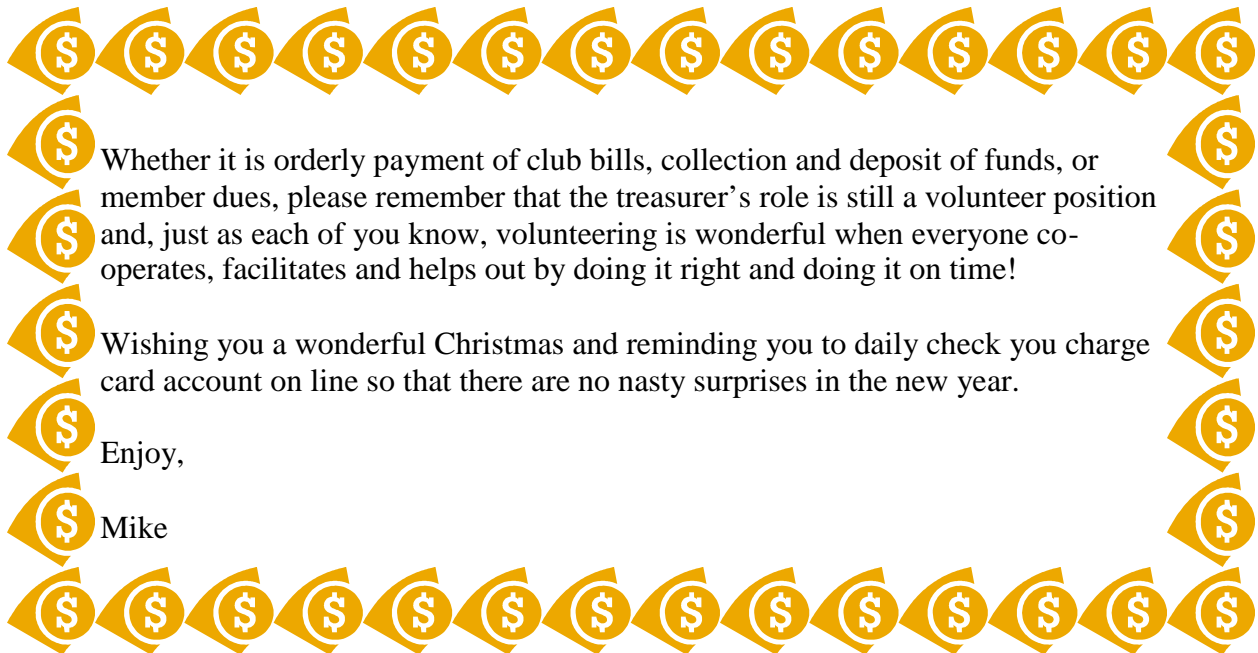
It is time to remind everyone that commitments that oblige the club are subject to approval of the board.

If a budget item is approved, then the director responsible should approve such commitments and is, that is "IS", required to approve all payments for those items.

So please ensure that you pass all bills through the respective director (e-mail approvals accepted).

Also, there is a "risk analysis" required for all projects and fundraisers to ensure that the club is not exposed to unspecified or unforeseen risks, whether financial or otherwise. This will also ensure that adequate insurance is in place to cover any quantifiable risk not covered under our blanket policy.





Whether it is orderly payment of club bills, collection and deposit of funds, or member dues, please remember that the treasurer's role is still a volunteer position and, just as each of you know, volunteering is wonderful when everyone co-operates, facilitates and helps out by doing it right and doing it on time!

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and reminding you to daily check you charge card account on line so that there are no nasty surprises in the new year.

Enjoy,

Mike



Think Valentine's Day and Cake!

Our Strawberry Shortcakes Fundraiser is chaired this year by Stan Cichon. We are looking for your support to complete another great fundraiser for Calgary West. Last year, we sold and delivered over 6200 strawberry shortcakes. We will need all hands on deck on Thursday, February 14, 2008, to deliver those sweet treats. We have maintained our partnership with Calgary Coop, Stampede Messenger and Tigertel.

Did you know that last year we won the District Public Relations Award and the Rotary International Public Image Award for our Strawberry Shortcake publicity campaign? Robyn Braley is at work again in preparation for this year's blitz. Remember to refer friends, family and colleagues to our website: www.strawberryshortcakes.ca

Thanks in advance for "Sharing the Love and Sharing Rotary".

Marie Rickard

Life after the exchange

I spent only three weeks with my family and friends in Switzerland in the summer. Although during that time I went to the southern part of Switzerland to spend some quality time with my friends and following I flew to Valencia, Spain to meet up with Laszlo and Morgan. Morgan is a Rotex from Calgary and Laszlo is a former room-mate and exchange student from Hungary. When I came back to Canada I got the chance to live with Marg and her husband Stu, which I am very grateful for. **Currently I am attending Henry Wise Wood High School** which I will finish by the end of January. I am taking Chemistry, Pure Math, and Social. I actually enjoy school right now which has enabled me to achieve exceptionally good marks. Life without Rotary is different, for instance because I get to drink, and date. However, most of the time I am academically very dedicated and don't take advantage of my newly gained freedom. I simply spend time with friends at theaters. Besides I have started to apply for various universities in Ontario (University of Waterloo, University of Western Ontario, Queen's University) and for the U of C. Therefore I have attended the Open-House at the U of C and the assembly of out-of-province universities.

Besides academia I have got involved with Rotex. Among six other rebounds I have been organizing Winterfest for the current exchange students. Nearly every week we meet at the University of Calgary and discuss the progress we made during the week. It is a lot of fun to participate in the planning of Winterfest, which promotes cultural understanding between Canadians and the Rotary exchange students in southern Alberta. For the ones that don't exactly know what Winterfest is I shall explain it briefly even though I hope you are all familiar with it. All the exchange students from the districts come to Calgary to do typical Canadian events such as curling. Furthermore everyone gets the opportunity to share their experiences and feelings. In fact I got to meet several exchange students at Verneil's Christmas party. They are all really awesome and everyone is very close. It made me wish to be an exchange student again because it is true that it is one of the best years of one's life. At this point I also want to congratulate everyone in the Calgary West Club again for hosting me last year and to give me the chance to experience a year abroad. It is quite apparent that I must have enjoyed it so much since I stayed here. In fact I found out that this has occurred only 3 times in Switzerland before.

Fabio Magistris

House Activities- Director-Bill Lawless, November 27, 2007

Overview

I would like to extend a Merry Xmas to all fellow club members. My sincere appreciation for the work you have all done, and I would particularly extend special thanks and Xmas wishes to all the committees for their hard work. To those I say thanks for all you do!

Friday December 14th

The Radisson School choir will be singing XMAS songs on December 14th.

Friday December 21st

A casual Xmas social gathering and no formal structured meeting will take place.

Friday December 28th

There will be no meeting this day. This week is a very short week and it is expected that a lot of holidays will be taken during this time.

Front Desk - Helen King, Chair

Committee members include: Brenda Sali, Kurt Schurer, Adam Joyce, Jim Barnes

Helen will be starting soon to request volunteers for the front desk from January through to June. Please contact Helen and hopefully you can commit to two days to assist the front desk crew.

Speaker Program - Ted Valentine, Chair

Committee members: Frank Burns, Al Rosen, Bob Kerr, Bill Tapuska, Murray Hunter.

The speaker program has been a terrific year to date and I look forward to more excellent speakers in the New Year. Well done to the committee.

Golf - Larry Doyle, Chair

Supper Club - Pauline Evans, Chair

Bridge - Joe Klassen, Chair

Fall Lobster Fest - Marg Henschel

What a terrific event!

Partner's Coffee Party - Marie Rickard

Christmas Party - Verneil Martin

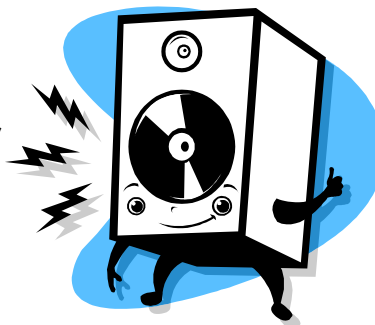
The turn out was great. The Xmas spirit was very evident and WOW there were even some members who stayed till midnight. Hearty souls they are.

Christmas Brunch - Bill Tapuska

The confirmed date is December 16th at Pinebrook. Bill is selling tickets and they are going quickly for the event. Looking forward to seeing everyone at this event.

Speakers' and Reporters' Page

Speakers for December



7th	Judge Ray Lee, Immigration Court Judge for Alberta; “Reaffirm your Citizenship”.
14th	Radisson School Choir
21st	Social and Ensenada presentation, and songs
28th	Meeting cancelled

Reporters for December

7th	Don Axford
14th	Bill Tapuska
21st	Garth and Pauline Evans
28th	No meeting
January 4	Margot McDermott



The reporters for this Rotary year are:

Don Axford

Larry Doyle

George Edwards

Garth and Pauline Evans

Mike French

Sa'adat Keshavjee

Margot McDermott

Bill Tapuska

Lynne Thornton

If any reporter cannot meet his/her commitment for a particular date, PLEASE arrange for a substitute from the above list.

Calendar of Events

August: Membership and Extension Month

3rd and 4th Calgary West Casino

29th and 30th Habitat for Humanity Casino

September: New Generations Month

7th-9th Waterton Peace Park Assembly - 75th Anniversary

14th Fall Lobster Social

21st District Governor Visitation

October: Vocational Service Month

17th Assembly

19th No meeting

November: Rotary Foundation Month

5th World Interact Week

9th Remembrance Day Celebrations

16th Christmas Party at Calgary Golf and Country Club

18th Feed the Hungry

December: Family Month

7th Club Elections

16th Christmas Brunch at Pine Brook

January: Rotary Awareness Month

February: World Understanding Month

14th Strawberry Shortcake Deliveries

March: Literacy Month

April: Magazine Month

May

21st Spring Assembly

23rd No meeting

June: Rotary Fellowship Month

14th President's Ball

Visit www.calgarywestrotaryclub.org/events for up to date information

The Physics of Christmas Eve

No known species of reindeer can fly. But there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and, while most of these are insects and germs, this does not completely rule out flying reindeer, which only Santa has ever seen.

There are 2 billion children (persons under the age of 18) in the world. But, since Santa does not (appear to) handle the Muslims, Hindus, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total: 378 million. At an average rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes that there is at least one good child in each!

Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the Earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to be 822.6 visits per second. In other words, for each household with good children, Santa has $1/1000^{\text{th}}$ of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get up the chimney, get back in the sleigh, and move on to the next house.

Assuming, for the sake of argument, that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the world (which, of course, they are not), we are now talking about 0.78 miles per household, a total trip of 75.5 million miles. This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, which is 3,000 times the speed of

sound.

The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more in weight than a medium-sized Lego set (two pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight.

On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that flying reindeer could pull ten times the normal amount, the job cannot be done with eight, or even nine, reindeer. We need 214,200 reindeer. This, in itself, increases the payload – not even counting the weight of the sleigh – to 353,430 tons.

353,430 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates an enormous air resistance, which will heat up the reindeer in the same fashion as a spacecraft re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. The two lead reindeer will absorb 14.3 quintillion joules of energy per second. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, thus exposing the reindeer behind them, and also creating deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second.

Santa, meanwhile, would be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.



Well, so much for a scientist's (*or engineer's!*) view of Santa Claus! Such people, it seems, do not believe in the unbelievable. *And yet*, let me quote you a couple of sentences from an article in the December, 1991, issue of the *Scientific American*, an article entitled, "Quantum Cosmology and the Creation of the Universe":

"This process, called inflation, would have lasted for an unbelievably fleeting moment, some 10^{-30} second. During this time, the universe would have increased in size by an equally astounding factor of 10^{30} , growing from an initial size of 10^{-28} centimeter to about one meter."

And, then again:

There was a German scientist, Max Planck, who worked out the smallest possible length and smallest possible time, and these were named the Planck length and the Planck time.

The **Planck length** is the scale at which classical ideas about gravity and space-time cease to be valid, and quantum effects dominate. This is the 'quantum of length', the smallest measurement of length with any meaning. It is roughly equal to 1.6×10^{-33} m or about 10^{-20} times the size of a proton.

The **Planck time** is the time it would take a photon travelling at the speed of light to cross a distance equal to the Planck length. This is the 'quantum of time', the smallest measurement of time that has any meaning, and is equal to 10^{-43} seconds. No smaller division of time has any meaning. Within the framework of the laws of physics as we understand them today, we can say only that the universe came into existence when it already had an age of 10^{-43} seconds.

If scientists can believe all that – and you would be amazed at the goings-on in the quantum world! – then why cannot the rest of us believe in Santa Claus?

Also, Santa Claus is not the only gift bringer. There are, to name a few:

- Father Christmas (UK)
- Pere Noel (France)
- Los Tres Reyes Magos (Spain and South America)
- La Befana (Italy)
- Baboushka (Russia)

So, he is not the only gift bringer! Which lightens his load somewhat!



Merry Christmas!