

# 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

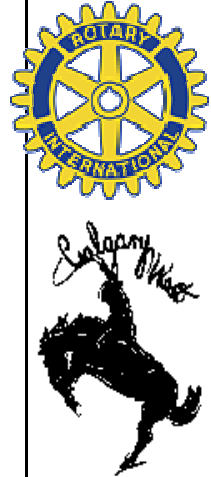
**Past President:** Chris Davis **Secretary:** George Edwards

**Treasurer:** Murray Hunter

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

February 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

The excitement rises. Valentine's Day is almost upon us. What better way to bond with your loved one or a friend than by delivering Strawberry Shortcakes!

Then we can help our Rotary friends at the Sarcee Club with their Art Auction. Yes love is in the air, and spring is just around the corner. The gifting committee will soon be telling us what other great projects our funds will be supporting.

Ah, spring: time to multiply, membership that is, with a stimulating membership development growth day, time to share a cozy fireside chat with our new members and to gather together to celebrate our successes at our wonderful social gatherings.

I would like to take a moment to comment on committee meetings held at the club before Friday luncheons. First, of course, I must say thank-you for all the work you have done and do, as evidenced by the many successes the club enjoys.

There has however been some concern expressed to the board that committee meetings held before lunch, especially when they go past noon, take away from some of the social aspect of our luncheons and the opportunity for informal chats with committee members by club members wanting to chat to them.

Also, when we have several committee meetings end-

Music and song has sprung again at the club, our covert reporter still pounces and the Sergeant has a spring in the foot as the money rolls in!

Excitement and laughter are the sounds of a club that is having fun whilst working hard to help others along the way.

Who says that change isn't good for you? But I was challenged early in my year by the question, "But are you prepared to change the change?" The answer is, Yes! So hold on to your seats, the balance of my year is yet to come! What will happen next at the Rotary Club of Calgary West, where Rotary works?



ing just before the Rotary meeting commences, we can end up with a rush of members wanting to pay and sign in.

So, whilst not wanting to stop the great works that occur, the board, and many members, would appreciate if Friday meetings would either be held after lunch or end before noon.

I think we can then all enjoy each others' company to the full.

Thank-you for your co-operation.

Mike

## Brent's Club Management Update



January was a whirlwind of a month and seems to have flown by!! I am pleased to announce that, at the January board meeting, the board passed a motion to match up to \$200 per member for donations made to the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation between February 1 and June 30, 2007, to a maximum combined contribution of \$4000 by the club. This is a great incentive for all our members to support the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation the way they have the RI Foundation. Also, be sure to read David Watson's great article on the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation in this edition of the Westerner.

Congratulations to Ron Brookes and his environment committee as they work hard to schedule environmental speakers for our club. Keep up the great work, Ron.

Robyn Braley has been working hard getting publicity for our Strawberry Shortcakes project. Great job, Robyn! We should really have a great year for Shortcakes for all you are doing!! Robyn was also successful in his submission to RI for a PR grant of \$2000 USD to promote Strawberry Shortcakes! There were over 4000 submissions from 100+ countries and we were one of the selected projects! Well done Robyn!

Just 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: the more we can tell each other and record our activities and fun the better. I look forward to receiving your submissions!

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. Keep up the great work, folks. (Note that there will be no Westerner member article this month, but Pauline's column will resume in March!)

Rick Dreja is to be congratulated as well on his incredible work in arranging volunteers for the SSC project. As always, Rick does an incredible job with finding and scheduling volunteers for any club project.

That's it for February.

Have a great Strawberry Shortcake February!!

## Summary of January 22nd Board Meeting (Held at Lord Shaughnessy High School)

### Items covered:

- The Guatemala Doctors' Project
- Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown has an E-board and will promote any of our activities.
- The board agreed to the procedures for transferring money in the casino accounts to club and community service accounts.
- The community service and club accounts for the year ending June 2006 will be reviewed by two members that are members of the current board.
- **There will be no regular meeting on Good Friday.**
- Member duties will be published each week for the next meeting in the newsletter and monthly in the Monthly Westerner.
- Des DeFreitas is looking for members to host Rotarians from Orangeville, Ontario, when they visit Calgary from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Entertainment is planned for our visitors during their Stampede stay.
- Strawberry Shortcakes:
  - ◊ About 1000 cakes sold so far.
  - ◊ Need more drivers and their vehicles to deliver. About 35 have volunteered so far and we need at least 50.
  - ◊ Rotary International Promotional Grant must be used for media coverage.
- Joe Klassen is coordinating our club's efforts to assist the Rotary Club of Calgary Sarcee. So far, ten of our members are willing to help with their fund raiser. Calgary West members are encouraged to make-up missed meetings by attending Calgary Sarcee meetings which are held on Thursday mornings at 7:00 am at Sheraton Eau Claire.
- The board approved Michael Fitzsimmons as our club recipient for an Integrity Award. Information about Michael will be circulated to the members in our monthly newsletter.
- Mike Reikie is working on club history.
- The board discussed ways of informing potential members about Rotary International and Calgary West. A Fireside is planned for March and a Membership Development Day will be planned for May.
- Al Rosen, a new member proposed by Mike French, received approval pending membership acceptance. Al's classification will be re-

tail sales.

- The board will follow Rotary International regulations regarding exchange students. Fabio wishes to continue his education here next year, but will return to Switzerland at the end of his exchange year. His return to Calgary next year is a family matter.

### Motions Passed:

1. Motion: Moved to give a Discovery Grant in the amount of \$1500 to the Guatemala Doctors' Project in order to ascertain the potentiality of future projects in conjunction with the present efforts being explored by current members in Guatemala. Frank Burns/Murray Hunter.
2. Motion: Moved that two non-board members review the club and community accounts for the year endings of June 2006 and June 2007.
3. Motion: Moved that Dan Doherty and Bill Quinney be our club representatives on the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation board for two years effective July 1, 2007. Brent Barootes/Stam Cichon.
4. Motion: Moved that the club match up to \$200 per member who donates to the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation before June 30, 2007 to a maximum of \$4000 matched by the club. Brent Barootes/Chris Davis
5. Motion: Moved by Brent Barootes that the club allocate up to \$250 to purchase a membership in Volunteer Calgary to access their services. Brent Barootes/Chris Davis.
6. Motion: Moved to approve Michael Fitzsimmons as Calgary West's Integrity Award Recipient. Bill Lawless/Brent Barootes.

### Matters Pertaining to Regular Meetings

- **The cost of lunch will be \$18.00**
- **Tickets for the 50/50 draw will be sold separately: a single ticket for \$1.00, 3 tickets for \$2.00, or for the small sum of \$5.00 you receive an arm's length of tickets.**
- **The meeting accounting sheet is under revision so that front desk volunteers do not spend the entire meeting balancing the revenue and expenses.**
- **A combination lock will be installed on a cupboard in the back room that will house the computer and projector.**

**The next board meeting will be on February 12, 2007, at 4:00 pm. All members are welcome.**

## **Treasurer's Report**

Happy New Year to all of you.

Our club is off to a good start this year with all of our committees working hard to raise funds and to start the process of making donations to many worthwhile projects. The Strawberry Shortcake committee has had several meetings and, with the partnership with Calgary Co-op, should prove to be a record year in our fundraising efforts.

During the month of January your club has made donations to the following projects:

Calgary YWCA	\$ 5,000
Rehabilitation for the Brain Injured	\$2,500
Uganda Water Filter Project	\$5,000

Over the next two months you will see some exciting news on the many projects we as a club will be making donations to throughout our community and abroad. As reported earlier to you in our annual budget, our club expects to make over \$120,000 in donations this year to support our community, international projects and youth scholarships and programs.

Murray Hunter

## **Environmental Committee January, 2007, Update**

If you attended the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, you heard fellow Rotarian Dr. Bill Cade, President of The University of Lethbridge, tell us how his institution is helping to improve our health and the environment, especially with respect to water conservation.

Coming up on February 16<sup>th</sup>, Karen Morrison, Waste Wise Community Outreach Program Coordinator for Clean Calgary Association, will talk

about Calgary's recycling programs and how the material we put into the green recycling bins is put to good use.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, Jim Miller will tell us about Calgary's new Pine Creek Waste Water Treatment Facility. And in May, Mark MacGillivray of The Green Party will talk to us about some of his party's initiatives for a greener Canada.

Ron Brookes

## **Charitable Gifting Director-Bill Lawless**

### **Integrity Awards Committee - Chair-Marmie Hess**

This committee has nominated Michael Fitzsimmons as this year's RCCW recipient. The board on January 22nd approved the nomination.

We have 34 tickets for the event, which will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, at Stage West .

Please see Gordon Rodriques for ticket information.

**For more information concerning this remarkable fellow, go to page 8.**



# Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation

1. What is the C.R.C. Foundation?
2. How is the Foundation managed?
3. What are the objectives?
4. What can it do for your club and how can your club become involved?

So let's clear up some misconceptions. There are three other foundations with which this may be confused.

You are no doubt all aware of the activities of **Rotary International**. As you know, your Paul Harris Fellowship contributions go to the Rotary International Foundation, which hold contributions for three years and with the interest from funds held during this period pays its administration. Then after three years the funds are put to work going to such activities as Ambassadorial Scholarships, Group Study Exchange, Humanitarian Grants, Matching Grants and Peace Programs. This foundation is totally separate from CRCF, funded and administered separately.

There is no connection to the **Calgary Foundation**, which is outside of Rotary.

And finally, just to confuse you further, we are not the **Rotary District 5360 Charitable Foundation**, which, for simplicity, I will describe as a conduit to funnel donations to an identified charity and provide a tax receipt in the process.

## So what is a FOUNDATION?

The English Dictionary says "underlying layer or support; f. stone, to mark the beginning of an erection of a building; garment or corset with attached brassiere. We don't need to go there, but we know this could mean one heck of a lot of support. I prefer the word connection that Roget's Thesaurus makes however, with the words "Stability, Soundness and Permanence"

The CRCF is unique in the Rotary world as far as I am aware. The Foundation was established in 1972 by four Rotary clubs in Calgary, but for all the Rotary clubs in Calgary. It is a

CAPITAL FUND, cash contributions are pooled in the fund and earnings are returned to the participating clubs. Earnings of the fund are distributed to each of the clubs proportionately based on each club's capital in the fund at the end of each financial year. These distributions go directly to each club for payment to each club's chosen community projects, except where a club has a non-charitable status, in which case the club must request the treasurer of the CRCF to direct the funds to the selected recipient.

The CRCF is administered by a Board of Directors, made up of members of all the Rotary clubs of Calgary. The number of board members from each club reflects the amount of each club's funds in the Foundation. There is one honorary director, John Collins, who has been the glue for the foundation for many years.

**Calgary South has three members, and Calgary West two members. The members belonging to the Rotary Club (Downtown) is equal to the membership of all the other clubs. And clubs with over \$10,000 in funds have one member each.**

Over seven years ago the Foundation's capital was invested by the Board in bonds and other money market instruments, which generally were just rolled over on maturity, so the return was pretty much guaranteed to be the "going-in Yield To Maturity". In years past this was relatively advantageous when interest rates were in double digits, but as rates dropped the return on these investments fell drastically.

About seven years ago the Board decided to investigate the option of placing the funds in the hands of a professional investment manager. Several managers were interviewed and, in the fall of 1999, Mawer Investment Management was selected. Their first full year of management was completed on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Mawer manages our funds under certain guidelines set out by the Board. The original restriction limited investment to no more than 20% in equities during the first two years and 30% in the third year and also limited it to Canadian equities only. This has now been amended to raise the maximum investment in equities to 60% with no restriction on foreign investment. The guidelines and the performance will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, but there is no intent by the Board to micro-manage the fund, purely set the policy.

The distribution policy has also been amended to cap the amount of funds distributed to the clubs in exceptionally good years, with any excess earnings being reinvested back into the fund as a cushion for possible lean years. *The distribution will be a minimum of 5% of the capital base of the investment portfolio [even if the overall earnings are less than 5%] plus 50% on any net earnings of the investment portfolio in excess of the basic 5% distribution to a maximum of a 10% total distribution [based on the average of the opening and adjusted closing market value of the investment portfolio].* The board believes this to be a wise policy given the volatility of the markets and it provides each club a greater ability to budget its community involvement.

EG 9% annual net return = 5% + 2%  
to distribution + 2% returned to capital

The Foundation's invested assets, ignoring life insurance surrender values, as at February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006, stood at \$3,833,218, with a return for the year of 9.15%. Overall earnings have varied from 4% to 14% per annum since the invested capital was placed with Mawer and we have seen a total return since inception of 72.95% and an annual return over the last five full financial years of approximately 8.54%.

The fund is growing through contributions and some reinvestment of undistributed earnings and the clubs that are growing their capital in the Foundation will be guaranteed income in future years, taking some pressure off fund raising activities.

Calgary West's contributions provide a good example of how funds can grow. From 1974 to

1991 Calgary West accumulated approximately \$77,000 as its capital base in the Foundation and over this same period of time Calgary West received a total accumulative interest income back from the foundation of \$78,000 and that was from bonds. Today Calgary West's capital base is just over \$245,000 and we hope to see over \$15,000 a year on average (and growing) as a return to fund community projects.

The Rotary Club of Calgary has the largest amount of capital in the Foundation (+/- \$29 million) followed by Calgary South at approximately \$1,000,000. There has been an incredibly large legacy or endowment placed into the Foundation for the benefit of the Rotary Club of Calgary in the last few months.

### **What are our objectives?**

Well, simply to increase the involvement of each club in the foundation from the standpoint of contributions and each club's representation and involvement on the Board. I regret that I have to say this, but involvement in the Foundation is spearheaded by too few clubs, particularly the Downtown Club.

I believe it is vitally important for each club to have a guaranteed source of funds. An annual return from the CRCF is a foundation to a club's fund raising, funds that are more or less assured and can be relied upon, perhaps to fund that "special" project, each year.

I think the founders of the CRCF had considerable foresight in setting it up and we are fortunate to have this foundation in place.

When we look at "needy projects" to fund, I am sure each club looks at the needs not only in our local community but also in other parts of the world. I believe we should view our contributions to the FOUNDATIONS of Rotary in the same vein, spreading our efforts between RI for international projects and the CRCF for our own community projects.

### **How can we increase the Capital?**

We can keep the CRC Foundation in mind when we are looking at a home for donations. These donations can be by way of cash contri-

butions, bequests, memorial tributes, life insurance proceeds, deposit of marketable securities (which might have significant tax benefits) or other creative ways our accountants might describe to us, such as through Charitable Annuity Contracts.

It is unfortunate that one of the biggest sources of funds to the foundation is derived from bereavements in one way or another. The passing of a loved one often involves the passing of assets. A donation to the CRCF at this time can create a legacy. A name can be attached to this legacy and a donation to the CRCF is one that will last forever and it will keep on giving.

As an example, when Glen Jones from Calgary West passed away several years ago now, the club decided to buy a park bench in his memory, but rather than buy the bench directly with funds we raised, we decided to invest these funds in the CRCF and in lieu use the earnings from the Foundation to purchase the bench. This way Glen's name lives on not only on the bench but also in the Foundation and those funds stay in the capital base of the Foundation for future growth.

Capital funds to provide an annual amount for a scholarship or bursary are also a good way to remember someone, while providing for a specific educational need.

I noted earlier the considerable legacy left for the benefit of the downtown club. That did not happen overnight, it began as small annual contributions ending up as one VERY LARGE contribution. I may not contribute much relatively during my lifetime to the Foundation, but I know I will leave much more in my will.

The CRCF has also created an Award program, which can recognize an individual's con-

tribution to the community or to Rotary. The donation is reasonably set at \$500 Cdn.

### Why the CRCF?

1. It creates a **focus** for us locally.
2. It is a **guaranteed** source of funds to each club.
3. The earnings distributed from the CRCF to the respective clubs are totally under the **control** of each club.
4. You can **recognize** club members, or others that you choose, in a very meaningful manner (Award Program).

There has been close to \$4 million placed into the community from the CRCF. These have been funds placed into the community through just a few clubs, but, hopefully, as other clubs increase their involvement and increase their capital, more community projects can be funded.

So, in closing, I would like to challenge the club to set a target for increasing its involvement in the Foundation, just as you are asked to do for RI, and keep the CRCF in the forefront when considering how to achieve our goals. Do not forget these funds will go right into the community where we live. Did I mention you receive a tax receipt for your donation?

It was not until 1917 that the Rotary International Foundation was set up, and by 1929 there was only \$5,000 in the RI Foundation. I believe it was not until after the Second World War that the RIF started to grow, probably after Paul Harris died in 1947.

If you have any questions I would be pleased to try to find an answer for you.

David Watson  
Chair CRCF

## Integrity Award

Michael Fitzsimmons will receive the Integrity Award from our club. Michael is, first and foremost, a devoted husband and father. He is a teacher at St. Gregory School and his life is devoted to service – service to seniors, to homeless people, to members of his parish and the Diocese of Southern Alberta and to students. Michael communicates the need for involvement in word and action and this begins at home.



Michael is married to Teresa and they have two children, Eric and Mikhaila. Visiting seniors has always been important to Teresa and Michael and, from infancy, Eric and Mikhaila have made the visits with them. The children have grown in an environment that emphasizes service, respect and compassion so that they are now able to act independently from their parents in a manner that mirrors the values and principles of their parents. Teresa and Michael have raised two children that are socially aware and ready to serve.

Michael uses the same approach with his students. He raises awareness through word and action. He respects the decisions of students to become involved in service projects, or not. Many charitable organisations have benefited from his efforts to raise money at the school level. For example, St. Gregory purchased twenty beds for Inn from the Cold. Michael and his students beg for money in the halls of their school to raise money to purchase the groceries to make sandwiches (60 loaves of bread) to feed the homeless.



Michael and the students **beg** for the money. In this way students realise how some people live. This not only raises student awareness of the plight of some people's lives, but it also gives him the opportunity to talk to them about gratitude and expressing thanks to the parents who care for them. It is interesting to note that many of their graduates have leadership roles in high schools today; this is a tribute to the staff and students of St. Gregory. Having worked with Michael, I know that he encourages and helps students develop their leadership skills. He and his colleagues are partners along with parents to educate positive and productive citizens.

If Michael has a mantra related to education, it would be, "If it benefits students, let's do it!" Michael believes that students should have access to numerous experiences and so has organised many clubs and events for them. He has organised District events that emphasize participation and socialization within the realm of competition to enhance student experiences. Most of these events and experiences require his personal time, but to him it is time well spent and it also gives him time with his children who are involved as well.

There seems no end to the different ways he contributes to the community. He teaches teachers ways to use Smart Boards to enhance their teaching practices. He is on the board of the Alberta Football Association and their representative for the National Touch Football Association. He has served on the Diocesan Liturgy committee and helped organise conferences for the Diocese: Michael is active in his parish.

Service is integral to the values and principles of Michael. It is this integrity that makes him a leader in his community and a very worthy recipient of an Integrity Award.

## The Strategic Plan Planning Process

The primary premise was that the Strategic Planning Committee should not review every aspect of the club but rather, focus on what the concerns are regarding the current operation and what new ideas should be considered for implementation. This was done to contain the magnitude of the strategic plan and to maintain a focus on what would be most helpful to the presidents and boards over the next few years.

The committee first agreed upon a vision for the club and then decided that the mission statement which has been in effect for the past few years is still appropriate.

The committee then developed strategies that will guide the club over the next three to five years to its vision and mission. The committee then focused on the shorter term, agreeing upon the tactics that should be implemented to move the club in a direction consistent with the strategies.

The plan developed by the committee was reviewed and this draft was approved by the board of directors. The board is now requesting that the membership at large review this draft and provide further input and comments. The draft strategic plan will be released shortly to all club members and at the May assembly the final strategic plan, with members' comments included, will be presented to the members for prioritization of the tactics through a DOT Priority Participation exercise.

Garfield Ganong – Committee Chair and President-elect

The professor was addressing an 8 am lecture.

“I’ve found that the best way to start the day is to exercise for five minutes, take a deep breath of fresh air, and then finish with a cold shower. After that, I feel rosy all over.”

A sleepy voice from the back of the room murmured, “Tell us more about Rosy.”

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At a diplomatic reception, Sir Winston Churchill was served a very weak whisky and soda. Turning to the waiter, he said, “My boy, which did you put in first, the whisky or the soda?”

The waiter, anxious to show that he knew what he was doing, replied, “Oh, sir, I put the whisky in first.”

“Ah, good,” said Churchill. Then, no doubt, I will come to it eventually.”

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A notice outside a temperance meeting said, “Alcohol kills slowly. Underneath, some wit had written, “So, who’s in a hurry?”

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Question: When should you never yell for help?

Answer: When you are hanging by your teeth.

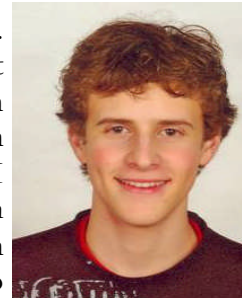
Question: What is one word to describe a very small mother?

Answer: Minimum

## Monthly Report to the Rotary Club Calgary West

It is still a burden to always keep up with what I do. But I'm still going to try my best in order to give you an ideal insight. In the beginning of December I spent some time working on my English portfolio which is a binder of around 5 essays. Other than that I spent time with some friends from school and especially with Jason who is pretty much my best friend right now. I stayed over at his place a couple of times when we threw some footballs, watched movies, and played some games. I also bought myself a new guitar and of course a case as well. I was inspired by Jason and Haakon (an exchange student) who love to play guitar. Jason and I had to do service hours. It was surprisingly a lot of fun when we had to stay in the school in the evening because it was hardly any work and Jason taught me some chords on the guitar that I had just bought. On the weekend after I had to spruce up so therefore basically just wear dress pants, my jacket, and a shirt in order to go to the Rotary Brunch. Martin was invited too and thus we mostly talked to each other. Besides, the food was extraordinarily scrumptious. Just one week later it was time for my first Canadian Christmas experience. Before that I got into a fairly odd sleeping rhythm by going to bed at around 4am every day and getting up at around 2pm. I still had a good time when I was finally awake. I had my last Rotary meeting before Christmas on the 22<sup>nd</sup> when I got a really nice cowboy hat that I have wanted for a pretty long time already. I spent my Christmas Eve at home with my host family and all the family members. Thus Aaron, Anna, Jen, Will, and Ben came over to stay here for the holidays. Anna and Jen are daughters of my host parents and Aaron and Will are their boyfriends. Ben is even Jen's son. We had a buffet with all kind of food you could ask for. Some friends of the family came over and it turned out to be a pretty entertaining and eventful evening. Everyone in the family opened his presents in the morning on Christmas Day. I got a "three day free ski pass", gloves and a bunch of other

stuff from my own stockings. On Christmas day we just had a turkey dinner within the family. In between Christmas and New Year's I spent most of the time with friends from the school. On New Year's Eve I had to make some phone calls with



friends in order to find out what they were going to do. Eventually I found out that 5 of my friends were going to meet in order to set off some fireworks and celebrate for until New Year at Sandy Point. I crashed at a friends place because it was too late to take a bus to my own place. On January 1<sup>st</sup> I met three exchange students and a really cool Rotarian at Joey Tomato's. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of January I went to Canmore with Haakon, Gordo, Emilie, Morgan, Louise, and Grace who are either exchange students or Rotex (guys that just came back). We left on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm from Grace's place where she gave Haakon, Emilie, and me a ride. We stayed at Morgan's cabin for until 11pm since we arrived in Canmore at 5:30pm. We got some dinner and played some poker with unpopped pop corn. Kai, a former exchange student, came over as well and we had a lot of fun. At 11pm Haakon and I went over to Gord's cabin to stay overnight. It wasn't really a long night because we didn't go to bed until 3am. We still had to get up at 7:30am the next morning to go skiing and snowboarding. We were pretty much the first people at Sunshine at 9am. We all split up in different groups which we shifted over the day. It was a surprisingly sunny day with a blue sky. Besides it was the best powder snow I've seen in a long time. Anyways we stayed until about 3pm and then we went all together home to Morgan's cabin. There we had dinner with her parents and went home afterwards. You can see that I have great fun here in Canada.

Fabio Magistris

## Hello Rotary Club of Calgary West!

Boldog Új Évet Kívánok! This means, in Hungarian, I wish you a Happy New Year! Here is a quick update of my New Year so far in Hungary. My New Year's weekend was really good. I spent it in Budapest with a lot of the other exchange students, and we had a blast.

I have also been really busy this month with Rotary. My Rotary club had their New Year concert January 6th, and Ariane, the other exchange student in Sátoraljaújhely, and I helped with coat check, and we wore our Rotary blazers. My club hasn't had a lot of activities where I have had to wear my blazer, the other times being school related. The concert was very enjoyable. I knew some of the songs they played, and was impressed by the skill and the range of musicians in the orchestra. It was quite a mix, from grade 7 and 11 students from the high school to members probably in their 70s.

I just got back, yesterday, from my other really exciting activity of the month so far, skiing in Austria. Back home in Canada, I skied a lot with my family: I have been skiing since I was two years old, and it was always something really important to me and my family. Plus, living as close to the mountains as we do in Calgary, I have found it really hard to be in Hungary at times because there are no mountains, and so I really miss them. And skiing in Europe has always been a dream of mine. Ariane has been really interested in winter activities because her winter is a lot milder in Brazil, only going down to about -10 C. She had never even seen snow before this year! Another Rotary club, from the town of Kecskemét, which is about an hour south east of Budapest, was going on a ski trip and taking along their exchange students. Ariane and I asked if we could go along, and the Rotary Club of Kecskemét said of course! So last week Tuesday Ariane and I left for Kecskemét so we could have our gear, we got rentals from one of the Rotarians who owns a ski/sporting goods shop, and on Thursday we headed for Mariazell, Austria. It is a small town with a ski hill, but we didn't actually end up skiing at Mariazell. The problem is at

the moment is that Europe is having unseasonably warm weather. In fact, it was plus sixteen on Wednesday in Kecskemét, so I was running around with just a t-shirt, no coat, it was so warm. And so there is no snow anywhere in Hungary, and as it turns out, only a bit of snow in the mountains in Austria, but only higher than 1400m. We skied at two different hills, one on Friday and one on Saturday. On Friday we were at Ötscher, and it was a really pretty location, but there was only one run open! I have never seen less snow on a ski hill and it still be open! This really is not typical for the area because they are used to having over 5 or 6 feet of snow in the town, never mind on the mountains.



On Saturday we went to Hochkar, which had better conditions, and was really quite beautiful. Everything was gorgeous, I was so happy to be in the mountains, and to experience European ski culture, we even saw a bit of après ski culture on Saturday when with the Rotarians we headed into Mariazell. The Rotarians of Kecskemét were all really nice, there were approximately 30 of us in total, 6 exchange students, and then families and just Rotarians.

I really enjoyed myself, as we all did, and the Rotary Club of Kecskemét was so impressed with Ariane and I that they invited us back to the Rotary Ball on January 27th!

Other than that, we are looking forward to a lot of Rotary Programs in February, including our country presentations to the out bounds from Hungary in Budapest on February 10th. Plus, my own Rotary Club is having their ball in February!

That is all for now, talk to you soon!

Szeretettel (With Love, a typical Hungarian sign off, it is like our sincerely)

Essie Chikmoroff

**(Two photographs on page 13.)**

## Calendar of Events

### February – World Understanding Month

February 14	Strawberry Shortcake Deliveries
February 16	Partners welcome
February 23	Rotary's 102nd Anniversary

### March - Literacy Month

March 12 - 18	World Rotaract Week
March 16	Partners welcome
March 21	Fireside

### April - Magazine Month

April 20	Partners welcome
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### 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

## MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Des and Eileen DeFreitas present their Dominican Republic Discovery Tour PARTNERS WELCOME

Come and enjoy Des and Eileen telling us about their trip to the Dominican Republic and hear about the projects we support and others we reviewed in February of last year.

Hear about *plantains* - boiled, fried and dried!

Visit the Haitian border and the market. See the UN in action.

Visit the barrios and projects supported by Rotarians in Calgary West and other Calgary clubs.

### FIRESIDE MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> New members and sponsors

Bring your partners, bring your friends and find out more about Rotary. A fun evening of information and interaction. All members welcome.



## Photo Page



For the life of me, I just cannot understand how anyone can like haggis!

But, then again, I can't stand garlic, curry, shrimp, octopus, sushi, and most other dishes that normal civilized folk eat. I think I am the only person to sit in the dining area of a Korean Buddhist monastery eating a Mars bar, while all others were making a valiant effort to eat what the monks ate.

So, my hat is off to you, Bob! Or, should that be Robbie?!

"Freedom and Whisky gang thegither!"

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us  
 "To see oursels as others see us!  
 "It wad frae mony a blunder free us,  
 "And foolish notion."



On September 10, 2003, Dan Varvos signed up as a white belt in the Korean martial art of Kuk Sool Won.

On January 20, 2007, after many testings and one final, especially grueling, test, he was rightly awarded a 1st dan certificate.

I can honestly say that the two other judges who came over from the UK - Steven Whiting (5th degree) and his wife, Rachel (2nd degree) - were very impressed with Dan and his fellow-students.

Congratulations, Jo Kyo Nim Dan!

Larry Doyle and Rick Dreja are showing the same spirit and determination! Kam sa ham ni da!

