

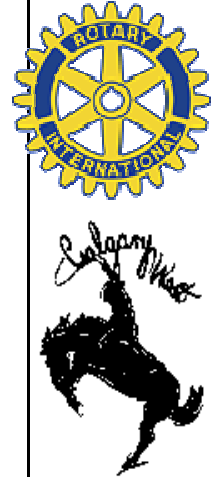
Rotary Club of Calgary West
(Service through Fellowship)
The Monthly WESTERNER

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, Mark Ferguson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali

January 2008 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

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2008 and the second half of Calgary West's Service Through Fellowship. I can't believe how quickly the first six months have gone by. Thank you to everyone for making the first six months a successful start to this Rotary year. Without the countless hours you put into the numerous committees of our club, it would not be the success that it is. I have had several people, including non-members, comment on what a great club we have and this success is reflective of your hard work and commitment to Calgary West's ideals of Service Through Fellowship.

These first six months have seen your board implement many of the strategic and long-term planning objectives that were begun last year. With multi-year commitments having been made to the Highway Clean-up program, Habitat for Humanity, Feed the Hungry and the Thailand International project, Calgary West has positioned itself to maximize planning for matching grants and multi-year programs, while maintaining flexibility for each president to make his or her mark on the club. Continuity will give us a head start each year in getting the club off and

running rather than re-inventing the wheel with each new board.

January is Rotary Awareness Month and I challenge each of you to find out as much as you can about Rotary through the club, district and RI web sites, talking to other members and attending events such as the upcoming District Conference in Lethbridge May 23 to 25. Share your knowledge and enthusiasm with our newer members as well.

We continue to have an exciting club that focuses on those items that you have indicated are important to the club. I am exceedingly humbled to have been asked to be your club president and I look forward to the remainder of my year working with each of you in Service Through Fellowship. Thank you for everything that you do.

President Garfield
Service Through Fellowship



Service and Matching Grants - Brent Barootes



CLUB COMMITMENT TO MICROCREDIT AND EDUCATION

As was noted last month, 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! We hope to have a presentation to the club about this project in the next few months.

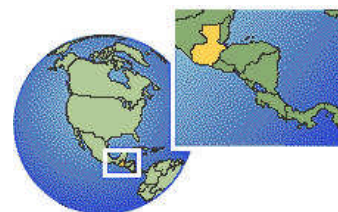
THAILAND PROJECT

In addition, the board has endorsed the commitment to a three-year project in 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. We are looking forward to a presentation on this project to the club in the next few months.



HEARTS AND HANDS – GUATEMALA STOVES PROJECT

It was moved by Brent Barootes and seconded by Bill Lawless that the club allocate \$10,000 from its International Fund toward the Stoves in Guatemala Project to be championed and onsite by club member Clarence Buckley and honorary member Evelyn Buckley, as well as championed by club member Bill Lawless. This is a one-time allocation with the possibility of long term commitment to be determined by the 2008-09 board and committee. Recommendations will be forthcoming from this year's committee on a three-year project. We look forward to a presentation by Evelyn upon her return from Guatemala.



Summary of the December 10, 2007 Board Meeting

Location: Central Memorial High School

Attended by: Garfield Ganong, Mike French, Lynne Thornton, Brent Barootes, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless, and George Edwards

Regrets: Marie Rickard, Mark L. Russell, and Brenda Sali

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm, since the requirements for a quorum were met.

Business Arising

- The club will revert to the original format for the 50/50 draw with the winner receiving 50% of the pot.
- Moved by Brent Barootes/Garth Evans for the club to match up to \$200.00 for member contributions on either their behalf or on behalf of an immediate family member to the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation. The club will match up to a maximum of \$5000.00 to the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation. The motion carried. Garth will inform the committee.
- All unpaid members have been contacted.
- The induction of David Rodgers to the club will occur as soon as possible.
- A discussion on name tags was tabled.

Reports

President

- An all-clubs membership fair was discussed and this has the support of Calgary West.
- Ronald McDonald House will have a barbeque in May or June to thank sponsors and contributors.
- A fund raiser selling paper garbage bags that would benefit all clubs was discussed.
- The Downtown Club will give financial support to projects of other clubs if additional money is required.

Treasurer

- Directors were reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that money from events is deposited quickly and that an accounting of the project is completed quickly. The chairs will be reminded that they must have director approval before any expenses are paid. Policies and procedures will be established and embedded into the by-laws. The board recommends that members considering a position on the board receive an orientation regarding the duties and responsibilities so that the members can make a fully informed decision.
- The motion to accept the Treasurer's report was carried.

Secretary

- The board approved the induction of a new member and the name will be sent to the membership once the board receives approval to publish the name.

Youth

- A budget item allows for host families of exchange students to access funds if they so desire.
- A budget item for an exchange student canoe trip is conditional upon the contribution that the student makes to the club.

International Gifting

- A motion by Brent Barootes/Bill Lawless for the club to allocate \$10,000 from its International Fund to the Stoves in Guatemala Project was carried. This is a one-time allocation, but there will be recommendations from the committee to consider this project for long term funding.
- The directors were asked to review the other reports on their own so that more time could be spent discussing the matter of long term commitments. Members are asked to read the directors' reports in this issue of the Westerner.

Long Term Funding Commitments

- Incoming President Lynne Thornton raised a concern that commitments to long term funding would limit the decision-making ability of future boards. Lynne recommended that boards have a limit placed on the amount of money that any board can commit to long term projects.
 - ◊ Through discussion, board members learned that a small percentage of the board's budget is designated to long term projects and this satisfied the board that future boards would have the flexibility and the ability to make decisions about the manner with which they would set up the budget.
- A second concern focused on the need of the board to keep members informed of the projects that have been approved (especially long term funding).
 - ◊ Members are reminded that the policies and procedures for evaluating any request for funding are available to members in the by-laws.
 - ◊ The board intends to inform members through cheque presentations and speaker programs devoted to projects that the club is funding.
- The board will research all avenues for matching grants so that the club can maximize its contributions to projects.

Other new business discussed was the ordering of more "Boltmen" for presentation to our guest speakers.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2008, at Central Memorial High School.

Masha's Page

Hello. My name is Masha Pronina and I am the exchange student from Russia.



I am really pleased to be here, finally! It took me three and a half months to get Canadian Visa, that's why I was two months late. My trip from home to Calgary was very long.

First from Barnaul, Siberia (that's where I live), to Moscow was three and a half hours. Then, I spent a day in Moscow. Then from Moscow to Frankfurt took almost four hours; seven hours in Frankfurt; and finally Frankfurt to Calgary was 10 hours!

When I came, I was very tired, because I am afraid of flying and can not sleep in the planes. So I slept the whole day long!

For the first few days I stayed with Bernie and Pat Ward. It was wonderful!

I'm studying at St. Mary's High School. It is a very nice place with a lot of interesting people.

Now I am staying with Margot McDermott. It is a great pleasure for me.

Since I am here, I have already been to the Rotary Christmas party, Winterfest for all exchange students of our district, three times to the theatre and two times to the Flames games! I like hockey very much!!!

In Russia, I'm a member of the YMCA, but our YMCA is completely different from yours. There, I am working in the camp as a counselor with children, and I also work in kindergarten.

I already graduated my school and planning to go to the university when I return.

So, I am looking forward to have fun here in Canada.

Greetings from Kearstin Plemel in The Netherlands



Hello everybody! I hope all is well with each of you!

I'm currently sitting in the library of school, completely soaked after my daily bike ride to school, in the rain (yes even in January, when one is in the Netherlands, taking the bike is never out of the question!). A lot of memorable events have taken place in the last month.

I should start with the most recent news! I've moved host families again! This is now my third of four host families. They seem very nice, their son Jeroen is on an exchange right now in Taiwan. The mother's name is Monica, the father is Lex. They also have two daughters: Josephine (16) and Rose-Marijn (11). I'm sleeping in Jeroen's bedroom (it's a little weird) on his huge water bed, its quite interesting.

Another highlight was Sinterklaas fiest! It's basically the Dutch Santa Clause. He comes on December 5th, from Spain on a boat, and his helpers Zwarte Piet and his horse, Americano ride around all night and deliver presents. Black Piet isn't really black, he just looks that way from going down the chimney and getting covered in soot!

I also was able to play a Zwarte Piet, TWICE! once for the local parade, and once for my host Rotary club!

The Parade was with the local professional theatre company, and took place on November 17th (Sinterklass' first arrival in the Netherlands). I was painted black as anything, threw my costume on and then we all hopped on a boat and rode down the canal towards the anxious crowds! As our boat came into view, all the children got excited and started screaming "SINTERKLAAS ZWARTE PIET!"

It was a lot of fun! Each Zwarte Piet is equipped with a sack of pepernoten and snoepjes (small cookies and candies) which he gives a handful of to each child! There were about 22,000 people at this parade, so that was a lot of eager little children!

The second time was with my Rotary club, for an evening meeting and celebration. It was really nice, I danced around and handed out gifts to each Rotarian in my club, along with "Sinterklaas", who was really a member of the Rotary club.

On December 5th, with my host family, we did surprises. This is sort of a Secret Santa, where each member of the family draws a name of another, they then have to buy each a small gift from their list, and make them a surprise to put it in. The surprise usually is about some trait of the person, or something

you know they'd like, for example, Kasper, my host sister's boyfriend, had me, and he made me a small windmill to represent my stay in The Netherlands! You also write a small poem to the person explaining things they've done that year and sort of explaining the gift! It was a really nice evening!

On the December 21st, Marco, a member of my host club, and his wife took me into the local city to see an English choir that he used to sing in!

In the Netherlands there are two Christmas days. The first I went for dinner with my new host family, at the Oma and Opas house. We met the rest of the family, watched movies, chatted and cheese and drank coffee, and then ate a lovely catered meal of ox tail soup, raw fish steak thinly sliced, wild boar and stuffed peaches, Brussels sprout with bacon, mashed potatoes, steamed pears and apple sauce! The second we just lazed around at home, and a few people came over to wish us a Prettige Kerfstdagen (Merry Christmas!).

New years was quite different here. Our family got together with friends and ate a meal of Chinese food, watched some TV and played music (I played some simple piano and guitar for them). Then I went to a friend's house which was full of every conceiv-

able member of the family and we celebrated there! Also, the fireworks here are crazy! This is the on day in the Netherlands when it's legal to set off private fireworks, so the whole day you hear constant BOOMS and it just gets worse until midnight. It really felt a little like a warzone! At midnight the whole sky was lit up and the air was thick with smoke!

In other news, Verneil has been keeping me updated with phone calls and lovely packages! I was lucky enough to receive some more of her scrumptious truffles, and got another family hooked on them!

School is going well, I'm teaching English here and my Dutch is Improving day by day!

I've been invited to go to Austria by my host family for skiing, and to Switzerland by a Rotarian and also my future host father, and his family, also for skiing! This exchange has been nothing but perfect since day one, and will continue to be until the time I get home!

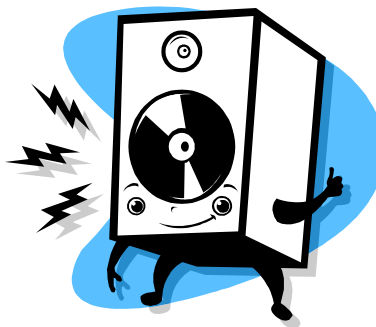
So thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.

Best Wishes to you and yours in the coming New Year,

Kearstin Plemel

Speakers' and Reporters' Page

Speakers for January



January 11 th	Presentation by our exchange student, Masha Pronina
January 18 th :	Maggie Schofield on the changing face of Downtown Calgary
January 25 th	John Walker on "Robert Burns, the immortal bard".

Reporters for January

January 4	Margot McDermott
January 11	Larry Doyle
January 18	Lynne Thornton
January 25	Don Axford



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