

Rotary Club of Calgary West  
(Where Rotary Works)

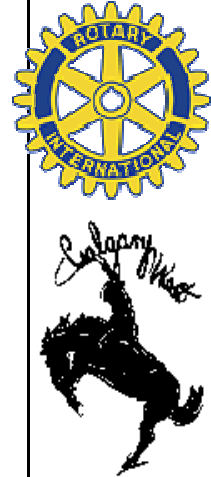
The *Monthly* WESTERNER

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

**President:** Garfield Ganong **President-Elect:** Lynne Thornton  
**Past President:** Mike French **Secretary:** George Edwards  
**Treasurer:** Derek McClary  
**Directors:** Brent Barootes, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless, Mike Reikie  
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali

July 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.**

### Message from President Garfield

Where has the past year gone? What a wonderful year it has been with Mike as president. He and his team are to be commended on making this past year one of the most exciting yet!

It has actually been eighteen months since I was elected as president-nominee. As president-elect, I have had the pleasure of serving with Past President Mike French and his board, where, as a relative new member to Rotary, I received a fast-paced education on the real meaning of *Service Above Self* and the inner workings of our club. During this time, I have also had time to plan for my term as president and I am pleased to report that, as of this date, all of the administrative aspects of the club, including committees, are staffed and up and running thanks to you, the members of Calgary West.

We have a talented and committed board of directors, and I know that each of you will respond to the call for *Service Through Fellow-*

*ship* when called upon, whether it be a service project, fundraising or administrative matters. It is the strength of many committed individuals that will make a difference in our world today and Calgary West is made up of those like-minded individuals.

I believe in open, transparent leadership and request that you talk to any of the directors or myself directly if you have concerns, suggestions and/or compliments.

Calgary West is the best club in the District: we have a history of making a difference, both locally and internationally, and we will continue to celebrate this throughout our 40<sup>th</sup> year as an active Rotary club.



## Mike's Mind Moves On

Time is running down and yet the meetings seem busier than ever. Will it ever end?

By the time you read this I will be Past-President Mike and Garfield will be in the chair. The new website will be up and running, though still in need of information. Calgary West clothing will be worn by many members and Stampede will be upon us with the break-fast and a friendship exchange.

And that is just what is happening now. Just look what we all have accomplished over the last year!

So I want to say "Thank-you" to each of you. Always some do more than others, a few lead the way and a few simply enjoy their meal – and much more so now we have moved to

"Sam's place"!

It's now time to pass it over to Garfield and for me to take my place supporting the club and the president as best I can from the floor. At least I can rush to the food first and chat whenever I want, and that is what I look forward to most – being sat at a table of Rotarians and guests enjoying the fun and fellowship of my Rotarian friends without worrying about who's up next and how long they will talk for.

So, THANK-YOU all for your terrific support this last year.

Mike



## NEW WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING!

Wow, it is done!! Well, at least it is up and running. Our new Calgary West Rotary Club web site is up and running. It looks great. There is still some fine tuning to be done, but we are up and running.

Be sure to visit it and *provide feedback to Garth Evans*. It can be found at:

[www.calgarywestrotaryclub.org](http://www.calgarywestrotaryclub.org)



We still are operating Club Runner and you have access to it through our new web site. Just click on the "Members Only" tab on the new site and then you can enter Club Runner member access with your regular ID and password. This means you can still use all the great functions of Club Runner (volunteer sign up, email members in the district, access district information, etc.), as well as having a great looking site of our own. Also, if you go directly to Club Runner, you can be directed back to our new site.

So, visit the site. Tell your friends and family about it.

**We need feedback!!**

## Club Service and Matching Grants Portfolio Update

A new Rotary year and a new responsibility! The committees are already underway in this portfolio and working on their objectives. The date for Feed the Hungry is set and that committee is reviewing a possible long term partnership commitment. As well, the Highway Clean Up Committee and Christmas Sally Ann Kettles committees are both looking to secure dates over the next little bit. We have signed off on a three-year commitment to Highway Clean Up for this year through October 2009. We are also searching for key community projects to get involved with. This includes searching out how we can become a major contributor to the Rotary/Flames Initiative. Once more information is available, we will move forward. Please remember we have a casino next month in support of Habitat for Humanity. This is how we raise \$80,000 or so for them!! Dan Varvos is also working on securing a "build date" and his Chair Mike French is investigating the feasibility of a long term partnership with Habitat as well.

On the International side, the committees are looking at what projects we have underway, what our obligations are and where else we can assist through both our club and matching grant programs. These committees will also be reviewing long term strategic planning as well, both through existing programs and possible new opportunities.

I encourage all members, if they have a pet project, or know of a great project we should get involved with (either locally or internationally). please bring it to the attention of the appropriate Chair. You can be the champion of such projects!! All ideas and submissions must be filled out on the forms and application documents that are available on our web site. The forms MUST be filled out in full and submitted to be considered. Forms can be found and printed off by visiting or clicking through to <http://www.calgarywestrotaryclub.org/pastbulletins.htm>. This is on our new web site. Be sure to visit it.

I am excited about the upcoming year, the great

work we can do ourselves, and through funding in our local and international community. Do not hesitate to contact any of the following people or myself, for more information. The committee leads and chairs include:



**Bryden Horwood** – Chair of International Committee as well as lead on finding new opportunities for long term international funding

**Marg Henschel** – Chair of Community Service Committee

**Ed Aboussafy** – Chair of Matching Grants

**Gordon Rodrigues** – Leader of review of all Community and International Submissions – These must be submitted through the application process to be considered.

**Ron Brookes** – Lead on Rotary/Flames Initiative

**Mike French** – Lead on Habitat for Humanity

**Helen King and Joe Klassen** – Leads on searching out new community project initiatives

**Rick Dreja** – Lead to recruiting volunteers for needs by community or international project manpower, Kettles, Feed the Hungry, Highway Clean Up, etc.

**Don Alexander and Ron Morrison** – Leads on Feed the Hungry

**Don Bateman** (and Rick Dreja for volunteer recruitment side) – Lead on Highway Clean Up

**Stan Cichon and Bob Hamshaw** – Leads on Alpha House

**Don Bateman** (and Rick Dreja for volunteer recruitment side) – Lead for Christmas Kettles campaign with Salvation Army

**Walter Krawciw and Al Rosen** – Assisting Gordon Rodrigues on application submissions for internationals as well as overseeing existing projects

**Marie Rickard** – Lead on matching grants applications for all projects that are applicable

**Brent Barootes**

Director Community Service and Matching Grants

Hello Calgary West Rotary Club!

I cannot really believe that I am writing a re-cap of my year already. When I was in Frankfurt getting on to the plane that was going to take me back to Calgary, all the feelings I felt in August when I was going to Hungary came rushing back. The last 9 and half months passed by so incredibly quickly, and are filled with so many memories that whenever I reflect on I wonder if that was really only 9 and a half months? The exchange student experience is something very unique, it's not easy, but it is in the end so rewarding. I know that I have houses I could stay in on 5 continents. I learned one of the most difficult languages in the world, and while I am not fluent, I can communicate very well, and that is more than 5.9 billion people can say!



But more importantly than the language, is the understanding I have gained about others. Someone once told me that if everyone went on a Youth Exchange it would be the end to conflict. And I have to agree that when on exchange you do not just learn about your host country and its culture and societies, but also about the cultures of the other exchange students. And you realize that you have more in common with a girl from Chile than you thought, or with a boy from Japan. International understanding is definitely an important step in world conflict.

As well as all of that, I have gained understanding of who I am and what is important to me. I realized that I can survive a year by myself, in a country where everything, quite literally everything, was different from Canada. I have grown and matured in ways I wasn't expecting, and really, no matter all the ups and downs, I wouldn't have changed this year for anything. I am so proud of my accomplishments, and eternally grateful to Rotary International for having such a program, to the Rotary Club of Sátoraljaújhely for hosting me, and you, the Rotary Club of Calgary West, for sponsoring me and launching me on this fantastic journey.

I look forward to doing my presentation about Hungary to the club, and seeing everyone at future meetings! All the best!

**Egészségetekre es Sok Szeretettel,**

Essya Chikmoroff



Sad, but, no doubt, fond farewells.

In the words of Vera Lynn:  
"We'll meet again,  
"Don't know where, don't  
when ..."

