

# 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

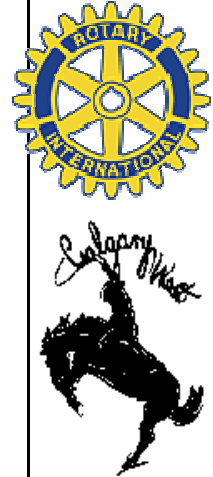
**Past President:** Chris Davis **Secretary:** George Edwards

**Treasurer:** Murray Hunter

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

March 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

As we pass from the cold weather of February, and the warm heart of Valentines, into the hope of spring that March suggests, we have much to be grateful for and much to look forward to.

I personally am so grateful for the warmth of the club, the feeling of being at home in Calgary West. As with any home, the leaders (the board) have from time to time to make decisions that are not agreeable to everyone, yet are in line with the policy and philosophy of "Fair to all concerned" that it set at the beginning of it's year.

And just like a home, from time to time, squabbles break out or grudges grow that are not resolved. Yet family is family and forgiveness and moving on from past slights for the "Benefit of all concerned" is part of what Rotary is about, part of the message of peace and hope that Rotarians spread to others and, hopefully, apply to themselves.

We are fortunate to have so many leaders within our club, so many shining examples of great Rotarians, those that lead from the front and those that lead from behind. Sitting behind the podium and surveying the members, simply sitting here, yes with an early morning cup of tea, pondering about what to write, I can identify the talents that each of you bring to Rotary – frightening thought isn't it?! The fact is you are all leaders in your own way; you all share your talents and experience to make Calgary West the best Rotary

Club and the best club to be president of. There has not been a moment this year that I haven't been proud to serve as your club president rather than any other club or organization, even if I do forget to wear my pin occasionally!



We still have work left to do and I know you are up to the challenge.

In March we have a major membership initiative; we want more quality members akin to those we have already in our club, and like those who have been introduced so far this year. Many hands make light work; many great minds make that work different and interesting! I like different and interesting because I know none of you are afraid of hard work: just look at the joint effort of the incredibly successful Strawberry Shortcake Campaign this year, and every year we have run it.

So support Frank's initiative and let's have a great day on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. (See Frank's article further in the bulletin.) Oh, and if you are a partner of a Rotarian or past Rotarian reading this, please consider introducing someone you know that might be a good Rotarian to the club. Children of our past members must be ready to follow in their mother's or father's footsteps, I would expect!

We still have money to spend, although our commit-

tees are doing a great job at processing projects currently in their hands. Please support these committees. Please present them new challenges if you have a project you wish to champion.

We also have money to raise, especially for our sponsored club, Rotary Sarcee, so let's show our Rotary caring and help them in their time of need.

And with caring, let's also help Alex by sharing some time with him when we can. He's still has a way to go before he returns to the club, but when I talk to him he is chomping at the bit to get back with us and help out.

And helping out means ensuring all members are active in our club, not just new members. This year I have given you each the responsibility to either be recruited into a committee or to get involved yourself. That is why you are in Rotary, to volunteer, to be involved. As I like to say, "I don't take hostages", so do it because you want to do it; I'm not dragging you there. If you're not involved, pick an avenue of service you have an interest in, or a passion for, and go at it. Need help? Give me a call!

We have other events, too, for you to participate in. There will be a "Fireside" before the year is out, although it has been deferred from March 21<sup>st</sup>. There is our spring assembly, where we discuss the club's

strategic initiatives and revised bylaws, both designed to improve continuity in the years ahead so that each new board can go into action more effectively.

There are Rotary events, the District conference and the International convention that you are encouraged to attend, whether you have been to one before or not. Interestingly enough, it seems it is those that have gone before that are eager to go again. That must say something about the information you gain and the fun and fellowship you enjoy! Both are really affordable this year and Garfield and I will share a beer with you if you turn up. (Note the careful wording here!)

We also have a friendship exchange lined up with some fellow Rotarians from Orangeville Ontario for three days at the start of Stampede week. I know it's Garfield's year but, hey, I've got the troops out working on it now, so we will be looking for some home hospitality and are planning a social get together on the first Saturday of Stampede. Please put it in your diary and get ready to show that Western hospitality you are all so good at doing. Yee ha!

I must admit I wondered what I was going to write about when I sat down and now, two cups of tea later, I could go on; but reading the tea leaves tells me it is time to stop because you all know how much there is to do to make the world a better place, both near and far; and we all know that we do that well at Calgary West, "Where Rotary Works"

**The New 50/50 Program at Calgary West!**

In case anyone may still be a little confused about the new approach to 50/50 sales at our club, here is a quick run down:

**Tickets sales:**  
One ticket for \$1.00 (This is no different than before, just being collected separately from meal payment, but no additional cost to what you paid before.)  
Three tickets for \$2.00  
An arm's length for \$5.00, and you can use any arm you choose!

**Payout:**  
Half goes to the club as always, but the other half is handled a bit differently now that there is more money at stake!  
Half of the half (or 25% of the entire sales for the day) go to the winning ticket holder.  
The other half of the half goes into the pot and, if the ticket holder is a member of our club, they get a chance at the pot. If the member pulls the joker from the deck of cards, then they win the pot, unless the pot is more than \$100. If that is the case, they have to state the Rotary Four-Way Test to win!\*

Have fun and enjoy the increased winnings!

**\* See the Four-Way Test on page 10!**

## Brent's Club Management Update

WOW! Congratulations to all those who participated in Strawberry Shortcakes. Under my portfolio was communications. To Robyn Braley - OUTSTANDING! Your committee has outdone itself with the publicity and awareness that this project received and overall for our club and Rotary! Well done and thank you!!

And I would be more than remiss to leave out the work delivered on Strawberry Shortcakes by Rick Dreja who chairs the volunteer committee, another portfolio under my directorship. Rick did a fantastic job recruiting over 45 driver and many navigators!! The sales team did a great job selling and, thanks to Rick and his committee, we were able to procure so many drivers!! Well done, Rick, your work is much appreciated.

Just a reminder that at the January board meeting the board confirmed that anyone who makes a donation to the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation between February 1 and 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!!

**Just a reminder for all club members.** If you have something to 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! 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.

Keep up the great work folks.

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

<p><b>Charitable Gifting</b> <b>Director-Bill Lawless</b></p> <p><u>International Committee - Des DeFreitas</u> The board has approved a \$6,900 to Shelter Box Organization for the purchase of six (6) disaster relief boxes and supplies for such events as Tsunami relief and Earthquake relief to name a couple.</p> <p><u>Community Committee - Mike Carlin</u> The board has approved three (3) expenditures from this committee as follows:</p> <p>#1-: \$3,000 for Further Education Society of Alberta. This organization offers literacy programs to multi-barriered learners.</p>	<p>#2-: \$5,000 to the Museum of Regiments in support of their Youth Education Program in conjunction with their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vimy Ridge</p> <p>#3-: \$1,500 to Capsule of Life program. This program is an EMS initiative that places capsules in the homes (in the fridge) to apprise any emergency personnel as to the medications required by the home occupant.</p> <p><u>Group Study Exchange - Carolyn Leece</u> This committee will be looking for billets for the exchange group coming to our district from East Africa. Please call Carolyn if you have an interesting billeting.</p>
---	--

Summary of February 12, 2007, Board Meeting  
 Lord Shaughnessy High School  
 Meeting time: 4:00 pm

<p>Attendance: Mike French, Garfield Ganong, Frank Burns, Stan Cichon, Marg Henschel, Murray Hunter, Bill Lawless, Brenda Sali, and George Edwards</p> <p>Regrets: Brent Barootes, and Chris Davis</p> <p>Business Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stan Cichon is meeting with Dr. Stuart Turner, Guatemala Doctors Project.</li> <li>• Murray Hunter is arranging for two non-board members to review the club's financial accounts.</li> <li>• George Edwards will inform Rotary International that as of July 1, 2006, our members totalled 83 not 87, as their records indicate.</li> <li>• Rotary International Significant Achievement Award: the Strawberry Shortcakes project qualifies and Stan Cichon will coordinate the submission by the March 1 deadline.</li> <li>• District Awards: submission deadline April 1             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ International Public Relations Award (Stan Cichon, coordinator)</li> <li>◊ Membership Development Initiatives (Frank Burns, coordinator)</li> <li>◊ Best Cooperative Project (Brent Barootes, coordinator)</li> <li>◊ Four Avenues of Service (Mike French, coordinator)</li> <li>◊ Presidential Citation (Mike French, coordinator)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The review of the bylaws depends upon the Strategic Plan and the feedback from the members and so was tabled until the next board meeting. The Strategic Plan has been emailed to the members. The new Rotary International Bylaws are somewhat different than the old bylaws.</li> <li>• The complaints related to the Danish Canadian Club and its food service was discussed. Stan Cichon and Marg Henschel will report to the board at the next board meeting. The board decided that it is necessary to poll members before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Due to the member survey on the Club Strategic Plan, it was moved by Murray Hunter and Frank Burns to eliminate the membership survey for this year.</li> <li>• Mike French will follow up with Ron Jones re-</li> </ul>	<p>garding the Harold Sharlow Songbook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marg Henschel and Bill Lawless will report at the next board meeting on plans for our 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations.</li> <li>• The matter of another major fundraiser was discussed and board members feel that the initial interest and the actual effort to organise and run a major fund raiser are at opposite ends of the scale.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business tabled:</li> <li>• Bylaw review</li> <li>• Rotary Club of Calgary West Society</li> <li>• Inventory surplus</li> <li>• Corporate memberships until Rotary International decision confirmed.</li> </ul> <p>President's Report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board endorsed the suppression of attempts to start new clubs. It seems that there are a number of Calgary clubs that are struggling at the present time and this should be addressed before any move to create new clubs is discussed. However, Mike French will meet with District Governor Raju Paul with an open mind.</li> <li>• Presidents-elect are invited to attend the All Presidents meetings; this will help maintain continuity.</li> </ul> <p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-annual dues, the Christmas Party, the Christmas Brunch and Strawberry Shortcakes events were reported on.</li> <li>• There was a report on the Casino account, the semi-annual dues to Rotary International and the SAIT scholarship.</li> </ul> <p>Directors' Reports:</p> <p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strawberry Shortcakes             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ 6200 sold</li> <li>◊ The committee has done an outstanding job.</li> <li>◊ Stan, Mike, Garfield and Murray will attend the committee's debriefing meeting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Casino             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ The club has not received a date as yet.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
---	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ We discussed the possibility of running the casinos awarded to the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown. It is early days and more needs to be learned before any decision can be made.</li> <li>• Gifting: International <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Shelterbox Canada will receive a donation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gifting: Community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Donations to three community service projects were approved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Brent's proposed motion was dealt with in the Funding report.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ The Board approved the resignation of Ed Helmich.</li> <li>◇ There are plans to have a membership drive so the Fireside will be deferred.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Youth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ A report on our school partnership, the Youth Exchange Orientation and the Four Way Speech Contest</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Activities; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Marg is looking for help at regular meetings (computer and projector).</li> <li>◇ She spoke about the Friendship Exchange</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	--

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 19 at Lord Shaughnessy High School at 4:00 pm**

**Club Satisfaction Survey**

The board decided at its last meeting that we would defer circulating this survey at this time. The survey has been conducted for the past several years and has been supported by about half the club members each year, and reviewed annually at the spring assembly. This year, however, we have circulated a strategic plan for your review and comment. Once we have those comments, we will be updating the club bylaws and forwarding those to you and, again, we will be requesting your thoughts and comments.

Both documents will then be reviewed and presented for your vote at the Spring Assembly. This will be a priority at that assembly. We feel that these are more than enough demands upon your time and, as such, we made our decision. We do encourage your active participation in reviewing and commenting on the documents being circulated.

**Environmental Committee February, 2007, Update**

Last Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Karen Morrison, Waste Wise Community Outreach Program Coordinator for Clean Calgary Association, made a very interesting presentation about The Clean Calgary Association and the city's recycling programs. She included a display of many of the products made from our recycled waste which sparked our interest and questions both before and after the meeting. Acting on Past-president Chris's query, **we will**



**institute a drop box at the reception table to receive your spent flashlight, appliance and hearing aid batteries** and recycle them through the Fire Department.

Coming up on **April 13<sup>th</sup>**, Jim Miller will tell us about the city'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.

## Getting to know you!

This month we will be getting to know **David Williams**, our stellar greeter, and **Lynne Thornton**, a ground-breaking member of the Rotary Club of Calgary West.

**David** was inducted into the Rotary Club of Calgary West in 2002 with the classification of Secondary Education. However, his involvement in Rotary began in England where he first joined the Rotary Club of Halesworth in July, 1983. He later moved to the Rotary Club of Bungay in 1986, of which he became president in 1994.

Before leaving England to move to Canada, David was a teacher at Bungay High School, where he taught various subjects, including mathematics, English, religious studies, computer studies and communication studies.

David has put his English and computer skills to work for Rotary as the editor and publisher of the weekly and monthly Westerner. This job entails checking submitted articles for typing errors and adding witty anecdotes.

David has also put his teaching skills to good use by teaching the Korean martial art of Kuk Sool Won, in which he holds a fifth degree black belt. His pupils include members of the Calgary West Rotary Club. This January after just over three years of teaching, David held his first 1<sup>st</sup> degree black testing for his students.

David is a member of the Management Committee under the heading Publisher.

**Lynne** was inducted into the Rotary Club of Calgary West in 1991 with the classification

of Public Relations. Lynne soon discovered that Rotary suited her; she really enjoyed the fellowship that goes along with being a Rotarian.

Lynne, is an instructor at SAIT where she teaches Communications, Writing and Speaking Skills, Interpersonal Conflict and Conflict Resolution. She describes her job as not only teaching but also coaching her students along. Lynne includes Rotary in her curriculum by talking to her students about Rotary, especially the Micro-Credit Program and Leadership. In 1993, Lynne had her eyes opened when she took a Micro-Credit trip to rural central Mexico where she helped to set up Micro-Credit Banks. What amazed her was that the young girls wore spotless white dresses; Lynne wondered how they achieved this when they lived in such poverty.

The Rotary Club of Calgary West made club history on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, by electing Lynne Thornton as president-elect for 2007-2008. In 1991, Lynne became the first lady member of the club and now she is to become its first lady president.

Lynne has worked at the district level as Chair of the Ambassadorial Scholars Committee. This scholarship allows post-secondary students to study for one year in another country. While studying, they have to attend Rotary meetings where they talk about Rotary in Canada. On returning to Canada, they are required to talk to Rotary about Rotary in the countries they were studying in

Lynne is a member of the Youth Activities Committee under the heading 4-Way Speech.

## Youth Programs Director – Brenda Sali

**As my other director colleagues before me, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all of the committee chairs and committee members for all of the time and effort they have expended so far. Without the individual efforts we could not have accomplished so much.**

This report will be the first of a few segments on what is going on within the Youth portfolio of the Rotary Club of Calgary West. I will focus on Youth Exchange in this issue.

### **YOUTH EXCHANGE (YEX) UPDATE (Chair – Brenda Sali)**

Although I have been the “official” chair of this committee for the 2006/07 Rotary year, I would not have been able to carry on the responsibilities of this role without the support and mentorship from Bernie Ward. My dig in and “learn by doing” attitude doesn’t always fair well when past experience is essential to meeting deadlines for Youth Exchange! Thanks also to Verneil Martin for her ongoing support.

After being turned down by Central Memorial to source an outbound student for the 2007/08 exchange year, plus a lot of scrambling and learning through the school of hard knocks (on my part!), we were able to set up interviews with three candidates.

With the assistance of Bernie Ward, Verneil Martin and Karl Herzog, we interviewed the three candidates and made a unanimous selection of a female student from Bishop Grandin School. Her name is Kearstin Plemel and she has just been notified that she will likely be heading to The Netherlands.

Verneil Martin has stepped forward once again to be Kearstin’s outbound counsellor. Thank you, Verneil, for your continual commitment and passion for this program.

Kearstin will hopefully be attending one of our Friday meetings very soon.

As this club knows first hand, the YEX program is a phenomenal program that has changed the lives of many of our youth (and everyone involved with

those youth). It is also very important that everyone in the club understands that this program is dependent upon the involvement and commitment of a number of members and others. The role of both the inbound and outbound counsellor is critical and mandatory to the program. We do have a need in the club to add more counsellors to our existing very committed team. Bernie and Verneil have been handling this role for many years now (with some relief for Bernie at times) and have done an incredible job. It is important not only to provide these individuals with a well deserved break from the role, but also to have more of our members experiencing this wonderful responsibility. I am pleased to announce that Frank Burns has agreed to be the outbound counsellor for the 2008/09 student and this will give him the opportunity to work with Verneil next year to understand the job in more detail and also to attend some of the district sessions to help educate him as well. ***Anyone interested in learning more about the inbound or outbound counsellor role please feel free to approach Bernie, Verneil or myself.***

The host families are also critical to the success of the YEX program. In order to send one of our amazing students outbound for a fabulous year-long Rotary exchange experience we must reciprocate by receiving an inbound student from another country. When we receive an inbound student it is the responsibility of the inbound counsellor, with the support of the club, to secure host families and our preference is to have four per year (three month hosting duration). This is a great opportunity for new members of our club to get involved directly in the program and to experience and influence the personal growth of a foreign student. ***If anyone is interested in being a host parent in the future, or knows of a family that you think would be excellent for this, please contact either Bernie or myself. Host parents do NOT have to be Rotarians.***

On a final note, please join me in welcoming Matt Hanrahan as the incoming Chair for the Youth Exchange Committee for the 2007/08 Rotary year. As a new member, Matt has shown tremendous interest in this program and is excited to take on this responsibility next year.

## Youth Exchange – Time of Sunset?

In recent years the topic of Youth Exchanges has been discussed at many board meetings and Rotary planning events. There are some really serious obstacles facing hosting and sending young people around the world, especially the area of increasing liability. The natural question then is: Is it worth it, or has the time past? There are many considered opinions from respected people. For us, maybe a natural starting point is: What is Youth Exchange?

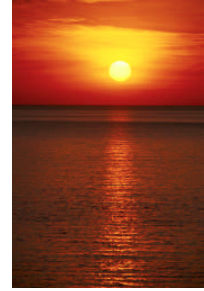
Rotary International offers “The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is exposure to different cultures. The world becomes a smaller, friendlier place when we learn that all people — regardless of nationality — desire the same basic things: a safe, comfortable environment that allows for a rich and satisfying life for our children and ourselves. Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures. This plants the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.”

Is this true? My children were never privileged to attend a long-term exchange (ages 15-18) for a year, but two of them took part in the short-term program (ages 15-19), where one party hosts the other for July and then they exchange for August.

Jim went to Italy and stayed at Milo’s home at Lake Como. Has it made any difference to him? I have heard it said many times that we in North America are isolated; we think the world exists only in our part of the globe. Jim’s world opened up to Olympic-size as he found a talent for the Italian language and that while European people think very differently about world events it doesn’t make them wrong! Jim has gone on to major in International Business and minor in Spanish. Has it made any difference? It changed him from the core and made him a better person in his world.

Roni’s experience was different. She went to Germany and visited graveyards, was taught to challenge adult authority (so the Holocaust would never be forced on a generation again) and found the people there “European citizens”, not Germans. But the real shocker was when Gisella was here in

Canada. Tears flowed that day in July as she reported to our Rotary club luncheon that the most common question she was sincerely asked by Roni’s high school friends was “Are you a Nazi? Aren’t all Germans Nazis?” If there was ever a case for promoting world understanding it was evident there that summer amongst young people who will govern our world as we age.



My children certainly had life-changing experiences as they traveled overseas, but one of the bonuses we didn’t expect was exposing all the high school friends to their exchange partners. Talk about bang for your buck! Have you ever looked at a new-born baby and wondered if he/she will change their world? Sometimes when my mind reminisces about how much Youth Exchanges have changed our lives, I also wonder if an unknown person – somewhere around us those summers – was impacted in such a way that when they’re an adult they will somehow contribute to “international understanding and peace”. Maybe Rotary International is right?

Long-term youth exchange is an annual programme which sends and receives young people across international boundaries for one year to study and learn about customs, education, philosophy and culture of other nations as a means of promoting international understanding. The committee administers the programme, working with the clubs, District 5360, the exchange districts and RI. The programme is open to young people between the ages of 15 and 18, children of Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike, based on written application and interview.

Short-term exchanges may vary in length from several days to several weeks. They are available to qualified students ages 15-19 — though New Generations Exchanges are open to young adults. Although participants in short-term exchanges generally do not attend school in their host country, they can tailor their exchange to match their interests, or to include tours of specific places or regions.

Doug Chisholm

## Monthly Report to the Rotary Club Calgary West

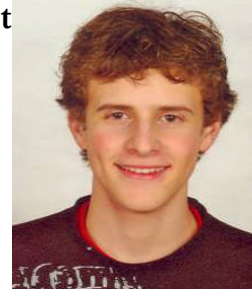
After my trip to Sunshine with some exchange students and Rotex I still had 4 more days of holidays until school started again. I went to COP with the Dutch guy on Friday. Although it was slightly icy and windy it was quite fun. In the afternoon they shut down all the lifts due to too much wind though. So we cancelled the rest of our plans and went to my place to play pool. Since I had been doing a lot I just relaxed during the last weekend before school.

Unfortunately I still had a Spanish final test to write and also 3 more essays for English before the end of the semester. On Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> I went with Martin to Mimmu's (exchange student from Estonia with the East Club) Rotary presentation. The presentation was really interesting and Mimmu has a truly amazing heritage. Martin crashed at my place that night in order to go to the airport in the morning right away to say farewell to Nick (exchange student from Australia). At night we played 27 games of pool which again drove us crazy. We decided not to go to sleep at all in order to not sleep in the next morning. Pat (member of Nick's Rotary club) was going to pick us up at 7:15 and I just had a shower before he came. Thus I was dead tired. Martin at least had a 90 minutes nap. Anyways Nick got to the airport at 9 am and he was going through the customs at 9:15. Once we got back to my place I just took a nap for 3 hours so that I really unfortunately missed Rotary. After dinner I watched Dead Poet's Society which I need for my English project. I also finished my entire Dead Poet's Society project by the end of the next day. On the same weekend I went to Chinook to watch the movie "Night at the museum" which was a fairly amusing and entertaining movie.

During the exam break (I didn't have any) my dad came here to Canada for 4 days in order to visit me and to clarify whether or not I want to stay here in Calgary to finish my education. He therefore arrived on Friday in the evening. We had a little party on Saturday with all my host families, Bernie, and Martin. Steve wanted me to hold my presentation again and also show some good pictures I had taken in Canada. The evening was really a lot of fun because my dad could get to know the people I'm staying with here. On Sunday we went to the Calgary tower which offers you a great view and also to Banker's Hall, which is a big shopping centre downtown. On

Monday we went to the Banff springs (including Banff) which was also the first time for me. On Tuesday we went to Martin's Rotary meeting which was quite special. It was a Robbie Burns meeting. Robbie Burns is a famous Scot who lived about 200 years ago. He was a poet and they celebrated him at his anniversary. There I even had to try a bite of Haggis that is part of a sheep stomach. I have to say that I will never try Haggis again. After the meeting I showed my dad around at my High School (Henry Wise Wood). I really didn't mind that my dad left again on Wednesday. That is simply the case because I have gained a lot in Maturity and responsibility since I came. On Friday I had a really special event in the evening when I could go with Martin's club to the Chinese New Year. The dinner was a ten course meal. Martin and I sat on the same table as the feature outbound exchange student from the Calgary Downtown Club and she was really nice. We saw a couple of typical Chinese attractions which was a good experience. After dinner Martin and I got a ride from the outbound to my place. Martin was going to stay over at my place until we were picked up in the morning by his counsellor to move some beds for a nursing home in Uganda for the Downtown Club. It took us 5 hours but we still had fun because it's for a good reason. Martin stayed over again that following night we had fun both times watching TV, doing several stuff on the computer. We fell asleep at 4 am both days so that we were fairly tired. We slept in pretty bad on Saturday though. I was supposed to go snowboarding with some Canadian friends on Sunday but I decided to sleep in and Martin stayed over again. That night we watched "911 In plane sight" which proves that 911 was an inside job by the American government. I assume it depends on the person if you actually believe it. On Sunday we went to the theatres and watched the movie "BLOOD DIAMOND" which is the best movie I had seen in a very long time. For the ones that haven't seen it it's about the civil wars in Africa and really impressive.

On January 30<sup>th</sup> I had my first day of Semester two. I had to get all my textbooks in the beginning of the morning. My first class on Tuesday was Social 10. I only chose Social 10 in order to learn something



about the Canadian politics and history. My second class was Biology 30 which is the hardest in the school and which is going to be a lot of work this semester. After lunch I had Pure Math 20 which is fairly easy for me because I have already covered the curriculum in Switzerland. Last but not least I had French 30 which is a surprisingly easy course and the standards are way lower than in Switzerland too. In the evening I firstly did my homework and than I cleaned my entire room for the first time in a month. On Friday I already left school at 12 o'clock because I was going to meet Martin to help organize some Rotary fundraiser thing for the Calgary North Club. We even got a lunch from the main Rotex guy in the district. We could go to his apartment and we got something to eat. The evening was really good because we they had a comedian and there were a couple of other exchange students who we could talk to. Our job was to sell tickets for prices and cell balloons with tickets in them for other prices. We stayed until 10 pm which was simply too late (I will explain later). Martin and I took the train home and on the train a random girl started talking to me. I found out that she was an exchange student too and noticed me due to my blazer. Well what are the odds to meet other Rotary exchange students on a train? Once I got home I had to prepare a lot of stuff for my snowboarding trip the next day. I was going with Martin, Jason (Canadian friend), and Christian who is

an exchange student that was here 4 years ago and is now here for 3 months. We had to get up at 6 in the next morning and Jason picked me up to go to the Westin hotel downtown. When we arrived to the shuttle Martin and Christian were already there. It was a wonderful and sunny day. Furthermore it wasn't even too cold today so the ideal weather for snowboarding. We all just had great fun today. The only downside right now is that I'm so busy with school. Well as you see I'm making some good experiences and having a lot of fun in Calgary.

For the few people that don't know it yet I made my decision to stay here and finish high school and afterwards university somewhere in Canada. Therefore I wanted to seize my opportunity and ask all of you if I could stay with a member of the club who lives rather close to Henry Wise Wood High School for the six months when I am going to finish high school. Even if you know somebody that might host me I would be really grateful. Of course I would cover the costs for my stay and food. I would need a place to stay from the beginning of August 2007 until the end of January 2008. Please get in touch with me during one of the Rotary meetings. I would be absolutely thankful if one of the members could host me or also if you know a person that would be willing to host me.

Fabio Magistris

## The Four-Way Test

This is one of the world's most widely printed and quoted statement of business ethics, and was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J Taylor (who later served as RI President) when he was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy.

It was adopted by Rotary in 1943, and asks the following questions:

"Of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
- 2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

**Publisher's Observation:** I think that the PowerPoint presentation which we see at our lunch meetings has 3) and 4) transposed.

**Kedves Members of Rotary West (Dear Members of Rotary West)**

I would just like to give a quick update. February wasn't quite as busy as January, and I haven't left Hungary at all. However, I have been busy experiencing some more Hungarian Culture, and sharing a bit of Canada with the exchange students here, both the current inbounds and outbounds.

So the first weekend of February I got to meet more of my host family's family when we went to celebrate my host uncles 50th birthday party. It was nice to meet a bunch of new people, including host grandparents and host cousins. And of course there was lots of delicious food. Sunday lunch is a really important meal in Hungary.

The next weekend was a carnival of sorts in Budapest where all the exchange students got together and made presentations in English or Hungarian about their country. So we Canadians got together, there are only 4 of us in total, all girls and 3 from Alberta. And we wrote a skit in Hungarian where we took some typical Canadian stereotypes, like living in igloos and it always being cold and sorta made fun of ourselves, but then told people what it is really like. We all got dressed up in either Canadian stuff, like the Olympic gear from the Bay, and I was a cowgirl, because I brought my Stampede Cowboy hat and clothes, and we had an RCMP officer. It was a lot of fun, and the audience laughed. We were first, so it was a bit scary, but the crowd loved us and were clapping a long to the song. We felt it was a success! Keeping the Canadian pride alive. **[See page 13.]**

This past weekend was really important for experiencing traditional Hungarian culture as we went to a tourist ranch and witnessed a traditional Hungarian Pig killing. I have to admit I was a little queasy and therefore didnt

see much of the pig dying. But I did try the blood! (They served cooked

blood for breakfast. It wasn't really good. But I tried it.)

And we went to a different farm in carriages and ate some traditional Hungarian fried dough much like bannok, and sang some traditional Hungarian songs. We also saw a Hungarian cowboy demonstration, which was really neat. One of the coolest aspects was they have this thing called riding 5 in hand or something, where a guy stands with one foot on the back of 2 different horses, and he has the reins for those horses, as well for 3 more in front. It was amazing, quite a site to see. Of course there was also lots of food, and lots of pork and sausage! It was a fun weekend put on for the exchange students by one of the Rotary clubs here in Hungary.

Other than that, life is going really well for me. I have reached that golden period of exchange where the language isn't too bad. Hungarian is really hard but I have lots of friends both exchange and Hungarian. I am busy and loving life. And so I would like to end this short update with a thank you to Calgary West for sponsoring me on this exchange, and a special thank you to my counsellor Verneil Martin. I know all of you know Verneil, and what a great lady she is, but I would like to just say thank you to her, and for all she does to make sure I am having a good time. I know that any problem I have I could go to her for help, and she is also great for helping with the little things.

I'm going to say good bye for now, and Köszönöm Széppen! (Thank you very much!)

Puszi (cheek kisses, which are very popular here!)

Szeretettel: (With Love,)

Essya Chikmoroff



# Calendar of Events

## March - Literacy Month

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

## 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

### Operation Eyesight Universal Construction Update

Operation Eyesight enjoys a long-term relationship with Rotary clubs, especially clubs in Calgary, including, of course, the Rotary Club of Calgary West, where our founder was a member. This is where it all started for OEU and we still have our world headquarters here.



As many of your members know, since September, 2006, the OEU headquarters building has been under renovation to accommodate increased activity, as well as a new major tenant, Wellspring Cancer Centre, which is helping to pay for the improvements. ***Once renovations are completed later this spring, Operation Eyesight will hold an open house to which Rotarians will be welcome to attend.*** We will keep you posted and look forward to the Rotary Club of Calgary West members joining us.

Submitted by Debby Maxwell and Patrick Hammond of OEU

### Front Desk Duties

Date	Cashier	Assist	Greeter	Host	50/50 Sales
March 2	Murray Hunter	Marg Henschel	John Rymes	Joe Klassen	Brenda Sali
March 9	Bill Lawless	Stan Beveridge	Marie Rickard	Lynne Thornton	Karl Herzog
March 16	Larry Doyle	Gordon Rodrigues	Brenda Sali	?	?
March 23	Helen King	Don Alexander	Brent Barootes	?	?
March 30	?	?	Paul LaFrance	David Watson	?

## Photo Page



For the above, go back to page 11.

As for Biggles Brookes, I know not!

However, I do have three questions:

- (1) Was the plane flying at the time of the photo?
- (2) If so, how was the photograph taken?
- (3) Further if so, how many nearby aircraft did he miss - or not miss! - while he was smiling for the camera?

