

Rotary Club of Calgary West  
(Service through Fellowship)

# The Weekly 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:** Mike French

**Directors:** Brent Barootes, Mark Ferguson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,  
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali



Date: April 18, 2008 Edition: 41.39 Reporter: George Edwards Publisher: David Williams

**President Garfield Ganong** called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. His opening remarks focused on a great number of projects that Calgary West is involved with and his motto of "Service through Fellowship" was aptly demonstrated. President Garfield closed his remarks by commenting that the members are contributing a great deal to the welfare of those in most need in our community and indeed throughout the world. The members have much to be proud of.

In a continuation of last week's message of doing good works and then telling people about them, President Garfield reminds us of further accomplishments that we have made this year. They are:

- Committed to a multi-year project in Guatemala building classrooms and stocking them with supplies, providing student scholarships and paying for the teachers,
- Committed \$10,000 for capital upgrades to the Feed the Hungry Kitchens,
- Built one house and have confirmed funding for building two more houses in Ensenada, Mexico, restored the eyesight of Juan and provided funding for continuing education for his daughter, Anna
- Provided \$8,000 in funding for a new summer recreation program for Kids Sport in Calgary
- Committed to long term support to Hull Homes, Big Brothers and Big Sisters and \$10,000 towards the Military Museum's Education Programs
- Provided funding for immediate medical needs for the Calgary Drop-in Centre
- Have created multi-year partnerships with Habitat of Humanity, Calgary Drop-in Centre, and Alberta Highways for multi-year highway clean up
- Have made a \$250,000 multi-year contribution commitment to the Rotary Clubs of Calgary/Flames Foundation
- Secured over \$50,000 in matching grants from outside agencies
- We have provided one-time funding for malaria nets in Africa, Group Study Exchange, Wilf Wilkinson Peace Scholarship, Clowns Without Borders, Shelterbox Canada, Operation Eyesight Universal, Rotary Challenger Park and others.
- We are participating in a number of Youth programs, including Rotary Youth Exchange, Adventures in Citizenship, RYLA, RYPEN, It's a crime not to Read, and we are looking at a new school partnership program.

**Don Axford** led us in the singing of our national anthem.

The head table guests were: **Jeff Spalding**, guest speaker; **Bernie Ward**, classification Trust Services, who would introduce our guest speaker; **Roy Thurm**, classification Engineer Pipeline, who would thank our guest speaker; **Chris Lee**, classification Geology; **Connie Lee**, Chris Lee's spouse; and, President Garfield Ganong, classification Engineering Projects.

**David Williams** took centre stage to introduce our guests and visiting Rotarians in his inimitable way. Guests included: the previously mentioned Jeff Spalding and Connie Lee, guest of Chris Lee; **Michelle Perratt**, counsellor

at Westmount Charter School, and students **Marc LeClair**, **Eslam Mehina**, and **Ambereen Weerahandi** who would be competing in our Four Way Test Speech contest after the meeting; **Myrene Glass**, spouse and guest of **Frank Burns**; **Brian Stalwick**, guest of **Steve Rickard**; **Sam Camel**, guest of **Verneil and Doug Martin**; **Barry Holiwell** and **James Faulkner**, guests of **Don Axford**; **Olga Pronina**, mother and guest of our exchange student **Masha Pronina**.

Visiting Rotarians included: **Fred Scott** from Salmon Arm; **Phil Wild** from Northwiche; **Catherine Evamy** and **David Leslie** from the Downtown Club; **Steven Cobb** and **Glen Richardson** from Calgary South; and, **Duane Schmeckle** from Calgary East.

Don Axford led the members in singing our traditional song of welcome and David Williams was very satisfied that this week's challenge had concluded.

**Derek McClary** gave the invocation and President Garfield Ganong asked the members to allow the head table guests to move to the buffet table before the normal mayhem commenced. As per President Garfield's request, the meeting's recording secretary's table did enter the line before the rest of the members and for that we are grateful.

President Garfield Ganong began the business portion of the meeting with the happy task of presenting Connie and Chris Lee with **Paul Harris Fellowships** for their amazing dedication to the **Feed the Hungry Program**. Since its inception, Connie has organised the volunteers while Chris has used his culinary skills to create nutritious meals for thousands of people over the years. The Rotary Club of Calgary West is so proud of Connie and Chris. They are models for all of us to follow. They are also very humble and normally shun the spotlight preferring to let it shine upon the many dedicated regulars and the volunteers who support the Feed the Hungry Program. In fact, President Garfield made it clear that both attended only because of the special request to be at the head table; who knows where they would have been had they known of the award and its reason prior to the meeting.

President's Walk-about:

- **Marie Rickard** reported that the Partner's Coffee Party was a huge success. Twenty five women attended and two male members, who also attended, were probably the lucky recipients of some lavish attention. The party was hosted by **Jane Beveridge** who seems to know no bounds when it comes to hosting events. The bar has been established and it is high.
- **Joe Klassen** reminded members of the upcoming fund raiser, A Night at Broadway, and that ticket sales are doing well but we need to sell more in order to have the event sold out.
- President Garfield Ganong announced that April 19 is the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Paul Harris.
- **Dan Doherty** spoke about the Kids for Cancer fund raiser that he and his spouse, **Marlene**, participated by literally giving the hair from their heads to raise **\$4000**. In total, \$40 000 was raised at the event. I am sure that Dan has noticed the *environmental benefits* of this as well as he needs to spend less time in the shower.
- SAIT announced that **Steven Crocker** was awarded the **Colonel Macleod Award**; this is our scholarship of \$1000.
- Steve Rickard reported that 42 submissions for the Peace Photo contest were received and that the judges were busily evaluating the entries to determine a winner. He also said that the District was hopeful that this would become an annual event that would involve the entire Zone and then the **World!**
- **Carolyn Leece** took over the main stage and received the usual raucous response from the members when introduced as this week's sergeant-at-arms. Carolyn raised copious amounts of money merely by asking members questions from the recent Rotarian magazine. (I feel that members should be warned of Carolyn's impending appearance as sergeant-at-arms so that they can properly prepare themselves; I mean it really is embarrassing for me not to have a clue as to how to respond other than "duh"! On the other hand, maybe the Club should just save itself the cost of sending me the Rotarian.)
- The 50/50 draw went to **Don Bateman**. (Does anyone else buy a ticket or does Don have a small printing press in his jacket pocket or was this one of his three wishes of the genie to win all the 50/50 draws since they are tax free?). For the record and Revenue Canada, Don won \$48.50.

**Guest speaker:**

Bernie Ward introduced our guest speaker, Jeff Spalding. Jeff is the current director and CEO of the Glenbow Museum. Jeff's life is the "arts". He has been the curator at several museums and was the 2007 President of the

Royal Academy of the Arts. Jeff is also an artist of renown and his art is on display at museums throughout the world.

Jeff began his talk using the Museum's tag line, Where the World Meets the West, remarking that the Glenbow Museum is famous throughout the world. Though its mission is to tell and portray the story of our western heritage that does not mean that it is exclusively about the *West*.

The Glenbow Museum is proud to have brought a variety of exhibits from all parts of the world to Calgary. The Glenbow Museum houses an excellent collection of African and Asian art, an exhibit focusing on World Conflict (military history and an impressive armament collection). The Glenbow Museum was pleased to have the Emily Carr exhibition.

The museum intends to bring exhibitions from other countries on a continuing basis to promote these cultures. Future exhibitions such as Honouring Traditions that will cover the past, the present and also speak about the future aspirations of specific cultures are planned. An exhibition about the life and the celebrity of Marilyn Monroe will begin later this year.

The Board of Directors of the Museum is dedicated to Arts Renewal and the museum has received 70 donations of 680 works of art from Canadians living in Canada and abroad. The museum plans to show the work of artists over a period of time to show how the artist has changed and developed. The museum does skirt controversy. The photo exhibition, Darfur, Darfur, was meant to draw attention to the crisis occurring in Sudan.

Jeff is pleased that the museum works with the City of Calgary diversity department in its efforts to welcome new Calgarians.

The museum has 1.3 million objects of art and artefacts. How can you help? You can support the museum by attending their exhibitions, by donating money or by sponsorship. The Glenbow has a budget of \$70 million (70% is raised by the Glenbow itself) and it is unusual in that their intention is to spend it all each year so that they can continue to do good work. With the size of their collection they need a new building and the search is on to find a suitable site.

Answers to members' questions:

- Insurance is a major expense.
- The library and archive department is not open to the public at present, but management is looking for ways to open the library and archives to the public.
- The museum always faces the dilemma of keeping objects of art and artefacts for posterity or for animating the lives of the people visiting the museum.
- The museum is available online.

Roy Thurm thanked Jeff for his talk saying that the reminder to visit the museum is something for all of us to act upon. Roy presented the world famous Boltman. Jeff's response: "We now have 1,300,001 objects at the museum!"

Future events:

- April 25th Dr. David Marshall President Mount Royal College
- May 2nd To be announced
- May 7th Club Assembly at Fort Calgary. May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting cancelled as the Assembly is designated as a meeting. Let's have 100% attendance.

Closing Quotes

I found the following quotes which I believe express some of the benefits we all get by being Rotarians:

The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others. - Gandhi

The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves. - Helen Keller

You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you. – Anonymous