



The Weekly Westerner

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3

Holiday Inn, McLeod Trail, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Sa'adat Keshavjee **President-Elect:** Grant Ritchie

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April 29, 2011 Edition: 44.40 Reporter: Brent Barootes Publisher: David Williams

This was a very special day around the world, in the Rotary District and here in Calgary and across Canada. It was supposed to be spring and as we approached the month of May in just two days we were experiencing snow squalls as we drove to our luncheon meeting. Our federal election was also just three days away! Just north of Calgary in Red Deer the Rotary District 5360 Conference was getting underway as our own club member and past president **Mike French** inches ever closer to his term as District Governor on July 1, 2011. But there was even more joyous news than all of this. On this day in history, it will be know that the future King of Canada, England [**Editor's Note:** BRITAIN, damn it!] and the British Commonwealth, Prince William married Kate Middleton (who will one day be Queen Catherine!) at Westminster Abbey and exchanged not one kiss from the balcony of Buckingham Palace (as his mother Princess Diana and Prince Charles did), but two!

The room was abuzz by 11:30 am with **Duncan Stanners** at the desk collecting cash for the meals while the publisher of this fine rag, **David Williams**, was greeting members and guests with vim and vigour! (By the way did everyone see the amazing article on David and his family in the Calgary Herald the previous week?) **Kurt Schurer** was also at the desk at the 50-50 position selling up a storm. In fact, he was able to raise a pot of \$104 with \$52 going to the winner of the 50-50. **Don Bateman** had been away for a while, but we knew he was back this week. Don won again! He took away the \$52. On average, Don wins the 50-50 six to eight times a year!

Don Alexander (as always and thankfully) was at the meeting early assisting the others in set up. Even **President Sa'adat** was early. So early, that **Don Axford**, who regales us with his fine piano skills prior and during the meeting as well as leading us in *O Canada* and delivering the invocation, was not even at the meeting yet. Sa'adat then decided we needed music in the meantime and hooked his iPhone up to the sound system and let us listen to the calm soothing sounds of Alice Cooper! Did everyone know that Sa'adat is presently taking piano lessons? Soon he will be able to fill in when Don is away for a week or two!



Vasile Douros was in attendance and we welcomed our long lost member! As President Sa'adat noted when introducing Vasile, who sat at the head table (an illustrious group), that, at present, Vasile sits on no committees and is looking to get further involved in the club activities. Be sure to call or email Vasile if you would like his help on your committee. **Lukas Larsson**, our outbound exchange student who goes to Austria in August for a year, also attended our luncheon on this day. He is a fine young fellow, who, we are sure, will make us proud as he represents Rotary and our club overseas.

As **David Hamilton** also noted to the club, **Carol McNaughton**, a grade 12 student here in Calgary, was away in Ottawa this weekend as our representative to the Adventures in Citizenship experience that is hosted by the Rotary Club of Ottawa. We look forward to her return and presentation on what she learned.

Chuck Morrison was scheduled to be sergeant-at-arms, but President Sa'adat was unable to fit him in and paid a fine of \$5 for his error in judgement in not allowing the SAA to speak. Chuck did do a fine job, though, in ushering the tables to the food trough allowing the scribe and his table to follow in behind the head table.

Our club was blessed with several guests (both Rotarians and non-Rotarians) including our regular **Terry McDonough**. But the farthest away (but, also, one of the closest!) was **Sydney Richmond**. Sydney and her husband live in Calgary, but spend six months of the year in La Penita, Mexico, just south of Puerto Vallarta. It was in La Penita this past winter that she "discovered" Rotary and joined the local club. So she is now home for six months and hopes to do several make-ups at our club to keep up her attendance at the club in Mexico. Be sure to introduce yourself to Sydney when you see her at our club and help her to be engaged with our activities and club fellowship. While she is in Mexico she teaches English to grade schoolers!

Marg Henschel reminded us that tickets for the Stampede Breakfast and Parade are available online. Be sure to go online to our web site and click through to the Stampede Parade and Breakfast page and order on line. Tickets are selling fast (\$40 each) and Marg reported that 350 have already been sold for this year AND 250 for next year! David Hamilton also noted that the committee is looking for people to attend other Calgary clubs to promote the event and ticket sales. If you can do this, please let David know as soon as possible.

It was also noted that **Debra Cartier** (who Ted Valentine noted had a birthday this month and must have been celebrating her 28th) had a new hair-do, a curly perm. One person noted (after the guest speaker **Bill Corbett** spoke nuclear energy as a viable alternate revenue source for Alberta) that perhaps she was working at a nuclear plant! The perm looks great Debra!



President Sa'adat called the meeting to order on time and after "chowing down", he introduced his head table. He noted the set up was a little different with him at one end and all the guests to his left. It sort of threw him off base on his script (three to his left and two to his right normally), but, as always, Sa'adat came through! At his far right was Vasile Douros with Marg Henschel (who took photos of the speaker) next to him and to her right was Past President **Joe Klassen** (who thanked the speaker), then Bill Corbett our key note speaker and then David Hamilton who introduced the speaker. President Sa'adat noted what a huge success the tribute luncheon for **John Rymes** had been the previous Sunday at Pinebrook, and what a fine job the organizers did to make it all happen. John seemed quite content as well. President Sa'adat also noted that **Alan Waters** and **Tim Anderson** were both inducted as Paul Harris Fellows at this festive occasion.

Mike Carlin took to the podium (on behalf of **Marie Rickard**) to remind all members that on June 1 Marie and the club will again be hosting the sixth annual Partners Coffee party. Be sure to tell your partner and mark the date! It will take place from 10 am to noon on June 1!

And, finally, **Ted Valentine** delivered (as always) a very entertaining and enthusiastic update on club birthdays. The entire club was in stitches laughing as Ted read out the roster of past and very past club members and their birthdays. The list did include several active members such as Duncan Stanners, Chuck Morrison, **Garfield Ganong**, David Williams, new member **Jamie Macleod** (who is probably still away on his honeymoon) and Debra Cartier, who all celebrated birthdays in April. Ted also reminded us **Marmie Hess's** birthday is May 3 and **Ron Morrison's** is on July 2! And just in case anyone wanted to know, Ted pointed out the birthdays of his grandchild **Max** and also **Kate Valentine** who celebrated in April, but also that **Stephen Harper** was celebrating his birthday April 30. Ted then encouraged those who might like to give our PM a gift to perhaps vote for him on May 2! Then Ted wanted to also acknowledge past club members such as **John Petryshen**, **Matt Hanrahan**, **Roger Jocki**, **Paul LaFrance**, **Gerry Madigan**, all of whom celebrated birthdays in April as well! Thanks Ted!

Guest Speaker

David Hamilton introduced our guest speaker, Bill Corbett. Bill is an author and a journalist, as well as an avid mountain climber and hiker, who has written much about this passion. But he also wrote an article about nuclear energy recently that got lots of attention in "oil based" Alberta. It is from this article and topic that Bill spoke to us.

Bill noted that his article was written before the melt down issues of the nuclear reactor in Japan after the tsunami. But, as he notes, even with Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Japan, nuclear energy is probably a great and viable alternative to fossil fuels. The question he asked us (and answered) is why should we be considering (or not) nuclear



energy here in Alberta. When he noted that nuclear energy produces electricity and that it alone can produce twice the level of energy needed for the oil and gas industry versus coal, why do we still use coal to produce electricity? When we look at it, coal accounts for 45% of all of Alberta's electricity followed by natural gas at 39%. Then wind and hydro account for the balance of 20%. Only a small portion of our electricity is produced from renewable resources or clean resources. The answer as to why we do or do not use nuclear energy is based around climate change and pollution. Until the issues of climate change and pollutions become greater, we will not see a need for nuclear energy.

Coal is way worse for the environment and climate change than the entire oil sands (and they are sure glad the oil sands are taking all the heat, so to speak). Even new coal technology is not great! We still get massive amounts of pollution and atmospheric issues which affect our climate and ozone layer. As Bill noted, carbon capture is a proposed solution, but the costs for such programs are outrageous.

When we look at nuclear emissions issues they come with mining and transportation of the material. Few times is there a safety issue of emissions once a plant is operating. It is important to remember that the Japan melt down occurred with a 40 year old plant and due to a natural disaster. And around the world, no new nuclear plants have been built since the 90s! Worldwide, there are 443 operating nuclear power plants and proposed construction on 63 more.

Bruce Power (of Ontario) is proposing to build a nuclear power plant near Peace River, a plant that will be good for 60 years. This plant would house 2-4 reactors and deliver the equivalent amount of power and electricity as four traditional TransAlta coal burning plants in the area. As Bruce Power and the Government of Alberta have both noted, the need and growth of need for electricity in Alberta (how do you think the oil sands operate not to mention growing population, etc) is huge and will need to double by the next decade. This proposed plant would be the first in Canada to have no provincial or federal government funding. If it is a go ahead, Bruce Power would raise the capital in the open market.

So is nuclear power safe? Sure it is. With improved technology, safeguards and programs to oversee production, it is safe. Will there be issues? Will things like Japan happen? Sure, they might. But sometimes it is human error (ask Homer Simpson!). It is all a perception issue. When 9-11 occurred, Americans felt it was unsafe to fly so they cut back on airline travel and shifted to the roads and vehicles. What happened? Thousands and thousands more died on the roads of America in 2002 and 2003 than ever before. Once airline travel picked back up, deaths on the highways dropped. All activities have risk, as Bill noted. Nuclear energy is a "low risk but high consequence" situation. The margin for catastrophe and issue of risk is very low with nuclear energy. But when it happens (Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Japan) the deaths occur and media coverage



is huge. When people care enough about climate change, nuclear energy will become more popular.

Coming Events

May 6	Lisa Vlooswyk – Canadian Women’s Long Ball Golf Champion
May 13	Rotary club of Calgary West – International Projects
May 20	Youth Program – Exchange Students and others
May 27 Danish Canadian Club	Luche Marmeluc – A Service to Seniors
June 3	Debra Yedlin – Calgary Herald Business Beat
June 10	Lana Dionne – YMCA
June 17	Dr Elizabeth Cannon – President, University of Calgary
June 18	President’s Ball
June 24	Special Club Program – Turnover Friday
July 1	No Meeting (Canada Day)
July 8	Stampede Parade Friday
July 15	“Stampede Yahoo” at the Holiday Inn
July 22	Wendy McDonald – Rotary District Employment Partnership
July 29	Martin Parnell – “Right to Play” – 250 marathons in 2010

Brunch April 17, 2011

By Jim Willson

The first CWRC Annual Spring Brunch? We accomplished several things at the same time. We recognized a stalwart member - **John Rymes**. We gathered in friendship to enjoy the hospitality of the Pinebrook Golf Course Sunday Brunch. We found out more about the Foundations of Rotary that we support. We raised funds for the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation. We recognized eight new Paul Harris Fellows. We enjoyed the fellowship of visiting Rotarians and past members. WOW!

Robyn Braley acted as MC and host, keeping a very busy and diverse program on track. **Willie Joosen** provided welcome and rousing music as the presentation themes required. **Elaine Brown** lead the national anthem. We all enjoyed the over-the-top brunch that Pinebrook regularly provides to us at Christmas.

Notable visiting guests were past presidents **John Collins**, **Bryce Nimmo** and **Claire Bildfell**, as well as past District Governor **Mike Smith**. Also joining us were **President Joyce Halpenny**, **Doug Fosbrooke**, **David Townsend**, **Allen Strid**, and from Calgary Sarcee (a club that we sponsored in 1998), **Earl Huson**. The president of our sponsor club Calgary Manchester (now Calgary South) also joined us. What a gathering - a full house of 120!



While the overnight snowfall was a surprise, the fellowship inside was fantastic. While mingling over drinks, the 28 silent auction items arranged by **Mike Carlin** and **Debra Cartier** beckoned us to see, touch and compete. Thanks to all the contributors and bidders for \$5,660 to be credited to the Calgary West section of the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation.

Dan Doherty provided an overview of the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation - and how funds are held in capital with all the earnings paid to the respective 12 Calgary clubs. The annual payments are the yield of the capital in the Foundation and are paid in proportion to the contributions of contributing clubs. John Rymes, former member **John Collins**, along with **Curly Galbraith** followed the vision in 1972 to create a vehicle that will continue to benefit Rotary service projects in Calgary in perpetuity. The annual payment to CWRC is the actual yield with a minimum of 5% of the capital. This amounts to approx 15,000 per year.

For charitable giving, we are blessed with two opportunities. The Rotary Foundation is the international foundation of Rotary. In this Foundation, contributions can be used to honour other individuals or recognize the contributions of the donor. **Mike French** (now DGE) presided over these awards, noting the history of Rotary and the Paul Harris Fellows program. **Joe Klassen** recognized his mother **Carmen Klassen**. **Bill Quinney** recognized his wife **Shelley Quinney**. **Frank Burns** recognized his wife **Myrene Glass**. Also honoured for their contributions of \$1,000 or more and their first Paul Harris Fellow were **Tim Anderson**, **Larry Doyle**, **Bryden Horwood**, **Duncan Stanners** and **Alan Waters**. Multiple level contributors will be recognized later.

Thanks to everyone for joining in the organization, fellowship, learning and fun. To quote a former member, **Mike Mulligan**: Rotary is having fun while we do great service.

JOHN RYMES; ROTARIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

By Robyn T. Braley

John Rymes is one of the most humble, quiet and reserved people I have ever met. And yet he is also a gifted leader who leads by example and through equipping, empowering and encouraging others.

Rotary happens through the collective efforts of many; through team interactions that create synergies in every sense of the word. There is no I in team, and John emphasizes that his Rotary achievements have involved many efforts by many others at many levels. John only agreed to be honored after being convinced that his story would also help tell the stories of the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation and the Rotary International Foundation.

To understand John's Rotary experience, it would be helpful to review his life story. John was born in Toronto and moved with his family from St. John, New Brunswick, to Regina and places in between.

After serving with the RCAF and Royal Navy Airfleet during World War II, John enrolled in the University of Manitoba. He met his lifelong partner, **Connie**, and later graduated as a mechanical engineer.

His career took him to Montreal where he worked for the Canadian Car Company manufacturing buses and various tracked vehicles. He later moved to Calgary as the Chief Engineer of Robin Nodwell, now



known as Canadian Foremost. The company manufactured tracked vehicles for various military and industrial uses in the far north. He later established his own company and played a leadership role in engineering or influencing similar heavy duty transportation equipment for use in rugged environments.

Calgary West was formed in 1967. John joined in 1968 and served as president in 1973.

Curley Galbraith had floated the idea of forming a foundation to grow and sustain pooled funds starting with \$40,000 that had been returned to the Downtown Club by the Provincial Government. The funds had been given to the Red Cross operated Children's Hospital to build a swimming pool and was returned when the government took over operation.

The Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation was the result. As time passed, other city clubs participated and today all but one are partners.

During the formative years John was asked to get involved by sitting on the board. He began to understand the potential and power of the program and embraced the concept of pooling funds to generate higher returns. Clubs contribute annually to the pool but so do individuals.

John is one of the two all time largest donors from Calgary West. John has also set up a scholarship fund in Connie's name at the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation for students at Mount Royal University. Similar scholarships have been set up in the names of former Calgary West Rotarians **Jo Johanson** and **Harold Sharlow**.

As John's business grew, he spent long hours on planes, one room air terminals, and hotel rooms as he traveled through Canada and the world. He took his Rotary Magazines to pass the time.

As his interest piqued, he read anything he could find about Rotary. He was particularly intrigued by the Rotary International Foundation and became one of the most knowledgeable Rotarians in the District on the subject.

John was asked to serve as a director, and then as District Chair of the foundation. He agreed to accept the position if **District Governor Ken Haverland** would commit to an aggressive program selling the Foundation through visits to zones throughout the district by a group they called The Rotary Foundation Road show. In those days the district ranged from Dawson Creek in the north to towns in eastern Saskatchewan, some in Eastern B.C. and throughout Alberta down to the US border. Giving to the foundation increased significantly under John's leadership.

In 1996 Calgary hosted the Rotary International Convention. The official process began with a letter written in 1987 from – you guessed it – John Rymes to Evanston informing them of Calgary's interest in hosting a convention.

Committees were struck and Calgary West Rotarians filled leadership and committee roles. John worked on a committee that included **Bill Tapuska**, **Crawford Caswell**, and others organizing a Paul Harris Fellow and Family banquet for the Olympic Oval. More than 4,200 attended.



More than 24,000 Rotarians attended an event that showcased Calgary hospitality and Alberta's ability to throw a party. In fact, there were times when bureaucratic types from Evanston were politely asked to get out of the way. Just under 600 names of District volunteers are listed in the 1996 convention report.

Along the way John participated in the formation of baby Rotary clubs. John, **Ron Jones, Clarence Buckley, Al Williams, Jim Willson**, and others helped birth the Cochrane, Sarcee, Airdrie and Centennial clubs. Today John continues to sponsor a table of eight at the highly successful Sarcee Club's Art Auction.