

Rotary Club of Calgary West
(A Year of Rotary Fun and Fellowship)

The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3, Elbow River Casino, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Lynne Thornton **President-Elect:** Karl Herzog

Past President: Garfield Ganong **Secretary:** Ron Morrison

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Marie Rickard, Jim Walker

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President Lynne welcomed members, friends and guests to our August 29 meeting noting that it was now the end of August and the beginning of the last long weekend of the summer. As well as the end of our stay at Il Gallo Nero and the start of our new adventure in Inglewood at 1008 4th Street SE. Some wags have pointed out that this is a pretty easterly address for a club that purports to be from the west. However, President Lynne pointed out that we are still west of Strathmore!

Don Axford, without a piano, led us in singing the national anthem and **Joe Klassen** delivered the grace. The effect of the piano absence were noticeable.

Marg Henschel introduced our visitors and guests who included **Shirley Valentine**, past president of the Olympic Club and partner of our own **Ted Valentine**.

President Lynne presented Natasha of Il Gallo Nero with a small cheque for herself and the rest of the Il Gallo Nero staff in appreciation of the kind treatment we have received while there.

Also President Lynne had driven **John Rymes** and **Madeleine Sharlow** to the Mount Royal College annual donor recognition reception. Both Madeleine and John have created scholarships in honour of their late spouses. MRC students expressed gratitude for their generosity at the reception. President Lynne also promoted the Shelter Box Gala coming up soon. Tickets are available from President Lynne.

Our exchange student **Valerie Lauener** has moved from **Garth and Pauline Evans'** house to **Jacqui and Wayne Brown'**s house. During the week Valerie and another exchange student (Marie from Germany) attended a Vipers game with **Larry Doyle** and had a lot of fun at the game as well as afterward when they got autographs from several of the Vipers' players and had their first experiences with "smokies", beef jerky and red licorice! Attending the Vipers game was on Valerie's "bucket list" and an attendance at a Stampeders game is also on that list. Can anybody help her out? **[See the box at the end of this bulletin.]**

Chuck Morrison reported that John Rymes was feeling under the weather but would be rejoining us soon. John would appreciate receiving telephone calls. On a more serious note **Betty Switzer** had back surgery on August 20 and is starting to recover. A get well card was circulated at the meeting. Betty has indicated that while she loves flowers she would rather people prayed for her. In a novel approach the

Switzer family has established a web site where you can go and get updated as to Betty's progress as well as leaving her messages. The web site is www.bettysupdates.blogspot.com

Eight CWRC golfers golfed at Innisfail on Wednesday, August 27. Scores were not disclosed but a great deal of enjoyment was had by the participants probably in spite of the scores. For those who might be interested my game was "succulent". But I still had fun and got to ride in **David Watson's** Jaguar. What a ride!!!

Marg Henschel announced the happy news that due to obtaining a new supplier the price for lobster at the second annual Lobsterfest would decline to \$36 for a whole lobster from \$42. Lobsterfest will be held at Switzers' on September 13th. If you want to attend and have lobster you need to order by September 1st to Marg as she needs to place the order by September 3. If you don't want Lobster it'll cost you just \$20 but you have to bring your own meat or whatever other prime dish you want to eat. **If you come do bring a driver for the golf competition. You do not need to bring balls.**

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Ron Jones wore the horse's brass as this week's SAA. Ron duly punished **Bryden Horwood** for his inaugural faux pas last week in referring the august office of the sergeant at arms as the sergeant of arms. Bryden duly coughed up his twoonie and was grudgingly forgiven. Ron then proceeded to pick the pockets of members by asking exceedingly abstruse questions out of the new Rotarian which nobody but he has read yet!

Don Axford gave a \$5 happy buck loudly announcing that because the first of his cataracts operation will be taking place early in October he was happier than a pig in sewage. The last part of the last sentence wasn't exactly what he said but it's close enough. Due to the generosity of his happy buck, however, no further opprobrium came his way!

Ron Jones, then in another incarnation, touted the upcoming Challenger Park Golf Tournament to be held at MacKenzie Meadows on September 15. Cost is \$300 and a good time can be had as well as the making of a contribution to a worthwhile activity.

50/50

Believe it or not, **Don Bateman** won the 50/50 draw yet again!!! \$31 this time.

PROGRAMME

Ted Valentine introduced this week's guest speaker, his eldest son **Tom Valentine**. Tom is a lawyer and practises as a partner in the Energy and Global Resources division of the MacLeod Dixon law firm. Tom has nearly 25 years experience in the oil and gas industry as a barrister and solicitor. In 2003 and 2004, Tom and his family lived in Doha, Qatar, where he was Senior Counsel (Projects) with Qatar Petroleum, the national oil and gas company for the state of Qatar. While in Qatar, Tom was responsible for a number of international liquid natural gas (LNG) projects. Since returning to MacLeod Dixon, Tom's work continues to be focused on oil, gas (including LNG) and project development work. He is currently involved in LNG projects in Nigeria, South and North America and the Middle East.

Tom graduated from Bishop Carroll High School in 1979. He earned a BA at UBC in 1983 and his law degree from Dalhousie University in 1986 and his Master of Law degree at the London School of Economics in 1989. Tom was called to the Alberta Bar in 1987. Tom is married to Samantha, also a graduate lawyer and they have four children. In closing his introduction, Ted mentioned that today (August 29, 2008) was the 81st anniversary of his parents' (Tom's grand parents) wedding anniversary. Ted also mentioned that Tom had some mentoring help from **Bob Kerr** of our club in deciding to take up law as his career.

Tom started his talk by observing that he is a bit of a workaholic. Once he asked his lawyer wife to help him with some legal papers in their bedroom and she accused him of work harassment in the sex place! But, seriously folks, he then got down to talking about the mineral resources in the Arctic and the fact that the Canadian government was going to spend some 100 million dollars to map the Arctic Ocean floor as well as spending another million dollars to find the remains of the lost Franklin expedition to the North West Passage.

This may seem strange but there is a purpose to it. In June of this year the US Geological Survey reported that the High Arctic may contain as much as 90 million barrels of oil – more than all of Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Mexico combined. Some of these reserves are clearly within Canada's EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) however the vast majority of these potential reserves are likely located deep beneath lands where territories are not yet defined. International law looks at both "geological shelf extensions" and historical presence in determining state boundaries.

American, Russian, Norwegian and Canadian scientists are diligently working away seeking geological evidence that the "continental shelf" of their respective nations extend as far north as possible. In other words, they seek to extend the "starting point" for the drawing of EEZ. In addition to this work, the discovery of Franklin's vessels may provide evidence of British (and now Canadian) use and presence in these waters, thereby strengthening the argument that these are national, and not international, waters. There will be an international adjudication as to which country owns what in 2020, so Canada and the other countries want to put themselves in the best position to get the best possible result for themselves.

Next Tom told us some of the interesting things that happened to him and his family during their stay in Qatar. Qatar is the wealthiest nation in the world. It is wealthier than Saudi Arabia, Dubai or Abu Dhabi. It declared independence from Great Britain in 1971 and hasn't looked back since. Qatar's North Field is estimated to contain 950 trillion cubic feet of natural gas which is by far the largest national reserve of natural gas. The major problem with this is how to get all that gas to market as pipelines to Europe and North America would be way too expensive.

The answer is to convert the gas into a liquid and transport the liquid gas via specially designed ships called LNG tankers. These LNG tankers hold the LNG in giant containers (like a thermos bottle) and are very safe. The LNG tankers resemble large ships each with four large globes contained within their decks. This method of transport is viable economically and Tom spends much of his professional life dealing with the multifarious legal issues which surround it.

In arriving in Qatar Tom related an interesting story. While waiting in the customs line he was standing right behind a Maritimer from Canada who was wearing a large fur hat with a long fox tail and sweltering in the heat of the Qatar airport. After talking with him for a while Tom asked him why he was wearing such a warm hat in such a warm place. The Maritimer answered in his broad maritime accent saying that when he told his father he was going to work in Qatar his father had no idea where or what Qatar was. According to the man his father proceeded to give him some fatherly advice in his equally broad maritime accent which was "Wear the Fox Hat", apparently to better impress the Qataris.

Tom told us a little about life in Qatar. It's harder to be a female there than a male because females must dress themselves in burkha-like garments to go outside, among a host of other things. Tom also told us about his family maintaining the Valentine family tradition of going tobogganing on Christmas day. They brought a toboggan with them and went down a sand dune. Apparently it worked almost as well as snow.

In concluding his talk Tom noted that he feels that Canada's energy future is bright and Canada will continue to be a major player on the world energy stage – both as a resource provider and as a developer of technology.

Bob Kerr thanked Tom and presented him with his Boltman.

NEXT WEEK

Our next meeting will be at our new venue at 1008 14 St. SE in the Joie de Vivre room. There is plenty of parking on the south side parking lot. Watch for the big number **1008** on the side of the building as you turn south on 14th street.

Next week we will hear a presentation on the Bow River Weir. There is some talk that it should be renamed in honour of Canada's current premier golfer!

Information concerning our new youth exchange student

Valerie Lauener arrived from Davos, Switzerland, on Sunday, August 10.

Our club will have the pleasure of hosting her until next summer.

Valerie is 16 years old (she will be 17 on October 3) and will be attending St Mary's High School.

Here is a list of some of the things on her wish list. No doubt there will be more to come!

- Calgary Vipers and Calgary Stampede games. Both of their seasons are coming to an end, so can someone please step forward to help.
- Live theatre, concerts, ballet, symphony orchestra.
- Calgary Flames games.
- Any travel with Rotarian families that is possible.
- Snowboarding.
- Tyrell Museum, Drumheller.
- Zoo.
- Glenbow Museum.
- Dinner with your family – a great way to get to know Valerie.
- She is open to anything else you think she might enjoy.

Valerie has to live by the Rotary Four Ds. NO:

- Drinking
- Driving
- Dating
- Drugs

Also, she cannot fly in any non-commercial aircraft.

Other than these things, she is pretty open.

Valerie can be contacted at:

Counsellor Pauline Evans' home: 403 257 2725

Valerie's cell: 403 589 4243