

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

**Treasurer:** Mike French

**Directors:** Stan Beveridge, Garth Evans, Mark Ferguson, Margot McDermott,  
Marie Rickard, Jim Walker

Date: August 8, 2008 Edition: 42.5 Reporter: Larry Doyle Publisher: David Williams



**President Lynne** kicked off the meeting by remarking that this was the auspicious “eighth of the eighth of 2008” and the opening day of the Beijing Olympics.

**Don Axford** at the piano led us in the singing of *O Canada* and **Des DeFreitas** delivered the grace.

**Bill Lawless** introduced our visitors and guests which included **Kirsten Plemel**, our outbound exchange student just returned from the Netherlands. Kirsten had her friend, **Thomas**, as her guest, who is from the Netherlands. He will be here another three weeks and we will get to hear from them both at next week’s meeting.

Joining President Lynne at the head table was **Hans Weisner**, our guest speaker, and his wife, **Lolita Weisner**. Also, **Jim Willson**, who would be introducing our guest speakers, and **Larry Doyle**, who would be thanking them. Actually, neither Jim, nor Larry, nor Lolita were actually at the head table, but that is probably not important.

**Marie Rickard** spoke briefly about the Youth Exchange project and asked members to discuss among themselves ways and means of improving the activity and to consider what ways they could participate in it, such as hosting a student for three months, or hosting a party, outing, or other activity. The club is having a problem getting host parents and may have to stop participating in this project for this reason.

**Karl Herzog** next asked us if we knew of the four avenues of service. These are club service, community service, international service and vocational service. The club is quite active in the first three. but not the fourth. That being so, Karl has an opportunity for the latter avenue for us. The Calgary Catholic Immigration Service is setting up a mentorship program for professional newcomers to Canada and Calgary and is looking for appropriate persons to become mentors. The program would be for a six-month period and would involve a couple of meetings a month to provide advice and encouragement. Those interested should contact Karl.

**Chris Davis** announced a pub night (more likely a late afternoon and early evening) for club members, especially those members who joined in the last two years. This is for fun frivolity and to get to know each other a little better. It will be held on August 21 at Joyces on 4<sup>th</sup> street, immediately North of Earl’s, starting around 4:30. Chris will send around an email on Clubrunner.

Our new incoming exchange student, **Valerie Lauener**, arrives on Sunday on Air Canada flight 121 at 4:45. Please be there to greet her if you are able to.

**Chris Lee** is in need of volunteers for Feed the Hungry on Sunday, August 17. Please give him any help you can. A Clubrunner email was sent last week about this.

President Lynne announced that the Shelter Box Gala would be happening on September 15 and the tickets cost \$65 each. Those interested should contact Lynne.

### **50/50 DRAW**

**Clarence Buckley** won the 50/50 draw of \$27.

### **SERGEANT AT ARMS**

**Chuck Morrison** was this week's incarnation of the great dread SAA! After many preliminaries, he managed to lighten quite a few pockets including that of your humble scribe! Good job, Chuck! (I think?)

### **PROGRAMME**

Jim Willson introduced our guest speaker, Rotarian Hans Weisner. Hans was accompanied by his Rotarian spouse Lolita, both of whom are from the RC of Red Deer East. Lolita was president in 2006-2007.

Hans spoke to us about his project, the "Walk to Beat Polio", which will occur in a six-week period in October and November in Spain from Seville to Santiago de Compostela in the northwest corner of Spain. The purpose of the walk is to raise money for Rotary's final push to eradicate polio worldwide. Every dollar raised goes to Polio Plus. All donations are eligible for Paul Harris recognition.

Hans is a retired chemical engineer who was looking for something interesting and challenging to do with his hobby of walking. He decided to walk the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James), specifically the Camino Frances from St. Jean-pied-de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela and then on the Finisterre. It was grueling, but he thought it was one of the best things he had done in his life. So he wanted to do something similar on a grander scale. Thus the Walk to Beat Polio!

There are several "routes" a pilgrim can walk in doing the Camino de Santiago, the longest being the Via de la Plata, which is 1007 kilometres, or 626 miles. This is the route Hans will be taking. It starts in Seville and winds northward through the province of Castilla y Leon to the cities of Salamanca and Zamora, through Ourense and finally Santiago de Compostela in the province of Galicia. This walk and its variants, collectively the Walk of St. James, have been performed by pilgrims for at least a thousand years. Santiago de Compostela has a cathedral which has a silver casket said to contain the mortal remains of St. James, one of the disciples. Making this walk is thought to confer significant spiritual benefits on the walkers and has been done for over a thousand years. Recently, it has not been all that popular, but in the last few years over a hundred thousand pilgrims have been doing it. Santiago de Compostela is one of Christendom's three holy cities. The others being Jerusalem and Rome.

Hans plans to walk 25 kilometres a day carrying about a 30 pound backpack. A tall order for an old guy! (I don't think that I could do it!) He will be staying in hostels called Alberques which provide sleeping space for the pilgrims. The accommodations are Spartan and collective and apparently not for the faint at heart. Hans says the snoring can be spectacular! Each pilgrim carries a "passport" called a "Sello" which is stamped by each Alberque, thus enabling the pilgrim to continue on his way and stay at the next Alberque.

Contributions to the project can be made in a number of ways. Details are at the project's website: [www.holoranch.ca](http://www.holoranch.ca). Judging from appearances, it looks like our club was generous in the contributions left on the tables afterward.

Larry Doyle thanked Hans and presented him with his Boltman.

#### **NEXT WEEKS**

Our next meetings will be at Il Gallo Nero.

August 15: Bruce Lee will be talking to us on memory techniques.

August 22: Kurt Schurer will be giving his classification talk.