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

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President Garfield kicked off today's proceedings by welcoming Rotarians and guests and noting that February is World Understanding Month and understanding poverty is the inspiration Rotarians need to eradicate it.

Don Axford's piano playing skills led us gracefully through the national anthem.

Joining President Garfield at the head table were today's guest speaker **Kathryn Valentine** along with her dad, **Ted Valentine** who was to introduce her, as well as **Lynn Thornton** (thanking), **Tim Anderson** and **Rick Dreja**.

David Williams introduced visitors and guests.

Larry Doyle said the grace.

WALK AROUND
President Garfield welcomed our exchange student, **Masha**, as well as **Fabio Magistris**, our exchange student from last year, as well as his father who was visiting Calgary to get Fabio ready for university in Canada. Fabio will be returning to Switzerland this summer and will then return to Canada in the fall (possibly Calgary!) to start his university career. Fabio thanked us for hosting him and for providing him with the opportunity to experience Canada.

Karl Herzog made on final mention of the cross country ski trip he is organizing for this coming Sunday.

Robyn Braley said we had 3,200 shortcake orders so far and mentioned that the shortcake project was to be featured on the Sunday morning breakfast TV show and that **Steve Rickard** would be interviewed on CHQR also on Sunday.

Marie Rickard showed us a picture of some ophthalmic equipment we had purchased for a hospital in Pakistan. Marie also mentioned a partners' coffee party to be hosted by **Jane Beveridge**.

Des DeFreitas told us there were more slots available on his upcoming Rotary Friendship Exchange trip to Orangeville, Ontario. More participants would be welcome. If interested contact Des.

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Not to be upstaged by his better half, Steve Rickard presented us with a banner he had received from a club in Costa Rica where he recently went on a Microcredit trip. There was a Microcredit fair there and Steve recalled a major success in the form of a pig farm. The Microcredit entrepreneur started with eight pigs for $400 and is now up to 29 pigs and shooting for 100.

Masha said she had been traveling around Okotoks and environs and had enjoyed herself. She will be shortly moving in with the Rickards and will hopefully not be too horrified by the experience!

David Marshall visiting from the Sarcee Club recollected the founding of their club ten years ago sponsored by CWRC. David remembered the contributions of **John Rymes** and **Ron Jones** particularly in the successful launch of the Sarcee Club. David also mentioned the tenth annual art auction would be happening soon and invited us to attend.

Roger Joki put in a pitch for more delivery help in the upcoming Strawberry Shortcake project.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Frank Burns was wearing the horse's brass today and fined **Dan Varvos** and **Brent Barootes** for being Greek in lieu of being able to get at **Vasile Douros** who was his real target, apparently for maniacal driving! **Bill Tapuska** was also fined in absentium for relaxing in Hawaii and for being afraid to go down the luge run he himself had designed! Also, Bill had won an APEGGA award for his contributions to Operation Eyesight and all engineers present were fined in honour thereof.

50/50 DRAW
The 50/50 draw was won by **Stan Beveridge** who went home with $46.

PROGRAMME
Ted Valentine had the privilege of introducing this week's guest speaker who just happened to be his youngest daughter. Also his wife's as Ted was quick to point out! Kathryn Valentine is currently the assistant director of exhibits and communications at the Royal Tyrrell Museum. She was to speak to us on the history of the Royal Tyrrell Museum and about what is happening currently with the Museum. Kathryn grew up in Calgary, graduating from Bishop Carroll High School in 1987. She graduated from UBC in 1991 with a BA degree and from there earned a degree in visual communications from Grant MacEwan College. She worked at the National Research Council in Ottawa as a graphics and imaging specialist for a couple of years before joining the Royal Tyrrell Museum in 1997 as an Exhibition and Graphic Designer and rose to her current position.

Kathryn has been at the museum for ten years now and appreciates it for the world class institution that it is. The museum's purpose is to collect, conserve and interpret paleontological history as it applies to Alberta. She describes it as the "lab rat" of the museum community, as groups from all over the world visit and enquire into its success.

Kathryn gave us a number of vignettes on the museum. It was named after Joseph Burr Tyrrell, a government surveyor who found the first dinosaur bones in Alberta, circa 1884. This artifact is now at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) with a copy at the museum. This generated what may be called "The great Canadian Fossil Rush" around 1900 which attracted lots of fossil hunters who removed hundreds of specimens from Alberta. Most of these are on display throughout the world.

In 1985, Peter Lougheed opened the museum and many more people than expected visited in the first year. In 1990, Queen Elizabeth II authorized the museum to use the appellation "Royal" and the museum

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became one of five museums in Canada to be allowed to call itself "Royal". This is not an entitlement which is given lightly.

The museum hosted the Western Premiers Conference in 1989, which raised the museum's profile and generated a set of predictable dinosaur related metaphors! The museum also has its own Big Rock beer called "Albertasaurus Ale".

Lynne Thornton thanked Kathryn and gave her our Boltman, noting that she herself had spent three years in Drumheller. Happily not at the correctional institute!

President Garfield, in his own inimitable way, concluded the proceedings with three absolutely horrendous puns which I imagine he lifted from one of his children's books. They are reproduced here in their entirety as an object lesson:

1. Why didn't the T-Rex skeleton attack the museum visitors?
   Because she had no guts!

2. What do you call a blind dinosaur?
   Do-ya-think-he-saurus?

3. What did the female dinosaur call her blouse making business?
   Try Sara's Tops.

MEMO FROM PRESIDENT GARFIELD
When an eel jumps out and takes a bite of your snout, that's a Moray!

ADDENDUM TO LAST WEEK'S BULLETIN
In last week's bulletin I did not include much biographical information about our new member, **Charles Buchanan**. Charles is a computer engineer who holds an MBA from Queens and is a partner with a management consulting firm. He is married with two girls aged six and eight. I apologize to Charles for not including this last week.

And finally . . .
"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics." Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)

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