

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

The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3, La Joie de Vivre, 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



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Pre-meeting Activity

The early birds were out at our first meeting of February with a large crowd assembled even before 11:50AM

Kurt Schurer and **Jim Willson** cheerfully and efficiently relieved the incoming guests of the obligatory stipend. **Helen King**, the smiling greeter, let no one escape beyond her gaze before getting “pinned”, even pursuing recalcitrant members as far as the bar.

Great fellowship was evident with the high volume of chatter and friendly discourse.

One committee ignored all fellowship and conversations around them and diligently kept working on! No wonder! It was the CWRCSGCC (Calgary West Rotary Club Strawberry Shortcake Committee), challenged with the responsibility of selling and then delivering thousands of delicious and beautifully decorated cakes for Valentine’s Day.

Student Exchange **Valerie** was selling chocolate covered almonds at the door. **Mike Carlin** demonstrated remarkable self discipline by not buying a whole carton.

And how about that **Dan Doherty**! He looked like he just stepped out of the pages of a men’s upscale clothing magazine!

President Lynne Thornton opened the meeting to a standing ovation from her members, a most appropriate rousing welcome for our president, having been away for a few weeks fighting a pesky virus!

Following the invocation by Mike Carlin, President Lynne invited the reporter’s table to join the head table guests at the buffet. The other members at the reporter’s table acted like they won the lottery!

At 12:37PM, the head table was introduced: **Marie Rickard**, the founding inspiration behind the SSCC, **Ted Valentine**, a direct descendant of the martyred St. Valentine of old, our special head table guest, **Jennifer Sundsten**, **Joe Klassen**, a perennial member of the SSCC and **Ron Brookes**, this year’s chair of the committee.

Helen King introduced nine visitors and guests, including **Emily Cadman**, our outgoing exchange student, **Bob Wiens and wife**, **Rod Bower** from the South Club, **Ian Burgess** from Calgary Chinook and **Chester** from Calgary East.

Announcements

Bill Lawless presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Bob Wiens as our club's contribution to 500 water filters in an indigenous area of Columbia. Bob described how this will have a huge impact on the health of the people of the region. Bob, acting as District chair of the District World Community Service, urged CWRC to provide a member to his committee.

Marie Rickard announced we are looking for candidates for "Adventures in Citizenship" with high academic standing and community service. It is open to students 16 to 19 years of age and there is an interview process. Please think of potential candidates.

Marie continued with a report on the Strawberry Shortcakes. Only 3000 sold to date, somewhat behind our target. Sales extended to the following Sunday. Jim Willson listed the most common complaints on quality control. 1. Order not filled out properly. 2. Cakes not delivered. 3. Not on time. 4. "Grouchy" delivery people!

So, here are some tips for deliverers

1. Plan your route
2. Fill out thank you cards
3. Count the cakes
4. Deliver in good condition
5. Add forks and knives
6. Be upbeat!

Integrity Awards Dinner February 24 featuring International President Lee

Tickets \$75 per person. Order from **Bill Tapuska**.

Valerie's Ventures

Another busy week, including snowboarding and a move away from the Rickard's residence. With the sale of chocolates, she hopes to pay for her band's trip to Halifax.

President Lynne's bad news/good news

Jim Walker had to resign from the Fundraising Committee, but Ron Brookes stepped right up to take it over!

Dan Doherty presented a cheque of \$20,000 to the Boys and Girls Club. Ten members of the B&G club (seven girls and three boys) will be taken to Mexico to build a home for children of the same age. Escorts are Dan Doherty and Mike Carlin.

New Meeting Venue

Garth Evans reported that we will move to the Holiday Inn on McLeod Trail on March 6.

Bob Kerr's 79 birthday was acknowledged with applause!

Frank Burns introduced our outgoing exchange student, Emily Cadman, who will be going to somewhere in West Europe. She'll be introduced to Rotary by delivering strawberry shortcakes.

Ted Valentine, as the sergeant-at-arms, just about fined everyone including guests!

50/50

Tim Anderson won the \$34 on winning ticket # 194

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker, Jennifer Sundsten, a student from the University of Lethbridge (BSc Environment), was introduced by Marie Rickard. Marie, besides being mother of the Strawberry Shortcakes project, is also very active in promoting Microcredit and is a founding member of the Rotary Action Group for Microcredit. (Take a bow Lynn Thornton: you, too, are a member.)

Jennifer told us that each Rotaract club must do one local and one international project per year. The project was for Microcredit for Costa Rica. There is support from a local Rotary club and a local Rotaract club. They work with an NGO called FIDERPAC. Previously, they did a project with the Flying Doctors of Canada and raised \$11,000 for work in Nicaragua. Five students with pre-med studies visited this project from the University of Lethbridge (UL).

What could they do or might they do next? The project had to have a hands-on benefit for UL students. They decided on a project in Costa Rica.

The Fundraiser: They held a dinner and silent auction named: Carnival de Caridad ("Festival of Charity"). All guests wore hand-painted masks produced by the students. The evening raised \$13,500. Four Rotary clubs – Olds, Stettler, Rocky Mountain House and Calgary West - stepped up to support the project to bring the amount to \$25,000.

The project was submitted to RI and won the Rotaract Outstanding Projects Award. Jennifer received the award at Los Angeles at the RI International Convention. There, she met three RI Presidents: Past President Bill Boyd, then President Wilf Wilkinson, and then President-elect D K Lee.

Going to Costa Rica. The project developer was Bajo Cerdas, San Jose, Costa Rica, along with NGO Fiderpac (Fundación Integral de Desarrollo Rural del Pacífico Central). Four students went to Costa Rica from UL. They were hosted by local Rotaract students. The presence of Rotary was everywhere. They assisted a school by providing urinals, sinks and separate washrooms for boys and girls. The previous washroom was an outdoor privy (one). They also provided white boards and other school aids.

The Money: \$25,000 was sent to Fiderpac to assist in the development of micro credit projects. 20 loans of \$1,000 were given. The loan cycle is four months. Interest is 11%. The Rotary Club of San Jose assisted.

The folks who receive money are given leadership training, hygiene information and entrepreneur skills. Jennifer spoke about two ladies and their projects.

The first was a woman in her 70s, Zenida Delgado, who bought pigs at \$32. and sold them at \$165. She also raises chickens and has a dairy herd. She supports her family including one great grandchild.

The second was Yamileth Loba Mendez. She used her loan to stock a store and then began a restaurant. She supports her family.

The matching grants programme raised the amount available to \$52,500!

In thanking Jennifer, Ted Valentine trotted out a whole category of kind references. They were all valid! A great programme!

Future Programs

February 13: Strawberry Shortcake delivery. NO LUNCH MEETING.

February 20: Kim Fiest - Adolescent Depression.

February 24: DK LEE, International Rotary President, at the Telus Convention Centre, 6.00 pm.

February 27: NO MEETING.

WE MOVE TO the Holiday Inn on March 6th.

End Thought: You will change the world today. Not me, you say: I'm not rich and famous and I'm just one person How can I make a difference?

But today you will lift someone up with a smile, an understanding nod or a kind word. Today, you will make someone's job easier just by doing yours. Today, you will be your usual caring self and that counts.

Past President Chris Davis sent the publisher the following website address.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09039/947753-82.stm>

It contains an interesting article about Rotary support for water filters.

Our exchange student to Brazil, Emily Rose, has a blog site: <http://Emily-exchange-to-brasil.blogspot.com>. If you just click on this Website address, you will go straight to it. Marie Rickard has told me that Emily updates this site regularly, so please visit it every so often.