

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

Date: February 8, 2008 Edition: 41.30 Reporter: Altius Publisher: David Williams



At our club meeting at the Elbow River Casino, President **Garfield Ganong** called the meeting to order at 12.15 pm and highlighted Rotary World Understanding month by asking us all to reflect on what this means and how it impacts us in our daily lives.

He led us into the singing of 'O Canada' to the music of **Don Axford**.

Introducing the head table today with president Garfield were keynote speaker **Bill Walsh**, **Brent Barootes**, **Bob Hamshaw**, **Steve Rickard** and **Mike French** (a proliferation of past presidents).

Murray Hunter recited the invocation.

Dinner was sumptuous as always: roast pork, grilled chicken, salads, vegetables, etc.

We had as many as twelve guests mostly from the other Calgary clubs.

Announcements and acknowledgements:

STRAW BERRY SHORTCAKE: **Robyn Braley** announced that we were at the six thousand mark and were shooting for the 7K target by midnight tonight. He encouraged all members to participate. He also asked if anyone had a media story on strawberry shortcakes. He mentioned that the media would be covering this event on the 13th and 14th February. Thanks Robyn and team for a great production.

SHORTCAKE DELIVERY: **Roger Joki** reported that he would be contacting all drivers and delivery teams shortly.

MASHA'S MUSINGS: **Masha** reported that she has had a productive week. She had dinner with **Verneil Martin** at the Calgary Golf and Country Club and went snowshoeing last weekend. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in Masha's exchange, please think about an opportunity where you can involve Masha with your family program.

NEW ROTARY CLUB FOR NEW CANADIANS: **Dan Varvos** is launching the idea of a setting up a new club that will engage the talents of new Canadians who have come from all parts of the globe with

their own experiences and are now settling into their new lives in Calgary. The event will be held on February 13th down town. Dan will be e-mailing all members with further information.

ROTARY PEACE PHOTO CONTEST: Steve Rickard announced a new initiative: A website designed to receive your favourite photo representing peace. There are prizes. He expects each member to send in at least one picture. Stay tuned for more information.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Chris Davis ensured that he missed no one! Fines for having a sweetie, not having a sweetie, taking your sweetie out for valentine's, not planning to go to the integrity awards dinner, not arranging a program with our exchange student Masha, etc. He even fined **Grant Ritchie** for not being here today to do his duty as sergeant.

50-50: Ron Morrison won the prize.

The Keynote Speaker

Brent Barootes introduced Bill Walsh. Bill, past president of the Calgary (downtown) Club was born in Calgary, represents a dynamic career and has been actively involved in Rotary for many years.

Bill's talk highlighted some very interesting and thought-provoking messages about change, the future and strategies for survival in this new era. He reminisced about the involvements of many of our members in Rotary and other professional initiatives and was most complimentary of our club members.

His talk included the following:

1. Globalization has created both opportunities and challenges. The change that we encounter needs vision and initiative and a plan to help us survive.
2. Status quo is not an option anymore. If we do not progress, we will regress, so change is constant and we need to keep abreast of it and do the needful to succeed.
3. Major institutions such as health care, education, housing and human relations are in serious difficulty because of their operations models. These institutions are facing challenges and are working towards changing to combat the forces of challenge.
4. We need new government. The government by "Johnson and Johnson" (band aid solutions) is not acceptable. Governments operate from election to election. Corporations operate from one financial quarter to the next; organizational models of the past are quickly becoming obsolete. Bold leadership and new initiatives need to be taken.
5. He cited Tony Blair as saying "Terrorism is a clash of ideologies" and implied that something needs to change for us to come terms with this diversity.
6. There are 200 million people on the move everyday!
7. Canada is ideally situated to take on a leadership role because of its workable model that caters to change, diversity and progress.
8. Books that address these phenomena include "The World Is Flat", "Freakonomics" and "The Tipping Point". He was talking about how these books, among others, provide for some stimulating thought.

Bill offered some possible ideas and solutions that may take one into this era with some comfort:

1. Let's learn from history. He cited John A MacDonald, Abraham Lincoln, John F Kennedy, and Martin Luther King. "Don't know where we're going till we know where we've been."
2. He talked about visions, goals, initiative, leadership, boldness and commitment where stakeholders are empowered to think and make changes that are progressive.

Bill Walsh concluded that the time to start is now and the time for progressive action is now.

Bob Hamshaw thanked Bill for his enlightening talk.

Next Meetings:

February 15th, 2008: Corey Olynik on “Leadership Effectiveness”

February 22nd, 2008: Larry Mathieson on Ronald MacDonald House

February 29th, 2008: Joe Pham on his experiences as a new Canadian from Vietnam.

IN CLOSING: Garfield closed with his quote: “The best leader is the one who has sense enough to pick good men or women to do what he wants done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.” – Theodore Roosevelt.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm.

And finally . . .

“They talk most who have the least to say.” Matthew Prior (1664-1721)