

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

The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3
Holiday Inn, McLeod Trail, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Karl Herzog **President-Elect:** Sa'adat Keshavjee

Past President: Lynne Thornton **Secretary:** Ron Morrison

Treasurer: Des DeFreitas

Directors: Stan Beveridge, Ron Brookes, Bryden Horwood, Bruce Taylor
Bernie Ward, David Williams



January 15, 2010 Edition: 43.26 Reporter: Brent Barootes Publisher: David Williams

January 15 - who would have guessed? It has been balmy weather for over a week. Today we will push the mercury to above 8 degrees Celsius. Oh glorious Calgary winters! How soon we have forgotten the three consecutive Friday snowstorms crippling the city in December week after week. But we celebrate the warm weather.

The members and guests gathered early this week. **David Williams** and **Roy Thurm** were on duty at 11:15 am to set up the room and prepare for the meeting. Roy then shifted over to the front desk where he sold 50/50 tickets (including the \$24 pot winning ticket to **Holland Berry** who promptly passed it along to **Bryden Horwood** as a gift to Alpha House.) Roy was joined by our stalwart front desk icon **Kurt Schurer**. **Helen King** was on the front door greeting members and guests with a smile and a hug.

Lots of fellowship took place as **President Karl** had to ring the bell a few times to eventually bring the meeting to order at 12:15. **Don Axford** then lead us in *O Canada*, after which newly minted new member and last week's classification speech speaker, **Marnie Cardel**, gave the invocation.

President Karl opened the meeting with the reminder that it was just 27 days or 4 weeks until the world famous Rotary Club of Calgary West Strawberry Shortcake deliveries will take place. It also, as Karl noted, 27 days until the opening of the 2010 Winter Olympics being held in Vancouver. And thus we were honored with both Calgary South Club member **Frank King** - who was President, CEO and Chief Cook and Bottle Washer for the highly successful 1988 Winter Olympics held here in Calgary - and Olympian, Crazy Canuck and Canadian Alpine Team Canada aficionado **Ken Read**. (Just a footnote: It was actually on opening ceremony's night in 1988 that the Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic was chartered.)

Then it was time to race for the cornucopia of culinary delights presented at the food trough (or the buffet for the more cultured readers). It was a scrumptious meal of a choice of salads, warm rolls and butter, mashed potatoes, cream niblet corn, mixed vegetables and crispy southern fried chicken and gravy. The head table went first and then sergeant-at-Arms **Ted Valentine** mustered the remaining plebeians to the buffet line. HOWEVER, Ted chose to break tradition this week and refused to allow the scribe's table to follow the head table to lunch. (Thus any missed reporting is due to the poor scribe having to eat and also listen and write down worthy recordings all at the same time rather than having the opportunity to eat and

then focus on reporting the happenings of the meeting to the masses!) Ted did do a fine job, though, of ensuring that tables were allowed time for valued fellowship and were ushered to the buffet line without having to stand and wait in line. The Holiday Inn also did a fine job in keeping the food barrels full for our hungry bunch. President Karl again thanked the Holiday Inn staff for such great service about 12:40 and began to move forward the program for the day.

Karl then introduced our head table with also another newly minted member, **David Hamilton**, who was to thank the guest speaker, our guest speaker, Ken Read, and the legal wizard and ski racing expert who later showed us his race stance on a podium, **Chris Davis**, who introduced our guest speaker. Also joining this illustrious group was Past President **Garfield Ganong** and our luckiest club member, **Don Bateman**.

Helen King then introduced our guests and visitors of which there were eight, and four of them were from Calgary South Club. Karl also updated us at that time about the Rotary involvement in the Haiti earthquake disaster. He noted that DG Steve Allen had communicated that, to date, 930 Rotary Shelter Boxes have already been dispatched to Haiti and another 1000 are being packed and shipped this week. It was noted that the Red Cross and Shelter Box were really the first ones to be on site in Haiti and assisting with the disaster relief.

Ron Jones then spoke about the Rotary Challenger Park Golf Tournament. He still needs few more volunteers, so if you can help with the golf tournament this summer of the upcoming casino please contact Ron Jones ASAP.

President-elect **Sa'adat Keshavjee** then encouraged club members to submit names for the Adventures in Citizenship opportunity this spring in Ottawa. The candidates must be 17 years of age and they will experience a wonderful trip to Ottawa for a week and flow through the citizenship process and possibly see how parliament is run (unless it is still prorogued). All of this is hosted by the Rotary Club of Ottawa. Be sure to forward your candidates to Sa'adat or **Bruce Taylor** right away.

Bryden Horwood then reminded us all of the need at Alpha House for warm clothes, mittens, socks and toques. He also noted that cash donations were more than acceptable. He thanked those who had brought donations on this day and reminded people if they had forgotten to bring such articles or money this Friday he will be accepting donations again this coming Friday.

Ron Brookes reminded us of the need for drivers for the upcoming Strawberry Shortcake deliveries. Sign up sheets were on the tables. If you did not get a chance to sign up, call or email Ron as soon as possible.

President Karl announced that the 2010 Rotary Photo Peace Contest was now up and running. Postcards of information were on the tables. This is a great annual event supported by our club and the winnings for the top three photos are millions of accolades as well as cash prizes of \$750, \$500 and \$250! For more details visit www.rotarianpeacephoto.org

And just before the introduction of Ken Read, we had a step back in the past. Our song master, **Des DeFreitas**, went through the archives and brought forward the piece written by our past president and club member, the late **Harold Sharlow**, which he had written for us to sing as a club back on the opening day of the 1988 Olympics here in Calgary. The tune was to "Take me out to the ball game" and we delivered a loud and in-tune rendition of Harold's masterpiece about hosting the Olympics in Calgary. Thank you, Des, for the opportunity!

Guest Speaker

Chris Davis introduced our guest speaker, Ken Read. Chris noted that Ken really needed no introduction and then he went on for three minutes and 10 seconds, or so, to introduce Ken! Good thing Chris kept the introduction short!

Ken wowed us with information about the Olympics, Olympians and Canada. It was a very informative presentation. He started off noting that what Harold Sharlow had written in his song back in 1988 was so very true. Ken then went on to talk about the “Own The Podium” program undertaken by the government, sponsors and citizens to further develop our high performance athletes and see if we can truly earn more overall and more gold medals than any other country in Vancouver this year. He spoke about the development of high performance athletes which was critical to succeed. And he noted it was about the need for human, technical and financial resources to make this all possible.

Back in 2002, the total budget dedicated to our high performance athletes in Canada - that is for **all** our high performance athletes combined, those training to win gold at the Olympics - was \$20 million. At the same time, Austria spent \$20 million on their Alpine Ski Team alone! Yikes, if we wanted to compete, we needed to put our money where our mouth was. Our goal is to go from the 17 medals we earned in Torino in 2006 to 35 medals in Vancouver this year.

In November, 2004, the Own the Podium concept came into existence. For this Olympics our government has committed over \$40 million (twice that in 2002) to our high performance athletes in human resources, technology and training. This is then supported by almost another \$20 million from corporate sponsors. The results have already shown even before the Games begin. The Canadian Para Alpine team was ranked 9th in the world a few years ago. This year it is ranked #1 because of the financial resources, technology and human efforts committed to these high performance athletes to “Own the Podium” in 2010.

As Ken described it, Vancouver will be the third Olympic to be hosted in Canada. First it was Montreal in 1976, which really showed Canadians what the Olympics was all about and brought the talk from the kitchen table to the forefront. People began to talk about our athletes, and our country, and say it with pride. In 1988, the Calgary Olympics were all about legacy. Calgary built properties like the Nordic Ski Centre in Canmore and the Olympic Oval and the Saddledome and Canada Olympic Park that have lasted and served athletes at all levels of experience. Truly, Calgary was about legacy. And, finally, this year it is Vancouver and it is all about the athletes. These games are bringing our athletes to the forefront and providing them with the tools, resources and ambition to “Own the Podium”.

Ken closed speaking about Canadians’ need and desire to win. Not just at the athlete level, but at all levels of our citizenship. The expectations for Vancouver 2010 are set. Go, Canada, Go!

David Hamilton, an avid skier himself, then thanked Ken appropriately and delivered to Ken our world famous Boltman.

Upcoming Speakers and Events

JANUARY	ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH
January 22	Dr Bob Schulz – Business in the Year and Decade Ahead
January 29	Catholic Bishop Fred Henry – Homeless in Calgary
FEBRUARY	WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH
February 5	Bruce Dowbiggen – Globe and Mail reporter. This meeting will be held at the Danish Canadian Club.
February 12	No meeting – All available club members delivering Strawberry Shortcakes

February 19	Governor Steve Allen, District 5360
February 26	TBA
MARCH	LITERACY MONTH
March 5	Roland George – National Energy Board Member
March 12	TBA
March 19	City of Calgary Alderman Jim Stevenson – The Airport Tunnel
March 26	Sherri Zickafoose – Calgary Herald Crime Beat