

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

Date: January 16, 2009 Edition: 42.26 Reporter: Brent Barootes Publisher: David Williams



Setting the Scene

As **President Lynne** noted in her opening (with a hoarse voice, but, always the workhorse, she galloped though the meeting), the sun was shining this day with January temperatures expected to exceed 16 degrees above zero this weekend! What a great day for a Rotary meeting.

Everyone was greeted at the door with a hug by our greeter **Pauline Evans** (but **Garth Evans** pointed out he never got a hug!). Old faithful **Kurt Schurer** was on the front desk at **La Joie de Vivre** collecting our lunch payments. Next to him was **David Williams** collecting for the 50/50 draw! The 50/50 draw, with a take away pot of \$25, was won by David Williams!! (Go figure!) [**Editor's Note: It's called the luck of the draw! And no sleight of hand was involved.**]

As usual, our own **Don Axford** lead us in *O Canada* as he played a triumphant version of our national anthem. Don, for his yeoman service, was also awarded the opportunity to join the head table at the food trough's "early line-up group". The invocation was delivered by **Ted Valentine**.

At the head table this past week was an illustrious crowd. On either side of our guest speaker, **Dr. Leonard Waverman**, the Dean of the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary, were **Bryden Horwood**, who introduced our speaker (with a description of his past qualifications that almost made this reporter think Bryden was the speaker due to the length of the introduction) and **Des DeFreitas** who thanked our speaker (and also had a major soliloquy almost the length of Lady Macbeth's – WOW three speakers this week!). The table was rounded out by **David Watson**, a past club treasurer and the driving force behind our involvement in the Rotary Challenger Park project, and Past-President **Bob Hamshaw** (who doubles as the First Hunk – husband to President Lynne).

Our guests were introduced by the same man who tried to sell us 50/50 tickets, David Williams. [**Editor's Note: I didn't TRY to sell the tickets. I did sell the tickets!**] This week we had four visitors (two guests and two visiting Rotarians) with easy names to pronounce. David did a great job, and quick. What is more, as a club we did a fantastic job at the "rat a tat tat" format with no one out of sync. (Perhaps **Larry Doyle** was not in attendance!)

To our grand luck, for an encore visit for a second week in a row, our **Past-President Garfield Ganong** was sergeant-at-arms. This week, though, the haul was not so great. He did lighten the pockets of a table of past presidents and a president-elect, and a president-elect after the existing president-elect (**Karl and Sa'adat**) who could not tell him that January is Rotary Awareness month. They are all now aware, and

two dollars less rich! Garfield also noted that **MIKE FRENCH** was being fined in absentium and should be collected from this coming Friday for \$2 for not having the 2007-08 club accounting books complete.

Noteworthy Notes and Announcements

President Lynne also announced that there **will NOT be a regular meeting on Friday, February 13**, since all of us that are in town that day will most likely be delivering Strawberry Shortcakes! The actual meeting is not cancelled officially...just the venue has changed...to our vehicles! That is our delivery date for Strawberry Shortcakes. Also, since **RI President D.K. Lee** will be in Calgary on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 24 and 25, for special events including a dinner for all local Rotarians integrated with our Integrity Awards, there will be no regular club meetings for any of the clubs that week. All Rotarians are encouraged to attend the D.K. Lee dinner on Tuesday, February 24, that week as your regular meeting. Thus, **NO MEETING will be held in our regular location on Friday, February 27**, either. (Please note the date change for no regular meeting from last week's bulletin – scribe error in typing.)

Ron Brookes and **Joe Klassen** both reminded us that our annual major fundraiser, **Strawberry Shortcakes**, is up and running. Order forms are available on line at www.strawberryshortcakes.ca. **Jim Willson** has sent a sample email note for all of us to send out with the information forwarded by Ron. Be sure to encourage your friends, family and business relations to order lots! There is also a **need for drivers for delivery, as well as people to assemble fork and napkin bags and also shipping box assembly**. The team also needs support ringing through credit card transactions. If you can help in any of these areas, please contact **Ron Brookes** as soon as possible.

Karl Herzog reported that the Motive Action casino this past weekend was a huge success. He also thanked the 20 club members who came out and worked the Casino and made it such a success. He was then fined by the sergeant-at-arms for raising so much money!!

Karl also reported that the venue selection committee has completed their work! After reviewing over 20 venues and extensive work on the final four selections, the committee is recommending to the board that our new permanent home be the Holiday Inn on MacLeod Trail and 42nd Ave. The board will vote on it on Monday, January 20! Below is a copy of the report.

Venue Committee Recommendation Report

“In December, we reported to the club that of the 42 venues we investigated, four locations were shortlisted for further consideration. These venues were the Holiday Inn 42nd Ave, The Danish Canadian Club, La Joie de Vivre and the Carriage House Inn. These locations were chosen because they provided the best combination of 1) suitable facilities, 2) quality food, 3) parking 4) accessibility and 5) affordability.

“Since that time, the committee has met a number of times to look into the venues more closely. We also met with Peter at the Danish Canadian Club to discuss his services, and, as you know, we visited the Holiday Inn to see what they had to offer and get feedback from our members.

“I’m here to report that our research is now complete. I feel the committee has done a thorough job of looking into the options and I feel we’ve taken into account the comments from our members to the best of our ability. The venue committee recommends, to you, the members, and the board, that Calgary West hold its meetings at the Holiday Inn at 42nd Ave.

“To be honest, it was not an easy choice because all of the shortlisted venues are able to provide decent services and each of them has positive attributes. Nevertheless, the committee’s goal was to recommend the one location that best meets our current and future needs and we recommend the Holiday Inn.

“There is one additional point that needs to be addressed, and that is the widespread opinion among members that we need to chose one place and stay there. Well, I’m afraid I cannot promise that the Holiday Inn will always meet our needs. I’m sure that our future administrations will do their best to maintain a good working relationship, but, given today’s economic climate, I don’t think any of the venues can say “Till death do us part!” The good news is that there are three other venues that are open and interested in our business-whether it be for special events or during times of renovation or vacation – so this means we have options.

“The next step in the process, according to the bylaws, is to have the committee make a recommendation to the board at our next meeting which is taking place on Monday, January 19. Members are welcome to send me any comments and suggestions they feel would be helpful.

“We are very thankful to the management of La Joie de Vivre for all they have done in trying to meet our needs and we look forward to a long association.

“In closing, I’d like to thank our dedicated committee members and volunteers - President Lynne, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless, Bryden Horwood, Bill Tapuska, Chris Davis, Joe Klassen, Sa’adat Keshavjee, Steve Rickard, Marg Henschel and Frank Burns - for their efforts on behalf of Calgary West.

“Thank you”

President Lynne announced that we received a Christmas card (with many stamps and special delivery marked on it!) from **Emily**, our outbound exchange student in Brazil and her Brazilian Rotary club. She could not read it to us as it was in Portuguese! But it is the thought that counts. Again this week we missed the update from our exchange student, **Valerie**. Boy, she must be busy at school!

President Lynne also announced the passing of **Dan Doherty’s** father in law, Marlene’s dad. The club sends its thoughts and prayers to both families at this time.

Dan Varvos reminded us that our Habitat for Humanity Casino was coming up quickly and that he would circulate information immediately following the meeting. He also announced we would be building a house for Habitat this year.

Guest Speaker

Once the introducer had finished delivering a lengthy introduction, our speaker approached the podium and began to regale us with vast information and knowledge on oil and the economy. Dr Waverman was an excellent speaker with a great (dry) sense of humour.

It was an interesting presentation (by someone originally from the former centre of the universe – Toronto) and very informative. The basic premise was that it is the credit crisis that has caused the drop in oil pricing. It was interesting to better understand the value of oil today versus July and how the effects of downgraded capital investment in the oil sands comes, not from the present price of oil, but rather the lack of cash available for investment through the banks. His closing comments about oil prediction pricing came with a caveat he once learned: “When predicting oil prices, never include the price and the date in the same sentence!”

Upcoming Meetings:

January 23: Our own Bob Kerr and his Annual Robbie Burns Tribute

January 30: Mitchell Ravvin and Barry Lindermann from the Canadian Paraplegic Association

February 6: Jennifer Sundsten – Costa Rica Micro Credit
February 13: Strawberry Shortcakes Delivering
February 20: Kim Feist from Mental Health Association of Adolescent Depression
February 27: Meeting rescheduled to February 24 with RI President DK Lee
March 6: Canadian Academy of Senior Advisors on Emerging Challenges and Opportunities for an Aging Population

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.