

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

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Marie Rickard, Jim Walker

Date: January 23, 2009 Edition: 42.27 Reporter: Altius Publisher: David Williams



On this very cold and sunny Friday at La Joie De Vivre in Inglewood, Acting President **Joe Klassen** called the meeting to order at 12.15 pm.

The meeting, attended by approximately 50 people, started with the Salute to the Haggis by our own **Bob Kerr** in his traditional tartan celebrating the birth of Robbie Burns. In his eloquent fashion, Bob provided an outstanding performance for us all. After *O Canada*, the invocation was recited by **Alice Christison**, the mother of **Carolyn Christison (Leece)**. Alice recited the traditional Scottish grace, "Some hae' meat and kenna eat..."

HEAD TABLE: Today's head table was graced by **Chris Davis**, **Alex Cathcart**, our speaker, Bob Kerr, **Don Alexander** and **Mark Ferguson**.

Kurt Schurer introduced our four guests from as far away as Switzerland and as close as Calgary South.

Lunch was enjoyable: haggis, roast beef, vegetables, potatoes, etc.

Announcements and Acknowledgements

Welcome back **Robyn Braley**. It is good to see you back and our best wishes for your continued good health!

Strawberry Shortcakes and Valentine's Day: **Bernie Ward** announced that he is already enlisting drivers and navigators for the big event in February and that the best routes are being taken up! Please hurry as we want everyone to have the best route on Valentine's Day. Also, please ensure you support this project in every way. Challenge yourself to do as well as we did last year and increase the orders by ten percent!

Casino: **Dan Varvos** reported that the support was great and we will have raised as much as \$75,000 from the efforts. Habitat for Humanity will be able to build a house this year.

Exchange in-bound student, **Valerie** from Switzerland, reported on her week: She was on a weekend excursion with the other in-bound students and they went to a play at the Lose Moose, a hockey game, the Calgary Tower, the Talisman Centre, brunch, a tour of Fort Calgary and a game of pool.

The meeting of February 27th has been rescheduled to February 24th, when all clubs meet for the Integrity Awards dinner at the Telus Convention centre. Tickets are \$75 each from **Bill Tapuska** and **Sa'adat Keshavjee**. RI President DK Lee will be in attendance and it is hoped ALL members of our club will attend.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Ron Jones extolled the virtues of Robbie Burns by asking questions to all members about Robbie's life. Happy news from **Clarence Buckley**, announcing that he and **Evelyn** will be off to Guatemala again next week. **Brent Barootes** had \$5 worth of happy news about the great contributions of the Gates Foundation to Rotary for the Polio Plus campaign, etc. **Tim Anderson** was happy to be back to attend a meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER

ALEX CATHCART PROVIDES A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF ROBBIE BURNS.

Bob Kerr introduced Alex Cathcart, a former president of the Robbie Burns Society, a dedicated singer and participant of the world tattoo in Scotland and a Robbie Burns fan.

He opened his remarks with several wonderful jokes about Bob Kerr and about the differences between Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The Highlights

1. Burns was born in Scotland to a family of six children and became a poet, writer of song and letters and a champion of Scottish folklore and tradition, albeit posthumously.
2. He wrote over 600 poems, 350 songs and 150 letters. He was known as a poet of the people at a time when England and Scotland were at war and there was a great divide between the two countries.
3. His poetry was written in a local style using local prose and poetry that appealed to the local people and folklore.
4. He created a sense of Scottish heritage and pride for the Scottish people that still lives on today.
5. He was both a passionate man and a passionate lover. He sired 15 children and six of them were illegitimate. He took ownership for his actions and his children- all of them!
6. He was a prolific drinker and extolled the virtues of the bottle!
7. He wrote poems about love, the earth, nature, humanity, people, the louse, the mouse and many other subjects.
8. His poems of humanity touch on subjects of fairness, kindness and the nobility of man and "all that"
9. He wrote the famous new Year's song "Auld Lang Syne" in which he referred to the term "A cup of kindness".

The presentation was most inspiring and left us all with a greater understanding and admiration for Robbie Burns. Next year, I think we should all wear kilts to this meeting.

Chris Davis thanked Alex and presented him with a Boltman.

We closed off by standing, clasping hands and singing "Auld Lang Syne".

Next Meetings

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

February 6th: Jennifer Sundsten on her visit to Costa Rica with Microcredit

February 13th: **No meeting**, as we are ALL working on Strawberry Shortcake delivery.

February 20th: Kim Feist on Adolescent Depression

February 27th: Meeting rescheduled to February 24th as an all clubs event.

The meeting adjourned at 1.30 pm.

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.