

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

The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3, Elbow River Casino, 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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Welcome to the new venue for Calgary West. The food was excellent.

And now for the news. At the head table **President Lynne Thornton, Dominique Keller, Frank Burns** and at a side table **Garth Evans**.

President Lynne thanked Garth (chair of the house committee) for arranging the room and moving our furniture.

There is a caution about the venue. The first step is a big one and if you have cataracts like me you need a guide at the bottom to say how many steps are left. Lynne was my guide.

On an electric piano brought by **Pauline Evans**, the national anthem was played by himself. The keyboard lit up each time a note was played with a red hue. *O Canada* was followed by **Mike Carlin** saying grace. **Gordon Rodrigues** introduced visitors and guests and the welcome song was sung.

President Lynne noted a sadness because of the resignation of **George Edwards**. George has been an excellent member and our secretary and he will be missed.

Who did win the 50/50? Oops!

Larry Doyle was the sergeant-at-arms and fined everyone who interrupted the president at any time - and that was everyone. He did his work at the end of the meeting.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was introduced by Frank Burns. It turns out that Frank was a counsellor at St. Mary's when **Stan Cichon** was Principal and Dominique was a student.

Frank spoke about the awards Dominique has received for her film work. They include awards from The Alberta Motion Picture Association, The Banff Centre and the National Film Board.

Dominique had a lively entertaining and funny presentation. She spoke about a call out of the blue from Frank asking her to speak at Calgary West. And when she learned that both Frank and Stan would be present, she wondered if she was in trouble with the school!

At 17, Dominique was an exchange student in the south of France. She arrived not knowing any French and was without a voice for the first time in her life. She did acquire the ability to speak French and was able to be her chatty self. She came home to Calgary and completed her high school. A graduate in anthropology from U of C and film work at SAIT enabled Dominique to launch her career.

Dominique spoke of many things but wondered if anyone present could fathom how a nice Roman Catholic girl from Calgary could end up in a brothel in Bangladesh! The country is one-fifth the size of Alberta and has 150 million people. To say that people are everywhere is an understatement because 70% of the country is water.

Once again, Dominique spoke about losing her voice in another culture and language group. Her salvation was her interpreter. In the brothel lived 300 people including 80 children, all of whom were in the sex trade.

Dominique thanked Rotary for their involvement in Micro-credit and told us about the work done in Bangladesh. She spoke about one young woman who tugged on her heart strings. This sex trade worker at 17 was especially connected to her. Once again Dominique spoke about not having a voice. The young woman wanted Dominique to help her get out of the brothel. This young person did not have a voice. She was unable to break out of her reality. Dominique told us that it was very hard to say she could not help the girl.

The presentation certainly got my attention. Oh and by the way Dominique climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

The thanks of the club was given by Garth Evans who presented our world famous Boltman

The club also congratulated **Don and Barb Alexander** on their 55th wedding anniversary and we sang Don a song.

Dues can be paid by Visa or Mastercard.

End Thought: New York film critic Kenneth Tynan once said: A critic is someone who knows the way but can't drive the car.

For the good of Rotary this ends the report. 'Nuf said!

August 1st – Wayne and Jacquie Brown on Mexico.