

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, Margot McDermott  
Bernie Ward, David Williams



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President **Karl** called the meeting to order at 12:15 and reminded us that this was our third meeting to recognize the importance of literacy in the world and that our guest speakers, **Dariel Bateman** and **Angela Knight**, would be giving a presentation about "Calgary Reads". "As Rotarians, we recognize the importance of literacy and have dedicated one month of the Rotarian Year to help us focus on the monumental challenge of helping nearly a billion people acquire basic literacy skills."

**Don Axford** lead us in the singing of the national anthem and **Ron Jones** gave the invocation before we all stampeded to the buffet table to enjoy our lunch. Thanks to the Holiday Inn and staff, Vicki, Josh, Chris and Rosie, for their efforts in providing us with a great meal and second guessing our head count very accurately.

President Karl introduced the head table guests consisting of our guest speakers Dariel Bateman, Angela Knight, and **Stan Cichon** who would introduce the guest speakers. Keeping the president's side of the podium company was **Carolyn Christison** and **Chris Davis**, who would thank the speakers.

Chris Davis introduced our visitors and guests, including a Rotarian from India.

## Announcements

-Ron Jones appealed to all members to look at their calendars to see if they could volunteer some time to help with our Habitat for Humanity housing project – we are desperately short help. The next work dates are August 5, 22 and Sept 9

-Ron also reminded us that the Rotary Challenger Park golf tournament is coming up in one month.

-**Jim Barnes** brought us up to date on the World Skills Event to be held in Calgary, coming up in about one month. Volunteers are still needed. Calgary West will know shortly if we have a booth. We now have 28 volunteers and 10 on the wait list.

-**Ted Valentine** again reminded us of the upcoming Rotary International Peace Park event at Waterton in September.

-Ted also let us know that Valentine Volvo has taken on an extra sponsor date for Feed The Hungry on Sunday, August 9, and that they need help with the afternoon shift.

-**Mike French** briefly told us that there will be more information on membership and that there were forms on the tables to bring everyone up to date on some of the aspects of membership.

The 50/50 draw for \$40.00 was won by **Bill Lawless**.

### **Guest Speakers**

Stan Cichon introduced the guest speakers, Angela Knight of CBC Radio and Dariel Bateman, the executive director of Calgary Reads. CBC Radio and Calgary Reads have a partnership to promote reading among our young people.

Angela calls herself “the happy harbinger of highway mishaps”. She has been in broadcasting for the past two decades. She started her career in Dawson City. Angela is very busy with her career and volunteering with Calgary Reads.

Dariel has spent her entire professional career focusing on children and literacy. She also volunteers and in her spare time spends time with her grandchildren, reading, cooking and bike riding, etc.

Both ladies made us aware of the amount of illiteracy that exists in the world: for example, 1 in 10 Canadians are illiterate. Calgary Reads asks for volunteers to give up one afternoon a week to read with children at school. This program is for 32 sessions and they both stressed the satisfaction that the volunteers feel when they see a child improve their reading skills.

Some of the reasons for children not reading are their low esteem, watching TV, playing video games and both parents working. The volunteers not only read with the children, but work reading skills into other parts of their daily lives.

WWW.CalgaryReads.com is the website that explains the program and how we can get involved. By spending just 30 minutes twice a week with a struggling grade 2 student; one can help that child advance an entire grade level in just over 16 weeks.

Another part of the program is Calgary Reads with English Language Learners – these children need extra help as they learn English

Another large part of the program is CalgaryReads@ Home – here parents can learn how they can help their children.

Chris Davis thanked our speakers and noted how each of them is so dedicated and passionate about this program. He then presented each of them with our Boltman.

President Karl passed on his weekly words of wisdom and wished everyone a happy holiday weekend.

### Coming Events

August 7	Rockyview Hospital: Grief Counseling
August 14	Two Exchange Students: one inbound and one outbound
August 21	RYLA Program – Youth Speakers
August 28	Mayor Victor Perez: Uspantan, Guatemala
September 4	Membership Development