

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

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Penultimate means next to the last. Rotary has few things that are penultimate as Rotary has continued since February 1905. Having a Rotary year that ends on June 30 means a milestone so that some things are the last in that Rotary year. For the president, the role is one year and ends on June 30. So the June 18 meeting was penultimate for **President Karl Herzog**. And being at the Danish Canadian Club made it seem "It's like deja-vu, all over again" to quote Yogi Berra.

Our guest speaker was **Rick Hanson**, Chief of Calgary Police Service. Also at the head table were **Don Bateman, Chris Davis, Kurt Schurer and Clarence Buckley** as well as Karl to chair.

David Williams announced visitors and guests – a real cross section of people new to Rotary and those from other clubs. Welcome all!

Marg Henschel reminded us of the Stampede Breakfast at the parade on July 9. Tickets so far are 900+, so we will have our hands full hosting and serving people from all over the world. There are many tasks and many volunteers needed. Please arrive at approx 6:00 am to help set up and organize. Who recalls how this annual event started? Well, a member, **Brian Perry**, had a business operating parking lots and offered to close this one at 9th Ave and 7th St so we could have a breakfast with a few friends. It has changed, grown and continued. For more information, contact Clarence Buckley who was president when it started. What year was that!

Marco Bersani is off on a 10-day canoe trip in central Alberta, with other exchange students and Rotarian guides. This is a real highlight for inbound students. Listen for his stories when he returns.

Lynne Thornton reminded us of the President's Ball on June 26. This is a real celebration with food, drink and dancing in Austrian style – at the Austrian Canadian Club.

Sa'adat Keshavjee invites everyone to the visioning for our club – planned for July 7 at the Holiday Inn. Please contact David Williams if you wish to join the 25 that have already registered. This will be an opportunity for your ideas to set the direction and tone of the club.

Tim Anderson advised we have a Friendship Exchange with Rotarians from New Zealand and Australia. Those coming to our area will be here during Stampede. A special dinner is being convened at the Italian Canadian Club on July 8. Everyone is welcome – please contact Karl for tickets (\$25).

Ron Jones invites everyone to the Rotary Challenger Park Golf Tournament. Book the date and invite others now. Come to McKenzie Meadows Golf Club on Sept 1. In the meantime, come to the Family Day on the afternoon of July 26 at Challenger Park.

David Watson made two presentations from the Community Service Fund. The **first** was \$2,000 to Accessible Housing. In thanking the club, Executive Director **Soraya Saliba** recalled that Accessible Housing was established in 1974 to provide housing for the physically disabled. The funds will be used to upgrade the exterior of a residence that was recently purchased. The **second** presentation was to Calgary Dream Centre. Executive Director **Jim Moore** thanked us for \$2,000 that will be used to complete a computer lab. The Dream Centre provides a drug and alcohol free residence and program for 125 men, resulting in 30 – 40 men per month returning to the community.

President Karl reminded us of the casinos in July for us to help charities. July 14 & 15 is for Habitat for Humanity and on the 24 & 25 for Motive-Action. In addition to the funds, these are great opportunities to get to know others from the club and the organization.

How much did **Don Bateman** win this week? How does he frequently win? Ask him!

Meet **Chuck Morrison**, sergeant-at-arms. As he had attended an “It’s a Crime not to Read” event recently, he thanked the Calgary Police Service for its role in the partnership that also includes the two school systems and Rotary. This is a great program that benefits the children for their connection to adults and the ability to increase literacy. Chuck continued by asking about various members who had left us – and left open classifications such as dentistry and travel agency.

Guest Speaker - Crime Prevention and Reduction in Calgary

Chris Davis introduced Rick Hanson, Chief of the Calgary Police Service. He has been in policing for 35 years after education in social sciences and later training in management and leadership. Rick began his remarks with a thank you to **Denise Penner-Collins** for making high school Social Studies so interesting.

Did you know that Calgary is in the top 15 cities in North America by population – and 27th for danger based on population? In Canada, Calgary has second lowest ratio of police force to population. Big cities have more data and visibility, however small towns possibly have a greater crime rate on a population basis. Summary – CPS and Calgary are doing well. How do we make it even better?

Gangs get a lot of attention. Effectiveness is based on enforcement. However, more important are getting to the contributing factors that lead youth into gangs, and gathering intelligence of activities.

As prevention aspects are so important, the key time to influence children is before they leave primary school. Young children are affected by many sources of information, such as TV, frequent negative, the internet and texting.

For the computers, the place for the family computer is in the kitchen or living room, where parents can help children make healthy decisions and minimize the exposure to those preying on children. Children are now peer-parenting by frequent contact with friends through phone and texting.

Education in schools needs to be part of the curriculum in all grades, dealing with the issues that are their reality and priority. For example, bullying is different for different ages. Lectures do not work. Mentors do work.

Drugs are varied, addictive, and prevalent – where distributors make markets through peer connections. Crystal meth is addictive immediately and sometimes is hidden in less addictive drugs, such as marijuana.

Parents want to do what is best for their children, and need education on health, technology, social pressure issues that face their children. Some programs are designed for families and others for parents.

An aspect of adult crime is the prevalence of the homeless, many of whom are affected by mental illness. The result involves cycles where people have mental illness, live without homes, are enticed into addictive behaviour, commit crimes for money, are convicted of the crimes, spend time in jail and then are ejected onto the street with no new life skills - and the cycle continues. The part of the prison population that is mentally ill is increasing as facilities have been curtailed. Programs that provide Homes First have been more successful than shelters.

There are more successful initiatives that are partnerships among private sector, community and government. The CPS wants to be part of all community development that provides safe, healthy, respectful homes. What can we do? Be aware of our communities. Support initiatives and partnerships that educate, mentor and support those in need. (If you want more details please email jim.willson@telus.net for a five-page summary with the Crime Prevention and Reduction Continuum and component descriptions.)

Don Bateman thanked our speaker for leadership in community work that makes our city a better place to live.

On June 25, look forward to:

- 1 Mini-presentation by Amy Weatherall on an opportunity in South Africa to support grandmothers who are nurturing children whose parents are deceased or incapacitated by AIDS.
- 2 Recognition awards for contributions to the Rotary Foundation as Paul Harris Fellows
- 3 Wrap up the year comments by the current leadership
- 4 Looking forward to the next Rotary year
- 5 Turnover ceremony

This is the penultimate Westerner for the 2009/2010 Calgary West Rotary year!

Coming Events

June 25	Special Club Program – Turnover Friday
June 26	President’s Ball
July 2	No Meeting
July 7	Visioning Meeting @ Holiday Inn
July 9	Stampede Parade – Meeting on the parade route
July 16	“Stampede Yahoo!” – Bonnie Baldwin, Mike Zero, Stampede queens
July 23	RYLA
July 30	Student David Gunn – Capsized tall ship survivor