

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: Lynne Thornton **President-Elect:** Karl Herzog

Past President: Garfield Ganong **Secretary:** Ron Morrison

Treasurer: Mike French

Directors: Stan Beveridge, Ron Brookes, Garth Evans, Mark Ferguson,
Margot McDermott, Marie Rickard,

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President Lynne kicked off her last meeting as president asking us to see the new “Canadian” supplement accompanying this month’s Rotarian. It’s a new feature apparently spearheaded by PDG **Monty Audenart**.

Don Axford led us in singing the national anthem.

Jim Barnes welcomed our visitors and guests and Brian Wintonyk gave the invocation.

To introduce the guest speaker President Lynne introduced this week’s introducer, **Bruce Taylor**. Bruce’s classification is “uniform rentals”, but his business encompasses far more than just uniforms. It’s possible his company also provides the tablecloths and napkins we use in our new home and other things as well. Bruce is also **Brooklyn Barootes’** god-father. Our guest this week was **Scott Ackles**, the president of the Calgary Stampeders. Finally **Ted Valentine** was introduced as the thanker. Ted very generously presented **Larry Doyle** with three tickets to the Stampeder season opener against the Montreal Allouettes at McMahon Stadium on Canada Day. Larry, **Valerie** and one other exchange student of Valerie’s selection will have the pleasure of attending this potential reenactment of last year’s Grey Cup game! **Ron Morrison** our club secretary and President Lynne’s faithful sidekick was introduced along with **President-Elect Karl Herzog** to round out the head table.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Helen King gave some more information on the upcoming Stampede parade indicating that we had sold enough tickets to be profitable but we would like to sell even more!

Bill Tapuska advertised the cherries again. Last week, I made a reporting error stating that the cherries campaign would net us a profit of 15% of revenues. The figure is actually 50%. My apologies!

David Watson introduced our RYLA attendee, **Alex Hogg**, who reported to us on his Ottawa trip for Adventures in Citizenship. Among other things, Alex said that the trip was the most influential of his life and that it’s a privilege to live in Canada under our system of government.

Bryden Horwood announced that the Guatemala school project had won the Canmore Club award. **Evelyn and Clarence Buckley** and **Bill Lawless** are to be congratulated.

Marilyn from the Millennium Club announced her club's sponsorship of a Missing Children's golf tournament to be held on July 23.

John Rymes let us know about the ARBI Stampede Breakfast on July 8. Call John for details.

The Calgary Arthritis Society conveyed its thanks for our club's funding during the year.

Today was also announced as **PDG Steve Rickard's** 60th birthday. Happy Birthday, Steve!

SERGEANT AT ARMS

PP Garfield Ganong was our sergeant-at-arms. Garfield questioned each table in the room about Rotary minutiae, fining those tables who were unable to answer correctly. Sadly this was the fate of your humble scribe's table. Several fines were then levied arbitrarily and the sergeant-at-arms finally went away!

Frank Burns won the 50/50 pocketing, \$45.

Guest Speaker

Ted Valentine introduced Scott Ackles, our guest speaker. Scott is the president of the Calgary Stampeders and, coincidentally, he was a high school class-mate and friend of our introducer Bruce Taylor. Scott started off with an amusing story of Bruce and an old van Bruce had at the time which was instrumental in rescuing Scott and some of his friends from an ill-advised bicycle trip. Scott became president of the Stampeders in December, 2007, and Calgary's Grey Cup was his third as he had been on staff with other CFL clubs before.

With the change in ownership a few years ago, the Stampeders have been experiencing a higher level of success, both on and off the field. Prior to winning the Grey Cup last year, they were contenders and that sparked greater football interest in Calgary. Stampeders games were very well attended last year with a 32,000 average attendance. Capacity is 36,750 and there are over 30,000 season tickets sold. With the Grey Cup game coming to Calgary in 2009, the seating will be expanded with a further 15,000 temporary seats.

The Stampeders, under Scott's guidance, have been using their success to have a greater involvement in the community. There were some 179 public appearances of players and others connected with the club by November, 2008. There were a further 200 appearances with the Grey Cup by February 09! The new owners want to get more involved in the Calgary community by showcasing virtue as a means to success.

Scott also told an interesting story of taking the Grey Cup down to Washington for President Obama's inauguration. Scott was surprised by how many Americans knew what the Grey Cup was and by how interested they were in it. It seems the US customs officials, normally a dour and surly lot, wanted to get their pictures taken with it. So much so that Scott was worried about not making his plane. Also a rock star, Bryan Adams, saw the cup and was like a kid in wanting to be photographed with it. The Grey Cup was very well received in Washington and it sent a splendid message about Canada to the US.

Scott brought his Grey Cup ring along and it was passed around the room. It was very impressive in a large and garish sort of way and I hope he got it back.

Ted Valentine thanked Scott and gave him his Boltman.

HANDOVER

At this point, President Lynne announced the end of her term of office and passed the gavel over to President-Elect Karl Herzog. Lynne recounted the challenges the club faced during her year (three moves) and our successes as well. In closing, Lynn thanked PP Garfield Ganong, PE Karl Herzog and her board for their dedication and service during the year.

Now President Karl thanked now Past President Lynne and presented her with her diamond past presidents pin. President Karl then presented **President-Elect Sa'adat Keshavjee** with his president-elect pin and the meeting was concluded.

Next Week

No meeting next week as we will be having our Stampede Parade Breakfast. See you at 6AM on that happy morning! Some of you, anyway.

Friday, July 3	Stampede Parade Breakfast. NO LUNCH MEETING
Friday, July 10	Stampede theme: Bonnie Baldwin and Mike Zero – country entertainment. Appearance of the Stampede queens. BRING YOUR PARDNERS!
Friday, July 17	Steve Shroul: Changing Reading Habits of Young Adults
Friday, July 24	Gerry Meek: Director, Calgary Public Library
Friday, July 31	Angela Knight and Dariel Bateman: “Calgary Reads”

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.