

Rotary Club of Calgary West
(Service through Fellowship)

The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3, Elbow River Casino, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Garfield Ganong **President-Elect:** Lynne Thornton

Past President: Mike French **Secretary:** George Edwards

Treasurer: Mike French

Directors: Brent Barootes, Mark Ferguson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali

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On this Sunny Friday's club meeting at the Elbow River Casino, President **Garfield Ganong** called his last meeting to order at 12.15 pm and highlighted his motto of "service through fellowship" this year and hoped we all enjoyed and experienced this motto through the club's programs all year. "A new beginning" is the way he describe the end of the Rotary year and the beginning of Lynne Thornton's. He led us into the singing of 'O Canada' to the music of **Don Axford**. The attendance at this meeting was very good. You will note that almost every past president was in attendance for this meeting

On the head table today with President Garfield were keynote speaker Dr David Chalak, Vice Chairman of the Calgary Stampede, Past President Bob Kerr, Roy Thurm, Incoming president Lynne Thornton and president elect Karl Herzog.

Marg Henschel (in her black and white hat) introduced our nine guests who included Felicity and Grace Evans, the grand daughters of Pauline and Garth Evans, visiting from the US, a member from Victoria and several local Rotarians

Jim Walker recited a wonderful and warm invocation

Dinner was sumptuous as always: BBQ Roast Chicken, shepherd's pie etc

Announcements and acknowledgements:

HELP WANTED!: **Karl Herzog** asked for assistance with the power point presentations and management of the audio-visual facilities for the next Rotary year. Please contact Karl for more information.

VANUE CHANGING: **Lynne Thornton** announced that after our 18th July meeting we will be moving downstairs to the Le Gallo Reggio restaurant until a new venue is determined because the current location is to be taken over by a comedy theatre company.

President Garfield thanked the organizers for the President's ball held last Wednesday evening at the Pioneers hall in SW Calgary.

2009 Rotary Convention in Birmingham England: Past Presidents **Steve Rickard** and **Bob Hamshaw** highlighted the joy of their recent visit to Los Angeles for the 2008 convention and are hoping we can arrange a group outing to the UK for the next convention.

Past President **Dan Doherty** presented a cheque for \$15,611.00 from the **Calgary Rotary Clubs foundation** (prorated proceeds for the year). He explained the Foundations function and mentioned that we are the fourth largest stakeholder in this foundation and that their traditional

distribution has always been quite high due to its excellent fund management policies. He is hoping our club can contribute \$100,000.00 this year.

He then talked about **Mexico** and advised that we have sponsored a young lady's education through the Encinada club and she is doing well. He also mentioned that in October we are planning to build two houses in the area and will then work with the Encinada Club to refurbish a building to be used as a school. The entire program should be less than a week starting October 16th, 2008 ex San Diego. Rotarians, partners and family may participate. Please contact Dan for more information

Stampede Breakfast 100 Tickets left! **Jim Walker** announced that ticket sales are going well. He thanked his team for their great efforts.

Sgt at Arms Carolyn Leece turned the tables around and offered members the opportunity to fine others. Past President Chris Davis and others participated in this novel opportunity.

50-50: Grant Ritchie won the prize today..

THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER: David Chalack was introduced by Bob Kerr. David is the incoming president of the Calgary Stampede and succeeds Rotarian George Brookman in two weeks. He wore his black hat and made a wonderful presentation about the Stampede Board. Some of the highlights:

2000 volunteers, 1600 employees, more than a ten day outdoor show, a year-round business; a 'not-for profit' Corporation that ploughs every cent back into the community and the Organization; Their vision: To Transform the look of the park from a parking lot to a year- round gathering place with a \$600 million plan and program which will be funded by various levels of government and municipality plus other forms of venture capital. They have plans for a hotel and other buildings and cater to four million people a year. They have plans to 'green' the facility and create a river front revitalization initiative like they have in San Antonio Texas and other places. The program was most informative and enlightening. David entertained several questions and was most informative and enlightening.

Roy Thurm thanked the speaker for his enlightening talk and presented him with the Bolt man.

FAREWELL GARFIELD, HELLO LYNNE: In his closing comments, President Garfield extolled the virtues of being a president and recommends the opportunity very highly. His service will be remembered. He received a standing ovation from all those present. He then handed the reins over to Incoming Resident Lynne Thornton who introduced her board : PP Garfield Ganong, President elect Karl Herzog, Secretary Ron Morrison, Treasurer PP Mike French, Directors: Marie Rickard, Margot McDermott, Mark L.P. Ferguson, Garth Evans, Jim Walker, PP Stan Beveridge, She announced her motto as " A year of Rotary Fun and Fellowship"

Next Meeting:

July 4th: at the Stampede Parade

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm