

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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With the May snow storm all melted away from last weekend, the sun was shining (sort of) and the future was bright for a lovely weekend. There was hustle, bustle and lots of pre-meeting activity with many guests and members engaging in lively fellowship. Many were chatting about the Rotary District Conference that took place last weekend in Banff, and many others were chatting about their plans for the upcoming International Convention in Montreal. But the real excitement was our guest speaker, Danielle Smith, leader of the Wild Rose Alliance Party who obviously had a following. Our normal 40-45 attendee lunches ballooned to over 80 people this week. Guests ranged from **Paul Hinman**, the first constituent elected Wild Rose MLA, to several members from the Olds Club, including past member **Doug Chisholm**, as well as **Derek McLeary**. We saw the return of **Vasile Douros**, as well as **Dan Varvos** and others. **Verneil and Doug Martin** attended, as did **Evelyn Buckley** with **Clarence and their son**. This reporter duly noted also that **Don Bateman** did not arrive at his usual last minute getting in just under the wire to buy his 50/50 ticket but instead arrived at noon and let all know he was present and would be buying a ticket! Of course, once again Don won the 50/50 pot. I sure hope he also bought a lottery ticket, Friday, as that pot was \$50 million! If we don't see Mr Bateman this Friday we will know he bought the lottery ticket Friday as well.

President **Karl Herzog**, as usual, called the meeting to order and the rambunctious crowd settled into their seats by 12:15. Members and guests alike were greeted at the door by **Janet Slemko** who picked up the slack where the regular scheduled greeter (also the scribe) failed to deliver! Thank-you Janet for the assistance!

**Des DeFreitas** lead us in *O Canada* while **Robyn Braley** delivered an appropriate and applicable invocation. The head table then rushed off to the feed trough followed by table assignments from the Sergeant at Arms **Marg Henschel**. Marg, though, failed to allow the scribe's table to follow the head table and, as a result, if any major stories, happenings or announcements were missed it probably occurred while the scribe was in line or trying to eat his meal while also reporting. Oh the woes of the dedicated volunteers who often forego sustenance at lunch on Fridays when the sergeant forgets, or neglects, to let their table follow the head table to the buffet line.

Oh, and the buffet line up! What a cornucopia of culinary delights that were spread before us: roasted ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, salads, warm roles and more. Thank you to the Holiday Inn for these

delightful meals. President Karl appropriately thanked them as well as he does every week. Then Karl moved on with the program.

**Bill Lawless** introduced our many guests and did double duty reminding people about both the Stampede Breakfast duties and the fact that we have already sold over 600 tickets to the event. Bill also reminded club members that Rotary shirts were available for ordering and he circulated a signup sheet. Thank you to Bill for coordinating this.

The head table was filled with dignitaries and special folk including **Chris Davis**, who thanked our guest speaker with style and succinctness, **Danielle Smith**, our guest speaker, **Frank Burns**, who introduced our guest speaker, **Bryden Horwood** and Marg Henschel, who both joined our club in 2001. And, of course, at the centre of it all, our President Karl Herzog.

There were many announcements, some of which sounded like a second guest speaker; but in hopes that I got them all, here is the roll call.

**PDG Steve Rickard** eulogized about the passing of Rotarian **Curly Galbraith** and what an amazing man and Rotarian he was. [**Editor's Note:** This eulogy, composed by Curly's son, Roger, is given at the end of this bulletin.]

**Marie Rickard** reminded folk about the upcoming new members evening. Karl also took the opportunity to thank Marie and her team for such an outstanding partners coffee event held on May 26.

**Larry Doyle** updated members on the first outing of the Golf Crew and how 10 of them this past Monday battled the cold weather to play Speargrass. For those interested to join members for golf outings, be sure to see Larry.

**Lynne Thornton** reminded all about the upcoming deadline to order your tickets for the President's Ball being held on Saturday, June 26. It will be an exciting evening and thank you to President Karl for his year of service. Tickets are just \$65 per person and that includes a bottle of red and white wine at each table (no not for each person as some of my table cohorts thought they heard and were quite excited). **You need to order your tickets from Lynne before Friday June 18.**

Be sure to also take note as announced by **James Zackowski** from Rotary Challenger Park that during the day on Saturday, June 26, all are welcome to come out for a free day at Rotary Challenger Park. As promoted, this is a great way to spend your day before attending the President's ball that evening. It is a free lunch and a chance to see "our park" in action with challenged little league and other activities that can now happen for those with disabilities thanks to Rotary Challenger Park.

**President-elect Sa'adat Keshavjee** spoke briefly to let people know there will be a visioning session for the 2010-2011 Rotary year on Wednesday, July 7. The time and location will be announced this coming week. Be sure to mark this important date in your calendars, as this is your opportunity to learn what plans Sa'adat and his board have for us in 2011, and also to provide feedback and suggestions.

**David Watson**, on behalf of the club, presented a \$2000 check to URSA and also a \$2000 check to Larche Society. URSA, in way of thanks, presented President Karl with a paddle that President-elect-to-be **Grant Ritchie** noted would be a great asset in his year for punishment for those who spoke too long!

President Karl let the club know that he has received emails from **Don Axford**, who is travelling in India, and he has spoken at two Rotary clubs and visited three Rotary projects. Don noted in his emails how surprised the local Rotarians were to have him in their communities because most often they said Rotary

visitors only went to the big cities. Don is having a wonderful time and will be back in time for the June 25<sup>th</sup> turnover meeting.

### **Guest Speaker**

Frank Burns introduced our guest speaker, Danielle Smith, Leader of the Wild Rose Alliance Party.

Danielle referenced at her opening the Rotary Four Way Test and how their party (and all parties) should create policy based on this approach. If done so, all citizens would benefit. Danielle noted that her “new party” was really formed as a fiscal conservative party. As the existing Progressive Conservative party continued to move to the left of the political spectrum and has little regard for fiscal management and balanced budgets, the Wild Rose Alliance was created. Since its inception, they have attracted many new members, including prominent past PC members, as well as folks who have never been a “card carrying” party member, but are concerned about the leadership and direction of our province presently.

The Wild Rose Alliance, she noted, was a party that was founded on, and will grow based on, doing politics differently. Their goal is to view politics as a dialogue, not a monologue. Through nominating candidates in all 82 Alberta ridings, they are getting ready for the upcoming 2012 provincial election. She focused her remarks on who the Wild Rose was and what they stood for. Their platform was conservative fiscal management of the province. Their goal is to get the government “out of business” and let businesses do business and government govern. As the PCs continue to get deeper and deeper into managing all our lives and “running business” instead of governing, we get deeper into trouble. She noted they stand for democracy where voters elect officials to make decisions, not letting bureaucrats make decisions. She noted how a non-elected chief of staff for the present government (not elected officials) makes decisions that affect us all. She discussed how grassroots governance was best and that centralized government that loses touch with the constituents cannot lead well. They profess to represent an approach where government is best lead by those closest to the people at the grassroots level, not the ivory tower legislature.

Another approach that separates the Wild Rose Alliance is the opportunity for free vote. As Danielle noted, the MLAs in the Wild Rose work for their constituents, not for the leader of the party. Thus the party looks to see more free votes where MLAs can bring forward concerns of their constituents rather than be muzzled by the party leader. Ms Smith declared that the Wild Rose party is all about personal freedom and democracy. She noted how middle managers are creating major budget issues. Today’s government has, on average, one manger for each non-manager role. One person manages three. WestJet, on the other side (profitable and well run), has one manger for 25 people. Which model should the government of Alberta choose? She and her party suggest the latter.

She went on to speak about the health issues and property rights issues and how the Wild Rose Alliance would address these major debacles in our present world. It was a great presentation and understanding of the Wild Rose Alliance platforms and comparisons to our existing governing party.

Chris Davis presented Danielle with our world famous Boltman and thanked her for joining us and presenting to us.

Then President Karl called the meeting to a close at 1:30 pm sharp (well done) with his closing quotation “Why pay money to have your family tree traced. Go into politics and have your opponents do it for you!”

### **Coming Events**

June 11	Ald Rick McIver – Mayoral Candidate
June 18	Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson – <b>Meeting at Danish Canadian Club</b>

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

### **Curly Galbraith**

It is with sadness that I stand to say a few words about the loss of our fellow Rotarian Curly Galbraith. Curly was a practical man, who grew up on the homestead farm and rode to school with two brothers on the back of the same horse. It was quite something for a kid from a homestead farm in southern Alberta to take a train to McGill University at the other end of the country because he wanted to study engineering. His folks would send him a little money when they sold a pig which made Curly often remark, we need more pigs. His parents worked hard and created success but then walked away from their farm as the depression occurred. However Curly was happy to plant, fertilize, weed, harvest, plan the finances or develop the marketing plan. His Gramma hated to see him let the sweat trickle down his nose.

In all Curly was a Good Man who saw the world as a wondrous place full of wonderful people. Didn't read much - except the Bible which he read each morning. He never talked about things in books or newspapers

But he took every opportunity to talk to someone to hear their story whether it was standing in a check out stand at the Grocery Store or in an elevator or a walk down the beach.

There's a saying that the world is divided into 2 groups of people... those that see the glass as half full and those that invariably see it as half empty. But if Curly came upon you when you had a cup with liquid at the half way mark, he had his own unique approach.

"Want an interesting glass! Where did you get it? What's in it?  
I have a couple of other glasses in my briefcase.... let me show you  
One's broken and I have to glue it when I get home  
IF you're glass isn't as full as you'd like it, I'm sure I can add something to it

And invariably he'd recognize a few other folks and invite them over to talk  
About YOUR family or career  
Or BRING a refrigerator mfg plant to Canada  
Or START a new Rotary Club  
Or keep kids in school, or  
Plan for how to immunize all the children of the world

He loved your stories  
Saw them all as unique and powerful and fascinating

Hence his love of Rotary where he could meet people from every walk of life in every country of the world.  
Hence the honour he felt to be an Elder at Grace Church where he would be invited into the homes of families and hear their stories - their joys, their dreams, their struggles

and Hence his relationship with the phone, he was famous for his happy birthday phone calls

He loved hearing about the wonderful people and the wonderous world that you shared with him  
You gave him energy and a zest for life when you shared your world with him

Wasn't all easy though

He had conflicts with people through work - fair to say he got ripped off by some.

The occasional recollections he shared of some of the disputes within Rotary or the Church showed that when people bring great passion - or great ego, but usually he spoke of it as being of great passion - to what they do, then there will be disagreements

But what was remarkable was how HE DIDN'T BECOME bitter about these

Clearly he had standards of decency, integrity and honesty that he thought were universal truths - but he saw them as the standards that he should strive for and recognized that OTHERS MAKE DECISIONS for other reasons and with other motives

And when going through those difficulties it CEMENTED HIS RESPECT for and the bonds he had with many friends.

And of course the strongest bond he had was with Doris

A match between 2 stars in heaven if there ever was one!

Soul mates before that became a pop term

For 55 years they shared the thrill of living in a wonderous world full of wonderful people.

Even when their child Brent died unexpectedly at just 2 years of age

Their love for each other and their DEEPLY SHARED VALUE were so important then

Plus, the comfort that they took from their faith

"In my Father's House are many rooms ... if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

So HARD TO SEE MEANING in what happened - but their inherent belief that good will yet again emerge even during the darkest times was HOW THEY DEALT WITH THAT

And their lives were very very full.

5 kids - that's busy. With the inherent difficulties and worries as well as great pride

I CAN SAY THAT with children that grew up to be two doctors and two lawyers the eulogy was truly inspiring.

Curly had Multiple business ventures including patents - and was a true entrepreneur!

Curly was close to many that shared his love of people and making a positive impact in the world. Really like different extended families as HE GOT SO MUCH STRENGTH FROM HIS FAMILY. He was part of the family of Shriners, Red Cross, the Jewish family here in Calgary, and the Masonic Lodge

And in later years Travel AS VP OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL to all points of the globe.

But he kept that practical streak - His son told the story of Curly & Doris dressed for a formal affair found their host had locked the keys to the car in the house so Curly offered to climb up the trellis and in through an open window on the second floor. After what seemed an inordinate time he immersed through the front door explaining that while on the roof he cleaned out the eaves trough which he happened to notice was full of leaves.

His son Roger concluded by saying: Thank you for sharing your stories with Curly  
I know that his great wish would be that you continue to share those stories with each other  
And to ENJOY THE WONDEROUS WORLD full of WONDERFUL PEOPLE in which he lived his  
EVER - SO - FULL - LIFE.

Presented by PDG Steve Rickard