

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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A pattern is developing. **President Karl** calls the meeting to order with a few welcoming remarks, followed by the national anthem, and an invocation - before the sergeant-at-arms guides us in orderly fashion to the buffet. I listened and did not hear any singing of the alternate words proposed by the recent federal throne speech. "In all thy sons command" will continue.

Have we thought about how the head table gets selected? The program committee identifies the "introducer, the thanker and the invocation provider". The president comes to the meeting and surveys those present and selects two members for balance of the head table. Criteria might or might not include, recent club activities, when last at the head table, willingness to be at the table, gender balancing, relevance to the speaker or topic, being at the meeting early enough to make a selection, and having bio info from a question or two and reference to the club directory.

The people at the head table were in the order introduced: **Robyn Braley** (Marketing Communications), **Corporal Bill Hamilton** (guest speaker), **Bill Tapuska** (Engineering Management), **Garfield Ganong** (Engineering Projects), **Bill Lawless** (Specialty Advertising) and Karl Herzog (President 2009/2010 and Automotive Training).

Verneil Martin and **Doug Martin** were welcomed after some absence. Doug is a Past District Governor 1987/1988 and an Honorary Member of Calgary West and of Calgary (the Downtown club).

Our Three Exchange Students

Marco Bersani joins us every week. He and **Andrea Barr** (outbound to Denmark in August) attended the orientation last weekend with counselor **Frank Burns**. **Emily Cadman** is in France and we welcome messages from her. What do we send to her? Could we make a large card to surprise her as she moves towards the end on her exchange in July? By the way, this club has regularly participated in International Youth Exchange since 1986! That is 23 inbound students and 23 outbound students. It would make a great story to have profiles of where they are now, or stories of our adventures with those joining us for a year.

Rosters anyone? Thanks to all members for updating their profiles on ClubRunner. This is the data used by publisher **Gordon Rodrigues** for the printed rosters. Another is ready to pick up and use. And thanks to Gordon for his skills, time and commitment.

The resignation of **Past President Bob Hamshaw** after 20 years of membership was acknowledged by President Karl. Bob cited family and work and the hope to rejoin when it feels right. Note to members - **John Rymes** will resume the action as coordinator for Rotary Foundation information and donations.

Hospice Calgary Contribution

Clarence Buckley introduced **Kristen Baydala** representing Hospice Calgary and gave a cheque for \$4500. In thanking the club, Kristen said that the funds would be used to buy 14 slings that are used to help patients move around the Rosedale facility in safety and dignity. Several years ago, the club built a gazebo in memory of **Gerry Lebsack**, a former member.

Steve Rickard reported on the Microcredit project in Liberia. He and **Marie** are planning to go there to ensure the project is on track. The project is a partnership of District 5360 and 5340 in Southern California. Each is raising \$100,000. Anticipated is a substantial contribution from Mercy Corp. The project was presented in detail to the district clubs. Stay tuned for an update.

Birthdays anyone?

First we sang happy birthday to Andrea Barr whose birthday was March 11. Then later we sang for Gordon Rodrigues and **Ed Aboussafy**. Watch the welcome PowerPoint for the monthly birthdays – and give each person a personal warm greeting!

On the fun side, **Tim Anderson** won the 50/50 leaving us with a story about having won big another time. Thanks for sharing a part of the pot and the story.

Some fun to have **Brent Barootes** as sergeant-at-arms. After a lot of words, it was obvious that time was running short so we were offered a choice. He would continue and reach his quota – or we could each contribute a dollar and have peace. Peace was chosen.

Guest Speaker

Bill Tapuska introduced Corporal Bill Hamilton of the Canine Division of the RCMP. Bill has been with the RCMP for 30 years and his current dog, **Targo**, has been his partner for six years.

Dogs in police service began in the 1900s in Belgium, and 1935 in Alberta. Part of the work is to seek, search, discover and apprehend. Another part is to have the evidence of the dog accepted in courts. Of the 150 dogs currently in service in Canada, 126 are multipurpose and the rest are specialty, often working at airports and other points of entry.

Bill lives in Calgary and serves 18 detachments in southern Alberta. Handlers' responsibilities include training every week, care and condition of the dog, looking after the vehicle, doing paper for files and court, personal fitness, and being on call 24/7.

Targo was brought from Czech Republic and is now 10 years old – near the expected working life. Targo is European stock – being 74 lbs and smaller than the North American stock that is bred for show. Most are male as they are somewhat stronger and more aggressive- and correspondingly longer to train. Hear the groans as we imagine the comparisons to people. Dog food is regular Purina Proplan, with supplements of flaxseed and glucosamine. Dogs' sense of smell is estimated to be 700,000 times more sensitive than humans.

An unusual story was searching for a missing inmate in the prison. The dog pointed out where the inmate was hiding in the HVAC ducts. Another story was of tracking escapees in the field area: through woods and rivers for five hours. All in a day's work.

Robyn Braley thanked our guest speaker, mentioning our support and appreciation for the RCMP, cognizant of the recent murder of an officer in Ontario.

In closing, President Karl quoted Robbie Burns: "No one committed suicide while reading a book. It is more likely when writing a book."

March 19	City of Calgary Alderman – Jim Stevenson “ the Airport Tunnel”
March 26	Sherri Zickafoose – Calgary Herald Crime Beat
April 2 (Good Friday)	No meeting
April 9	Exchange Students – Marco and Andrea
April 16	Janice Eisenhower – Women and Education in Afghanistan
April 23	Peter Fleck – Stamp Collecting and Trading
April 28 (Wednesday evening)	Club Assembly at the Holiday Inn
April 30	No meeting