

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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Spring is sprung and the energy and fellowship in the room reflected it.

President Karl Herzog asked a surprised **Ron Jones** to lead us in our national anthem. **Marie Rickard** followed with a grace incorporating upcoming Rotary-related trips as several members are off to foreign lands, shortly.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Stan Cichon** relished his job of assigning table order for the lunch buffet. But no one need worry as there was plenty of roast beef and gravy to go around.

President Karl's head table included **Clarence Buckley**, internationally famous west side rancher, **Jim Stevenson**, north east alderman since 2007, **Chris Davis**, formerly of City Hall legal department, **John Rymes**, "longest ago past president", **Lynne Thornton** "most recent past president" (and long time admirer of Mr. Rotary, John Rymes).

New member **Alan Waters** introduced our visitors and guests, including past (a long time ago) west side alderman, **Ron Leigh**, now president of the Osooyos Rotary Club.

President Karl had been in last week with **Victoria Achilleos** and had discovered her husband, **Stelios**, had had a serious heart attack and had just been released from intensive care. He's doing better, but not out of the woods yet. Our best wishes go out to both of them and hope Victoria can soon return to our Friday meetings!

President Karl had also spoken to **Marmie Hess** who had also had some poor health these past months, but she reported she "loved the bulletin" and it had kept her in touch with us all. Hope to see you soon, Marmie!

We were reminded the District 5360 Conference in May in Banff has had the registration deadline extended to the end of March.

Past President Lynne Thornton was delighted to report she's doing very well after surgery and glad to be back. She also reported we'd had a terrific evening honouring President-elect **Sa'adat Keshavjee** as all

the past presidents had gathered for Calgary West's traditional dinner at the Danish Canadian Club on March 17th. It is a tradition unique to Calgary West, where we pass on "words of wisdom" and generally pledge the support of all the past presidents. It's an evening to look forward to.

Mike French had a special guest to present a \$5,000 cheque to. **Marlene Weins** accepted the cheque on behalf of FANDIC – Foundation of Friends of Children with Disability for the Integration into the Community in Bucaramanga, Columbia. **Bob and Marlene Weins** lived in Columbia for a year in 1997, saw the need for assistance and have been helping this group buy equipment for therapies and computers for the permanent facility now being built.

Clarence Buckley spoke briefly about the trip he and **Evelyn** are on now as you read this bulletin. They are in Guatemala building stoves and schools in our ongoing project with Hearts and Hands and the Canmore Rotary Club. **Bill Lawless** and Karl Herzog have just recently visited Guatemala to see the progress and came away very satisfied. Clarence said it's such a good feeling to step into someone's home and know the choking smoke from the old way of cooking has been replaced by a stove with a chimney venting to the outside. Children can also see better in the home because the air isn't clouded with smoke, homework improves and so do their grades in school. The Buckleys will also be present for the dedication of the first junior high school. Before this, school only went to grade six.

Steve and Marie Rickard are off on an African jaunt which will include a short African safari for their pleasure. The rest of the time is dedicated to Rotary MicroCredit and the girl's school in Malawi. Their itinerary includes Malawi for a visit to Memory and Christie's girls school, where recently 2000 girls showed up for 80 available spaces at the school. To say there is a need is a colossal understatement. They'll be in Liberia for MicroCredit projects and Kenya to see first hand the Hawker's Market we're supporting this year. It sure is good to have this first hand knowledge of these far away projects and to meet with the Rotarians we're working with there.

The 50/50 draw for \$39.99 was won by **Duncan Stanners**. Conrats!

Ted Valentine startled President Karl by squealing on him and announcing his birthday was today! A hearty, off key, Happy Birthday was promptly belted out by all. I do believe Karl blushed a bit. Have a great year Karl!

OOOPHHHH the sergeant-at-rms, Stan Cichon, was in fine form (or something) and nailed mild mannered **Brent Barootes** with a stiff fine for purportedly embarrassing Stan in front of his (Stan's) visiting son, **Mike**. That's all we know. Some funny (exaggerated) stuff came down about **Bob Kerr** wondering why it's so important to exercise, when all you're going to do is die healthier. **Mike Carlin** apparently wondered if you push the elevator button fast and furious and repeatedly, does that make the elevator go faster? And **Des DeFreitas** apparently wondered why women can't put on their mascara with their eyes closed? After that, those without Rotary pins were asked to ante up a loonie.

GUEST SPEAKER

The honour of introducing our guest speaker went to Chris Davis, a former dweller in city hall, and very familiar with the convoluted manner in which "business" appears to be conducted. Jim Stevenson is the elected alderman for the far North East ward, was elected in November of 2007. Prior to that, he served his community in many ways before throwing his hat into civic politics. His is the fastest growing ward in the city and one of the current wards under consideration for division in the future.

By way of starting his talk, Jim referred to the "silly season" having begun at city hall as we are due for elections this November. Jim's frustration was evident as he talked about the "mess" of the airport tunnel

situation. He's been involved with the issue since he was president of his Corral Spring community association.

In 2007, three billion dollars was allocated from the province for infrastructure for Calgary. Indeed, money was allocated for several projects earmarked for the NE communities, including what the communities thought included the airport tunnel. Unbeknownst to anyone, the city administration hadn't let the city council know they had removed the tunnel from the city's plan. OOOPS

Now, due to lack of planning, the city is running out of time to rectify the situation. By April, 2011, Barlow and McCall will be closed and all traffic will have to take Deerfoot until a new road is constructed to connect Metis Trail in the vicinity of Rotary Challenger Park.

Stevenson predicts in 10 to 15 years our airport will be an inner city airport due to the rapid growth in the northern sector of Calgary with industrial and residential construction in the plans.

Stevenson's plan is to take the issue to city council to get their backing for some more research for the dollars, land, traffic impact and analysis for the 720 meter long tunnel under the proposed new runway. The dollar figure sits at \$287 million currently. Environmental studies indicate future problems without tunnel access, including more diesel fumes from shuttle busses to and from the surrounding hotels as the busses have to take a much longer route. Plus, the hotels predict a future loss of business. Alderman Stevenson hasn't given up yet on the complicated situation.

Clarence Buckley did a neat job of thanking our guest and presented Mr. Stevenson with our world famous Boltman.

NEXT

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
May 7	Calgary West International Activities and Projects