

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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Jim Barnes and **Bernie Ward** were at the Holiday Inn early, “manning” the reception table, greeting all comers, collecting for meals in their usual efficient manner, even selling the odd 50/50 draw ticket. There’s nothing these two guys can’t do! And **Frank Burns** did a great job as the official greeter.

Veronique, Skye and Kate, looking far too young to be serving drinks, were behind the bar doing a landslide business.

It must have been unofficial “Sartorial Friday”! **President Karl** was decked out in his sartorial best, looking like he just stepped out of an upscale men’s clothing magazine. He was soon joined by **Bob Kerr**, impeccably turned out in a dark suit, pale pink shirt, tie and even a matching pocket square, probably having just arrived from a professional model photo shoot at O’Connors. Then along came **Mike Carlin**, obviously just breaking loose from a convention of elite bankers, in the standard navy pinstripe, BMO issue, worn by all senior VPs and selected bank quasi-retirees.

Even **Ted Valentine** was sporting his District Governor jacket, still looking good after countless Rotary meetings.

It was almost enough to numb the senses, were it not offset by the casual wear, jeans and tee shirts of other Rotarians.

Chris Lee was overheard describing his upcoming cruise on **Paul LaFrance’s** yacht in the Caribbean and worrying if he’s packed enough cases of Graval. The term “Pirates of the Caribbean” will have new meaning with seafaring Chris and Paul.

Don Bateman, still sporting a Mexican tan, was slowly recuperating after being pile driven, head first into a sandy beach by a rogue wave, resulting in an emergency private aircraft ride back home courtesy of his insurance company.

Robyn Braley was getting maximum use of his cell phone, while **Ed Aboussafy** arrived early, complete with the ever present Starbucks paper coffee cup in hand.

Caroline Christison, having attended the Ann Coulter talk the previous evening at the Red and White Club decided that it wasn't such a big deal, left the affair early, only to be accosted and interviewed by the throng of reporters and TV cameras outside. Did anyone catch the late night Caroline Christison TV show afterwards? Note that Ezra Levant, a recent head table guest and controversial speaker at our club, was a main organizer of this event.

There was a lot of animated discussion and flamboyant gestures, with **Bryden Horwood** and **David Watson** doing their very best to imitate the celebrated statues on the Stephen Avenue Pedestrian Mall.

Bill Quinney, having just days ago graced the who's-who section of the Calgary Herald along with Shelley, representing Olds College at a fancy formal wear soiree, allowed that his term as the College Board Chair was rapidly coming to an end in October.

Des DeFreitas was seen hovering over the reception table no doubt fulfilling his treasurer's duties with a stand up audit of the activities of Messrs. Barnes and Ward.

After much cajoling and bell ringing, President Karl was finally able to seat everyone to start the meeting on time.

By an unofficial count, there were six tables of eight plus the head table.

David Hamilton gave the invocation asking the Creator for all good things and good food. That was followed by our Calgary West version of *O Canada*. (As a club, have we gradually lost our club's hallmark upbeat version of our national anthem reminiscent of Joe Johanson and replaced it with the much slower downbeat version heard at Flames games?)

Thereafter followed another great HI buffet luncheon, complete with leafy and cucumber salads, assorted veggies and chicken fricassee with sinful desserts at each table.

Following a expression of thanks to the HI staff, President Karl introduced the head table: Robyn Braley, holding a classification of marketing communications, **Sherri Zickafoose**, our special head table guest, **Ted Valentine**, a past District Governor, **Brian Wintonyk**, a product technology specialist and **David Williams**, secondary education and bulletin editor and publisher.

Frank Burns introduced eight guests of Rotarians and two visitors from other clubs. **Dick and Elaine Brown** were there as guests of Steve Rickard, who was nowhere to be found, but rumoured to be on safari somewhere in Africa.

President Karl advised that **Don Axford** is ailing with a serious heart problem which is very much curtailing his activity.

An induction of new member Dick Brown followed, starting with an introduction by Bryden Horwood. Dick started his career in banking moving around in Ontario, Quebec and Alberta. He put down roots in Calgary in 1981 starting a successful business in selling real estate, often achieving the prestigious status of Million Dollar Club.

Dick's community efforts include being on the board of Meals on Wheels. He is a member of the Ranchman's Club and skilled in snooker and slosh(?) player.

Dick is married to Elaine, an opera singer of note with CD recordings to her name.

The charge to the induction was given by Ted Valentine, who never misses an opportunity to promote Rotary through attendance at District Conferences and International Conventions.

Ted welcomed Dick into Rotary, encouraged him to maintain his attendance at our club or by make-up at other clubs and then presented Dick as the “World’s Newest Rotarian”

More announcements: Our club assembly will be held on April 28, and the May 28 meeting will be cancelled so as to encourage our members to attend the District Conference in Banff.

Holland Berry won the 50/50, in spite of Don Bateman’s presence, with an undisclosed amount of loot.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Ron Jones** gave **Duncan Stanners** a freebe for his retirement from Shell after 31 years, now an alumni along with Bryden Horwood. Ron gloated over an engineer being named president of University of Calgary, commiserated with Caroline Christison about her experience at the Red and White Club, fined everyone who had the foresight to fill up their gas tank before the prices went up and fined anyone who still believed that the Flames had a chance.

Guest Speaker

Ted Valentine, multi tasking, as is his wont, introduced our speaker.

Sherri Zickafoose is a crime reporter for the Calgary Herald since 2004. She formerly was the editor of the Banff Crag and Canyon newspaper. Ted mused about Sherri’s father being a “stellar centre for the Calgary Stampeders”. She demonstrates the same tenacity as her father when she daily writes about the villains and victims of Calgary’s crime scene.

Sherri started by saying that it’s hard to find a “sensational NY style crime story”. It takes a lot of digging by a reporter to ferret out the information. Oftentimes, the police don’t release information and it takes an inquisitive reporter to dig up a story.

Sometimes there are funny stories, like the burglar who took time to make himself a meal before taking off with the loot.

Some stories can “break your heart”, like the story of the 12 year old girl in Medicine Hat. She came from a good home, but conceived a plot to kill her own family members and then recruited a 23 year old male to do the crime. Her parents were loving parents but need to watch for signs and be internet savvy. The 12 year old was posting pictures of herself and lying about her age.

Sometimes people want to talk to someone just to try to make sense of a senseless crime. Reporters are under time deadlines: the crime has to be reported “when it happens” and the story has to be together by 6PM to get into the next day’s paper. A reporter needs to get there before the police shut the scene down, so listening to police radio is part of the job.

Calgary does not have an organized crime history, as does Montreal. But we do have drug-based crimes, both sinister and underground. BC gangs are migrating into Calgary.

It’s frustrating for a reporter to report on a crime and the subsequent trial and then see the villain get a minimal sentence in our justice system by plea bargains or easy judges. It’s even tougher on the victims to see the perpetrator get reduced sentences.

The Hawk’s helicopters have proven invaluable in curtailing crime particularly since the Calgary police force has a no-chase policy.

Sherri was thanked by Robyn Braley saying that she helped to “make sense out of an unexplainable story”.

Robyn also mentioned Sherri’s book, on sale at the back, indicating there were two editions, one with short words and pictures for engineers!

President Karl closed the meeting at 1:30 PM with a wise saying which failed to make the notepad.

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