

Rotary Club of Calgary West
(A Year of Rotary Fun and Fellowship)

The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3, La Joie de Vivre, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Lynne Thornton **President-Elect:** Karl Herzog

Past President: Garfield Ganong **Secretary:** Ron Morrison

Treasurer: Mike French

Directors: Stan Beveridge, Garth Evans, Mark Ferguson, Margot McDermott,
Marie Rickard, Jim Walker



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Setting the Scene

It seemed like a step back in time. Almost déjà-vu! We were back at the location we had hosted our meetings at for over 20 years. We were at the **Danish Canadian Club** as our regular venue (the Holiday inn at MacLeod and 42nd was booked up solid). The Danish Canadian Club **General Manager Peter** was there to welcome us and reminisce about the old days. **Neil** was one of our servers. As **President Lynne** noted, “Neil served us for about a million years”. The food was excellent and it was self serve at the tables like we used to do. The head table was perched on a podium with our faithful old piano on the stage. Unfortunately, our resident pianist, **Don Axford**, was not in attendance, so we went without piano accompaniment for both *O Canada* and our welcome song. **Des DeFreitas** though did set the tone for our singing of the national anthem while **Robyn Braley** led us in the welcome song after he announced our several visitors and guests.

President Lynne also noted how nice it was to be at the Danish Canadian Club as she had always wanted to chair a club meeting here.

At the front door was **Stan Beveridge** who recorded our attendance and peddled 50/50 tickets. The 50/50 of \$23 (very low this week due to a small turn out of attendees at lunch) was won by **Bill Tapuska** who was overheard saying in line “Why should I buy one, I never win”. Past President **Mike Carlin**, who was before him in line for the ticket was now disappointed he pushed his way in front of Bill to buy the ticket!

Kurt Schurer played double duty as he both collected lunch payments and gave a moving and appropriate invocation regarding youth and our commitment as individuals to be able to give back and assist others. This reporter does not recall being greeted at the door so cannot confirm who the greeter was. This may have been due to the fact that this single departure from our now host venue did not include the relocation of badges, flags and president’s bell.

President Lynne, even without a bell, was able to call the meeting to order on time by about 12:17 pm. At the head table was herself, our guest speaker **Gareth Morgan** from the Prostate Cancer Institute, **Larry Doyle**, who introduced our speaker, **Ed Aboussafy**, **Brian Wintonyk** and **Crawford Caswell**, who thanked our speaker. It was interesting to note that Larry Doyle, confused that this reporter may have also been the sergeant-at-arms, wooed this reporter with kind remarks, glad tidings and such only to discover it was a waste of breath and effort as **Bob Kerr** was to be sergeant, not myself. When this revelation was uncovered, Larry noted to this reporter that “he took back all the kind words and accolades as they were not meant for me”. Now does that sound like the Rotary way?

The **sergeant-at-arms**, Bob Kerr, made a good haul, fining all those who were able to get a parking space close to the Danish Canadian Club or who were in walking distance (including himself); he fined all those who have had the opportunity to have traveled south of the 49th parallel this year while those others have had to live through this prolonged winter season; also fined all those who were not working the upcoming casino and a few other beauties! I think he must have tapped everyone in the room for \$2!

Speaking of casino, on behalf of **Orlin McMillan**, President Lynne announced that the roster was almost full with just a few chip runners and cash room folks left to fill in for March 30-31 for our casino. Congratulations and also a thank you to Orlin for his yeoman service and dedication to making these casinos happen annually for us.

David Watson rose to speak on Youth Exchange and how our new inbound student will soon be here. He urged members to forward names of Rotarians or non-Rotarians who may be interested in hosting an exchange student for a few months this coming year. We need to find host families!! If you are willing to be a host family or know of a neighbour or past exchange family who may be willing, please notify David ASAP.

Exchange students, oh yes our beloved **Valerie** was in attendance. She updated us on her absences and future excursions. Boy, as **Bruce Taylor** at our table noted, how do we get a girl like that! Valerie was away as she had been travelling to visit with another exchange student from Switzerland who is with an Ontario club. She had the opportunity to visit that host club, see the centre of the universe (oops I mean Toronto), visit Niagara Falls Canada (still the #1 honeymoon destination), as well as fit in some shopping in Buffalo, New York, and partake in a maple syrup farm tour! She has attended a little school, good thing she is such a bright student, and is off in the next week or so with another Calgary based exchange student and their host family to Palm Springs for a holiday. Valerie also spoke to us about the recent meeting of those inbound exchange students in Calgary area, combined with Rotaract and the upcoming outbound students ready to go abroad soon. She said what a great session this was for the existing inbound students to be able to spend time with upcoming outbound students and how valuable it was for these outbound students to understand what to expect, not only of the nations they will live in for the next year, but what to expect from a role and responsibility factor. Valerie noted that in Switzerland they did not do this for the outbound students and how she wished they had to better prepare them for the journey of a lifetime. It is so wonderful to hear feedback like this from Valerie and of all her activities.

President Lynne announced that **Karl Herzog's** Motive of Action Golf Tournament was up and coming and encouraged members to think about volunteering or participating as a player or sponsor. Karl was not at the meeting as he was tied to his bed nursing a cold prior to his full weekend of Rotary "Pets and Secs" – the training for incoming presidents and secretaries. Further details will be available and published in this illustrious newsletter in coming weeks.

President Lynne also took a moment to thank the organizing committee of **Marie and Steve Rickard, Mike French and Mike Carlin** and those who attended the new member meet and greet at the Ranchman's Club on March 26. It was a huge success with about 10 prospective members in attendance who were able to better learn and understand about Rotary as they make decisions to join. About 20 of our existing club members were also in attendance many of whom are recent new members who enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about Rotary (what they have gotten into!) and socialize with more advanced (notice I did not say older) club members. What a great success.. The next member event will be held at the home of **Jane and Stan Beveridge** and details will soon follow. Be sure to attend.

President Lynne reminded us we are back at the Holiday Inn on MacLeod Trail and 42nd this coming Friday, April 3, and that there would be **no meeting Friday April 10 (Good Friday)**; and that on Friday, April 17, at the Holiday Inn we would be hosting the 4 Way Speech Contest as our program. And finally,

she noted the **meeting of Friday April 24 will be held in Canmore** in conjunction with the opening of the District Conference.

Guest Speaker

Our speaker this week was Gareth Morgan of the Prostate Cancer Institute. Gareth, as he noted, is a lucky survivor! He had no real idea about prostate cancer, testing and so forth. About a year ago his doctor sent him for a PSA test (which he notes every male over 40 should get annually) and he was then rushed through the system with urologist visits and surgery and within four weeks was “fixed”. His role now as a volunteer with the institute is to speak the knowledge and awareness of prostate cancer and that it is a deadly disease that affects one in six men in Alberta, of which about one in 26 will die! He noted last year about 2400 people were diagnosed and 430 died. With PSA testing more situations can be discovered earlier and treatment provided. (No worries gentlemen, the PSA test is a blood test!!)

Gareth spoke of the institute that is located on Glenmore Trail at Elbow Drive, but will soon locate to the Rocky View Hospital to be alongside doctors, services and research in the new urology wing so kindly supported by our club’s own **Sam Switzer**. We learned that the institute is a diagnostic centre and a centre of learning and understanding about prostate cancer, before, during and after diagnosis with a full resource library, literature and survivors on hand to answer questions and such. Last year, the institute provided support and information to over 6000 families!

The institute receives no government funding at all and is supported by donations from corporations and individuals.

The message to take home: gentlemen if you are over 40, get a PSA test done with your annual doctor check up and be proactive with your health rather than possibly suffer consequences down the road.

Upcoming Meetings and Programs

April 3	Gordon Branson: Calgary Regional Partnership Draft Regional Plan. Downstairs in the Hunter Room.
April 10	No meeting – Good Friday
April 17	Four Way Speech Contest. Downstairs in the Hunter Room
April 24	Meeting being held in conjunction with the District Conference. Meeting begins at 11:30 in Canmore at the Radisson Hotel and this will replace our regular weekly meeting.
May 1	Peter McKenzie-Brown from Arthritis Society. Back in the Holiday Inn Ball Room.
May 8	Robin Knudsen from Olds Club on actual operation of micro-credit bank funded by our club
May 15	Leo Wieser and Becky Scott - Bleeding Art Industries - special effects for entertainment, movies, stage, TV
May 22	Pam Ison Reilander: STARS
May 27	Club Assembly being held at the Danish Canadian Club
May 29	No meeting

Our exchange student to Brazil, Emily Rose, has a blog site: <http://Emily-exchange-to-brasil.blogspot.com>. If you just click on this Website address, you will go straight to it. Marie Rickard has told me that Emily updates this site regularly, so please visit it every so often.