

Rotary Club of Calgary West  
(Service through Fellowship)

# The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3, Elbow River Casino, Fridays 12:15 pm

**President:** Garfield Ganong **President-Elect:** Lynne Thornton

**Past President:** Mike French **Secretary:** George Edwards

**Treasurer:** Mike French

**Directors:** Brent Barootes, Mark Ferguson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,  
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali

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The front desk (**Kurt Schurer**, **Jim Willson** and **Stan Cichon**) efficiently took money, recorded names and sold 50/50 tickets. Those who arrived early had a chance to buy coffee and view the crafts and clothing items on display from Guatemala. **Don Axford** provided pre-lunch music while dressed in “western” garb [this was explained later in the meeting]. Our incoming president, **Lynne Thornton**, called the meeting to order in President Garfield’s absence; it seems he is holidaying in Mexico. Lynne introduced the head table including guest speaker **Evelyn Buckley** (also an honorary member of CWRC), **Bryden Horwood** (Chair of our International and World Service Committee), **Bill Lawless** (Director of Club Activities), **Masha Pronina** (# 1 hockey fan and exchange student from Russia), and **Marie Rickard** (Director of Finance).

We impressed our visitors with the strong voices and excellent pitch in singing “O Canada”, and **Derek McClary** followed with an appropriate invocation. Jim Willson introduced a record number of visitors and guests, including spouses and friends of CWRC - Barb Alexander, Bette Williams, Lu Horwood, and Rachel Williams. Guests from other countries included Steven Krawciw from New York (Walter’s son) and Jackie Barry from Spain (guest of David Williams). In fact, there were so many visitors and guests that music director Des DeFreitas asked club **members to stand** so their “Hail Hail ...” song of welcome could be heard.

Prior to lunch, Lynne reminded Rotarians that March is literacy month and then expanded the introduction of some guests so we would be able to talk to them while we stood in the food line up.

- **Rita Sly**, a former Rotarian brought two visitors from John G. Diefenbaker High School. **Elaine Wong**, a student at JGD asked for our assistance helping them **support food banks** through their efforts to recycle obsolete cell phones, pagers or Blackberries. Elaine says approximately 1,000,000 cell phones will be “thrown away” next year in Calgary, and they would like to have them recycled. Contact Lisa at the school - 274-2240.
- **Brent Barootes** introduced **Natasha Guillot**, Director of the Flames Foundation for Life. We are partnered with them to assist with additional programs at the Children’s Hospital, and are planning to be casino volunteers over the next three years to raise \$250,000. Their goal is \$10,000,000.

- **Clarence Buckley** introduced **Bonner and Joan Hanson, Gordon and Linda Hunter**, who travelled with him and Evelyn to Guatemala. Also **Jan Townsend** and **Doug Jones** who are Directors of the Guatemala Hearts and Hands Program and members of Canmore Rotary Club.

Following another great lunch, Chair Lynne called on a number of Rotarians to make quick announcements and business reports.

- **Ted Valentine** reviewed the brochure placed at every seat explaining **An Evening on Broadway**. Rotarians are grouped in teams to work on ticket sales and auction donations. Write May 30 on your calendar, as Broadway is coming to Calgary West!
- **Sam Switzer** was thanked by the club for making special licensing arrangements for CWRC so any guests and visitors **under** the age of 18 could enter the casino and participate in our meetings.
- **Steve Rickard** was presented with a cheque from the owners of an internet marketing company who donate 30% of their profit to non-profit organizations, in this case Micro Credit. [www.reveal.ca](http://www.reveal.ca) is a company that provides small businesses with an internet website so they can present their business or service to the world.
- Des DeFreitas informed the club that the friendship exchange to Orangeville in June is cancelled as CWRC was unable to get a group together. The good news is that he will continue to try to get a group together for September. His work was later rewarded when **he won** the fifty one dollar 50/50 draw.
- Marie and Steve Rickard, along with **Bob Hamshaw** and Lynne Thornton will be attending the June International Convention in LA and will be assisting with the Micro Credit information booth at the general meeting. Steve and Marie modelled their bright red Canadian jacket/vests that they will wear. These clothing items as well as a golf shirt are available for \$50. See Bob H. if you want to brighten up your Rotary wardrobe.

**Frank Burns** took his **Sergeant-at-Arms** responsibility very seriously, and somehow was able to mix gopher depopulation, St. Paddy's day, the Pope, Torington Alberta, seven mortal sins and Greek gods into his rationale for fines to members. Only President Garfield escaped being fined!

### Guest Speaker

Evelyn Buckley was introduced by Bill Lawless. Bill noted that Evelyn and Clarence recently returned from their second trip to Guatemala, so while for some of the club members this presentation would be a re-visitation, there was much more to come, as Bryden Horwood would also speak to us at the end of Evelyn's presentation.

Evelyn introduced the Hearts and Hands program that has been operating for seven years. Led by Jan Townsend from the Canmore club, a group of people recently visited Guatemala again to build another 100 stoves. Evelyn noted that this project is considered a hands-on program and that for every stove that is build, the family is more self sufficient. Their need to gather wood up in the hills for burning inside their homes and shelters is reduced from 25 logs to 3 logs per day. Every stove that is provided, results in five people having greatly improved health (no smoke from the open fires used in and outside the home). Evelyn's presentation included pictures of the stoves, village, children and happy experiences of the Canadian visitors. She told us some brief governmental and religious history of Guatemala and the plight of many village and rural peoples. To date, two hundred and seventy five Heart and Hands project volunteers have provided 2000 stoves, 400 water treatment filters, two dental clinics, two school kitchens, one paved playground, furniture in one school, one teacher, and scholarships for students. In the village of Los Chivitos (300 people), we saw the school where classrooms housed grades 1-4. **Unfortunately there is no school space for the children beyond grade 4.** At this point in the program, Bryden came forward and announced that through the efforts of many people (including **Bill Lawless**, the Buckley's, Jan Townsend, Doug Jones, the CWRC International Committee) plans were being finalized to take on a

school classroom building project, whereby two additional classrooms for grade 5 and 6 could be built. Details are that we would partner with Canmore Rotary, with matching grants from CIDA to build a two-classroom school this summer. Local government there will provide labour, and a teacher and the Guatemala Sur Rotary Club will oversee the project.

As the meeting time had been exhausted, Bryden thanked our program speaker and guests and we adjourned **VERY PROUD TO BE ROTARIANS!**

O yes - Clarence still has a few pounds of ground Guatemalan coffee for sale! See the box below.

Friday April 4 - Tim Anderson presents his trip to a Special African Village

Friday April 11 – The Solar Car winning team from U of C

Friday April 18 – Jeff Spalding from Glenbow Museum

Friday April 25 – David Marshall, President of Mount Royal College

### #1 Coffee Sales Pitch!!!

Guatemalan coffee is one of the best in the world, because it is grown high up in the mountains.

It is organic, and the workers are given a fair wage.

It is grown on the plantation of one of the Helps' workers that helps our group. He sells his family's coffee to supplement his wages.

He wants to go to university, and is now trying to put enough money away to do this.

Starbucks sells this coffee for \$14.00/pound, The Rotary members had a bargain today for \$12.00 or 2/\$20.00.

It is a medium smooth coffee with less caffeine, so you can have that second cup.

Last, but not least, Clarence and I carried 60 pounds of it home for club members to purchase!

The name is "Cafe POC".

Please contact the Buckleys to get your coffee: [xcranch@telusplanet.net](mailto:xcranch@telusplanet.net) or phone: 242-9234.

**All proceeds are being donated back to the club.**

Bill Lawless