

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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President Garfield kicked off today's meeting by welcoming Rotarians and guests and noting that polio was a global scourge decades ago and with the advent of the Salk vaccine it became controllable. Yet many still live under the threat of polio which is why Rotary and its global partners, including the Gates Foundation, are committed to reaching every child with the vaccine and ending this disease worldwide.

Polio is on the run! Today, polio cases have declined by 99 percent with fewer than two thousand cases reported in 2006.

Don Axford's piano playing skills led us gracefully through the national anthem.

Joining President Garfield at the head table were today's guest speaker **Richard Walker**, CEO of the World Skills Competition to be held at Stampede Park in June, 2009; **Karl Herzog** (introducing), **Bill Quinney** (thanking) and **Frank Burns** and **Paul LaFrance** bringing up the rear.

Garth Evans introduced our guests and **Larry Doyle** said the grace.

WALK AROUND

President Garfield's first stop on his walk around was with **Bill Tapuska** who announced that the cherry season was upon us once again and that the price of cherries was to remain at \$80 a box, which is a heck of a deal given the quality of the cherries. Bill said our goal was to sell 200 boxes this year (140 last year) and, as an additional inducement to members, anyone who ordered at today's meeting would get an extra pound of cherries with their order free, gratis and for nothing!

Joe Klassen was next on the cavalcade of announcers! Joe spoke about our Music of Broadway night and how we were doing so far. We have sold enough tickets to cover all of our costs, so any other sales go straight to the bottom line. Joe suggested getting together with friends to go the event as a way of approaching people to attend.

Bill Lawless gave us an update on the Guatemala school project and made an announcement about this year's Stampede Parade. Tickets are \$37 each and only in advance. There will be 150 tickets in all with 25 tickets being held in reserve for children of members and their relatives.

Mike French, as immediate past president, is organizing this year's President's Party for President Garfield which is to be held on June 25. Keep the evening open! The tickets will be on sale in two weeks.

Next Mike French presented **Lou Zaganelli** of Hull Homes with our cheque for \$5,000 to help Hull Homes with its projects. Lou was his usual humorous self accepting the cheque. He noted that the Pope had recently identified some new mortal sins resulting from the innovations of the modern world. One of these was accumulating excessive wealth and Lou said that members of CWRC would now not have to worry about this one due to their generosity to his organization. I am grateful to Lou for pointing this out, however, it has never been a problem for me nor is it likely to be! Other mortal sins perhaps, but not this one! Lou also invited us back to Hull Homes to a couple of their events at no cost. Also Lou donated Mikka Kuprasoff's goalie stick to the Sarcee silent auction. Some unnamed members wondered if this was the stick with the hole in it!

On a sad note, President Garfield noted the sudden death of **Doug Martin's son** from an aneurism last week. A card of condolences was at the front desk for members to sign. Also the widow of one of our past members, **Bill Morrow**, died this week.

Karl Herzog announced that his golf tournament would happen at the end of June. We always get a good CWRC turnout for this one. Karl also announced that any member attending the District Conference and buying the full package would get a \$100 credit on his or her club dues next year.

Don Bateman won the 50/50 draw for the umpteenth time! His take was \$45. I should get Don to bless my lottery tickets for me and perhaps get myself into the Pope's bad books!

Brent Barootes introduced two of his guests who have a connection with our club. One was **Natasha Guillot** of the Flames Foundation with which we are doing a Casino this year. Another was **Dale Zaleschuk**, vice president of Stampede Messenger, one of our partners in the strawberry shortcake project.

Chris Davis filled the sergeant-at-arms slot this week, doing an admirable job of extracting coinage from the many and varied CWRC miscreants. These included, but were not limited to, himself for exuding yet another "pits" pun in relation the cherry festival, Don Bateman for winning the 50/50 yet again and **Tim Anderson** for doing something uncharacteristically egregious, which I forget.

PROGRAMME

Karl Herzog introduced this week's speaker, Richard Walker. Richard is the CEO of World Skills Calgary 2009. Richard has an extensive high level background in fundraising and not for profit organizations. He came to talk to us today about the World Skills Competition which will be held in Calgary in 2009.

The World Skills Competition is an event modeled after the Olympics and involves trade skills. Throughout the world there is a shortage of skilled labour and many projects cannot proceed for this reason. There are also many underemployed young people in many parts of the globe whose lives are being wasted for the lack of training and motivation. Richard said that unless youngsters develop a means of livelihood by their early twenties, it's likely they will spend their energies in less productive activities like crime and revolution. Having a trade gives them an investment in themselves which leads to living more productive lives and satisfying the increasing demand for skilled labour.

The purpose of the World Skills Competition is to attract young people to the trades and to motivate governments to make training available. Governments will spend vast sums of money on the Olympics

for reasons of glamour and prestige and proportionately less on educating the young. While training the young is not a glamorous or particularly prestigious activity, it is arguably more important than the Olympics because of the growing need for skilled trades people.

The 2009 contest will be held in Calgary and will be the largest event ever held at Stampede Park. There will be a thousand participants from 50 countries. There are 48 skill categories from welding to cooking to robotics. There will be a requirement for about 1,500 volunteers from the community and Richard asked us as a Rotary club to consider ways Rotary and Rotarians could become involved. The competition will take place between August 15 and September 15, 2009.

Bill Quinney thanked Richard and presented him with his Boltman and said he would actively consider how our club could become involved.

COMING EVENTS

May 7: Club assembly at Fort Calgary

May 9: Meeting cancelled

May 16: Speaker Darrell Komick, Calgary Farmers Market

May 23: Speaker Marg Henschel, "A Rotarians View of Ecuador"

May 29: Speaker Scott Ackles, President Calgary Stampeders Football Team

MEMO FROM PRESIDENT GARFIELD

Always pay your exorcist! Or you will be repossessed!