

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

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Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali



Date: May 30, 2008 Edition: 41.44 Reporter: Lynne Thornton Publisher: David Williams

It was a change of pace for our last meeting in May as **President Garfield** was away on business in the nation's capitol and the **President of Sask Air** was in the pilot's seat. You'll remember him as past president **Stan Cichon**. And, as usual, he was in fine form, even if his Stampeder jersey was a size too small. That double president handle makes for a big guy, in lots of ways. So the captain asked all the passengers to chip in a little for gas and yelled at the ground crew to get the cows off the runway and we were cleared for takeoff.

Stan reminded us that 37 years ago on this very date, the U.S. unmanned space probe Mariner 9 was launched on a mission to gather scientific information on Mars. Today, the Phoenix Mars Lander is on the surface exploring the Arctic plains of Mars. The purpose of the mission is to:

- determine whether life ever arose on Mars
- characterize the climate of Mars
- characterize the geology of Mars
- prepare for human exploration

With the assistance of Canadian space robotics, these objectives are coming close to reality. Amazing!!

Don Axford led us earthlings in our Canadian national anthem.

HEAD TABLE

Stan was joined at the day's head table by **Frank Burns** with the classification of school psychologist. Frank has his private pilot's licence, but so far has resisted a Sask Air contract. Good to see the man has lots of integrity. **Lee Genier**, guest speaker was introduced by **Ted Valentine**, Boston marathoner, motor dealer and PDG. **Don Alexander** with a classification of mixed farming, and the man who has been on the house committee since the beginning of time, was joined by past president **Bill Tapuska**, engineering management and deluxe cherry pusher.

It was an aside observation that Henry Ford, for all his money, never owned a Volvo.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Bernie Ward had his work cut out for him. We had a lot of visitors and guests. Looks like other Rotarians have discovered our great venue, free parking and amazing buffet. **Stephanie Monson** had returned and it was great to see her. Bernie had **Masha Pronina** and her best friend exchange student

friends, **Victoria** from France and **Julie** from Germany, to help support Masha at her last Calgary West meeting. There were tears, lots of tears. Masha goes on her canoe trip and then leaves Calgary June 12th. She has to leave early to write some tough exams back in Siberia for university admission. Masha thinks the hardest one will be her Russian language exam, because it is “high Russian” and she figures her Russian language has slipped because of always speaking English while here. However, she had passed all her exams before she came to Canada, but has to re-write because of the time lapse. We know she’ll pass with flying colors - again!!! Through her tears, she said she’s had the “best year of my life, so far”. Masha translated an old Russian saying “Don’t cry because it’s done, smile because it’s your life.” We’ll miss her – she’s been a real delight!

Bryden Horwood delivered a very thoughtful invocation.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Joe Klassen regretted this was his last kick at the cat as sergeant. for this year, so he was uncharacteristically soft on us. But he got everyone fair and square all the same.

PRESENTATION

Bryden Horwood and **Bill Lawless**, on behalf of Calgary West, presented **Alexis Bedoe** (sp?), the Calgary ambassador for **ShelterBox**, with a cheque for \$10,000 for aid in Burma (Myanmar) and China after the recent disasters there. Alexis thanked us for our tremendous support. They can always use more, of course, but Calgary West has been very generous.

ANNONCEMENTS

Jim Sikowski from **Rotary Challenger Park** urged us to help at their August 22 – 23 casino. He’d like a couple of golf teams from Calgary West at the 3rd annual **Challenger Cup Charity Golf Tournament** September 15th at McKenzie Meadows Golf Club. Calgary West has sponsored a hole, our members Ted Valentine and **Mike French**, through Valentine Volvo and RBC, respectively, have sponsored holes in one.

June 21, the longest day of the year, is **Family Fun day at Rotary Challenger Park**. Free admission from 10 am to 2 pm, demonstrations of wheelchair tennis, challenger little league, face painting, Butterfield Acres petting zoo, a visit from Harvey the Hound, and free lunch. **Phone Laurie Graham** if you can help. RSVP your availability by 4:00PM Thursday, June 17th, at www.challengerpark.com or **call Wendy Knox at 250-2707** or wknox@challengerpark.com. Bring all the kids and grandkids for a really good time.

Marg Henschel urged us to sell tickets to the annual Stampede Parade Breakfast. We still have plenty of tickets and we don’t want to have any left, so tell everyone you know what a bargain we have going here.

Fabio, our Swiss former exchange student, flew back to town to graduate with his chums from his Calgary high school. He has been working in a Thai restaurant in Switzerland since the new year, earning \$\$ to go to university. He’s been accepted at Western in Ontario, where he plans to study bio medical sciences. His goal is to become a surgeon!

Steve Rickard spoke about the success of our initial **World Peace** photo contest. The winners were announced at the District conference in Lethbridge. **Ed Aboussafy** suggested the contest be expanded to cover the whole district next year.

Sa’adat Keshavjee let us know his daughter is going to have her head shaved and hopes to raise around \$10,000. That’s a bunch of \$\$\$!

Roger, a guest for the second time at Calgary West, and whose name I did not get, told us about **Martha Birkett, a grandmother** who is riding horseback from Ottawa to Calgary to raise funds for the **Children's Wish Foundation**. That's about 3,500 km rotating through four horses riding 60km and about four hours a day. She's sponsored by the **Bearspaw Lions Club**. The final ride and presentation is July 2 at the Lion's Club Bearspaw Community Hall in the north west. Can you come? Call Roger at 239-0370.

Dan Doherty won the 50/50 for \$39.00. **Murray Hunter** won the Stampeders game cap and Alexis Bedoe won the "game day kit" of opener, stopper, and bottle of wine.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ted Valentine introduced Lee Genier, Vice President, Business Development of the **Calgary Stampeders Football Club**. Lee, a native of Sturgeon Fall, Ontario, received his diploma of Business Administration from Mount Royal College and is a graduate of Western Canada High School in Calgary.

Lee joined the Stampeders in 1995 as a marketing representative, responsible for selling season tickets, group sales and sponsorships. In 1997, Lee was promoted to Senior Sales Executive where he continued to excel as a leader in sales.

In 1999, Lee oversaw the sales department as season tickets sales soared over 27,000, the largest in Canadian sport. During his tenure with the Stampeders, Lee has developed innovative sales strategies that saw crowds of more than 32,000 fans flock to McMahon Stadium on a regular basis.

In February, 2005, Lee was promoted to Vice President, Business Development. In the off season Lee resides in Calgary and is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys golf and whitewater rafting.

Lee told us Ted Valentine has owned Stamp's season tickets since 1953 and has only missed one game – Thanksgiving Day 1958!! That's loyalty!

We saw a video "This is Our League" giving us fast clips of history in the CFL. The current rookie count in training camp is 70 guys who have never been to Calgary before; they're working out with a mix of veteran players. We've got some great guys back. We even have "back-up" quarterback Dave Dickinson returning to the fold. The first game is June 13 with the Edmonton Eskimos, here.

The 2009 Grey Cup will be in Calgary. Lee hopes to put about 35,650 fans in the stands. Lee's seen it all – the good, the bad, the ugly and now the "better". With community ownership, things have improved on all fronts. Now we just need to win the Grey Cup in 2008 and then 2009, right here on home turf.

The Grey Cup committee is looking for volunteers. Call the Stampeders' office.

Ron Jones was very cheeky and volunteered Ted Valentine to be the streaker in 2009 because we all know he can really move it as a marathoner! Go Ted Go!

Robyn Braley complimented the team for their continued community commitment with a special mention to **Jim Barker** who returned to a special function because he cared. Lee agreed the players have a passion for the game. They sure don't make the big bucks the hockey players make. Maybe that makes for a more passionate team and game.

For more information please call Ted Valentine, number one Stampeders fan.

A Stampeder-jerseyed Frank Burns thanked Lee for his enthusiasm and loyalty, and presented Lee with our world famous Boltman.

CLOSING

Stan said he had it on good authority that **Garth Evans** took his **Pauline** to her first Canadian football game. Afterward he asked her how she liked the game.

“I liked it, but I couldn’t understand why they were killing each other for 25 cents,” said Pauline.

“What do you mean?” Garth asked.

“Well everyone kept yelling, ‘Get the quarter back’.”

As we look forward to the weekend – sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces up, snow is exhilarating. There is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

And he caught the next Sask Air flight out of here.

NEXT

June 6 – Peter Young with the Calgary Vipers

June 13 – Art Johnson MLA on banning cell phone use in cars

June 20 – Calgary Soccer Association on the future of Soccer in Calgary

June 27 – Classification talk by Kurt Schurer and Turn Over meeting

Garfield’s Ceilidh

Wednesday June 25th 2008

at

**Southern Alberta Pioneer Memorial Building
3625 4th Street SW**

Join Garfield and Cheryl for an evening
of merriment and dancing.

This will be an evening to remember!

Beautiful location for both indoor and outdoor socializing

Make it a priority to e-mail Mike French for your tickets

Mike.french@rbc.com

**\$90 per ticket is a bargain for a live band and an evening of dancing
and fellowship**