

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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OOOPS!!! We were meeting at the **Carriage House**, and although it had been “advertised” for several meetings, some of us went to the Holiday Inn as per usual. The Carriage House stuffed us into a long, narrow room where our pre-meeting schmooze was out of the question. Nothing like an unsatisfactory change to make us appreciative of our home base.

**President Karl Herzog** called the meeting to order and asked **Robyn Braley** to lead us in our national anthem with his beautiful voice. **Steve Rickard** gave the invocation, relating it to the topic of the day: the work of our international committee.

Lunch was served to us as President Karl started right in with the parade of announcements because he had such a full programme.

**Marg Henschel** gleefully announced we had better buy our Stampede Parade breakfast tickets pretty quickly as over 400 had already been sold. Club members are getting a break on the price for a child (\$21.00), only until May 28. Please check with Marg, soonest.

**Marie Rickard** announced the annual **Coffee Party** at her home this year at 1420 Scotland St. S.W., Calgary. It is **Wednesday May 26** for 10AM to noon. Global Wonders will be present to talk about the work of Servants Anonymous and to show jewelry and products made by women from their Nepal project. Items will be available for purchase.

It's Casino time! **Orlin McMillan** is up for organizing again and asking for our commitment for dates. July 14 and 15 is the **Habitat for Humanity** casino and the **Calgary West** casino is October 16 and 17, so plan ahead.

Our international committee has been very busy this year working with groups abroad to see where we can best help. Here are the results of their labours.

**ROTARY EVEREST TREK** is being headed up by an energetic crew from Calgary West, including our President Karl, and is aiming to raise \$60,000 from the trekkers and non-Rotarians. The stated goals are: to increase awareness of Rotary in the community, to raise money from non-Rotarians to build a school,

and to have an adventure with a cause. While the trek will be led by Calgary West, Rotary clubs from Lethbridge, Innisfail, Chinook, and Red Deer East, so far, are joining forces. The trekkers will go to the Everest region in April of 2012 to help build the high school being built by the **Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation** to serve students in grades 11 and 12. This will happen in the year **Mike French** will be the District Governor of 5360 and will end in time to go to the International Convention in Bangkok and the District Conference. Sooooo, start now, because there's only plus or minus 694 days left to get in shape!

**HOMES FOR HOPE** was brought to the club by **Dan Doherty**. He and his wife, Marlene, had been on six "builds" before he got Calgary West involved, and now Calgary West has done six builds too under Dan's watchful eye. The latest one was completed in February of this year and included monies from Calgary South and a team of 10 young people from Kids Cancer Care Foundation, who raised \$4,000 for the trip. The contact in Ensenada is Youth with a Mission and the Ensenada Rotary Club.

Last year, the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary participated and had a "life altering" experience. Some of those kids had never been outside of the city of Calgary and there they were in Mexico, helping out a family they had just met! This year the Kids Cancer Care Foundation sent 10 students as part of their leadership programme. The young people who came to speak at our meeting said the family whose home they built became "their family" and it made them proud to have learned to give back to the community.

Dan said the legacy is that 180 lives have been impacted, education has been furthered in Mexico and in Calgary, an eye operation was provided for a blind father who was able to renovate and add on to the home Rotary built and also open his own home business. The family is self sufficient and a role model for other families. **Christian, Tracey and Emily** took time out of their day to speak of their experience.

**HAWKER'S MARKET GIRLS' SCHOOL** in Nairobi is thriving under the leadership of **Sa'adat's** relative, **Sharifa**. Steve and Marie Rickard have just returned from a visit to the school. Calgary West has provided money for sewing machines. The young women are learning to sew everything from simple bags to much more complicated uniforms. They have initiated projects for sustainability in capturing rain water, developing a simple, but effective, solar panel for cooking and are recycling commercial ash to use as a source of fuel. Marie modeled a fetching hat made from plastic bags, cut into strips and then crocheted. Not a style for everyone, but very inventive!

**GIRLS ON THE MOVE** in Malawi was the Rickards' next stop. **Christie Johnston** from Alberta and **Memory** from Malawi were here last year on a whirl wind tour to raise awareness for the school project. The girls in Malawi were unable to complete their schooling in order to go ahead to post secondary. They were destined to a life of poverty and early marriage, bearing multiple children into poverty. The school started with 24 girls and has grown to 320 students with about 2000 on a waiting list. Calgary West has donated desks and bunk beds which have been built in the village. A number of Rotarians also sponsor a girl on a yearly scholarship. The girls are able to do some jobs around the school, including working on the construction for pay, to help with their tuition.

**BUILDING BASIC EDUCATION** in Uspantan, Guatemala, has expanded under the imagination and dedication of **Jan Townsend** from Hearts and Hands and the Rotary Club of Canmore. Originally they built simple but efficient stoves for the villagers' homes, clearing up a bad problem with too much indoor smoke. Now three schools, classrooms, and playgrounds have been built through co-operation with the two Rotary clubs, Hearts and Hands and the former Wild Rose Foundation matching dollars. Even the surging Canadian dollar made a difference recently enabling that third school to be built. US Aid chipped in and blackboards, desks and school supplies appeared with a kit for every kid. The Sergio Paiz Foundation supplied computers. Jan is now fundraising to build a "basico" or junior and high school. Jan created an original scholarship of \$500 for one child; it became nine scholarships in 2010 and the goal is 50 scholarships in 2013. In 2010, with the assistance from the Calgary Downtown Rotary Club, 10

classrooms and three kitchens were built. **Bill Lawless** has traveled to Guatemala on two occasions on behalf of Calgary West Rotary, and **Clarence and Evelyn Buckley** have contributed financially and through their “sweat equity” as well right from the beginning. Rotary International now has a new grant system called Future Visions which will be accessed for matching funds.

It was a wonderful programme and we could all feel proud of our part as a club. Thank-you to all the presenters, the volunteers, committee and board members involved.

### Coming Events

May 14	Mark Stephens – Voice of the Stampeders
May 21	Anne Price – CWRC’s Integrity Award recipient
May 28	Venue transferred to the District Conference in Banff
June 4	Danielle Smith – Leader, Wildrose Alliance
June 11	Ald Rick McIver – Mayoral Candidate
June 18	Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson – <b>Meeting at Danish Canadian Club</b>
June 25	Special Club Program – Turnover Friday
June 26	President’s Ball
July 2	<b>No Meeting</b>
July 9	<b>Stampede Parade – Meeting on the parade route</b>
July 16	“Stampede Yahoo!” – Bonnie Baldwin, Mike Zero, Stampede queens
July 23	RYLA
July 30	Student David Gunn – Capsized tall ship survivor