

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

Date: May 8, 2009 Edition: 42.38 Reporter: Brent Barootes Publisher: David Williams



It was another packed house for our weekly club meeting at the Holiday Inn at Macleod and 42nd Ave. We have been running an average of 60 people per luncheon for the past month or so versus our traditional 50 people; we are truly a popular club!! And the staff at the Holiday Inn has been great in accommodating us the best they can in tight surroundings as they renovate the hotel! I think we should call the food and beverage manager “Shoehorn” as she seems each week to squish in more and more people. It will be great to get back into our regular room at the Holiday Inn (the main ballroom) in June.

In the meantime, we are at the Carriage House Inn for a plated lunch service this coming Friday, May 15, then at STARS Air Ambulance for an offsite meeting at their hanger on May 22! (Note that the meeting will start at 11 am that day – May 22 for STARS – and you need to contact Garth Evans (gp.evans@shaw.ca) as soon as possible to confirm if you are attending. Just click on his email above and send him an email and he will provide you with all the details and directions. Remember it all starts at 11 am at 1441 Aviation Park NE in the Landmark Aviation Lobby with lunch at Wings Restaurant.)

There will be no meeting on Friday, May 29, as we are having our Spring Assembly meeting on Wednesday, May 27. Be sure to attend. It is being held at the Danish Canadian Club on 11th Ave SW.

When I arrived at 11:30 **Marg Henschel** was on the front desk taking the payments. She was cheery and excited to be back from her sojourns and held no remorse as she retrieved \$25 from each of us attending lunch. **Ron Morrison**, our club secretary, was attentively taking attendance. He noted that he needs to know which club members attended the District Conference in Canmore for Friday only so he can credit you with attendance. If you were there on Friday lunch (or registered in full for the District Conference) please email Ron as soon as possible (morrisonr@shaw.ca).

Jim Barnes was our greeter and did a fine job making sure everyone got their name badge. **Jim Willson** introduced our guests and **Des DeFreitas** led us in a much better rendition of our welcome song. Also joining us was **Emily**, our outbound exchange student to France starting this fall. Other special guests included two visitors from Barrie Ontario Club – our Friendship Exchange partners from two years ago. Des also noted that there are two additional Rotary Friendship Exchanges coming up. One is to New Zealand in November of this year and one to Australia in April, 2010. For more details on these exciting opportunities and fun filled adventures, please contact **Pat Killoran** from the Lethbridge Club at irish.2000@shaw.ca. The target for both these District sponsored Friendship Exchanges is six couples.

During the introductions, one guest, **Doug Chisholm**, received a round of cheers and applause when his name was read. Doug is a past member of our club and is now President-elect for the Olds Club. It was so very good to see Doug at our meeting again and back in Rotary.

Doug Chisholm was also the winner of the \$40 from the 50/50 pot. Doug graciously donated it all back to our club and asked for the time to promote his club's golf tournament. The cash was retrieved and the announcement read. In good faith, and for the \$40 we would also like to promote Doug's Olds Club Golf Tournament in this newsletter. The tournament is on Friday, June 19, with an 11:30 am check in and 1 pm shotgun start. It is held at Olds Highlands Golf Course and the early bird special is just \$125 per person or a team of four for \$500. All proceeds go to supporting local and international projects through the Rotary Club of Olds. For more details or to register contact **Trish Branter** at 403-556-3866.

The meeting was called to order by **President Lynne** at 12:14 sharp, but, unfortunately, due to the small room and the loud chatter no one heard the bell ring. A loud shout of "Quiet!" brought the rumblings to a halt and President Lynne welcomed all. The invocation was delivered by **Bill Lawless (Brooklyn Barootes)** was ready as a fill in if Bill needed it – which he did not!). Our national anthem was led again by Des. (And **Valerie**, our Swiss exchange student, even sang *O Canada* as well!!) Throughout the meeting pictures from our club members entered into the District Peace Photo Contest were shown for all to marvel at. President-elect nominee, **Sa'adat Keshavjee**, brought us a piano/keyboard to accompany the national anthem, but due to lack of space we will have to wait until June in our fully refurbished ballroom to enjoy this treat!

President Lynne introduced her head table including herself, guest speaker **Robin Knudson** from the Olds Club, **Bryden Horwood**, chair of the International Committee for our club who thanked Robin for his address, **Ted Valentine**, our sergeant-at-arms for the day, **Ron Staughton** and also **Amy Schalin**, who introduced Robin. Amy Schalin is an active member of our International Committee and the driving force behind our investment in MEDIC Microcredit project. Amy is also a past Youth Exchange Student who was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Olds and her father has been a member of the Olds Club for many years.

Dan Varvos announced that he has a full team of 30 people registered for the Habitat Build on May 30. There has been tremendous support for this project. Dan will be in touch by email with all those signed up for the build with details of location, how to get there and what to bring, etc. It all begins bright and early on May 30 at 8 am. For more details email Dan at dvarvos@shaw.ca.

Valerie reported on her past week's escapades which included a trip to Halifax with her choir (at which they won double gold). She thoroughly enjoyed the trip and especially Peggy's Cove. She is in school for the next three weeks (that will be a big change!!) and then also off on a canoe trip in Camrose.

Also a reminder from **Mike French** that the club's new and not so new (trying not to say old!) members get together social to better become acquainted with Rotary, learn more about Rotary and have some member and partner fellowship. It will be held on May 21 at **Stan and Jane Beveridge's** house. This is a great opportunity to bring your partner, have a great time and learn more about Rotary. All members are encouraged to invite prospective members to the club to join us. As well, all members of less than a year are encouraged to join in. For more details, or to sign up, please contact Mike French at mike.french@rbc.com. This entertaining evening will be hosted at Stan and Jane's house at 4184 Varsity Road NW.

Karl Herzog promoted the MOTIVE ACTION upcoming golf tournament supported by our club. Be sure to register to play or at least volunteer to help out for the day. For more details on this please contact Karl at herzog@motiveaction.com. Please show your support and come out to this great tournament.

Bill Tapuska got up to remind everyone about Cherries! In his quizzical way, Bill reminded us that right now, as we sit here in Calgary, that the cherry trees are blossoming in the Okanogan and starting to develop those juicy plump delicious cherries that **Chris Lee** will be hand picking for all of us who order baskets of cherries. This is a great club fundraiser and all are encouraged to partake.

Chuck Morrison reported no change in status from the sick and visiting list. **Marmie's** cold has developed into pneumonia, but she seems to be doing OK. Others are recovering as well as can be expected from their ailments.

It was interesting to note that the soon to be homeowner of our Habitat build at month's end sent President Lynne a little history and to thank her and the club so much for sponsoring her home. **Lena Hutton** is a single mother with four children aged 2-14. She removed herself from an abusive relationship, endured separation from her children through social services intervention, put herself through school to now be a legal assistant with a local law firm. Lena has strong community ties, volunteers at Servant's Anonymous and is highly recommended by her employer. Remember the build for Lena and her children's new home is Saturday, May 30, at 8 am at 140 New Brighton Landing SE.

Just another reminder that the 9th Annual Olds Golf Tournament will take place on June 19 at the Olds Highlands Golf Club. Early bird rate (before May 31) is \$125 per person or \$500 for a team of four. Be sure to contact Trish Branter at 403-556-3866 for more details. (Making sure Doug got his \$40 worth of plugs!)

It is with great pleasure that this super sleuth investigative reporter is able to break some news about one of our own club members. Sa'adat Keshavjee is being honoured by his peers on May 22 at a special event at Mount Royal College. Sa'adat is being awarded a "Faculty of the Year Award at Mount Royal College". There were over 85 nominees from the 1300 faculty members and Sa'adat will be one of just eight recipients of this prestigious and most deserving award. Congratulations Saadat!

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Robin Knudson, a member of the Olds Rotary Club. Robin has been a tireless proponent of MEDIC Microcredit and microcredit in general long before he joined the Olds Rotary Club three years ago. Through an initial gift of \$5000 from the Olds Club and an additional gift from our club, matching grants, Wild Rose monies and support from individuals, MEDIC Microcredit got off the ground with a balance of \$50,000. To date, they have loaned thousands of dollars to projects in Ghana and throughout that part of Africa. At this point, though traditional microcredit paybacks are 98% (and regular banks are 93%), MEDIC Microcredit has a 100% payback rate.

As Robin defined it, extreme poverty is those people living on less than \$1 per day or under \$365 a year!! Microcredit projects truly help the poorest of the poor through loaning to those who could not get a loan, to those with no collateral and to those that are traditionally observed as "high risk". (This is unlike traditionally banking who only loan money to the "rich", those with assets and collateral to ensure repayment, though the repayment loan rate is lower than microcredit repayment success.) Microcredit, as Robin noted, is more than financing. It is social economics that raises communities and empowers people to be successful. He noted that microcredit banking is successful only if the government is stable and supportive, there exists a life of security within the community and there is an infrastructure to ensure entrepreneurial success.

It was also noted that 1/3 of the world's population is living on less than \$2 per day. To compare this, in 2006 the average Canadian earned \$185 per day or \$67,600 per year. 85% of the microcredit recipients

are women and it allows them to have dignity and better their lives and that of their families and community. Some interesting statistics to clearly bring the point home were delivered by Robin to show us what poverty is and how with microcredit we can turn these tables to provide people and their families with better lives:

- The average life expectancy due to malnourishment, etc, in these countries is 53 years of age, while in Canada it is over 80 year.
- 60% Of rural people in these impoverished areas have no potable water for safe drinking and food preparation.
- Traditionally, they eat corn three times a day – far from a balanced diet.
- The illiteracy rate for women is 82% and 58% for men.
- Literacy, as we all know, is the basis for a healthy community and with microcredit projects this is a start to changing the illiteracy rates in these countries.
- 41% of children aged 6-11 do not go to school, which explains the illiteracy rate!
- The typical classroom for those that do get the opportunity to go to school is 200 children for every three teachers!
- MEDIC Microcredit is now working with schools to loan them money to build better schooling opportunities for the children of these countries.

Robin concluded by reminding us that projects like MEDIC Microcredit truly make a difference to not only the economic status of these people and their families and communities, but, as a result, enhances social environments, allows for better schooling for more children and encourages healthy lifestyles. He again thanked the club for their initial support in getting the project off the ground and the further support from our club this year.

Congratulations to Bryden, Amy and the International Committee for their due diligence and selection of this project. It truly shows the impact that our international funding from the club can have and how it can impact such a great number of people and their families through our contributions. With a mandate of the international committee to ensure funding goes to the poorest of the poor and helps the most people possible with each gift this is truly a superb investment and project for us to be part of.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MICRO CREDIT PROJECTS, OR TO LEARN ABOUT AN UPCOMING TRIP, READ BELOW AND ALSO MORE AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.

There is a trip to Haiti in January, 2010 in support of the Village Banks microcredit (MC) program of FINCA and it will visit MC success stories in the Les Cayes region. The trip will also visit social and cultural highlights with the goal being to set the stage for further programs and trips.

More info is available on our Facebook group where we encourage people to join. Just put in "microcredit haiti" in Facebook and look for the smiling Haitian lady.

UPCOMING MEETING DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Friday May 15 | Sharon Moore, Executive director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters – CARRIAGE HOUSE INN – MacLeod and 90 th Ave |
| Friday May 22 | Stars Air Ambulance – field trip to 1441 Aviation Park NE – OFF SITE |
| Wednesday May 27 | Club Assembly Danish Canadian Club at 5:30 PM |
| Friday May 29 | Regular Friday Meeting Cancelled because of the Assembly on Wednesday the 27th |
| Friday June 5 | BACK AT HOLIDAY INN – IN THE NEWLY RENOVATED BALLROOM – OUR NEW HOME! |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Friday June 12 | Program to be forthcoming |
| Friday June 19 | Program to be forthcoming |
| June 26 | Handover Meeting – Lynne’s Farwell Speech and the Welcoming of President Elect Karl Herzog |
| Friday June 26 | President Lynne’s grand soiree in the evening. |
| Friday July 3 | Stampede Parade Breakfast. |

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.

MORE ON MICROCREDIT AND TRIP OPPORTNITIES



HAITI MICROCREDIT INITIATIVE IN ROTARY DISTRICT 5360

Microcredit is the single largest anti-poverty tool known to mankind.

Haiti is the poorest and most densely populated country in the Western Hemisphere.

Familiarization/education tour of Haiti's microcredit program is being planned for January, 2010.

FINCA has come up with a package microcredit bank in \$5,000 allotments. Our district Microcredit Task Force has set a goal of five banks and we have funding for two and one half. Any amount of funding would be helpful. Of course, sponsoring an entire bank is best. Funding has been cut from our prime matching source, the Wild Rose Foundation.

Thanks for considering this opportunity to be part of the sustainable solution to poverty.

Remember the trip to Haiti! Consider bringing a child, grandchild, or someone with whom you share a concern for poverty's alleviation.

For trip Information: Contact: Chris Hylton: Tel: 403 264-5288 E-mail: chris@hylton.ca

And here is the direct link to sign up for the trip:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=pASgNLH8vEj5JhxbC0qqQFQ>

For information about Haiti Microcredit and FINCA

<http://www.villagebanking.org/site/c.erKPI2PCIoE/b.2678905/k.B1FF/Haiti.htm>

For more information about Microcredit Task Force in District 5360, Contact: Steve Rickard, Chair, Rotarian Action Group for Microcredit steve@propertytaxes.com or Wally Gardiner, Chair, Microcredit Task Force District 5360 gardinercomputer@shaw.ca



Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international

Facts at a Glance

This table provides some facts about Haiti related to international

development and compares them with similar facts about Canada.

| Topic | Haiti | Canada |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Official name: | Republic of Haiti | Canada |
| Capital: | Port-au-Prince | Ottawa |
| Area (thousands of km ²): | 28 | 9,985 |
| Population (millions): | 9.6 (2007) | 33.1 (2007) |
| Population density (per km ²): | 343 (2007) | 3 (2007) |
| Urban population (%-2007): | 40 | 81 |
| Gross national income (GNI) (per capita): | US\$480 (2006) | US\$36,170 (2006) |
| GNI purchasing power parity (PPP) (per capita): | US\$1,490 (2006) | US\$34,610 (2006) |
| Structure of GDP (%-2006): | | |
| • Agriculture | 28 | 2 |
| • Industry | 17 | 31 |
| • Services | 55 | 67 |
| Ecological footprint (global hectares per person-2003): | 0.6 | 7.6 |
| Human development index (HDI) ranking: | 146 th of 177 countries (2005) | 4 th (2005) |
| Gender-related development index (GDI) ranking: | N/A of 157 countries (2005) | 4 th (2005) |
| Life expectancy at birth: | 47 (1970), 60 (2006) | 73 (1970), 80 (2006) |
| Mortality rate under 5 years old (per 1,000): | 222 (1970), 80 (2006) | 23 (1970), 6 (2006) |
| Adult literacy rate (% 1995-2004): | | |
| • Total | 55 | 99 |
| • Men | 57 | 99 |
| • Women | 53 | 99 |
| Population using improved drinking water sources (%-2004): | | |
| • Total | 54 | 100 |
| • Urban | 52 | 100 |
| • Rural | 56 | 99 |