

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

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A very good meeting, this meeting of November 14!

It began with **Brian Stalwick** and **Jimmy Barnes** ably handling the front desk duties and dutifully recording each member and guest.

Bob Kerr, resplendent in a bright yellow shirt, jeans and boots and looking as if he just stepped out of an upscale Western Wear Magazine for Men, efficiently presented the name badge with a handshake and a smile.

Ron Morrison, behind the presidential lectern was making sure that the gremlin, so evident last week in the microphone, had been duly dispatched. It wouldn't do to have a misfire when the District Governor speaks.

Lots of fellowship and activity preceded the meeting with a crowd of about 75, including 13 guests. Regrettably, one Rotary committee sat by themselves at a table, ignored all the activity and continued their discussions right through and into the lunch. Too bad! So sad! The rest of us miss your company and fellowship!

President Lynne rang the Rotary bell sharply at 12:15 PM exactly coinciding with **Chris Lee's** cell phone ringing. Lucky for Chris, the sergeant-at-arms didn't hear it! Chris immediately changed the tone to "stun".

President Lynne recounted that Tuesday was a day of Remembrance and invited everyone to observe a moment of silence for "those who have paid such a high price for us".

Don Axford, now being able to see the piano keys, with his new inter-ocular lenses, led us in the national hymn.

Marie Rickard presented the invocation.

The meal was much improved: vegetable soup, chicken and Caesar salad, mixed greens topped off with apple or pumpkin pie. Delicious!

Then followed the introduction of a glittering head table, the likes of which you seldom see! Besides our President Lynne, there was **Ted Valentine**, PDG 1999/2000, **Steve Rickard**, PDG 2005/2006, **Tony Howard**, current assistant District Governor, and District Governor **Mark Starratt**. But the head table Star of the Starratt show (is that a pun? [**Editor's Note: NO!**]) was **Jen Starratt**, Mark's wife, who is due to deliver their first child in 12 and a half days!

Bob Kerr introduced the guests and visitors, 13 in all. Disappointing! He must be practising! Bob was uncharacteristically letter perfect. He didn't mispronounce a single name! What's a poor reporter going to write about?

Announcements

President Lynne graciously complimented and thanked Ron Morrison for his assistance in organizing our board of directors to prepare for the DG's visit. Ron responded with a deep blush in classic "ah shucks" style.

Bob Hamshaw talked about the RI Foundation (as opposed to the Calgary Club's Foundation). He called it the "bank that funds Rotary projects", such as Group Study, Ambassadorial Scholarships, Matching Grants and many more. He reminded us to become "sustaining members" and the club would match our donation to \$200 per year.

Exchange student **Valerie** spent some time in Bragg Creek and enjoyed the shorter school week because of the statutory holiday.

There was a reminder to all who signed up for Feed the Hungry on Sunday. Our chef, Chris Lee, will be featuring East Indian cuisine with butter chicken and mulligatawny soup!

Brent Barootes, who actually received an applause, when everyone suddenly realized he was not the sergeant-at-arms, spoke of the District Conference, April 24 to 26 in Canmore AB. Register early before November 30 for only \$199 and the club will grant \$100 towards next year's dues! Nets out at \$99! What a deal! Great location, great programs, great speakers and great fellowship!

Let's get this straight! If you donate \$200 to the RI Foundation, the club donates \$200 on your behalf. If you then donate \$200 to the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation, the club matches with another \$200. And if you register for the District Conference before the end of November, the club credits you with a further \$100. Easiest \$500 we've ever made!

Walter Krawciw spoke of our partnership with Central Memorial High School which replaces our long term partnership with Lord Shaughnessy. We are invited to two events, concerts on November 18 and November 27.

Karl Herzog updated the report on the search for a long-term venue. The committee will present a full report on December 12. President Lynne, with an eye on the clock, wisely chose to allow no questions.

Do you want a call from Santa in the first week of December? Or maybe a friend would like a call? Calgary Centennial has a direct line to Santa's cell phone at the North Pole and for \$15 they can arrange it for you. Call Roger at 287 3501.

The good news is the rumour that **Sam Switzer** resigned from Rotary is not true. Sam continues to be an active member and will host the ever popular lobster boil next June!

The bad news is that **Roy Thurm** has resigned.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Despite President Lynne's best effort to try to cancel, **Ron Jones**, undaunted, forged ahead as sergeant-at-arms and fined just about everyone in sight. Most notably, Steve Rickard and **Mike Carlin** for not sporting the "purse hangers" they purchased last week. **Clarence Buckley** slyly avoided paying a fine when asked why bulls spin and buck when ridden; something about front legs being shorter than the back legs. The suspicion is that he'll be fined twice as much next week for that tall tale!

50/50 Draw

Roger Frayne won \$50.

Guest Speaker

Ted Valentine introduced District Governor Mark Starratt

Mark is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a BComm. He is in the Financial Services Industry and is the founding President of the Rotary Club of Calgary Crowchild.

Mark spoke of meeting with our board and of the many projects our club has undertaken in our 41 year history.

He spoke of the many members of CWRC who are involved in the District:

John Rymes, long promoting the RI Foundation,

Mike French, assistant DG,

Garth and Pauline Evans, on hospitality,

Brent Barootes, the conference chair.

He singled out **Dan Doherty** for his work with RYLA and the impact his work has had on young people.

He thanked each CWRC member for the work we do to make Rotary prosper.

He referred to RI President Lee's objective of "Make Dreams Real", by setting our sights high, focussing on membership, clean water supply, literacy and health and hunger.

Rotary is near to eradicating Polio with only four endemic countries left: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. CWRC has taken on the challenge to once again help in that cause. It is done through the Rotary Foundation which has a four star ranking as one of the worlds finest charities.

He asked that we consider making RI Foundation the charity of our choice.

Mark stated that we need "more hands to do the work". New members are needed to energize the club, to provide new ideas and to strengthen the club for the next generation.

President Lee will be in Calgary in February, 2009, to induct new members and to participate in a major donor luncheon.

Lastly, Mark concluded his very excellent presentation by inviting us to attend the District Conference in Canmore in April, 2009. He has challenged his committee to bring in speakers that are 'story tellers', who can motivate and educate.

Mark was thanked by Steve Rickard and presented with a Certificate from Operation Eyesight.

A special gift of a favourite children's book was given to Jen Starratt by Marie Rickard, on behalf Baby Starratt, as a memento of her visit to CWRC.

The meeting ended at 1:30 PM

Next week: Bill Lawless on Guatemala.