

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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With a smile on his face and an air of willing to help, **Jim Barnes** made it almost pleasurable to hand over \$20 for lunch. At the table next to him, **Bill Tapuska** was also ready to serve as he flogged the **11th Annual Rotary Club of Calgary Family Christmas Brunch** being held at Pinebrook Golf and Country Club on Sunday December 21 at 11 am. Half the tickets are already sold for this annually sold out fellowship and family favourite. Be sure to see Bill this coming Friday to buy your tickets. Just \$25 per adult and \$15 for kids 12 and under! What a deal for this cornucopia of culinary delights at the brunch. And there will be entertainment by **Rhythm of the Rockies**. Don't get left out in the cold, get your tickets as soon as possible.

Not to be undersold, **Jim Willson** was there, third in line, offering 50/50 tickets. A smile on his face like half the take would be his. He did a tremendous job encouraging everyone to buy!

Kurt Schurer was also there at the front as the greeter ready with badge in hand a hearty good morning (for those of us that arrived prior to noon). Good to see they finally let Kurt off the desk and actually interact with people other than head buried in the credit card machine and taking our money. Great to see you out front Kurt!

As always, there was a great deal of discussion around the microphone and speakers. Low and behold, it was all clear as a bell for a few moments as **President-elect Karl** with assistance from the venue staff tested a new approach with speakers and a microphone. It was music to this reporter's ears as I could hear everything clear as day. But much like an offer only to be retracted, this clear tone and non-muffled sound was but an apparition similar to that seen by Scrooge on Christmas Eve...just a fleeting dream! We went back to the system that doesn't work. But we are promised that this coming Friday the "new sound system" will be in place...hurrah!

[**Editor's Note:** Karl was assisted by **Don Humphreys**, my guest this week, last week and probably next week.]

Through muffled and distorted sound barely audible, the meeting was brought to order at 12:17 pm by **President Lynne**. I am sure Lynne will be happy when the new sound system will be in...as will all of us. Due to the distorted nature of the sound system, any reporting that has been missed or erred is truly due to the lack of being able to understand the sounds emitting from the head table and I stand by that

excuse!. Thank you to all those (announcements, speakers and SAA) who chose not to use the microphone!

Anyway, President Lynne had good news for us at the start...as well as bad news. Our speaker for the day was unable to make it. (That was the bad news.) The great news was that the club members who lead the charge on the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation (**Bill Quinney**) and the Rotary International Foundation Club Chair (**Sa'adat Keshavjee** who blessed us with his presence: an amazing man with commitments to so many causes including the RI Foundation) regaled us with better understanding and knowledge of these two Foundations during Rotary Foundation Month. To round out the head table with President Lynne, Bill Quinney and Sa'adat Keshavjee were **John Rymes**, our club's RI Foundation guru (and district guru for the RI Foundation) and his mentee and eager to learn and grow into John's shoes, **Bob Hamshaw!** **Dan Doherty** was also to be at the head table, but Lynne clearly described that Dan was at home, looking like the Canadian ex-boxer George Chevalo with black eyes, swollen jaw, bruised cheeks and more. No, he was not mugged in downtown Calgary, but had some sort of facial/dental work (hard to decipher due to the microphone) done that has caused his facial resemblance to Mr. Chevalo. (I didn't know Botox treatments went bad like that!)

President Lynne also had even better news...the meeting was to end 15 minutes early today to assist the venue in changeover for a major function being held that evening in the location. Lynne was true to her word and we DID finish about 1:15.

It was great to see **Sam Switzer** at the meeting today as well. Though this scribe did not get a chance to chat with Sam, I did want to say, great to see you back at the club.

While our artful pianist **Don Axford** led us through *O Canada*, **Ted Valentine** delivered the grace. Thank you gentlemen.

There was much activity with six guests and Rotarians making up this week's visitors. Lots of fellowship was had including in line for lunch (a delicious soup, salad and of course, shepherd's pie). There was more to be said about the fellowship, but **Mike French** in his authoritarian role was able to suppress the freedom of the press and quash much of what this scribe was going to report on!! Oh us poor misunderstood journalists!

This scribe did note that **Past President Garfield** must really miss being president. He was at the front of the food line (ahead of many at the scribe's table and definitely in front of the head table entourage) and must have thought he was still president. Lucky for him that **SAA Chuck Morrison** missed it and I didn't want to point it out to Chuck, I just decided to keep it to myself...until NOW!

Valerie, our exchange student, was not with us to enlighten us on her escapades of the last week. Instead, she was spending the day, as President Lynne described, "in a young girl's dream"! She was shopping! I can't wait until Friday to hear about her fun day!

The illustrious Chuck Morrison was Sergeant at Arms and picked most people's pockets very well for not having contributed to either the RI Foundation or the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation, or with no pin or if they were not wearing a Paul Harris pin! What a windfall. He then went on to fine this scribe for taking too much dessert (never). If he had checked he would have seen the art of "Service Above Self" as I brought desserts for my table companions with me from the "trifle too much" dessert table!!

And, finally, Chuck was able to draw similarities (other than aspiring actors) between **Ron Morrison** and John Wayne and Janet Leigh. All three were born with the last name "Morrison". **Bill Lawless's** table did not know the answer (though **Frank Burns** did and blurted it out and was duly fined accordingly along

with Bill's table!) In fact Chuck was so good at picking our pockets that Bill Tapuska even had to borrow "two bits" from Mike French to pay his \$1 fine. Boy, the world economic turmoil has really hit us all hard!

Be aware everyone, **Ted Valentine is the Sergeant at Arms this coming Friday**. Bring lots of money!

President Lynne announced that we should all mark our calendars for February 24/25 with **D.K. Lee**, our Rotary International President, will be here in Calgary to enlighten us with his vision and thoughts. Mark those dates.

While you are marking dates, also note that March 2, 2009, is the date for the Rotary Integrity Awards being held again this year at Stage West.

Due to the fact that our venue will be closed for the holidays, **we will not be having meetings on Friday December 26 or Friday January 2**. You are welcome to attend other local clubs either week or clubs wherever your holiday travels may take you and do a makeup anyway!

The **50/50 draw** was won by none other than our own Westerner publisher, **David Williams**. He carted off \$39!

Ron Jones spoke to us about our speaker next week. Ron has secured the illustrious (and "he is no Al Gore") speaker for this coming Friday. It will be **Albert Jacobs**, who will be discussing the newest update and scuttlebutt on global warming. This promises to be a fantastic lunch speaker and topic so bring your friends, peers and family. But be prepared, the meeting may run a little long as Albert has noted that his presentation may be a half hour. Perhaps President Lynne will start the speaker early and cut some announcements or Ted as Sergeant (and save us all some money) rather than run the meeting late.

President Lynne also read a beautiful letter from our scholarship recipient Angela Alanko. Through this financial support she will be able to continue her studies in social work and also further engage in volunteer activities with organizations like the brain injured and disabled skiers, rather than have to search for a part-time job. Truly a good choice as a recipient, one who is committed to academic success and community well being.

President-elect Karl also announced that the **venue selection committee** was hard at work. He circulated a document of "needs and wants" for a venue as well as a lengthy list of possible venues that his committee was investigating. Should anyone have thoughts on these venues, they need to inform Karl by December 3. The committee will present a short list on December 5 and have a recommended location by December 12, with a hopeful permanent location to starting in January.

Reporter's Editorial Comment: I commend Karl and his committee for their work. It is not an easy task they have undertaken to please 60+ members who all want different things, or want things that in today's world are unrealistic. The reality, to find a location where we want it, delivering a meal which we desire with free parking, we need to understand this will cost us about \$30-\$35 per person not including parking. Alternatively we can seek out a less "prominent" location with a less elaborate lunch and free parking and pay \$20-\$25. The choice is the club's: pay the piper or downgrade our expectations!! And that is the rest of the story!

Guest Speakers

As noted earlier, we had two CWRC speakers this week (seems to be a running tradition with our own **Bill Lawless** speaking last week). Both spoke on respective foundation passions.

Bill Quinney spoke about how the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation gives back to our club. With over \$300,000 of the total managed \$35 million endowment accredited to our club annually, we receive a portion of the annual earned interest (with a minimum guarantee) from our \$300,000 to spend as we see fit. It is these monies, added to our fundraising monies, that we use to support local and international projects. Bill encouraged us to think about a personal gift or a bequest to this Foundation.

Sa'adat then enlightened us further concerning how a gift or bequest to the RI Foundation helps us locally and internationally. How the foundation is relevant, successful and part of us as Rotarians. He remarked on the projects that it makes happen and the opportunities for success with the RI Foundation.

Both speakers also reminded club members that when they donate up to \$200 to either of these Foundations in their name and/or an immediate family member name, the club will match that contribution in your name. What a deal. A Paul Harris Fellowship is a contribution of \$1000. Most of us donate \$100 per year for 10 years and receive a Paul Harris Fellowship. With this plan you can donate \$200 this year, \$200 next year and \$100 the year after and the Club will match that \$500 and "BINGO" you are a Paul Harris fellow for just \$500 versus the traditional \$1000. Go for it today!

Another great week. Be sure to attend this Friday when Albert Jacobs will be speaking on global warming.