

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

Past President: Mike French **Secretary:** George Edwards

Treasurer: Derek McClary

Directors: Brent Barootes, David Elson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali

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At our club meeting at the Elbow River Casino, President **Garfield Ganong** called the meeting to order at 12.15 pm and highlighted the work of the Rotary Foundation (this being Foundation month), asking all members to consider the foundation in their donations.

Des DeFreitas led us in the singing of 'O Canada' along with **Don Axford**.

For the invocation, **Sa'adat Keshavjee** (out of breath!) recited an invocation asking that everyone be blessed with the wisdom to contribute to the Foundation during this foundation month.

At the head table today with President Garfield were keynote speaker **David MacKinnon**, **Stan Beveridge**, **Stan Cichon**, **Brenda Sali** and **Paul LaFrance**.

David Elson introduced the visitors and guests.

Announcements and Acknowledgements

Christmas Party: **Marg Henschel** reminded us of the Christmas Party at The Calgary Golf and Country Club on November 16th. This is a very special event and promises to be a great deal of fun. Hope to see you all there.

Call for Directors: Nomination Chair **Mike French** announced that nominations for directors are open till December 7th. Please let Mike know if you wish to nominate anyone (or if you wish to volunteer to serve in that capacity).

Rotary Foundation Month: **Bob Hamshaw** spoke at length about the foundation, and its workings. He described it as the "jewel in our crown" and "the bank that funds Rotary". A most enlightening presentation was made and the message was beautifully articulated: Think of Rotary in your giving this year. The club will match your donation of up to US\$200.00 per family member. It would be good if every Rotarian, through your charitable giving, would become a Paul Harris Fellow. The challenge to donate was made again by Garfield. (Please note, this Rotary Foundation collection spree only happens in November, so don't miss the opportunity to give!)

Bernie Ward announced that exchange student Marsha arrives from Russia today. Please look out for Marsha and plan to include her in your family excursions and plans over the next year. Marsha will be hosted, for the first quarter, by **Margo McDermott**.

Feed the Hungry: Bill Tapuska announced that we are hosting this function at St. Mary's Church Hall on Sunday, November 18th. Please bring your family members and volunteer at this special event. Our own **Chris Lee** is the executive chef.

Clowns Without Borders: Bryden Horwood presented a cheque for \$1,500.00 to **Alice Nelson**, our speaker on September 21, on behalf of the club.

Membership revival: Jim Willson presented a list of past members who resigned for reasons known and unknown and asked how we may be able to revive those who are still alive! Members are asked to see what they can do to revive some old members.

50-50: Bryden Horwood won the small prize. The big one still remains! There are only a few cards left in the deck. It was noted that the pot is growing, but the price of the tickets is not! Isn't this a great opportunity?

Rodney the rat's observations:

1. **Ted Valentine** returned from a short trip to India via Moscow and Amsterdam
2. **Alex Buehler**, our visitor from Georgia is leaving Calgary after working here for almost one year. He will talk to our club about his observations soon.
3. **Bill Tapuska and Yvette** were last seen looking for a motel in San Diego, Ca
4. **Stan Beveridge, Des DeFreitas** and their partners returned from a cruise in the Baltic
5. **Sa'adat Keshavjee** was away in San Antonio for a conference
6. **Cam Wright** has changed his entire persona. He is on a serious diet and has even dropped his beard for the new movie part!

The Keynote Speaker

David Mackinnon, from PEI, who graduated from Dalhousie, York, Harvard, and the European Institute of Business Studies, talked to us about transfer payments entitled "Regional subsidies in Canada". His presentation highlighted the following points:

1. Transfer of payments between provinces for such items as education, health care are quite unfair in their process because the provinces of Ontario and Alberta are the major donors and some Atlantic provinces and Manitoba are the major recipients.
2. The idea of subsidies guarantees dependence and some provinces continually expect handouts, while others continually expect to make payments.
3. The percentage per capita of doctors, nurses, teachers, hospitals and such institutions is quite skewed with the "have-not provinces" gaining over the donor provinces.
4. The recipient provinces appear to be developing burgeoning and non-productive bureaucracies and even hold the federal government hostage if withholding is considered.

Reasons:

1. Governments have not employed "the tools of economic analysis" which would show them just how disparate the system really is
2. Where there is "no measurement, there is no management"
3. Where "everyone is accountable, no-one is accountable"

Potential solutions:

1. The donor provinces of Ontario and Alberta should not acquiesce to certain transactions
2. The donor provinces should strongly support a federal government that creates self-sufficiency measures
3. The donor provinces may start by controlling the GST transfers
4. Donor provinces should do a comparative analysis
5. Donor provinces should articulate these thoughts to their electorate

Conclusions

Mr. MacKinnon said that if we do not shed the indifference, we will continue to provide for this unproductive and unprincipled system of dependence. He concluded by recommending that we think about this, research the subject (Institute for Research on Public Policy by Tom Courchene) and speak about it to others, including our Members of Parliament.

Stan Cichon thanked the speaker for his enlightening talk.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm.

Next Meetings:

Nov 9th: Shelter box

Nov 16th: cancelled due to Christmas party

Nov 23rd: Cynthia Jeanne Douwes on her Ambassadorial year

Nov 30th: Judith Athaide on the largest building West of Toronto.