

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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This was our Remembrance Day service and we had a full house. It was an honor to see how many of our members served in the forces over the years as many wore their medals and dressed for the occasion. As well, at least half the club wore poppies. In our presence, also, were several WWII veterans from the Museum of the Regiments who graced us with their presence and stories.

Kurt Schurer was on cash collecting our lunch payments and **Marg Henschel**, who arrived late, managed the 50/50. Good thing Marg was also sergeant-at-arms, otherwise she may have been fined for being late. She seemed to have made good as she helped our guest speaker find his way to the meeting room!

Much conversation and fellowship took place with members and guests. In fact, it seems, according to **Ron Morrison**, our present club secretary, that **Chuck Morrison** has volunteered (or Ron volunteered him) will be our next club secretary. I will let the two of them work that out.

The speaker committee held their monthly powwow in planning for future speakers. Boy has that committee ever done an outstanding job this year with speakers at our luncheons. The club also had visitors from the Canmore Club who were pushing sales of their "Cash Calendars". What a great deal. It is a beautiful calendar for \$20 plus 425+ chances of winning back your \$20 or more. In promoting the calendar sales, the Canmore Club clearly noted that the Chinook Club had bought 25 calendars and "I'm sure the Calgary West Club can do better". And I am sure we did!

It was good to see **Bob Hamshaw** has finally succumbed to his wife **Lynne Thornton's** tradition of wearing a hat. Bob sported a flashy and handsome ball cap to the meeting this week. While this reporter noticed Bob's ball cap, **Holland Berry** came by the scribe's table to reserve a seat for him and a guest. Unfortunately his guest never showed and our table was fined by the SAA Marg Henschel for not having a guest at the table.

President Karl brought the meeting to order right on time. Our singing of the national anthem was led by **Ron Jones**. The invocation, along with a dedicated moment of silence, was delivered by **Amy Schalin**. It was a beautiful and heartfelt honor to those who have served our country in the past and do so today. It was very appropriate for our Remembrance Day service.

The head table went first (as always) to the buffet line up, followed by the scribe's table and the pecking order established by the SAA. It was a delightful lunch with excellent coleslaw, salad, fish and chips and a green vegetable that we understand was pureed peas. [Editor's Note: They were mushy peas!] It was discovered by this investigative reporter that the pureed vegetables may have been served to meet the needs of a great number of our club members and their age category. I assured my table this was not the case. No matter what, our club is very young at heart!

Chris Davis introduced the guests and recognized each of the visiting Veterans and their families. These included **Corporal Doug Cooper** of Lord Strathcona's Horse, **Sergeant Rose Wilkinson** of the Canadian Women's Army Corps and her daughter **Tricia Wilkinson**, **George Couture** of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and **Ernie Bagstad**, a private soldier of the Seaforth Highlanders and his wife **Lydia**.

President Karl introduced the head table that included **Rick Guthrie**, a veteran who thanked our speaker, **Joe Klassen**, also a veteran who introduced our speaker, and **Master Corporal Mark Verrall**. To Karl's right was club secretary (and rumor spreader) Ron Morrison and **Des DeFreitas** our present club treasurer.

President Karl announce that this year the club assembly would be held on Friday, December 4, at a regular club meeting. This is different from the past where we held the assembly as a separate event meeting. This assembly will also incorporate our annual meeting where we will elect volunteers to the Board for 2010-11, as well as identify our President Elect Nominee (to be president after Sa'adat Keshavjee in the year 2011-12). At present, the club is seeing to fill two director roles and the role of club secretary (Ron Morrison says Chuck Morrison is interested.).

Bill Quinney spoke about Foundation Month which is November. He reminded club members that they can support the RI Foundation, where funds go to support international projects, Polio Plus, youth exchange, ambassadorial scholars, matching grants to projects like our Guatemala project as well as some come back after three years to do work specifically in our district. The other Foundation, the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundation, makes your donation work specifically for projects our club selects. Both are excellent ways to support Rotary and all it does. This year, as in years past, our club will match up to \$200 donations to either Foundation. So, if you donate \$200 to the RI Foundation, you can be a Paul Harris Fellow in two and a half years donating just \$500 versus the traditional \$1000 because the club will match your contribution. And, if you give to the Rotary Clubs of Calgary Foundations, it doubles your gift to ensure even more money is available for us to allocate to projects as a club. Bill also noted that in future meetings members of his committee will be available to discuss how you can also make bequests, donate through life insurance or stock gifts to either Foundation. Well done, Bill.

With the **absence** of **Don Bateman** at the meeting, our newest member **Duncan Stanners** won the 50/50 draw. Just for those who have waited decades to win the 50/50, it doesn't take that long. Duncan won with less than six months membership. As long as Mr Bateman is not around it is a fair to all concerned!

Our club youth exchange student, **Marco Bersani**, was present as always. It is so great to have such an active, attentive and enthusiastic exchange student amongst us.

Chuck Morrison reminded everyone about the Sally Ann Kettles and if anyone would like to help with these please contact Chuck to get on the list.

As well, the Sunday November 22 Feed the Hungry Project will take place again. A final sign up sheet was circulated at the meeting and there are still a few spots to be filled, so please be sure to sign up this

coming Friday, if you can. We will be hosting the dinner with St Stephen's Anglican Church at St Mary's Catholic Church Hall. (This should be interesting!)

There was also a sign-up sheet circulated for an event in conjunction with the Food Bank for December 2. This reporter was unable to ascertain in further information on this event and what it is about to describe in this publication. Perhaps this coming Friday more information could be forthcoming. Questions asked were such as; "Are we filling baskets?", "Are we delivering packages?", "Are we handing out product to clients?"

Past-president Lynne also took the opportunity to remind everyone about their moment of silence this coming Remembrance Day, November 11 at 11 am. She also noted that QR77 radio station airs an interesting Remembrance Day show that morning from 9 am to 11 am

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for this Remembrance Day service was Master Corporal Mark Verrall, a medic who has served in many missions and deployments, as well as provided training and support services. Past-president and veteran himself, Joe Klassen introduced Mark. He told us of how Mark grew up in Airdrie and first joined the reserves in 1989 and transferred to the regular forces in 1995. He has had postings in Canada in Calgary, Edmonton and Cold Lake, as well as served for us and our country and others in Bosnia, the Middle East, Afghanistan (twice), as well as served our own country's citizens through assisting during the Winnipeg floods of 1997, the 1998 ice storms in Ottawa and Montreal and the massive forest fires in BC in 2003. Mark has been married to the same wife since 1995 and has daughters aged 11 and 13.

Master Corporal Mark delivered a wonderful talk that truly allowed all of us to understand better the sacrifices and the lifestyle that those who sign up to serve our country must endure. Through humor and reality, Mark told us of his journey this past 12 years. At the beginning of his presentation Mark thanked those veterans in the room and those who were not who served before him for all they have done to make this a better country and world to live in. He also took the opportunity to thank all of the troops who continue to serve both at home and abroad.

Mark joined the armed forces as a reserve when he was just 17. His father had told him to get a job! He wanted to be in the artillery, his mom, said no, then he suggested tanks, his mom said no, so he suggested being a medic. His mom agreed. His father, who had served in the Navy, called him a "sissy medic", but supported him all the same. He has remained a medic since.

In 1995, two years later, Mark got married. He married a girl whom he had met in the reserves. As a result (as his father put it) he now had to get a "real job" versus the reserves. He joined fulltime and his journey began. Through the past 12 years he has worked here at home to assist Canadians in need during the ice storms, the floods and the forest fires. But, likewise, he has served overseas in peacekeeping in Bosnia, as well as active front line duty twice in Afghanistan as well as the Middle East.

He was originally based in Calgary and with the close of the base he was transferred to Edmonton. From there, he was stationed at Cold Lake with the Airborne. As he noted, after years in the Army "boy are the airborne different". During the six years stationed in Cold Lake he was probably at home less than 365 days. It was his wife who stood by him, supported him and raised their daughters and lived in Cold Lake while he served our country. This was truly an important message to all of us in the audience. The soldiers' families too need to be remembered on November 11 as we often are unaware or forget all they sacrifice to support these soldiers.

It was interesting to learn that the invasion of Afghanistan mission he served on, the Canadian Forces were not sure what part of Afghanistan they would serve in, so they brought everything! Winter and summer gear. He noted how the Americans laughed at them as they arrived in the desert surroundings of Kandahar in 2002 and unloaded their winter coats and toboggans from the airplanes! It was wonderful to learn of the challenges that our soldiers endure, but also learn, as Mark described it, “the efficiency with which we deliver service” and how what takes the Americans often a year to complete we can do in six months.

Mark left ample time for questions, of which there was still a line up of queries when the meeting closed. Each query answered delivered a unique and humorous story alongside the reality of the situation, ranging from quality of equipment and funding to media presence and “support”.

Veteran Rick Guthrie thanked Mark in a most appropriate way, reminding all of us to remember not only the soldiers who have served, on Remembrance Day, but also their families who have served through absence and suffering in their own right. Rick presented Mark with our world famous Boltman!

President Karl closed the meeting at 1:30 sharp with an appropriate message about our Canadian soldiers and how they truly provide service above self for us. He also reminded us that next week’s speaker will be Ezra Levant who will speak on human rights.

Upcoming Speakers and Events

NOVEMBER	FOUNDATION MONTH
November 13	Ezra Levant – Human Rights Commissions
November 13	Christmas ball in the evening
November 20	TBA
November 27	George Hansen – Calgary Stampeder Alumni – Grey Cup Meeting
DECEMBER	FAMILY MONTH
December 4	Club Assembly and Elections
December 11	Dr Charles Samuels – Sleep Deprivation and Human Performance
December 18	Westmount Charter School – Christmas Choir
Sunday December 20	Christmas Brunch at Pinebrook Golf and Country Club
December 25	Christmas Day – No Meeting
JANUARY	ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH
January 1	New Years Day – No Meeting
January 8	Tim Morgan – Co-Founder of WestJet – WestJet and the Airline Industry
January 15	Ken Read – A Crazy Canuck – Canada’s 2010 Olympics
January 22	Dr Bob Schultz – “Business in the Year and Decade Ahead”
January 29	Catholic Bishop Fred Henry – Homeless in Calgary