

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: November 7 2008 Edition: 42.18 Reporter: Bill Tapuska Publisher: David Williams



At the welcoming table, **Jim Barnes** and **David Williams** efficiently left each Rotarian and guest \$20 poorer as they entered. That was followed by a warm handshake and welcome by **Dan Varvos** and when Dan shakes your hand, you've been shook!

Attendance was improved at the meeting, about 65, with much activity and fellowship evident beforehand. Grey Cup lottery tickets from the Olympic Club were on sale promoted by **Ted Valentine**, who, being the good manager that he is, got things done through people and for while there were more ticket sellers than buyers including **Mike French** to whom no one said no!

One committee, meeting at a table, whose members won't be mentioned by name, ignored all the fellowship around them and continued to meet right through all the pre-meeting activities and then through lunch. Too bad! The rest of us miss your company and fellowship!

The meeting bell was rung precisely at 12:15 PM followed by a hurried huddle behind the head table by **President Lynne** and others to discuss something of obviously great importance followed by another ringing of the bell at 12:18PM.

It soon became apparent what the hurried huddle was about, the microphone didn't work! But our president, sporting a colourful Hawaiian hat with accompanying tan and being the professional that she is, got the meeting underway anyways with a great big ALOHA. She explained this salutation by informing us that she and husband **Bob Hamshaw** had just returned from a vacation on the island of Oahu, beachcombing and swimming with sea turtles thereby leaving us all envious!

The microphone had a gremlin and continued to plague us throughout the meeting, repeatedly going off and on. **Mike Carlin** was seen frequently ducking under the table and only later was it revealed that Energizer Bunny Mike was our technical trouble shooter, feeding new batteries into the system to keep it going, such as it was! Hope the house committee gets it working before next week's meeting with the District Governor!

The anthem was led by **Don Axford**, almost fully recovered from his eye surgery, followed by the invocation by Mike Carlin, all of which prepared us for lunch.

The meal could only be charitably described as one that would be best to forget. Enough said, but the house committee has another job ahead of them!

President Lynne warned us about a lot of business that needed to be done so the head table was wisely introduced early at 12:30. Gracing the table were **Steve and Marie Rickard**, **Ellie Contreras** our guest speaker (who is staying with the Rickards while in town), **Chuck Morrison**, Mike Carlin and of course our President Lynne, aglow from all that sun in Hawaii.

Visitors and guests were introduced by Dan Varvos who tried his very best to mispronounce names but couldn't do much with names like Jones and Smith and Walker, the latter joining us from Sackville NB.

Then followed a marathon list of announcements!

Don Alexander announced that the volunteer's sheet for Feed the Hungry on Sunday, November 16, is nearly full with only a few spots remaining to be filled.

Dan Doherty reported that **Robyn Braley** is recovering and now appears out of danger. He made "great strides this week" fighting off a virus that attacked his heart and leaving his lungs nearly full of fluid. He may be out of hospital in a few days.

Karl Herzog reported that 10 members from our club have volunteered to be "mentors" working with Catholic Immigration Society (CIS) helping newcomers to be integrated into our society. The CIS is the 4th largest of its kind in Canada and is currently working with 70 "connections". Talk to Karl if you're interested.

Ron Brookes needs a place to store Rotary "stuff".

Ted Valentine rose to promote the Olympic Club's Grey Cup lottery ticket sales and it looked like he had everything under control until he asked how many sellers he gave tickets to. Undaunted, he then went on to promote next year's tour to the RI Convention in Bir-ming-ham UK but was quickly corrected by David Williams who said the proper pronunciation was Birmin-hum or Birn-hum or something like that.

[**Editor's note:** Birmingham is to be pronounced Birming-um, the "h" being silent. Similarly Nottingham is pronounced Notting-um. However, a town in Norfolk, Wymondham, is pronounced Windum. Go figure.]

Someone from the Canmore Rotary Club was there to sell calendars. We learned that the Canmore Club partners with us on the Guatemala school building, a joint project considered to be a great success. Our **Bill Lawless** is involved and will speak to us at the meeting on November 21..

Bill Quinney spoke on the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation, not to be confused with the RI Foundation. Calgary West's investment in the Calgary Foundation is over \$300,000 and we get a good return each year to invest in our community. A donation by a member to the Foundation is matched by the club up to \$200 per year.

Murray Hunter gave us a heads-up on the Alpha House annual appeal for socks and mittens and other items of good clothing. Start bringing them in next week.

Chuck Morrison, basking in the applause for Murray, circulated a sign-up sheet for the Salvation Army kettles at Westbrook Mall.

John Rymes apparently got a bad bump on the head, but is recovering well.

Exchange Student **Valerie** had a busy week: she went Halloween-ing, went to a Flames game and got a great report card from her efforts at school. Good going Valerie!

Susan Mauro from the Millennium Club was selling purse hangers with a Rotary logo, two of which were immediately purchased by Steve Rickard and Mike Carlin. Look for Steve and Mike to be sporting them at the next meeting!

Walter Krawciw reminded us of the Concert at Central Memorial High School on November 18.

Stan Cichon is selling tickets to the Christmas party at the Calgary Country Club on November 14, for \$60 per person. Attendance was encouraged by President Lynne, who couldn't resist letting out the secret that the surprise super sinful dessert will be CRÈME BRÛLÉE instead of the traditional Christmas pudding. What good's a secret anyways if you can't tell?

Bryden Horwood announced that he will make an announcement next week.

Karl Herzog alerted us that elections for directors and club president will take place on December 14.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Walker fined everyone not wearing a poppy and everyone for the "cacophony" while President Lynne was speaking. Mike French was fined for being such a good salesman of Grey Cup tickets with his fine appropriately having to buy Jim Walkers' last remaining ticket. Even Ted Valentine smiled at that.

50/50 Draw

Grant Ritchie was the beneficiary of the 50/50 largesse and graciously accepted \$36.50 to the sparse acclaim of those present.

Guest Speaker

The announcements, thankfully coming to a close remarkably on time at 1PM allowing Steve Rickard to introduce Ellie Contreras, our guest speaker.

In a wide ranging presentation, Ellie started by describing her early life in Holland. Her grandfather called her "poop-see" so she migrated to Canada. It was in Stony Plain, Alberta, that she discovered Rotary and ultimately became President of the Stony Plain Rotary Club and then District Governor.

She talked about the goals of Rotary and the contribution Rotarians have made to Polio Plus.

She related the "Starfish" story and the child mortality of 25,000 children per day because of lack of clean water, food and shelter.

Rotarians are needed to help and our membership needs to increase.

Ellie called for membership ideas from the group.

- Bring a guest to a Rotary lunch
- Distribute Rotary booklets to guests
- Invite Interactors
- Use Clubrunner
- Buy a purse holder

- Solicit Rotary alumni
- Form groups to bring in new members
- Improve retention of Rotarians by getting them involved

Ellie was thanked by Marie Rickard and presented with a Boltman.

President Lynne adjourned the meeting at 1:30PM

Future Programs

November 14

| District Governor Mark Starratt

November 21

| Bill Lawless talking about our project in Guatemala