

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



Date: November 9, 2007 Edition: 41.19 Reporter: George Edwards Publisher: David Williams

Welcome and opening remarks

President Garfield Ganong welcomed visiting Rotarians and guests. He opened the meeting by speaking about the importance of Remembrance Day and the symbol of the red poppy. By wearing a poppy we salute the memory of those who sacrificed their health, strength and even their lives so that we might live in a free country.

The red Flanders poppy was first described as a flower of remembrance by Colonel John McCrae (1872-1918) who served in World War I as a medical officer. Colonel McCrae penned the famous poem, *In Flanders Field*. Colonel McCrae died while on active duty in May 1918.

President Ganong asked members and guests to observe a minute of silence in thanksgiving for the sacrifices of past and current women and men in uniform.

Don Axford led us in the singing of our national anthem.

Joining President Garfield at the head table were: **Ann Ohlgren**, our guest speaker; **David Elson**, classification of mechanical engineering, who would introduce Ann Ohlgren; **Steve Rickard**, classification of property tax agency, who would thank Ann Ohlgren; **Ted Valentine**, classification of automobile retail; and **Joe Klassen**, classification of mechanical engineering.

David Williams introduced visiting Rotarians and guest in his inimitable way and, as Don Axford played the piano, members of the club sang the traditional song of welcome.

Joe Klassen, before reciting the invocation, gave us a brief history of the naval prayer he had chosen. This prayer first appeared in 1662 and Joe used spiritual licence in adapting the prayer so that it applied to naval personnel and Rotarians alike.

President Garfield Ganong gave directions for the buffet table (it seems to me that other than the head table receiving priority the balance of the instructions are ignored – does that mean that ‘service beyond self’ is thrown out the window when it comes to food?) **Reporter’s note:** I feel that the weekly reporter should receive priority similar to the head table so that she/he can finish eating before the regular meeting resumes.

Walk-about notes

- **Marg Henschel** reminded members of the November 16 Christmas party at the Calgary Golf and Country Club. Tickets are \$65.00 per person and 80 tickets must be sold; 79 tickets have been sold so far so at least one more person needs to buy and attend (would they really cancel this event for the lack of one person? Even Sodom would have been spared from destruction if there had been ten innocent people). Marg mentioned that this is a make up (as well as a dress up event) meeting because the regular meeting of November 16 is cancelled.
- Members are reminded that November is Foundation Month and the board has once again passed the motion to match any contributions to the Foundation to a maximum of \$200.00 US for every individual contribution, whether the contribution is from a member or made on behalf of one of their family members or a friend that they want to recognise. President Garfield used a DVD that showed the goals of the Foundation and how the money is spent. Members are invited to take the DVD home to review it if they wish.
- President Garfield thanked **Pauline and Garth Evans** for the centre pieces that graced our tables today.
- **Bernie Ward** introduced our inbound exchange student, **Masha Pronina** with great aplomb and enthusiasm. Masha recently arrived from Barnaul, Siberia (and I thought that my two-hour wait at the Russian border was long – Masha’s delay was three months!). Given the opportunity to speak to the members, Masha proved to be charming, and full of life; Masha is going to make her stay in Calgary a memorable one for her and our members, so if you have an idea of an event or experience that will augment her memories get your name on the list fast. One other point of note, her English is amazing. Masha is attending St. Mary’s High School and she already was seen using her cell phone to connect with friends (not bad for having just arrived last Friday). **(READ PAGE 5 OF THIS BULLETIN FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING MASHA.)**
- Don Axford asked members to sign the sympathy card for **Mike Reikie** whose father died during the week of November 2, 2007.
- **Don Alexander** reminded members of the Feed the Hungry dinner on November 18. Twenty volunteers are needed for the afternoon shift.
- **Bill Lawless** asked members for their nominations for the next board (three directors and secretary) and mentioned that the vote would occur in December.
- Bill Lawless also took time to talk about the Integrity Awards and told members to look within their circle of non-Rotarians for the unsung heroes who serve the people of our community so well and with little, if any, recognition.
- **Karl Herzog** has a cross-country ski outing planned for December 2. If you are interested please contact Karl. Once he has the numbers, then he will address the logistics of organising transportation.
- **Jim Willson** asked members to review the list of ex-members to see if any of them would reconsider rejoining our club or another club in the city. Circumstances do change, so it might be worth a phone call to the ones you know.
- **John Rymes** announced the recipient of the Constance Mary Rymes Memorial Scholarship at Mount Royal College. **Don Nielsen**, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Calgary West, presented the Scholarship to **Cariosa Donaleshen**; Cariosa is an Irish Gaelic name and pronounced *Teresa*. Cariosa was born and raised in Calgary and is presently living with her parents.
- **Ron Jones** told members that two volunteers are needed for the Christmas Kettles on November 24 from 4:15 to 6:30 pm at the Chinook Centre. If you can help, please contact either Ron or, if he has returned, Chuck Morrison.
- **Bryden Horwood** presented a cheque of \$850.00 (representing \$10 for each club member) to **Garth Toombes** for a Rotary project in Tanzania involving all Rotary clubs in Canada. The money will be used to purchase 100,000 malaria mosquito nets for children.

- Not wanting to give up the spotlight Bryden Horwood tried for the second week in a row to win the \$1000 plus 50/50 pot. On the positive side, he won \$21.00, but, on the negative side, he once again did not pick the joker. It is getting down to the last few cards, so the run on 50/50 tickets could get crazy, so you had better arrive early in order to avoid the line up. Can Bryden score a natural hat trick and win the 50/50 draw for a third straight week?

Guest Speaker

David Elson introduced Ann Ohlgren, associate director of Shelterbox Canada, Don Ohlgren, director of Shelterbox Canada programs and Alexis Beddote, ambassador for Shelterbox Canada. They would make a presentation about Shelterbox.

Using visuals, the talk consisted of two-parts: what Shelterbox does and how we can help.

Briefly, Shelterbox is one of the largest, if not the largest, Rotary projects. Appeals for help come from authorities in a disaster area, other aid agencies, or from local Rotary clubs. The decision on the number of boxes to send and what they should contain is limited by financial resources, but the aim of Shelterbox is to provide immediate aid whenever possible. Decisions for aid are not influenced by political, ethnic, religious or cultural affiliations – the priority of Shelterbox is to respond to disasters resulting from natural or human circumstances.

Their revenue goal is \$5,000,000 per year. Shelterbox has received approximately 45 million dollars so far and over 25,000 boxes have helped over 500,000 people. The boxes contain a tent, sleeping bags, tools, an activity bag for children, and an all purpose cooker, etc. The boxes are sent from Helston, Cornwall, England. A box costs \$1200.00 Canadian.

The boxes are numbered and the sponsor is listed on the box. In this way the box can be tracked. A Shelterbox response team accompanies every shipment of Shelterboxes to ensure delivery to the intended victims and also where needed to solve the problems of delivery, for example, arranging for mules to carry the boxes up the mountain when the government could not provide helicopters.

Shelterbox is a registered charity and everyone associated with Shelterbox is a volunteer – no one is paid.

Shelterbox is known as the shelter for the world of disaster victims; other agencies look after food and medical supplies. As well as responding to disasters, Shelterbox has a goal of providing shelter for 1,000,000 African people.

How can you help?

Donations can be made on an individual basis, by company annual sponsorship and, of course, by a Rotary club. Currently, 48% of the donations come from Rotary clubs and 52% of the donations are from outside sources.

Shelterbox Canada has a goal of receiving a box from every Canadian Rotary club.

You can also help by applying to become a member of a response team. Members receive four weeks of training, three weeks in Florida and one week in the Scottish moors. The training is rigorous and at personal expense.

Shelterbox teams responding to disasters are funded by Gift Aid, a British charity.

For more information check out their website www.shelterbox.org and to receive a monthly newsletter by email, contact Shelterbox Canada.

Steve Rickard thanked the presenters saying that he was impressed by the immediacy of their response, the protection Shelterbox provided and the humanistic philosophy of Shelterbox. Steve presented the world famous Boltman to Ann Ohlgren.

Calendar

November 16: Christmas Party. **No lunch meeting.**

November 23: Cynthia Jeanne Douwes, a former Ambassadorial Scholar, will speak on her experience as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

And finally . . .

“Integrity has no need of rules.” Albert Camus

MEET OUR NEW YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT!!



MARIA (MASHA) PRONINA

Masha arrived from Barnaul, Siberia, Russia, on *November 2nd* and our club will have the privilege of hosting her until next summer. She is seventeen years old and is attending St. Mary's High School.

Masha is a very interesting and bright young lady, and she is interested in doing and experiencing as much as possible during her exchange here in Calgary. She has had a bit of a late start due to some visa problems and is very anxious to get going and meet as many of you as possible.

Below is her wish list (first cut) of things she would like to do. **Pick something and treat yourself to spending some time with her!!**

- Spruce Meadows Events
- Live theatre, ballet, symphony orchestra
- Yoga
- Martial arts (you martial arts guys!!)
- Any travel with Rotarian families that is possible
- Calgary Stampeders game(s)
- Calgary Flames game(s). Lots of them!!
- Calgary Vipers game(s)
- Tyrell Museum in Drumheller
- Skiing the Rockies – she has not skied much, but would like to try a bunny hill!
- Dinners with your family are always great
- Anything else that interest you will likely interest her

Masha has to live by the Rotary Four Ds: **NO**

- **Drinking**
- **Driving**
- **Dating**
- **Drugs**

She also cannot fly in any non-commercial aircraft. Other than these things, she's pretty open.

Mash can be contacted at:

- Counsellor Bernie Ward: home 279-0056, office 717-3147
- Her first host, Margot McDermott: 287-0254
- Masha's cell phone: 542-2352