

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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As our membership dealt with three days of snow fall (an entire month's snowfall in just three days - and all before the middle of October), we were welcoming the forecast of warm and balmy weather for the weekend. Hopefully, there will be enough warmth to make the snow disappear. As **President Karl** noted in his opening remarks, snow or no snow, with so many golfers in the club we were excited to hear from Lisa "Long-ball" Vlooswyck about her golfing life.

Upon arrival this week, members and guests alike were greeted by **Helen King**, while **Kurt Schurer** took our money for lunch. (For those arriving early, they had to pay cash because the charge machine was not charged.) Next to Kurt at the welcome table was **Holland Berry** offering great deals for the 50-50 draw. Many bought in this week because there seemed to be no sign of **Don Bateman** anywhere. Then, just under the wire at 12:12, Don showed up and bought his arms length of tickets. (Don, you need to arrive earlier so we know if any of the rest of us have a chance at winning!) Low and behold, for the third week in a row and probably the 10th time in the last 26 weeks Don's ticket number was picked. (Surprise!) Just to Don's credit, he did offer to swap tickets with another member at his table and she refused. Silly, silly person! I also noted in President Karl's notes he has even typed in Don Bateman's name as the winner of the 50-50 prior to the ticket draw each week!

Prior to the bell tolling for lunch, there was much fellowship being had. **Gordon Rodrigues** worked diligently at ensuring Lisa's PowerPoint presentation would work, while others drank, chatted and had fun.

At 12:15 sharp, as usual, President Karl called the meeting to order. This reporter noticed that **Joe Klassen, Carolyn Christison, Chris Davis** and **Tim Anderson** all arrived after the fact!! Yes, they were late, but Tim actually managed to find a "seat" at the table that the sergeant-at-arms, **Ted Valentine**, had allowed to go first after the head table. So Tim arrived late and ate early! What a deal, especially when the sergeant-at-arms failed to allow the scribe's table to go first after the head table, and failed to fine the latecomers. (I am sure the scribe will be fined this coming Friday for such heresy as second guessing or criticizing the sergeant-at-arms. So be it. Freedom of the Press lives on!) It should also be noted that **Bruce Taylor** left early and failed to leave a loony on the table for early departure.

Des DeFreitas led us in the national anthem, while Don “What Me Win Again” Bateman delivered a wonderful invocation. Then it was “feed bags” on and away to the feeding trough for all.

President Karl thanked the Holiday Inn for their great meal and service. There were two different salads, warm rolls, stuffed tomatoes, mixed vegetables and a choice of stuffed pork loin or roast turkey. A feast fit for a king (or queen).

President Karl then introduced the head table which included **Lisa Longball**, our guest speaker, Past President **Mike Carlin**, who would thank our speaker, Furrier Extraordinaire **Grant Ritchie**, who introduced our guest speaker, **Ed “I brought my own Starbucks Coffee” Aboussafy** graced the head table, as well as **Ron Jones**, who was president of our club 31 years ago!

Helen King (referred to as Holland Berry by President Karl) read the list of distinguished guests and visiting Rotarians to our club. Of course, our exchange student **Marco** from Brazil and our guest speaker Lisa Longball were recognized. President Karl also had his wife, **Cindy**, and his sister as guests, while **Steve “Stretch” Rickard** brought along **Dick Brown** as a guest. **Bryden Horwood’s** guest, **Dave Hamilton** (smart man that Dave, he sat at a different table than his host Bryden) was also introduced a possible future member. Visiting Rotarians included both Phil and Duncan from the Rotary Club of Calgary.

Announcements and reports were abundant this week.

Marco, our exchange student, reported on his past two weeks. He apologized for missing the meeting last week, but he had taken the wrong LRT train and ended up at Whitehorn in the NE. If it had been Thursday, he could have done a make up at the Rotary Club of Calgary East! He also let us know he attended his third Flames game this year, as well as visited the TELUS World of Science and experienced his first snowball fight! Oh the life!

Marg Henschel promoted “last call” for the Friday, November the 13th club Christmas Gala, as she hopes to be sold out by next week.

Chuck Morrison announced that dates for our annual Christmas Kettles for the Salvation Army are Saturday, November 21, Saturday, November 28 and Saturday, December 5. Mark your calendars. Confirmed locations and sign up sheets to follow soon.

Speaking of sign up sheets, **David Watson** had the sign up sheets out for Feed the Hungry as well. That important event takes place on Sunday, November 22. It is a great time and everyone should come out.

Just think, you can collect coin for Sally Ann on Saturday and then feed the homeless on Sunday. It will almost make you a saint that weekend! Sign up today for both the kettles and the feeding to avoid later rush!

The family duo of **Steve and Marie Rickard** also made their announcements. Steve again promoted the Microcredit evening at Fort Calgary on Thursday, October 29. As he said, there will be free food and drinks, lots of fun, a great learning experience and a “must attend” event. Be sure to drop by Fort Calgary on Thursday, October 29, at 7 pm to learn more about the Microcredit project in Liberia. Marie then reminded all members that the following day at our regular meeting on Friday, October 30, that it will be a special Halloween Ghoulish Luncheon Event. Marie recommended that spouses, children and grand children all be in attendance for this haunting good time. She even announced Houdini would be making an appearance. (Did someone say Elvis was in the building?) Be sure to contact Marie if you are bringing guests so we can ensure the Holiday Inn knows what to expect for numbers. This will be fantastic. Be sure to attend and bring friends, families and witches you may know.

Ted Valentine was our illustrious sergeant-at-arms this week. As he was flogging Grey Cup Pool tickets on behalf of the Crowchild Rotary Club, he allocated tables in order of how many tickets they bought from him to getting in line for the feeding trough. Is that really service above self? He then went on to fine many, including new member **Duncan Stanners** for having his picture in the paper for over 20 consecutive years of United Way service through Shell Canada. Ted also clearly indicated what the role of the sergeant was: “To collect fines”! Great job as always Ted.

Then it was time for our guest speaker.

Grant Ritchie rose to introduce Lisa “Long-ball” Vlooswyk. After butchering and mispronouncing our esteemed guest’s name, Grant went on to tell us about Lisa’s career as eight-time Canadian Long Ball Champion. Her record drive of 350 yards, 2 feet and 2 inches was once a world record. Grant finally conceded the podium to Lisa so we could hear from her.

Lisa was a great motivational and interactive speaker with an amazing outlook on life and energy level second to none. She thanked President Karl for having her at our club and noted she has known Karl for many years through working at his Motive Action golf tournament and went on to tell us what we already know about Karl, a very professional, kind and wonderful person.

Lisa started off in ballet, but soon switched to gymnastics when she found the ballet a little too quiet and reserved for her. At the age of 13 her father introduced her to golf. But after one day on the links at a lesson she decided golf was not for her.

Several years later, her then boyfriend and now husband of over 20 years asked her to join him as he learned to play golf. She discovered she liked the sport. What is more, she found out she could drive the ball farther than anyone else. In 1999, she volunteered at the DuMaurier Classic LPGA Tournament at Priddis and had the experience of her life. She then went on to be motivated through her volunteering with Special Olympics while being a school teacher. As she noted, she learned from Special Olympics that it wasn’t the winning that counted but the journey to get there. She then entered her first “long ball competition” with club from Costco. She lost! She was disqualified. She was heartbroken, but never gave up. After perseverance, setting goals and working hard, Lisa won the Canadian Long-ball championship and has held the title since! This year she came second in the Worlds! Today, she is a Nike sponsored athlete. She is also the only competitor to ever win (or compete) while pregnant.

Lisa’s enthusiasm and amazing presentation wowed our members and guests. Finally, Karl had to “hook” her from the podium to end the meeting on time.

Karl then went on to close the meeting with a quote from Jack Benny. “Give me fresh air, a beautiful partner and a nice round of golf. And you can keep the fresh air and the round of golf.” So very appropriate with Karl’s wife Cindy being present!

Upcoming Speakers and Events

October 23	MLA Ron Liepert, Minister of Health for Alberta
October 30	“The Great Houdini” – A Hallowe’en Surprise
November 6	Remembrance Day Celebration. Also, Mark Verrall, a medic in Bosnia and Afghanistan
November 13	Ezra Levant – Human Rights Commissions
November 13	Christmas ball in the evening