

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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## Welcome and Opening Remarks

**President Garfield Ganong** opened the meeting by welcoming Rotarians and guests. He spoke about the recent trip to Ensenada, Mexico, and it was easy to see how much this trip meant to him and the other Calgary West Rotarians that also made the trip.

Thirteen Calgary West Rotarians and family members made a significant difference in the lives of Juan, Maria and their daughter, Anna. They went to Ensenada to help the **Homes of Hope program** operated by **Youth with a Mission**. They built a 16 foot by 20 foot home on slab for Juan and his family; the home has two rooms and is wired for future electricity, but it has no plumbing. This home allows them to cook inside and is a major improvement upon their previous dwelling - a broken down shack and trailer.

Our members also contacted a local Rotary club and arranged for the future education of Anna, and hopefully a cataract operation for Juan who is blind so that he can regain sight in one eye.

Garfield said that they built a home and in the process made new friends and became part of a new family. There will be a presentation detailing their experience at a future meeting.

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

President Garfield introduced the head table guests: **Phyllis Wheaton**, our guest speaker; **Marie Rickard**, classification of Property Management, who would introduce Phyllis; **Ron Morrison**, classification of Florist, who would thank Phyllis; **Jim Barnes**, classification of Education Administrator and from the observations of the group in Ensenada, Jim is also an excellent framer; **Mike Carlin**, classification of Banking Commercial and given the nickname "Picasso" for his painting prowess in Ensenada; and finally, of course, President Garfield Ganong.

**David Elson** introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests and Don Axford led us in the singing of our traditional song of welcome. **George Edwards** gave the invocation before Garfield invited us to enjoy the banquet.

### Walk-a-bout notes

1. Garfield mentioned that tickets for the Christmas Gala at the Calgary Golf and Country Club can be purchased from **Derek McClary** for \$65.00 per person. The event is on November 16, 2007.
2. It is Vocation Month in the world of Rotary and **Chris Davis** interviewed one of our newest members, **Kurt Schurer**. Kurt joined Calgary West in June 2007 and was motivated to do so because of the death of his father whose last days were lived in a hospice that was connected to Rotary. Kurt has a passion for service; he had been and is active in the community serving in various roles but decided to join Rotary so that he could serve in other ways as well.

Kurt joined our club with the classification of Banking Commercial but that quickly changed to a classification of Business Broker. Kurt now helps persons owning businesses transfer the business to family members and also helps people purchase businesses.

Kurt is married to **Mary-Anne** and they have two children, **Jennifer and Stephan**. Kurt enjoys spending time with his family – it is most important to him. When Kurt has free time, then you may find him fishing, playing chess or enjoying some social golf (he assured the serious golfers that he is not a challenge to their goals of retaining club championships, etc.). Kurt also made the point that each day his dog takes him for a walk so you see that a dog is truly a best friend because it looks after the health and welfare of a valued new member. Welcome to the club, Kurt!

3. **Don Alexander** reminded members of the Feed the Hungry dinner on November 18, 2007. 90 volunteers are needed so members and their family or friends are most welcome to sign up for this important service project.
4. **Sa'adat Keshavjee** reminded members that November is Foundation Month and that Calgary West is once again matching up to \$200 US for any member donation to the Foundation on either their behalf or on the behalf of a family member. Sa'adat pointed out that since the Canadian dollar is doing so well that donations to the Foundation are a great value. Donations to the Rotary Foundation have a multiplier event so consider making a donation – **John Rymes, Bob Hamshaw** and Sa'adat will willingly accept your money and fill out the necessary forms.

### Sergeant-at-Arms

**Larry Doyle** had a great time increasing coffers of the president's discretionary fund. He fined some members but took the greatest pleasure in accepting 'happy bucks' from **Carolyn Leece**, whose daughter earned her real estate licence; from **David Watson**, whose son was recently married and for the fantastic talks given at the wedding reception by the groom's father; from **Chris Davis** for the positive experience of Ensenada, Mexico; from **Bill Tapuska**, who wanted to emphasize that he is a "jet setter" because he and **Yvette** went to San Diego for an **18 hour vacation** as a result of the fires in the area; and from **Tim Anderson**, who announced that the leases on Red Meadows have been extended. Keep those happy bucks coming!

### 50/50 Draw

Alack and alas, the 50/50 pot continues to grow (we could probably offset the national debt of a small country or maybe build a home in Mexico). **Bob Junker** of the Downtown Club took home \$22.

### Salvation Army Kettles

Members of Calgary West will once again volunteer for the Christmas Kettles on November 24 and December 2, 2007. Sign up and help a worthy cause. [**Editor's Note:** The dates Chuck Morrison gave to me a few weeks ago were November 24, December 1 and December 8. Have this information changed?]

## Guest Speaker

Marie Rickard warmly introduced our guest speaker, Phyllis Wheaton. Phyllis writes and sings about who we are as Canadians; the pioneer, the farmer, the cowboy, the soldier, the Peacekeeper, friends and lovers.” She has sung to people in nursing homes and hospitals, to children in schools, to generals, politicians and movie stars. Phyllis has recorded two CDs and will soon release a third. She has performed at many concerts and the Peacekeepers’ Concert is among them. She also plays with a band called ‘Love the Covers’ and today she is joined by Tom Poole on guitar.

Phyllis’ presentation was on the story behind the stones on Signal Hill. Phyllis talked about the World War I men who trained at Sarcee Camp which was located at the bottom of what is now known as Signal Hill and now the location of retail stores.

The men who trained were part of the 137 battalion. As part of their training, they carried 20,000 stones up the hill. As Phyllis spoke she not only gave us the history of the men and the camp but also the background to her song that tells the story of the Stones of Signal Hill. The accompanying PowerPoint gave a poignancy to the presentation, because we saw the women and men who have served in the military during World War I and more recently in Afghanistan.

Phyllis also talked about the letters from David Argo, who trained at Sarcee Camp, that she received and now reside in the Military Museum; the letters are to his wife. In one of the letters, David mentioned a snowball fight among the Canadian soldiers. England had a record snowfall in 1916 and the Canadians took advantage of it by having a huge snowball fight (between 1000 and 2000 men). All the windows in the buildings were broken and so the order to cease and desist quickly came with a ban on all future snowball fights. Apparently it was okay to fight and kill at the front, but fun and possible damage behind the lines was not condoned.

Phyllis ended her presentation of song and talk speaking about I-Cross, an organisation that is dedicated to serve the “poorest of the poor”. She also made the connection to Garfield’s introduction on the Ensenada trip, where the “poorest of the poor” received a new home.

I-Cross has created over 300,000 “Izzy” dolls that give comfort to children who, as a result of war, are orphaned and homeless. I-Cross operates in all war-torn areas and the need for dolls exceeds 1,000,000. The dolls are knitted dolls of all sizes and shapes and the idea of knitting dolls came from a picture of a battle area that had a child’s doll on top of a rubble pile. The photograph was sent to a mother by her son serving in Afghanistan and she was so moved that she started the program. **One person can always make a difference!**

Phyllis and Tom performed a final song titled “In Harm’s Way”, a song about the women and men who have lived and died by standing in harm’s way to preserve freedoms and rights for all peoples. Pictures of some of the women and men who have died in Afghanistan were shown on the PowerPoint.

Ron Morrison thanked Phyllis and Tom for their fantastic presentation and for showing us the power of song to teach. Ron presented Phyllis with the world famous “Boltman” and wished Phyllis and Tom future success in teaching us about Canada and Canadians.

Phyllis donated four CDs and four lucky members received copies of her music.

Future Programs:

- November 2: David MacKinnon, Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Winnipeg, will speak on the formula for equalization payments among provinces.
- November 9: Shelter Box

- November 16: Remembrance Day program, Tom Doucette, the director of the Military Museum, will be the speaker.
- November 23: Cynthia Jeanne Douwes, a former Ambassadorial Scholar, will speak on her experience as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.
- November 30: Judith Athaide, Encana's chief person on the "Bow" project will talk to us about the "largest building west of Toronto".

As always members are encouraged to bring guests and partners to any meeting.

### **Closing Thought**

When our club went to Ensenada we went with the idea that we were going to build a house. In fact what we really built was not a house: we built a home.

The meeting was adjourned.