

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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Well, the costumes were tantalizing, intriguing and varied, as we prepared to be wowed by magic. The magicians were: **Stephen James Forrester**, a.k.a Houdini, and his side kick, **Dave Wong**. These two were accompanied at the head table by **Janet Slemko**, **Duncan Stanners**, **Josephine (Joe) Klassen** (you had to be there) and the **President Karl Herzog**.

A rendition of the national anthem was sung (OK, sort of sung), and **Helen King** gave the invocation.

**Ron Jones** introduced a plethora of guests, including several partners.

The 50/50 draw was won by **Robyn Braley** (who had forgotten to take his tickets (oops)).

It was nice to see **Sam Switzer**.

**Ted Valentine** urged people who might be thinking about going to Montreal to contact him. Evidently there are good air flight rates and hotel deals.

**Steve Rickard** thanked the folks who attended the Microcredit event at Fort Calgary.

Janet Slemko suggested that we are doing a new project working for the food bank. The date is December 2 (8:30-11:30 am) and fifteen people are needed.

**Marco** gave us a report.

**Don Alexander** reminded us that we are doing Feed the Hungry on November 22<sup>nd</sup> with St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

**Marg Henschel** pitched the Christmas soiree and told us this Friday will be the last day for buying tickets.

**Sa'adat Keshavjee**, our next president, said that two board seats are open for next year and people should speak to him.

**Chuck Morrison** opined that the roster for Sally Ann Christmas Kettles is full, but he would appreciate a few stand bys.

### **Guest Speakers**

Duncan Stanners introduced our guests, the magic duo.

Dave Wong told us about his work with the security divisions of casinos. I guess some people will go to any level to cheat.

Many of our members wanted to know about this prospect – or at least the questions were there.

Stephen is an appreciator of Houdini, who lived from 1874 through 1926. Houdini's father was a rabbi from Budapest. Houdini has become the signature word for magic. His many escapes from locked trunks when he was handcuffed are known to most of the world.

Houdini considered himself to be a spiritualist. He was famous for debunking charlatans that lived off folks who were in grief.

It is not in the history books, but a student from McGill University was the person who indirectly caused Houdini's death. It appears this student asked to see Houdini and brought in a student boxer. Houdini was lying on the couch and before he could tense his muscles the dimwit hit him twice in the stomach. This resulted, a week or so later, in Houdini's death.

Our members were thrilled and amazed at Stephen's skill. Ted Valentine was the super volunteer, as was Marco. Stephen was a quiet, considerate man who gave us a great programme. This occurred on the eve of All Hallow's Eve. (OK, you had to be there.)

Janet gave the club's thanks and presented the Boltman.

Oh, and we had a sergeant-at-arms, Chuck Morrison: scary stuff.

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
November 20	District Governor Steve Allen
November 27	Canadian Football League Commissioner?
December 4	Club assembly