

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

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At this sunny and warm (22 degrees) Friday's club meeting at La Joie de Vivre in Inglewood, President **Lynne Thornton**, in a beautiful purple suit (minus hat), called the meeting to order at 12.15 pm and commented on the fine weather and this gorgeous Indian Summer (still politically correct?). She also asked why anyone would want be prime minister after the bashing Stephen Harper took on the nationally televised leadership debate last night.

Ron Jones led us into the singing of 'O Canada' to the piano accompaniment of **Don Axford**.

Larry Doyle recited a wonderful and warm invocation.

On the head table today with President Lynne Thornton were keynote speaker **Jennifer Neden**, Ron Jones, **Carolyn Christison (Leece)**, **Amy Schalin** and **John Rymes**.

David Williams (in his special accent) introduced our five guests, who included two visiting Rotarians from the Downtown club.

Dinner was sumptuous as always: shepherd's pie, tomato soup, salads, etc, and fresh fruit and birthday cake for dessert.

Announcements and acknowledgements

BETTY SWITZER REMEMBERED. Lynne specially acknowledged the passing of Betty and the special ceremony that was attended this week by many Rotarians and friends. Betty, a familiar face at many of our Rotary meetings over the years, will live on in our hearts. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Sam and his family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY VALERIE

This was our inbound exchange student **Valerie's** seventeenth birthday. Valerie is with us from Switzerland this year. **Pauline and Garth Evans** arranged a birthday cake and gift for Valerie. We sang "Happy Birthday" to both Valerie and to **Bob Hamshaw**.

SARCEE CLUB'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY was celebrated last week at the Big Rock Brewery and several members of our club were in attendance to celebrate. We launched that club. Ron Jones and John

Rymes spoke at their celebrations. They arrange a great annual art auction fundraiser and appreciate our support.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP BAGGED A DEAD COYOTE WITHOUT LEADER CARLIN! Don Bateman reported that nine members of this club cleaned up the highway. They were hoping Mike would be there to help with the coyote. It was dead before they bagged it. Members that missed this wildlife experience are wondering when **Des DeFreitas** may arrange another Rotary safari! All those who did not attend were fined a dollar. Mike Carlin paid a little more.

Sergeant-at-Arms Brent Barootes did a wild job of fining and crediting everyone from the scribe to the greeter to the grace reciter to those who went, did not go, could not go, will not go and forgot to go to the highway clean up, the forthcoming District assembly, the up coming club assembly, and then some.

Valerie's Report on her week in Calgary included the fact that she attended a Rotex meeting with other exchange students last Sunday and that she went to see the musical "Cats". It is great to see Valerie at our meetings weekly

GUEST SPEAKER TALKS ABOUT GSE VISIT TO BRAZIL, 2008

Ron Jones Introduced Jennifer Neden who was born in Coombs, BC. Jennifer visited Brazil as a District GSE student this year and spoke about her visit with a Powerpoint presentation on Sao Paolo. The highlights were as follows:

- Sao Paolo is the largest city in Brazil with a population of 11 million
- It is the economic power house of Brazil
- They speak Portuguese, have beautiful women, do a lot of hugging and cheek kissing, have a large diverse population of peoples from all parts of the world, including Italy, China, etc. and have a great infrastructure with roads better than in Saskatchewan
- Corruption is part of the system and there are noticeable socio-economic disparities between the haves and the have-nots
- They produce coffee (does **Vasile Douros** know this?), sugar cane and Eucalyptus, among other crops
- They are the world's leader in the production of ethanol from sugar cane, and the use of ethanol or a flex fuel is quite popular in Brazil
- The dilemma of using technology in agriculture versus manpower faces them as a problem that they need to address. One combined harvester in the sugar cane field can take away 97 jobs!
- The population is predominantly Catholic
- Our district provided \$4500 for them to present to worthy Rotary projects which included a foster home, a swimming pool for autistic people, a riding therapy academy and one other.

Carolyn Christison thanked Jennifer on behalf of the club.

Closing Comments

No meeting next Friday as we have our assembly at La Joie de Vivre on Wednesday, 8th October. The next meeting will be on Friday October 17th, 2008.