

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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President Garfield Ganong opened the meeting with a chat about Vocational Service month. He was later fined for making a speech. Oops! Garfield called for the singing of our national anthem *O Canada*.

At the head table: guest speaker **Robert Ferguson** (who played for the Dino's) a real Calgarian; President Garfield; **Bill Tapuska** (an engineer); Past President **Mike French**; Past Treasurer **Murray Hunter** and **Holland Berry**.

Visitors and guests were introduced by **Jim Willson**. The super welcome song was sung with gusto.

A rather Christian grace was given by **Ron Jones**. He would be fined for not being inclusive.

News: **Cheuk Tam** has resigned from membership as his interest in day trading has been uncorked. **Doug Chisholm** has transferred to the Olds club since his move to the area. He will participate in the club as his illness allows him. The club has honoured **Rod O'Hara** by bestowing an honorary membership. Rod will be honoured at a later date. AND IT IS OFFICIAL: **Carolyn Lece** is now **CAROLYN CHRISTISON**, and she is single and available and was seen in gorgeous autumn colours.

Our club has chosen **Neil Commodore** as a candidate for the group study exchange. **Clarence Buckley** told us about this and I hope I have the name right.

Dan Doherty told us of the impending visit to Encinada, Mexico. Thirteen from our group are going to build a house for a family of three. Father is blind, aged 61, and the mother is the sole economic support. The family lives on \$250.00 a month. The daughter aged 16 has had to withdraw from school because there is no money. Calgary West is raising money to help her go to school.

Habitat for Humanity public relations director, **John McMahon**, was present to thank the club for assisting them with their casino.

CLUB ASSEMBLY: October 17th at Quincy's. Parking is available for \$2.00 around the corner. The dinner is roast beef and we will be serenaded on our arrival. Tickets are available. **Margot McDermott** and **Pauline Evans** are coordinating the event.

There is a special breakfast planned for Saturday, October 13, on Microcredit.

Dr. Marmie Hess was honoured recently for her decades of work in the field of education. Some of our members attended her special evening. The club rose to give Marmie a standing ovation.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Chris Davis had questions about Canadiana for some tables. Marmie gave the right answer for our table. As previously noted Chris fined certain members for non-inclusive language and length.

And it is a fact that **Marg Henschel** won the 50/50 again (\$20.50). The accumulated amount is hovering near \$1000.00. OK, \$936 plus.

I'm pretty certain that **Robyn Braley** made a speech based on treasurer, really secretary, **George Edwards** and **Claudette Miller's** trip on the silk road. It has been a fascinating trip for them.

GUEST SPEAKER

And finally Holland Berry stood up to introduce our guest speaker, Ron Ferguson. Ron is a native Calgarian – how rare is that, eh? Ron has spent 27 years with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. He is director of operations for Southern Alberta. His office is located in the Harry Hays building.

Ron had a well documented presentation in PowerPoint and printed form. He was pleased to announce that a full time immigration judge has been appointed for this area.

His work is governed by the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. You do not just come to Canada because you must apply from your country of origin. There are fixed criteria that one must pass to get here. Education, training, employment history and health are all checked. Fifty years ago the United Kingdom provided many immigrants followed by northern Europe and the United States. Now it is China, the Philippines, India and Pakistan.

Did you know that there are 250,000 people of colour in Calgary? Ron looked around the room and reflected that he did not see many in our midst.

Our country admits about 250,000 folks annually. The government of the day makes up the number for November of each year and our offices around the world do the admitting.

It was a fascinating talk about how people come to be in Canada.

Mike French commented that he probably would not have been allowed in if the rules were the same when he arrived. Mike thanked Ron and presented the Boltman.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! The thanksgiving hymns may return next year, but they are not inclusive either. Toodles!

Calgary West Calendar

October 12	Tseden Dhogonpa, Tibet Canada Women's Foundation
October 17	Club Assembly at Quincey's
October 19	NO MEETING
October 26	Phyllis Wheaton, The Story of the Stones of Signal Hill