

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, Margot McDermott
Bernie Ward, David Williams



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After a week on the road (we were at the Alberta Children's Hospital last week for a tour and meeting), it was great to be back at our regular nesting ground. The room was smaller than usual as part of the ball room had been rented out. As one fine Rotarian commented to me, "I like it better this way, it is cozier and all the tables are closer to the head table". I deferred comment!

Ron Jones, with an adolescent growth of beard on his face, greeted each member with a cheery welcome and handed them their name badge. It is good to see Ron back after his absence.

David Williams (the publisher of this fine rag) attempted to encourage members to games of chance as he sold 50/50 tickets at the front desk next to **Jim Barnes** who took our \$25 per person for lunch.

Clarence Buckley (\$32) who agreed it was worth \$32 to have his table go up to the food trough last! Speaking of lines ups for the buffet, **Shirley Valentine**, wife of our illustrious Past President and Past District Governor **Ted Valentine**, bribed the sergeant-at-arms to have her table go immediately after the head table because of all her guests at the table. Five bucks is \$5! (The cash went to the President's Fund, not the sergeant-at-arms!) When the time came, her table with **Doug and Verneil Martin** and four guests related to the guest speaker were second in line to tie on the old feed bag.

There seemed to be great fellowship amongst the group prior to **President Karl** bringing the meeting to order at 12:15 sharp. **Garth Evans** was wearing dress pants, a blazer, tab collar and tie. This was an occasion! (And you could tell he was suffering in this outfit as his neck was red and face blue from the top shirt button being too tight!) To contrast, **Bob Kerr** (who was also out Saturday morning to help with highway clean up) wore a bright yellow shirt. Club members milled about as people picked their spots for lunch. **Don Axford**, who also led us in *O Canada* (a lively rendition and all in tune) saddled up to this scribe at his table to ensure early access to the buffet. Past President **Bob Hamshaw** then muscled his way into the table thinking Don was the scribe and also wanted early line up status to the buffet. The things people will do for a hot meal. In the meantime, due to the small room size and large turnout of guests and members, the able and efficient staff of the Holiday Inn had to set up an additional table at the back of the room for eight patient members who waited for a seating and dining place.

President Karl called the meeting to order at exactly 12:15. The invocation was given by **Brian Stalwick** (who along with Karl and 18 others all showed up for Highway Clean Up on Saturday morning). The head table included Garth Evans (the reason he was wearing the tie and jacket obviously), **Kevin Neveu** President and CEO of Precision Drilling and the guest speaker), Ted Valentine, **Don Alexander** and **Denise Penner Collins**. Ron Jones then welcomed all our guests and visiting Rotarians as well as taking the opportunity to thank all the Rotarians and friends for their support of the Habitat for Humanity project this year. Karl also took this opportunity to thank the Holiday Inn for their great service and support. He also noted and welcomed back from long absences (and I am sure each had a handful of make up cards with them) **Past President Lynne**, Bob Hamshaw, Don Axford and **Amy Schalin**. President Karl also took the opportunity to thank the House and Program Committee for an excellent road trip to the Children's Hospital the previous week and the stellar line up of speakers to date this year and right up through December.

Larry Doyle reminded members of the Highway Clean Up on September 19 and the turn out was great with about 20 people showing up at Calaway Park for the muster point. Our section of the TransCanada West was scoured, scrubbed and shined and was litter free by noon. Twelve of the 20 then continued the trek for a scrumptious cornucopia of culinary delight at Humpty's Restaurant on the TransCanada for fun, food and fellowship. Many had to risk their lives stuffed into backs of vehicles to get to and from the muster point to the clean up to Humpty's and back. It felt like a cross between farming in Saskatchewan with the pick-up truck full of farm hands and the old drive-in days when you stuffed as many as you could in the trunk to reduce admission payments! (Does that fit the 4 Way Test?)

Stan Cichon reminded members about the prospective member surveys and that some lists were still to be turned in. Please do so promptly.

Verneil Martin, the hostess with the mostest, reminded us all of the Christmas Banquets Extravaganza to be held at the Calgary Golf and Country Club on Friday, November 13. Be sure to get your tickets early for this one!!

Denise Penner-Collins stepped down from the head table to remind members that if they want to be part of the fellowship of the Dinner Club to touch base with her this week as she is making up the rotation and groups this coming week.

Jim Barnes again thanked everyone for their support of the World Skills and also announced one of the legacy outcomes of this event for Rotary is up to date and interactive web sites for Rotary Youth Programs including Rotary Youth Exchange, RYLA, RYPEN, Interact and Rotaract. It can all be found (and a free burger coupon from McDonalds!) at www.rotaryyouth.com. At World Skills over 50,000 coupons with this web address were handed out to students to make them more aware of Rotary youth programs. This is great PR and Jim noted that the web site has had "mega hits" since the hand out of the information. Well done Rotary!

The September birthdays for your knowledge are/were: **Carolyn** on the 4th, Verneil on the 6th, **Holland** on the 8th, **Brian** on the 14th, **Brent** on the 19th, **Victoria** on the 28th and **Bill L** on the 30th.

Karl also announced that on Saturday, October 3, at the Pengrowth Saddledome there will be Flames – Rotary hockey game and Rotary needs competent players! If you want to sign up let Karl know. (Heck if Theo can get back on the blades we can show up to battle the Flames and win!) This shinny game will be followed by a Rotary and Flames family skate, hot dogs and refreshments. This is all part of our ongoing partnership in giving back to the community with the Calgary Flames and the Flames Foundation for Life.

Our Youth Exchange Student, **Marco Bersani**, was not at the meeting this week and we look forward to a detailed update of his adventures this coming Friday.

The sergeant-at-arms took the stage for a short time to promote Canada and the reasons for being proud of Canada. Each table was provided with the opportunity to bring forward two reasons for being proud to be a Canadian. If they matched any of the reasons on the sergeant's list they were blessed with a pass. Those that would not match paid \$2 per person at the table. It was a great haul! The list of "25 Reasons to Be Proud to Be a Canadian" is listed at the end of this bulletin.

Guest Speaker

Kevin Nuveu was introduced by Ted Valentine with a long read of accomplishments, positions held and time in the oil and gas industry. Ted is also related to Kevin through a nephew. (Is there anyone Ted does not know or is not related to?)

Kevin, President and CEO of Precision Drilling Trust, delivered a great presentation on both the state of the oil and gas industry from a drilling perspective and some great insight into Precision Drilling and their globalization. It was interesting to learn of the excess storage levels of oil that are often cited in news stories are quite minimal. In fact right now when the "excess levels" are at an all-time high, this is just five days (yes FIVE days) of excess oil for us to use. If all production stopped, beyond the regular storage capacity the USA would only have five days excess of oil and gas. We in Canada have even less! Kevin cited the example of the mass exodus from Houston prior to the hurricane there a few years ago. As people exited the city they filled up with gas. Within six hours of the evacuation notice every gas station and storage tank in Houston was dry. In SIX hours. Perhaps we need larger reserves!!

Kevin also talked about gas prices probably being at the bottom right now, but he clearly did not say they are on the rise. He noted they are probably at the bottom but may stay there for a bit. The rise may take two to 12 months, but it will come back based on the five-year cycles. It was interesting of him to note that in his 30 years in the patch, this was the first time anyone ever complained about a \$35 barrel of oil or gas prices where they are. He said for the vast majority of his career, those prices would be goals to strive for, not ones to turn you nose up at!

He spoke of the "Alberta Advantage" (not Ralph's, the oil and gas industry's). He noted that, with the cold winters, we have an advantage in drilling through frozen ground and Alberta companies, especially Precision Drilling, have learned to master this short turn around time and maximize opportunity. He also noted the incredible technology development that has come from and continues to be fostered in Alberta. But, with the advantages come disadvantage. The biggest issue we have here is that we have great people that do great work. And, unfortunately, we don't have "systems" in place, instead we have people. It is hard to export people (they are limited) and their great work. He talked about how we here in Alberta need to learn to systemize the success of our products and services and then we can take that system abroad and be globally successful. As well, he noted that the air travel from Calgary is limited. Sure, now we have direct flights to Houston, but we don't have direct flights to the Middle East and Eastern Europe and most of Asia. This means Calgary-based oil executives need to travel two or three days to get to a meeting in the Middle East, while the competition in Houston can do it in a day!

Kevin spoke of the success of Precision Drilling to date and the goal to take this company to be a global leader. The goal is for it to be the leader in global drilling, not an American company. The safety record is also astounding: with 239 rigs in operation, 188 were incident-free in 2008. That is astounding. He also showed a great video on how, with modern technology and owned systems, Precision Drilling can land a contract and when they land on a site to drill, they can be set up and operational in four hours! Just imagine a full drill and rigging system ready to go in four hours! The competition takes two to three days!

This is truly an Alberta Advantage from technology owned and developed by Precision Drilling and a part of the reason Kevin will be able to globalize this Alberta based company.

Kevin was thanked by Garth Evans who also reminisced about his dealing and work with Precision Drilling in days gone by. Garth presented Kevin with our world famous Boltman.

Coming Events

September 25	Laura Lockman – USA Consul General in Calgary
October 2	Becky Scott – Bleeding Art Industries (Movie/TV Special Effects)
October 9	Bruce Cameron – A View of Calgary Municipal Politics
October 16	Lisa (Longball) Vlooswyk – Canadian Women’s Golf Longball Champion
October 23	MLA Ron Liepert, Minister of Health for Alberta
October 30	“The Great Houdini” – A Hallowe’en Surprise

So, What Do Canadians Have To Be Proud Of?

1. Smarties
2. Crispy Crunch, Coffee Crisp
3. The size of our footballs fields, one less down, and bigger balls.
4. Baseball is Canadian - First game June 4, 1838 - Ingersoll, ON
5. Lacrosse is Canadian
6. Hockey is Canadian
7. Basketball is Canadian
8. Apple pie is Canadian
9. Mr. Dress-up beats Mr. Rogers
10. Tim Horton’s beats Dunkin' Donuts
11. In the war of 1812, started by America ,
Canadians pushed the Americans back...Past their 'White House'. Then we burned it...and most of Washington .. We got bored.. Because they ran away, so we came home and partied...Go figure.
12. Canada has the largest French population that never surrendered to Germany
13. We have the largest English-speaking population that never ever surrendered or withdrew during any war to anyone, anywhere. EVER.
14. Our civil war was fought in a bar and it lasted a little over an hour.
15. The only person who was arrested in our civil war was an American mercenary, who slept in and

missed the whole thing...but showed up just in time to get caught.

16. A Canadian invented Standard Time.

17. The Hudson's Bay Company once owned over 10% of the Earth's surface and is still around as the world's oldest company.

18. The average dogsled team can kill and devour a full grown human in under 3 minutes.

19. We still know what to do with all the parts of a buffalo.

20. We don't marry our kin-folk.

21. We invented skidoos, jet-skis, Velcro, zippers, insulin, penicillin, zambonis, the telephone. And, short wave radios that save countless lives each year.

22. We ALL have frozen our tongues to something metal and lived to tell about it.

23. A Canadian invented Superman.

24. We have coloured money.

25. Our beer advertisements kick ass

BUT MOST IMPORTANT!

24. The handles on our beer cases are big enough to fit your hands with mitts on. OOOoohhhhh Canada !!

25. And we don't bomb our allies. Oh yeah... And our elections only take one day.