

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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On a beautiful fall day, our Friday meeting began with the spirited singing of *The Star Spangled Banner* and *O Canada* in honour of our guest speaker, the US Consul General in Calgary, **Laura Lockman**. As there was no piano, we sang unaccompanied and managed to keep in tune for both anthems. We did ourselves proud and impressed Ms. Lockman.

President Karl warned us he would start the meeting a bit early as we had a lot on our plate, even before we got to the buffet. The buffet consisted of three salads, cauliflower and cheese sauce, roast carrots and stuffed pork roast. Very nice, thank-you.

The head table consisted of **Brent Barootes**, introducing our guest speaker, **Mike French** doing the thanking honours, **David Williams**, **Helen King** and President Karl.

Stan Beveridge recognized our visitors and guests, and noted we have improved our numbers back to where we were at the Danish Canadian Club when lots of Rotarians did make-ups and brought visitors on Fridays.

President Karl had some very difficult announcements to make this week. We have four **resignations** due to work changes, work conflicts and relocation: **Mark Ferguson**, **Charles Buchanan** and **Jim Walker**, all due to work related conflicts. There may be a possibility of these men returning to our club when work turns around. We hope so!

Margot McDermott has resigned as a board member and as a Rotarian from our club because she is moving to White Rock, B.C., to be with "Prince Charming" (as President Karl said), **Gary McIntosh**, formerly of Calgary and formerly a student at the same high school as Margot attended. They reconnected at the Central High School reunion a year ago. Congratulations and all the best!

Bruce Taylor is the new board member, replacing Margot and taking on the **Youth** portfolio. Thanks, Bruce.

Then the sad news was we lost two long time members: **Ray Huffman**, who joined Calgary West in 1977, passed away on September 22. Ray hadn't been well in quite some time and had not been able to

attend our meetings. In 2008, the board voted to make Ray an “honourary member” and he was very pleased. Ray was a mainstay at our weekly meeting front desk, where he knew everyone by name and had a cheery greeting. When we did bingo as a fundraiser, Ray could be counted on to sell more than his share of tickets and 50/50s. He was a quiet man, a loving husband and father and well respected in Calgary’s Oil Patch as a Landman. Ray’s wife, **Jill**, and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, **Don and Barb Alexander**, and family and friends will surely miss him. The family had a private service at Ray’s request.

Jo Johanson also passed away on September 19 after a lengthy illness. Jo joined Calgary West in 1981, served as president in 1990 and was very proud of his membership in Rotary. It pleased Jo no end that he had been responsible for bringing the first female member into Calgary West. I was proud to be that member.

Jo teamed up with **Harold Sharlow** to give Calgary West their famous “music and song” numbers saluting the guest speaker’s topic. Jo could play anything and Harold could write the most wonderful words to known tunes. Jo made his living as a professional piano player. His style was innovative jazz piano, his repertoire amazing in old, and current, pop tunes, jazz, Broadway hit tunes and the classics. Jo couldn’t sight read worth a darn, but he arranged and composed for the Young Canadians at the Stampede, for full orchestras and choirs, small groups and soloists alike. Music was everything to Jo and was his pleasure until the very end: when other things weren’t working, he could still tickle the ivories in style.

We all owe **Stan and Barb Cichon** a big “thank-you” for the tender loving care they gave Jo in his last years. They made Jo’s quality of life much, much better than it would have been without them there for him. Stan really lived Rotary’s motto of “Service Above Self” as he looked after Jo’s affairs and daily living for four years or so.

A celebration for Jo will be held Tuesday October 6, 2009, at 2:00PM at McInnis and Holloway on Elbow Drive and 50th Ave. S.W. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jo’s name to Calgary West Rotary or to Alpha House where Jo always said “There but for the grace of God, go I.” It could be that Jo is playing the best gig ever, right now.

Larry Doyle advised us that the annual Highway Cleanup had gone well, followed by the customary hearty brunch at the Husky truck stop on Highway 1. It took 10 people about an hour and a half to clean our section of ditches between Callaway Park and the Cochrane turn off. This year included a lot of pink Styrofoam that must have been chopped into small pieces by a mower, so there were billions of bits to pick up. Thanks to all you ditch pickers!

Larry also announced what could be the **last golf game** of this season: Thursday, October 1 at Woodside in Airdrie. If you are interested, call or email him pronto.

The 50/50 of \$26.00 was won by Mike French right at the head table.

NEW MEMBER

Calgary West is pleased to welcome **Duncan Stanners** as our newest member. Past-president **Joe Klassen** introduced Duncan to the club, and the charge was delivered by past president **Lynne Thornton**. Welcome Duncan, make yourself at home with us and get involved!!!

GUEST SPEAKER

In his introduction of the US Consul General, Laura Lockman, Brent Barootes noted Ms. Lockman is a 20-year veteran diplomat as she has served her country in Moscow, Madrid, Venezuela and Brazil, with the last two years as a coordinator in Eastern Europe. Ms. Lockman took her BA in International Studies

in French, and is also fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian, and is “still working on (her) Canadian.” She has a Black Belt in Karate. Her father-in-law is a Rotarian in Lake Tahoe, so she’s familiar with the work we do around the world. Ms Lockman arrived this summer at Stampede time and was wearing a pair of Alberta Boot cowboy boots within 24 hours!

As US Consul General based in Calgary, her “territory” includes Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon, providing, among other things, visa services. Agreeing with US President **Obama**, Ms Lockman observed “We enjoy a strong relationship” between the two countries, “because of shared values and mutual respect.” Both countries are concerned with the short term and long term issues of nuclear non-proliferation, battling terrorists and extremists, bringing peace to the Middle East and climate change.

Trade between our two countries is very important. Canada is a larger market for the US than all 27 EU countries combined. But, like all families, there are bound to be differences of opinion as well as agreement on the important things. Our mutual defense strategies have strengthened, particularly since September 11 in 2001. We are seeing increased co-operation, including with our troops in Afghanistan. The US appreciates the successes and losses of our Canadian troops in the mission.

The carbon emissions bill has to work for both countries, starting with reducing gas emissions from all new cars and trucks. Both countries must promote sustainable economic growth, developing new technology for our energy consumption, the environment, and economy.

Ms Lockman entertained thoughtful questions and gave very diplomatic answers, continuing friendly dialogue and co-operation of many diverse issues.

Past president Mike French gave thanks and a Boltman on behalf of the club, mentioning the **Waterton Peace Park** gathering with the hand-across-the-border ceremony on the weekend.

NEXT

October 2	Becky Scott – Bleeding Art Industries (Movie/TV Special Effects)
October 3	Rotary Flames family skate at the Saddledome
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
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