

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, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless, Mike Reikie
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali



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A crowd of about 80 members and guests attended the meeting, each of whom was greeted by **Bob Kerr**, splendid in his Western attire.

Brenda Sali and **Helen King** made you feel happy about giving up \$18 for the brunch and **Past President Mike French** took what was left out of “twenty” for the 50/50 draw.

Tickets for next Friday’s Lobster party at Sam’s place were available from **Carolyn Leece**, \$38 for a whole lobster including “bib” and only \$30 for the lobster tail for those less adventurous.

President Garfield opened the meeting and reminded us that September is “New Generations Month” in Rotary and of Calgary West’s involvement in RYLA, RYPEN, Adventures in Citizenship, Ambassadorial Scholars, School reading programs and Group Study exchanges.

Don Axford, garbed in a heavy wool sweater and open toed sandals, led us in our national song.

President Garfield introduced our special head table guest, **Dr. Lucy Miller**, Chief Superintendent of the Calgary Catholic Schools. Ms. Miller was joined by **Frank Burns**, school psychologist, and **Margo McDermott**, arts instructor. On the other side, **Stan Cichon** was introduced as a former principal of Lord Shaughnessy High School, a minor slip of the tongue which caused major commotion. (Stan graciously reminded us that he was principal of St. Mary’s High School.) **David Elson** was introduced as the newest member of the Calgary West Board who volunteered to fill the spot vacated by **Mike Reikie**. David will be the director in charge of memberships and was given a “Directors Pin”. Thank you David!

The many guests were introduced by Bob Kerr who gave us a vivid reminder of why Bob was unanimously voted the “President Who Mispronounced the Most Names” during his year as president

Between Bob and Garfield, the Sergeant-at-Arms was given plenty of ammunition for numerous fines which was probably the reason we didn’t have a Sergeant-at-Arms.

Margot McDermott introduced her special guest, **Dennis Dubbin**. Dennis is working with Margot on a dinner theatre fundraising proposal. Dennis is a graduate of the “Young Canadians” and gave us an

impromptu performance, singing the “Dust of Life” from “Miss Saigon”, a truly memorable rendition which brought our Rotarians off their chairs with a standing ovation.

We’re going to hear more about Dennis and Margot and the Dinner Theatre!

The buffet lunch featured salads and cold trays, sweet and sour pork, roasted chicken with mushroom sauce, Pesto Parmesan with Penne along with broccoli and cauliflower in a cream sauce.

A special dessert to be announced!

David Townsend, Sarcee Club President, presented a cheque for \$12,500 as our share for Calgary West’s help at their Art Auction. It was given to **Steve Rickard** to be used in Micro-Credit after being matched with another \$12,500 by Wild Rose Foundation.

Don Bateman announced the annual highway cleanup on Sept. 22. Let Don know or sign up!

Jan Schlomak, a former Ambassadorial scholar sponsored by Calgary West, was visiting and now has a PhD in Chemical Engineering , working in Switzerland.

Verneil Martin was singled out for a special presentation! Verneil was given a Paul Harris Fellowship (her 7th) on the occasion of her 80th Birthday. She was serenaded with “Happy Birthday” sung with GUSTO which was followed by the traditional cutting of a large birthday cake, our special dessert of the day.

The 50/50 was won by **Marg Henschel** which was followed by an embarrassed pause because the “deck” was no where to be found.

Guest Speaker

Frank Burns introduced Dr. Lucy Miller.

Dr. Lucy is the Chief Superintendent of the Calgary Catholic School District, the largest Catholic school district in the province. The District has 44,000 students and 5000 staff.

She is a recent arrival in Calgary, having moved here when her husband was transferred. She then competed for and was selected by the Board as the Superintendent.

She has visited most of the staff of the District and has focused on developing leadership and stewardship so that the students of the District can become the “best that they can be”. Staff are being called upon to be a model for the students and the community. A strong emphasis is being placed on providing education to those students who find it difficult to learn so that there are no “lost sheep” in the school system.

In response to questions:

- The Board will move away from casinos in 2010 and instead establish a “Catholic Education Foundation”
- In planning for the future, the Board is in “reasonably good shape” but needs to identify future funding needs of new schools and staffing
- Metro school districts face difficult challenges of competing with the private sector for staff and resources
- There are no plans for collaborative efforts with other school districts through shared facilities

- Much research is being done on the different speeds of learning between boys and girls and strategies for teaching boys and girls have been developed. There are no plans to segregate boys from girls at present in the classroom

Dr. Lucy was thanked by Margo McDermott who, before presenting the “Boltman”, cleared up the debate by declaring that “girls learn easier **without** boys”.

A “rain check” was given to Marg Henschel, after it was revealed that the 50/50 cards have gone missing which only served to fuel the growing suspicion that the “Joker” perceived to be in the deck, never did exist!

The meeting adjourned at 1:30PM

Calgary West Calendar

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| September 14 | Dariel Bateman: Calgary Reads |
| September 21 | Alice Nelson: Clowns without Borders |
| September 28 | District Governor Bernie Carrier |

And finally . . .

Education can train, but not create, intelligence. Edward McChesney Sait