

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: Sa'adat Keshavjee **President-Elect:** Grant Ritchie

Past President: Karl Herzog **Secretary:** Brian Wintonyk

Treasurer: Des DeFreitas

Directors: Ron Brookes, Frank Burns, Mike Carlin, Carolyn Christison,
Bryden Horwood, Bernie Ward



July 16, 2010 Edition: 44.1 Reporter: Brent Barootes Publisher: David Williams

Yahoooooooooooo! The famous Rotary Club of Calgary West Stampede Luncheon took place this week. It was an amazing event. The program committee did a fantastic job. As you entered the Holiday Inn ballroom you were greeted by **Janet Slemko**, our on-duty greeter. (Of course before getting it into the ball room you had to pay admission to **Jim Barnes** and **Kurt Schurer** who manned the table like a couple of cattle rustlers.) Some were disappointed there was no 50/50 draw this week and spoke about it as they gulped their barley sandwiches and glasses of wine. But none as disappointed as **Don Bateman** who said he felt "lucky" today and we all know when Don "I Win the 50/50 Every Third Week" Bateman feels lucky the rest of us should not bother buying such a game of chance. Perhaps Don invested in the Lotto Max where the kitty was over \$50 million.

Once you were past the greeters and robbers (oops I mean ticket sellers) the Holiday Inn did a fantastic job of arranging the room for our Stampede Luncheon. Their staff was dressed western style, they were friendly and hospitable as always and had a buffet of stampede fix'ins like "ya had nv'r seen b'fore". It included, of course, sumptuous beef on a bun, two different salads, baked taters with all the grub available from bacon bits to sour cream. A lunch fit for a famished cowpoke.

The room was set in a U-shape with the tables ensuring a spacious dance floor in the centre. Later in the program, **Marlene Doherty** (as she does annually) treated our members and guests to a little "two stepping" instruction and frivolity. Marlene was probably comfortable in her dancing boots as she was smart and didn't wear traditional leather hard soled boots, but instead, as my daughter Brooklyn, would say "puddle boots" - rubber boots made to look like cowboy boots. Now that was smart, because I bet they were more comfortable than the boots I was wearing. Many were up dancing and learning including **Clarence and Evelyn Buckley**, **Tim Anderson** and his three left feet and **Marco**, our Brazilian exchange student, who kept saying, "This isn't the rumba," and sat down before the lessons were over. **Larry Doyle** was up and active, but it seemed he had a hard time touching his feet during the dance routine. Perhaps it was because he also a few left feet. **Emily Cadman**, our outbound exchange student from the past year, was back from France and graced the dance floor with her mom, who both joined us for lunch this day. (Welcome back Emily, we look forward to your presentation late in the Rotary year about your adventures for the past year in France.)

Speaking of special guests, we had quite a few that were on the program agenda (not to mention the many spouses, partners, friends and family who also joined – so many that the list of guests was not even read or we would still be there listening to it.) But the program committee once again outdid themselves. Our annual Stampede Luncheon was graced by **Sahvanne Weasel Traveller**, the 2010 Calgary Stampede Indian Princess, who had the opportunity to honor our own President **Sa'adat Keshavjee** (our 43rd president) with the Rotary Club of Calgary West “White Hatter” Award. Great job Sahvanne! (It was quite the take on the Tourism Calgary White Hatter proclamation – seemed closer to a Newfoundland Screech Induction which made it fitting for our Club!) We were also treated to a live band that welcomed us as we entered the ballroom and played throughout the luncheon. **Bonnie and Ben** of the band Mile Zero were tremendous. This is the same group that played for our 1100+ guests at the Stampede Parade Pancake Breakfast. What a great group, with a huge repertoire of country music. Bonnie and her brother Ben were accompanied by Bonnie's 13 year old son, **Jordon**, and their niece, **Shelby**, from Edmonton, who assisted with back-up vocals. Bonnie and Ben's grandfather and aunts had a band that used to play live on radio (just like **Robyn Braley** used to do) in Dawson Creek and the band was called Mile Zero and hence this group's name. It is truly a family tradition.

Speaking of the Stampede Parade Pancake Breakfast we host annually, huge kudos need to go to **Helen King** and her organizing committee. What an amazing show. With a record number of 1120 tickets sold and mouths fed the experience was amazing. Well done to the entire organizing committee who did such a great job bringing it together and the 65+ club members, friends and family who volunteered that day to make it all come together. And not only did all of us think we did a great job, there were even letters to the editor that praised our event. For more information on this feel free to read it by clicking on <http://www.calgaryherald.com/opinion/letters/Expats+loved+Stampede+parade/3269031/story.html>.

Wait, there was still more. **Bob Wilson, Kate Tingley** and **Ken Klywak** from Guns of the Golden West were on hand as well. Cowgirl Kate cosied up to our own president who, as sherriff of this group of Rotarians, was truly in a fix as Kate's other suitors came looking for a gun fight to prove their worth to Cowgirl Kate. But thanks to the sheriff's quick draw ability (he did not look like a cowboy, but, boy, he tried - new boots and all) he was able to shoot down the black hatted rustlers! For more information on the Guns of the Golden West and their great slits, western antics and shows visit www.gunsofthegoldenwest.com.

Prior to the meeting actually getting underway there was lots of fellowship with so many visitors and stampede stories to tell. The room was a bustle. **Mike Carlin**, as a program committee organizer, was running about organizing when he tripped over his own feet going to and fro. You would think he had been out drinking. I wonder what was really in that coke can! **Gordon Rodrigues** was looking feverishly for **David Williams** (our regular editor and publisher) hoping he was back from holidays and that David could again take over editing duties! To no such avail. **[Editor's Note: I'm back!]** **Ron Jones** was decked out in his 1996 Rotary International Convention cowboy hat and **Ron Staughton's** hat looked like Guy Widick himself may have worn it in the first Stampede ever! **Don Axford** sat down next to me knowing I was scribe and had hoped that we would be the first group to the feed trough. As Mike Carlin pointed out, I only scribe so people will sit with me at a table. But I would like to point out that **David Hamilton**, who was in his rookie shift as a sergeant-at-arms also sat alongside this scribe. He duly pointed out that he would allow the scribe's table (he is also the scribe to be – another rookie shift – on July 30!) to eat first. He then shuffled us to third place allowing the Indian Princess and her table of such cowpokes like Jim Barnes to go first since the Princess had to be back on the Stampede grounds for 1 pm. Jim and his cohorts were very pleased. David then decided to set his mark as a new sergeant-at-arms. Since the meeting was different from our regular routine; he chose to make the seating different. The president's table visited the buffet line last! Scandalous! Mutiny! But delivered to many yahoos and hurrahs! Well done, David! David then proceeded to let others go forth before the poor scribe's table. But you have to have empathy for the sergeants-at-arms, they always are the last to get a plate in the line!

The first official meeting of this Rotary year was called to order by President (alias Marshall No Mess) Sa'adat at 12:15 sharp, as he welcomed the new Rotary year theme of Building Communities – Bridging Continents. **Past President Karl** sat with the plebian cow folk and looked much more relaxed than he had in the past 52 weeks. President Sa'adat announced the success of the Habitat for Humanity Casino we ran and greetings of thanks from organizer **Orlin Macmillan**. Well done everyone who attended the casino and volunteered to make it such a success. Speaking of the casino, **Bill Lawless** brought a “date” to the Rotary meeting this week. It was a girl he had picked up at the casino. (So why ruin a good story by telling the truth!) Bill welcomed **Judith Shearer** to our club as a guest. Judith was also working as a volunteer at the Habitat for Humanity casino and was interested to learn more about Rotary. Bill obliged and hopefully Judith will decide to join our club.

President Sa'adat referred to the delivery of this Rotary meeting as a “Bronco Meeting”. By this he meant it would jump all over (like this bulletin content) as different people had different roles throughout the meeting, and with all the special elements including the Indian Princess, the Guns of the Golden West Show, the Mile Zero Band, and so much more. It was a great moniker for the luncheon.

O Canada was led by Bonnie of Mile Zero Band (wow, real music to accompany us in our national anthem), while Clarence Buckley delivered the invocation. Clarence chose a prayer from the pen of **Bob Edwards**, an outspoken journalist and editor of the “Eye Opener” from High River that began publishing in 1902. It was a fun and entertaining invocation capped off with the closing true words of a cowboy and rancher:

Now I sit me down to eat
I pray the lord I will not cheat
If I should reach for cake or bread
Please guide my hand to beef instead.
Amen

As noted, guests were not acknowledged individually, but were asked to stand as a group while **Des DeFreitas** lead us in our traditional welcome song. It is important to note that Des's and Eileen's son was a huge help on the griddles at the pancake breakfast on stampede parade day. He is a master now!

Helen King announced that she expects the pancake breakfast to net us about \$20,000 profit. Well done, again, to her team.

Three-left-feet Tim Anderson regaled the crowd with his update on the fellowship exchange and how the folks from New Zealand had a great western experience, and he did a banner exchange with them. Mike Carlin (boy what a busy boy he was this week) raised \$80 through a Dutch auction of the 2011 Stampede Poster and a bottle of tequila chocolates. (Perhaps that was what he was munching on when he tripped over his own boots on the dance floor prior to the meeting starting.) **Bernie Ward** won the auction. Past President and PDG **Steve Rickard** also wanted everyone who sits on the District Photo Contest Committee to know that there will be a meeting of this illustrious group this coming Friday, July 23, at 11:30 am at the Holiday Inn just prior to the regular luncheon meeting, and he encouraged all on the committee and all those who would like to join the committee to attend please. If you cannot make it please let Steve know at steve@propertytaxes.com.

President Sa'adat then brought the meeting back to order after all the festivities were done. He introduced rookie David Hamilton as sergeant-at-arms again and David proceeded to “strut his stuff” and show he was no rookie. He cleaned out the pockets of most the club members in fines for such things as a dollar fine to anyone who made any stinky comments at all during the meeting, a dollar for lack of badge or pin and stumped everyone with the query as to how many kilograms of pancake mix were used on average on

parade day in Calgary each year. No one guessed it and all should have been paying. The answer was 4536 kilograms of pancake mix. Yahoooooooooooooooooooooo!

And then President Sa'adat closed the meeting with minutes to spare!

Coming Events

July 23	Mike Lamacchia, V.P Medical Operations - Stars Air Ambulance
July 30	Student David Gunn – Capsized tall ship survivor
August 6	Tracy Tarves – Western Sky Land Trust Society
August 13	David Collyer – Canadian Ass'n of Petroleum Producers
Aug. 20	
August 27	Field Trip – Olds Agricultural College
September 3	CNIB / Rotary Special Project
September 10	Calgarian Jamie Clarke – Two \-time Mount Everest Summiteer
September 17	<i>Tentative – Jim Dinning – U of C Chancellor</i>
September 24	Diane Reid – Boys and Girls Club