

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

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President Sa'adat greeted Rotarians and guests on this beautiful summer day, with not a drop of rain in sight! Our national anthem took a new turn as we were directed to the screen and a PowerPoint of an hypnotic waving flag and a very slow rendition of *O Canada*. It's a great idea, but Calgary West is accustomed to a spirited rendition of the anthem from the days of **Jo Johanson** playing the piano at a great pace. I wonder if the pace could be picked up please? "They" can do anything these days with a bit of electronic wizardry.

Ron Jones was called upon to give the invocation, which he did in fine fashion, covering all the bases just in case. The buffet consisted of salads, vegetables, roast potatoes, and pork roast wrapped in bacon. The table had an assortment of seasonal fruit and sweet squares.

Brent Barootes, acting as sergeant-at-arms was questioning tables before allowing them to head out for the buffet line, when he finally noticed the scribe waving note paper and pen to attract his attention. The deal is that the scribe's table is allowed to go first so the scribe has a decent chance to finish her or his lunch before having to take notes for the day.

President Sa'adat introduced his head table: **Bryden Horwood**, speaker **Mike Lamacchia** from STARS, **Joe Klassen**, **Bernie Ward** and new member and manager of the Holiday Inn, **Scott Leckie**.

Kurt Schurer introduced our visitors and guests including three exchange students – our own **Marco, Bente and Andrea**. Marco is staying on until August so he can take a couple of grade 12 departmental exams he missed when he was on the canoe trip earlier. Marco will go back to Brazil and enter university law school with his credits from high school here!

Chuck Morrison reported he'd been at St. Bernadette elementary school in Ogden for the end of school term and a presentation from "**It's a Crime Not to Read**" with the Calgary Police Service, the Calgary Public Library, and Calgary West Rotary. Each student in the grade 3 class and the grade 3/4 combined class was given their very own book to take home and enjoy over the summer. This project is successful on several fronts, but in some cases this book is the very first one for the child to call his or her own.

Bernie Ward is looking for suggestions for a leader for the Group Study Exchange to go to Indonesia to study water quality. The team leader should have some background, working knowledge and understanding of water projects. Contact Bernie or **Frank Burns** with your suggestions.

Past President Karl Herzog reported on the golf tournament last Wednesday for Motive Action. It was a beautiful day and the 10 golfers from Calgary West joined the CWR volunteers to make the tournament and silent auction very successful, bringing in around \$45,000 to \$55,000 for the operation of this training centre for young people as they make their way into the automotive industry for jobs. The Motive Action casino was this last weekend, July 24 – 25. Whew! A busy time with everything happening at once.

Our strategic plan is in the good hands of **Duncan Stanners**, even though he is in PEI for the rest of this month, he's working on it via his laptop. The plan is to be ready for presentation by Labour Day.

The sergeant-at-arms, Brent Barootes, was greeted with one clap, really, just one! Kurt Schurer got a credit, that got taken away, then a new fine levied. Scott Leckie got his first fine (welcome to the club!). **Crawford Caswell** was late. President Sa'adat was fined for just because. **Gordon Rodrigues and Jim Willson** were singled out because they recorded *O Canada* too slow and in the wrong key. We welcomed **Dan Varvos** back. Then the question of the day: How did the Saskatchewan Rough Riders solve their 13-man problem on the field? When they have a huddle, the coach sends out a case of beer, each guy grabs a bottle and the guy without a bottle has to leave the field. OK, you had to be there.

There was a happy buck for **Marg Henschel** who, single handedly, sold 1,100 tickets to the Stampede Breakfast starting in November while she and her laptop were in Ecuador, and finishing off just days before the breakfast in July. We were sold out, that's the only reason she stopped selling! Thanks, Marg, for an incredible job!!

Speaking of Stampede Breakfasts, **Crawford Caswell** was looking for volunteers to do a Stampede-style breakfast for a group on September 11. He needs 10 people, so call him.

GUEST SPEAKER

Joe Klassen introduced guest speaker Mike Lamacchia, VP of Medical Operations and Education for STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society). He's been in the medical business for 20 years and still enjoying his work. The SAIT grad has won awards as a medical transport executive and for work in human patient simulators.

STARS is 75% funded by philanthropic fundraising, including through some Rotary clubs in Alberta to the tune of \$140,000. The number one topic around the water cooler for the personnel is "patient care". Number two is emergency medical communication and three is education and research, including professional development for physicians in rural Alberta, using the "human" mannequins which replicate human conditions, each costing from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Only then comes fundraising through community partnerships. Their priority is people and their care.

Alberta is unique with the STARS operation. No other jurisdiction has STARS. We actually have three STARS in Alberta: the Calgary area with a 125 mile radius, Edmonton overlaps slightly and Grand Prairie looks after the northern part of the province. There is a similar operation in Ontario and Alberta STARS is helping BC start up their operation. Currently STARS covers south eastern BC, including Sparwood and Elkford, and north eastern BC around Grand Prairie.

The fundraising push for the last eight years is for two new Italian AW139 helicopters for \$11 million each to replace and supplement the current BK117s that have been flying here for 25 years almost 24/7. They still fly very well, but they are aging. The new birds will accommodate up to three patients at a time

with a 25% faster response time and a larger range. They will arrive mid-2011. The new ‘copters have a de-icing capability, necessary in Calgary’s crazy climate. From last November to this March STARS had to turn down 20% of the flight requests due to weather in Calgary.

STARS in Grand Prairie moves critical patients from the Grand Prairie hospital to Edmonton as part of their work, as the Grand Prairie hospital cannot care for some really acute care patients. They also use a fixed wing plane for some evacuations. Only 3% of STARS work is search and rescue, but they are currently the only company equipped with night goggles.

All calls are free to the patient. STARS employs their own medical doctor, who is available for consultation with doctors in rural Alberta. For instance, if a call comes in from a remote small centre, the STARS doctor can help diagnose and/or treat a patient over the phone when the rural doctor can follow directions and diffuse the emergency situation, perhaps saving an unnecessary trip. Canada requires two pilots to fly a “commercial medical” aircraft. The US requires only one.

Bryden Horwood gave the thanks of the club acknowledging the more than 20,000 missions flown by STARS as an example of the power of compassion in our community. He then presented Mike with our “world famous” Boltman.

Coming Events

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