



The Weekly Westerner

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3
Holiday Inn, McLeod Trail, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Grant Ritchie **President-Elect:** Don Bateman

Past President: Sa'adat Keshavjee **Secretary:** Brian Wintonyk

Treasurer: Des DeFreitas

Directors: Dick Brown, Frank Burns, Marnie Cardell, Mike Carlin,
Murray Hunter, Duncan Stanners

July 29, 2011 Edition: 45.4 Reporter: Jim Barnes Publisher: David Williams

Set up for the July 29th meeting was handled by **Don Alexander**, and the front desk committee included **Bernie Ward** (taking cash and annual dues), **David Hamilton** (checking off names and selling 50/50 tickets) and **Jim Barnes** doing the greeting. It seemed ticket sales were brisker than usual as it was rumoured **Don Bateman** was not attending this week!

President Grant called the meeting to order promptly and called on **Des DeFreitas** to lead our national anthem, and for **Dan Doherty** to give the invocation. Sergeant-at-arms was **Chuck Morrison**, was given the task of arranging the line up for the buffet.

Following a "quick" dinner and table talk, President Grant introduced the head table: Speaker **Martin Parnell**, **Ted Valentine** to thank, **Marlene Doherty** to introduce, **Bob Kerr** and **Jamie McLeod** to fill the chairs at President Grant's right. Other visitors and guests (in addition to Martin Parnell and Marlene Doherty) included **Jan Stanners** (guest of Duncan), **Bonnie Baldwin** (guest of **Mike Carlin**), and Rotarian **Cyril Gurevitch** from Grand Prairie.

Bob Kerr chose **Larry Doyle** for special recognition, telling us Larry had joined the club in 1996. Larry was educated in biology at McGill in Montreal, and later went on for training as a chartered accountant which he continues in his own business. Larry is best known for his annual highway clean up campaign and leadership in keeping Rotarians busy at golf in the summer, including the annual CWR Golf Tournament.

Breaking somewhat with tradition, President Grant held the 50/50 draw early with Jamie McLeod winning the money to assist with his "honeymoon" expenses later in the month.

Get ready for an African Safari that is being organized by PPs **Sa'adat Keshavjee** and **Garfield Ganong** for February, 2011.



With no other reports or business to report on, Sergeant-at-Arms Chuck Morrison was given the floor. He started out by complaining that the sergeant's time had been cut short at past meetings and seemed to feel it was only right to remedy this.

Sergeant Chuck levied fines for good and bad golf scores, and for those who couldn't name all the presidents prior to President Grant (our 35th). As **Bill Quinney** announced he was investigating interest in starting a new club in Chestermere, the sergeant fined those who couldn't name the other three clubs our club had started.

(Scribe's Comment: This week's scribe (JB) was fined for comments that last week's scribe (and sometimes sergeant) had allegedly made in last week's meeting report. As no one jumped to my defence, I can only point out the craftiness of Sergeant C.M. He chose to miss fining a number of people who have lost their name tags, and at least one member (RJ) for jumping into the buffet line out of turn. All of these Rotarians are former or current sergeants. I will be seeking redress when last week's scribe (and sometimes sergeant-at-arms) returns from vacation.)

Guest Speaker

Visitor Marlene Doherty introduced our guest speaker, Martin Parnell. In addition to being a superlative marathoner, he is a member of the Cochrane Rotary Club. His employment was that of mining engineer and he worked/lived in Yellowknife, Sudbury, and Kimberley. He first ran a marathon in 2002, at age 40, when challenged by his brother, and it was a few years later that he moved to Cochrane and took a four-month trip to Africa travelling from Cairo through Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya to South Africa. It was while running and biking in Africa that he encountered children who needed food, medical attention and food for their spirit, and he joined the Right to Play Program. The Right to Play organization is much more than "play", as it addresses sportsmanship, conflict resolution and play-based learning.

In 2009, Martin conducted a fund raiser for "Right to Play" and arranged an "Ultra Marathon" which consisted of a 35-hour run. Following that, he decided to set up a plan to run 250 marathons in one year. He was convinced not to run daily, but to "only" do five per week for 50 weeks. He started in January 2010 in freezing weather, running around the Cochrane area for approximately six hours. Soon after, he suffered an injury, which set his schedule back by several weeks. Nonetheless, he continued to walk marathons and eventually got back on schedule and ran 10,550 kms. Running through rain, hailstorms, etc, in local climate, he was joined by schools, friends, etc, as he made his 250 runs and eventually raised \$350,000 for Right to Play. Most of his donors were schools and individuals, including many children. One of the schools Martin visited was where Marlene Doherty works. It takes 100 trips around a soccer field to equate to a marathon and he had 60 schools and 12,000 participate with him over the year. He used up a pair of shoes for every 10 marathons, and spent \$50,000 of his own money.



He notes that Right to Play is operating in 4500 schools in Africa, Asia and 20 other world countries (including some Canadian aboriginal schools). A number of Olympians (including Sarah Hughes) continue working to promote RTP. Martin has just completed marathons in West Africa and Devonshire, England, in June.

Ted Valentine thanked Martin for telling his story and for his humanitarianism and presented him with a Boltman.

Coming Events

Membership and Extension Month	
August 5	George Dunn: The City of Calgary, "Customer Service Today"
August 12	Cathy Mantika, AMA: "Safe Driving Tips for Senior Drivers"
August 19	MLAs Doug Horner, Allison Redford, Ted Morton, Gar Mar: Alberta PC Leadership Candidates
August 26	Captain of Calgary Fire Fighters in Slave Lake
New Generations Month	
September 2	
September 9	Joy Dirks: Citizenship Judge
September 16	Roy Hebert: Alberta Manager IBM (100 th Anniversary)
September 23	Pam Swan: Field Trip, CNIB
September 30	District Governor Mike French
Vocational Service	
October 7	Dr Elizabeth Cannon, President, University of Calgary
October 14	
October 21	
October 28	A Hallowe'en Surprise
Rotary Foundation Month	
November 4	
November 11	Remembrance Day – Meeting Cancelled???
November 18	
November 25	Grey Cup Weekend – Special Program
Rotary Family Month	
December 2	
December 9	
December 16	Special Program – Children's Choir???
December 18	Rotary Family Christmas Brunch, Pinebrook Golf Club
December 23	Meeting Cancelled
December 30	Happy New Year – Special Program