



# The Weekly Westerner

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

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YYYYAAAAAAA HHHOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!

Calgary West kicked off the 99<sup>th</sup> Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, aka “The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth”, with our traditional Stampede breakfast on parade morning.

It’s the best deal in town on the parade route with guaranteed seating at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W. and a substantial and very tasty breakfast. Hot off the griddle we served fresh eggs, flapjacks, sausage, plus muffins, juice, strawberries, blueberries and maple syrup, all for the reasonable price of \$40 a person. It was one hot ticket! **Marg Henschel** sold 1,100 tickets via her computer to people from around the world. She sold out all the available seats and then started a waiting list for next year’s breakfast.

**Bill Lawless’s** best estimate at press time is a tidy \$20,000 profit from this fun fundraiser.

We had a fabulous turn out from club members, family, and loyal friends. The weather was perfect. It takes a whole year of planning by a committee, but it has become Calgary West’s best fundraiser, next to the casinos we hold every 18 months. And this is “sweat equity” at its very best. Plus, volunteers eat for free!

**Don Alexander** has been heading up the “clean up” crew for as long as the breakfast has been in existence. He started his job experience when the breakfast was for Calgary West members and family and friends only, and not a fundraiser. Back in those days, we had to set up and take down the bleachers ourselves. Now we’re older and wiser - we contract that out. But we still have to clean up.

One big repeat group was the exchange students from Taiwan here to work on their English over the summer through Chinook Learning Services. They were 140 strong, including their local teenage and grownup cultural exchange supervisors. The local teens were busy reminding their guests to “Say good morning and please and thank-you.” Their mothers would be proud.



It's a terrific morning, even if it starts a bit early for those of us who are not morning people – 4:30 is a lot earlier than it was when I was younger. Then I used to be able to just stay up. Not so much any more!

A big attraction this year was the possibility of a quick glimpse of the royals – Will and Kate. Yes, they came right past us, but we didn't actually "see" them. They were whisked by in a closed Lincoln, in the back seat, where the "childproof" window could only be rolled half way down. And they went by at 20km an hour. But no one really groused about it, even though folks were disappointed, everyone seemed to understand the need for the tight security by the RCMP. No one wanted Calgary to be responsible for some wing nut being able to do something stupid!

We were treated to two also quick flybys of jet fighter planes. Boy is that noisy rattling off all the skyscrapers in downtown Calgary. Pretty neat though!

Our guests were treated to lots of marching bands, Indians in full regalia, horses, horses, horses, fancifully decorated, pooper scoopers of the mechanised type, old cars full of dignitaries, and floats and beautiful people.

The parade is history for another year. Next year, 2012, is the centennial for the Stampede and the demand for tickets will be high again.

See you next year. Have fun at the Stampede and take it all in. For the price of a gate admission ticket you can have lots of fun for free, unless of course you have to try any one of a number of weird delectable delights on the midway. Did you try the deep fried Oreo cookie? Or deep fried dill pickle, pop tart, cheesecake or the hamburger served between two maple glazed donuts? That could be harder on your tummy than some of the rides!

Yaaaaa Hooooo!!! It's fun to be a Calgarian!!!

#### Coming Events

July 22 – Wendy McDonald – Rotary District Employment Partnership

July 29 – Martin Parnell – "Right to Play" - 250 Marathons in Year 2010