



# 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

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New rosters are available and they're looking fabulous. Thanks, **Gordon Rodrigues!**

**President Grant Ritchie** finally got our attention and we launched into *O Canada*, followed by a **Carlin** special grace where **Mike** asked the powers that be to bless our lunch because as he pointed out "we carry your mail". There's a vague reason for that, vague, very vague!

Lunch was a soup and sandwich day. The soup had a bit of a bite to it in honour of the first snowfall of the season and it's November the 4<sup>th</sup> already!

President Grant's head table was pretty weighty, all things considered: **Ted Valentine**, Past District Governor, **Mike French**, current District Governor for 5360, **David Townsend**, assistant District Governor to Mike, **Don Bateman**, president-elect for Calgary West, **Maggie Julian**, fiancée of the honourable District Governor.

President Grant reminded us there is no Calgary West meeting next week, November 11, as it is Remembrance Day. We are invited by the Heritage Park Club to attend supper time ceremonies at the Ogden Legion on Thursday November 10 where the Alberta Lieutenant Governor, Donald Ethell, will be speaking. There is a cost of \$20 per person, a cash bar will be open and sandwiches will be available. The proceeds are destined for the Veteran's Programme. The Ogden Legion is located at 2625 – 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E. Reservations are advised, so contact the Heritage club via their website.

Our dates for the **Salvation Army Christmas Kettles** have had to change because one of the former dates conflicted with our Christmas Party. The new dates are: Saturday November 19, at South Centre, and December 3 and 5 at Chinook Centre. Contact **Malcolm Harrison** for your preferred date.

**Feed the Hungry** happened Sunday and we fed about 500 people. We shared the date with the **Rotary Club of Calgary South** due to a mix up at the Feed the Hungry end. The new



coordinator thought there was only one Rotary club and combined the usual dates. Calgary South's date is traditionally the last Sunday before Christmas. But we all worked together, met some new folks and fed our guests a hearty meal of chicken a la king over rice, accompanied by California vegetables. The starters were Italian wedding soup and a Caesar salad. **Chris Lee** was at his usual spot in the kitchen. Everyone got fruit, cake, pie or trifle for dessert. No one went hungry and everybody had a great time!

We're in the **Christmas wreath** business again this year. We were very successful in our first year endeavour as we partnered with the CNIB to raise funds on their behalf. There is now a letter on our website that we can send out to friends, family and colleagues to see how many they'd like to order. The wreaths are balsam fir, 20 inches in diameter, have a red bow and real pine cones attached for \$40. AND WE DELIVER. Delivery date is December 10 in the AM.

**Robyn Braley** noted the large amount of publicity the trek to **Nepal Karl Herzog** is heading up with other Rotarians and friends. The trekkers are raising funds to build a school in Nepal. They leave in April, but the idea has caught the attention and imagination of the press as they prepare for the trip. Karl has talked **Chris Lee** and **Steve Rickard** into joining him and they are training hard.

We circulated two cards – one for condolences to **Holland Berry** on the loss of his younger brother, and one encouraging **John Rymes** in his convalescence from two cataract operations by the world renowned **Dr. Gimble** himself. John is doing very well and can't believe how "bright" the world looks now.

It was noted that **Sheila Komlodi** had passed away in the Toronto area this last week. Sheila was the cherished wife of former Calgary West member, **Mike Komlodi**. **George Leslie**, a former secretary of our club, also passed on last week.

### **50/50**

Won by District Governor **Mike French**, who also won the "Beer for a Year" draw in Red Deer!

### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

The "man" was **Brent Barootes** – perhaps I should say no more! But Brent noted we had a guest, one **Andrew Bitcon**, who is co-owner, with his wife, of the car washes called "Bubbles". The Bitcons are like Rotarians who are giving back through their business. They are promoting "wash away thirst" and have partnered with Rotary International to provide clean drinking water for people in developing countries.

"**Wash Away Thirst** is a one-for-one-for-one campaign. For every car washed at any Bubbles location we will donate funds to provide one day of clean water to one thirsty person. Donations will be made by Bubbles to the Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group (Wasrag), which is a large focus of Rotary International," was the promise made in a recent press release. The Bitcons are



proud to be contributing. “The Wash Away Thirst program allows us to partner with a great humanitarian organization and make a solid contribution. It’s a perfect fit with our corporate and personal values,” said Andrew. He is interested in becoming a Rotarian and I suggested his wife might like to join us as well.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

David Townsend, assistant district governor to Mike French, introduced Mike to Mike’s home club, sometimes a “tough crowd”. But our Mike did us proud and reminded us we have every right to be proud of our club and our accomplishments. Mike thanked David for his assistance in his role which includes a fair amount of time and administrative work assisting the governor.

Mike listed a number of our pet projects including:

- The “new” trek to Nepal and raising funds to build a school there
- Building homes in Ensenada, Mexico
- Building stoves and schools in Guatemala
- Supporting the youth exchange programme
- Sorting food at the Food Bank
- Providing funds for and working at Feed the Hungry
- Delivering Meals on Wheels
- Supporting the CNIB through selling and delivering Christmas wreaths
- Raising funds with our Stampede Breakfast and our famous Strawberry Shortcakes

Our Calgary West members have always been active at all levels of Rotary. **Dan Doherty** is adding to his District involvement heading up the New Generations along with RYLA and RYPEN.

“Being a part of Rotary International means individual Rotarians can help even more,” said Mike and cited our long-term, successful contributions to Polio Plus as an excellent example.

Mike and his fiancée, Maggie Julian, visited Uganda last year and he urged all of us to take a day of our vacation when we’re abroad to visit a Rotary project in action.

An urgent project for all Rotary clubs is membership. We need more members. We need younger members and we need to keep them by giving them real jobs to do, involving them in our work and our fun. He advised us to think of WIIFM – what’s in it for me? Rotary is a great opportunity for practicing public speaking, meeting new people of similar conviction, listening, learning, contributing through service and learning leadership skills.

District Governor Mike concluded by saying, “Don’t forget about the people who make the club run with their work behind the scenes, organizing the meeting, guest speakers, fundraising, our fun times and donating their time. And to all Rotarians, Thanks for doing what you’re doing and keep doing it!”



Past District Governor Ted Valentine thanked Mike and Maggie for their work this year and the years prior to this. He presented Mike with his very own, very prized Boltman.

THE NOVEMBER 11 MEETING OF CALGARY WEST IS CANCELLED DUE TO REMEMBRANCE DAY. WE ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE HERITAGE PARK CLUB AT THE OGDEN LEGION ON NOVEMBER 10 FOR A SANDWICH SUPPER AT 6:30PM. A CASH BAR WILL BE OPEN. THE FORMAL CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 7:30PM WITH THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA SPEAKING.

Contact Bill Hope asap at [RCCHP@shaw.ca](mailto:RCCHP@shaw.ca).

**Coming Events**

<b>Rotary Foundation Month</b>	
<b>Thursday, November 10</b>	<b>All clubs Remembrance Day ceremony at the Ogden Legion. Lt Governor Donald S Ethell will be the speaker.</b>
November 11	<b>Meeting cancelled</b>
November 18	Calgary Rotary Foundation: Dan Doherty
November 25	Grey Cup Weekend – Special Program
November 26	Christmas Party – Elks Golf Club
<b>Rotary Family Month</b>	
December 2	Bill and Maxine Lawless: Guatemala
December 9	RYLA Presentation: Report from participants
December 16	Special Christmas programme
<b>December 18</b>	<b>Rotary Family Christmas Brunch, Pinebrook Golf Club</b>
December 23	<b>Meeting Cancelled</b>
December 30	Happy New Year – Special Program