



# 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

October 28, 2011 Edition: 45.17 Reporter: Brent Barootes Publisher: David Williams

The spooky awe of Hallowe'en lurked over us, but members made it to the haunted chambers at our old stomping ground (Danish Canadian Club) for the meeting on this day. **Neal and Cindy**, the servers from our past, were there to wait on us hand and foot once again. While **Malcolm Harrison** took our cash and credits cards to pay for the ghostly meal (which turned into a delightful roast beef lunch with vegetables and potatoes, salad and chocolate mousse for desert). A masked burglar (**Dick Brown**) took attendance. For fear that the goblins would snatch the 50-50 draw (or **President-elect Don Bateman** would again win the pot), the game of chance was omitted.

The room bustled with chatter and fellowship while each member donned a mask or Hallowe'en attire (hats, glasses, wigs and masks) and prepared for the ghoulish meeting to begin.

**President Grant Ritchie** called the meeting to order on time and **Don Axford** led us in *O Canada* and Malcolm delivered the invocation.

This week, there was no head table, just equality amongst the club (perhaps the effects of the Occupy Calgary demonstration with equality for all taking place in Calgary for the last month). As well, Charlie Chaplin (**Elaine Brown**, partner of Dick Brown) showed up to entertain us. To make sure everything was topsy turvy, the sergeant-at-arms, **Garfield Ganong**, was called to deliver his fines at the beginning of the meal while the dedicated staff of Neal and Cindy served our tables. Garfield queried each table about Polio Plus as it was Polio Plus month in Rotary. Every table failed the quiz and had to pay fines. There was also an abundance of happy bucks including **Marg Henschel** saying she was heading to El Salvador until March, and **Lynne Thornton**, who was heading through the Panama Canal. (It seems only the ladies in our club get the great travel trips.) **Jim Willson** then introduced our guests and visitors.

After the feasting had been completed, President Grant invited **Past President Sa'adat Keshavjee** to the podium to introduce **Ben Kormos**, our newest club



member. As Ben's sponsor into the club, Sa'adat told us of how he met Ben. Ben is a lawyer (thank goodness not another engineer!) and sat on the other side of the table from Sa'adat during litigation. Ben won. Sa'adat was impressed by his character, integrity and honour and became friends with Ben and eventually invited him to join Rotary with our Club. Ben is an amazing individual who will bring leadership, excitement, youth and energy to the club. He is originally from Saskatchewan (like half of Calgary). After getting his undergraduate degree at U of C, he returned to the homeland of Saskatchewan to attend U of S for his law degree and now practises law with Walsh Wilkins Creighton law firm. He volunteers with the law society, as well, and has been a crisis line volunteer for the Distress Centre. He also speaks French (a real bilingual member of our club, unlike so many other is the club who claim they are bilingual because they speak English and profanity!) and plays squash, (**Kurt Schurer** watch out!), racquetball, cycling and golf. He enjoys chess and scrabble and restoring classic cars. We all welcome Ben to the club and he has already volunteered for the New Generations Committee under **Dan Doherty** and Tickets Committee with Marg Henschel for the Stampede Breakfast Parade Committee.

**Past President Stan Cichon** then read Ben the charge and reminded him, and all of us, of the need for attendance, bringing in new members and or local and far reaching commitments as Rotarians. And then we had the newest member of Rotary International inducted into the club.

### **Guest Speaker**

**Robyn Braley** then had the pleasure of introducing our guest speaker for the day: the amazing illusionist, escape artist, magician **Everett Andrews**, who is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Everett began his magic career as he was growing up in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and has just returned a few days ago from his honeymoon. Everett dazzled us first with the history of Houdini who was born in Budapest and emigrated at a very early age (birth!) to Wisconsin, USA. He was born Eric Weiss and took on the name of Houdini from the famous French magician Houdin, and added the "I". Houdini was a showman more than a magician and made his mark as an escape artist. At the age of 12, he ran away from home to join the circus and at 17 changed his name to Houdini. At 20, he married Beatrice whom he called Bess and Bess became part of his show.

After the history on Houdini, Everett went on to dazzle us with his magic. First he switched blank cards to spell the word Rotary and created illusions of rope with different lengths, while keeping the entire audience on the edge of their seats and in awe. He then brought **Janet Slemko** and **Bernie Ward** up as assistants. He had them pick cards and place them in sealed envelopes. Then, while the envelopes were hidden, Everett magically made three of the cards that Janet had in her sealed envelope appear in Bernie's sealed envelope. The crowd was in wonder. **Chris Lee** and Sa'adat were then chosen as the next "supporting cast". They tied up, locked up and secured Everett's



hands and, when they went to ties his feet up, Everett reached down to help them a little having escaped from the lock and shackles on his hands. It was a great moment of laughter and awe.

**Don Alexander** then thanked the speaker and did a little magic of his own and made the Boltman disappear and promised it would re-appear by special delivery from Robyn Braley to Everett next week. (We had forgotten to bring along the guest speaker Boltman from the Holiday Inn.)

**Coming Events**

	<b>Rotary Foundation Month</b>
November 4	District Governor Mike French
<b>Sunday, November 6</b>	<b>Feed the Hungry, St Mary's Church</b>
<b>Thursday, November 10</b>	<b>All clubs Remembrance Day ceremony at the Ogden Legion. Lt Governor 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
<b>November 26</b>	<b>Christmas Party – Elks Golf Club</b>
	<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