

# Rotary Club of Calgary West Club History from July 2008 to June 2014

Submissions by the past presidents for their year of leadership



## Rotary Club of Calgary West Annual Report 2008-09 President Lynne Thornton

### 1. Youth

- Sponsored out bound student Emily Halleran to the Brazil.
- Hosted in bound student Valerie Lauener from Switzerland.
- Selected a 2009 outbound student Emily Cadman, who travelled to France.
- Sponsored 6 students to RYPEN
- Sponsored 6 students to RYLA
- Selected a student from Westmount Charter School to represent Calgary West in Ottawa this year through the Adventures in Citizenship program.
- Held a 4 Way Speech Contest
- Provided \$4,000 in various scholarships to SAIT and Mount Royal students and attended their presentation to recipients.
- Supported "It's a Crime Not to Read" program in the amount of \$2,500.
- Initiated a School Partnership with Central Memorial High School
- Sent students and club members to youth orientation weekends.
- Funded 2 students for \$500 to attend Team Canada Global Vision Conference

### 2. Community Service

- provided \$10,000 to the Military museum for educational programs
- Provided \$4,000 to Feed the Hungry and worked a supper as well as committing to support for the next four years.
- Provided \$8,925 for an oven for Meals on Wheels.
- Provided sponsorship to Mats Ride \$5,000 to raise funds for a salaried Mental Health educator to go into the schools and create awareness for parents, teachers and students about Teen Depression and Suicide Prevention
- Manned the Christmas Kettles for the Salvation Army
- Participated with labor to build a home with Habitat for Humanity
- Maintained a partnership with the Rotary Flames Foundation and managing the organizing of a casino in support of these projects
- Provided \$10,000 to Art a La Carte to place art panels in the ceilings of the chemotherapy rooms at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre
- Provided \$2,500 to Hull Homes for refurbishment and support of their recreation program
- Made Donation of \$1,000 to Rotary Challenger Park and Servants Anonymous

- Donated \$5,500 to Father Lacombe Care Centre for specialized mattresses
- Donated \$20,000 to the Boys and Girls Clubs to send 9 students to build a house in Ensenada Mexico with Youth with a Mission and sent 2 chaperones
- We cleaned up approximately three kilometers of Highway #1.

### **3. International Service**

- Funded, built and furnished 2 homes for a poor family in Ensenada, Mexico at a cost of \$16,635
- Donated \$15,000.00 to the Guatemala Ripple Effect Program working in conjunction with the Hearts and Hands Foundation, CRCID, Rotary Club of Winnipeg West and Rotary Club of Guatemala Sur to build classrooms for the existing school and successfully matched funds with the Wild Rose Foundation
- Donated \$5,000 to MEDIC Canada for a microcredit project in Ghana
- Donated \$250.00 to the District 5360 Group Study Exchange Team going to Brazil in May 2008.
- Sponsored a District wide World Peace Photo contest for \$1,500
- Contributed \$3,000 to the Rotary Foundation Polio Plus Campaign
- Provide and educational scholarship to a secondary school student at Atsikana Pa Ulendo or Malawi Girls on the Move
- Funded a program for children in Mexico, Children of the Dump \$2,500
- Funded a water project for \$5,000

### **4. Fund Raising**

- Provided breakfast and seating on the route of the Stampede Parade for over 600 people
- Worked a casino and raised \$76,759 for the Club.
- Raised \$4,400 in our annual Life is a Bowl of Cherries fundraiser.
- Sold approximately 4,500 strawberry shortcakes and delivered them Friday, February 13, prior to Valentine's Day to net the club over \$13,250

### **5. Membership**

- Current membership stands at about 82 members
- Funded members to attend Waterton Peace Park Assembly, District Assembly, District and International conferences.
- Funded training for members in various district sponsored events and fundraising.

### **6. Club Administration**

- Published weekly bulletins
- Continued with informative weekly slide show.
- Selected a deserving individual to be our recipient of the Integrity Award.
- Raised significant funds for the President through a tough Sgt. at Arms committee.
- Organized two successful Club Assemblies.
- Kept the electronic roster up to date and published two major hard copy updates.
- Reviewed all club financial accounts, brought up to date and establishing mandatory financial procedures for future use.

### **7. Club Activities**

- Established a new venue committee to relocate our club meetings since our location was now under a long term lease with another tenant.
- Moved club meeting location eventually to the Holiday Inn on Macleod Trail S.
- Established an efficient, friendly and effective house committee to welcome members and guests and take dinner and 50/50 money.

- We have had a great speaker program which has created increased attendance and interest in the club.
- Club Christmas Party was held at the Calgary Golf and Country Club.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Family Christmas Brunch was held at Pine Brook with 200 people attending.
- The President's Ball for Lynne Thornton was held on June 26<sup>th</sup>
- Calgary Bridge Group continued this year.
- The Dinner Club saw approximately 16 couples participate.
- A Partner's Coffee Party was held with over 20 participants attending.
- The club's golf group got out several times over the summer and fall.

## The Rotary Club of Calgary West Year 44 2010-2011 - Sa'adat Keshavjee



My Rotary year started with my attendance at the RI convention in Montreal Quebec in May of 2010. The theme for the Rotary year was "Building communities, bridging continents" and the RI president for the year was Ray Klinginsmith from the USA. My theme slogan for the year was CLASS. I succeeded Karl Herzog into the presidency. My Directors were: Karl Herzog Past President, Grant Ritchie, Incoming president, Brian Wintonyk ( Secretary) Des Defreitas ( treasurer), Ron Brookes ( Fundraising), Frank Burns( Youth), Mike Carlin ( Membership), Carolyn Christison ( Club Activities), Bryden Horwood, (International), Bernie Ward ( Club Services). We met at The Holiday Inn Express on McLeod at 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE on Fridays at noon.

Following Karl into the presidency was most helpful as he was most organized and assisted me with developing processes and structures that helped me immensely. Karl developed a mission statement, a vision for the club and general operating structures that enabled to steer more comfortably through my year. With a highly organized Board, a most supportive executive team of Secretary Brian and Treasurer Des and a past presidents network of nineteen past presidents, I felt equipped to proceed with confidence.

The Rotary year commenced with the Stampede breakfast, a fabulous fundraiser that fed 1120 people and became our second largest fundraiser after the casino event. A special thanks to Chair Helen King and her team, comprised of the entire club, families and friends. We use as many as ninety volunteers for this event and raise in excess of \$20,000.00.

July 16<sup>th</sup> was our first formal meeting day with the Stampede queens and royalty present. Mike Carlin initiated me into the presidency with a cowboy shoot out. A wonderful bank was in attendance. Everyone was decked in their cowboy outfits.

Our major fundraiser, the casino, organized by Orlin McMillan was happening about this time. We raise about \$65,000.00 with this even (every eighteen months).

Rotary Friendship exchange was on. We had a group visiting us from New Zealand. They had hosted our team to New Zealand the previous year. They attended our stampede meeting.

Our Inbound exchange student for the year was Fah Tintukasiri from Thailand. We participate annually in the exchange program. Marco Bersani just left to return to Brazil after his year with us.

New Members in the year were: Jaslin Ahuja, Debra Cartier, Betty Crosby, Malcolm Harrison, Scott Leckie, and Duncan Stanners. We lost garth and Pauline Evans and Roy Thorburn.

**Event and Socials:**

September 1<sup>st</sup>, Golf Tournament at Challenger park organized by Ron Jones  
September 11<sup>th</sup> - Lobster fest at Sam Switzer's Ranch organized by Marg Henschel  
September 18<sup>th</sup>, Highway Clean up organized by Larry Doyle  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Field trip to Olds College organized by Bill Quinney  
October 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Casino Organized by Orlin McMillan and Ron Brookes  
October 29<sup>th</sup>, Halloweens surprise organized by Ted Valentine  
November 19<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Dinner at Earl Grey Golf and Country club organized through Ron Brookes  
November 21<sup>st</sup>, Feed the Hungry at St Mary's Hall organized by Dave Watson  
December 4<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup>, Salvation Army Kettle drive organized by Chuck Morrison  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, Rotary Family Christmas brunch at Pine Brooke Golf and Country Club organized by Bill Tapuska  
February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentines Strawberry Shortcakes, managed by Ron Brookes and Marie Rickard. Sold 3,000 cakes and raised \$12,000.00 for the club.  
Adventures in Citizenship headed by David Hamilton  
Rotary shirts with Logos, created by Bill Lawless. Now every member of this club has a blue RCCW shirt for special Rotary fundraising and outreach events.  
The Westerner Bulletin ably managed by editor (par excellence) David Williams  
Calgary Rotary Clubs and RI Foundations: Managed by John Rymes, Dan Doherty, Bill Quinney, Jim Willson  
Front Desk and set up consistently managed by Don Alexander and team  
Music provided by Don Axelson  
Scholarship grading and interview work managed by Stan  
Cichon Bridge organized By Joe Klassen  
The roster and all AV work managed by Gord  
Rodrigues Club History managed thus far by Ron  
Staughton Birthdays managed by Ted Valentine  
Sick and visiting managed by Lynne Thornton  
In bound exchange managed by Amy Weatherall  
"Guess who's coming to dinner" organized by Denise Penner-  
Collins Past Presidents events ably and quietly managed by Jim  
Willson Rotary Pool Nights at The Ranchman's initiated by Dick  
Brown  
Robbie Burns day with a charge to the haggis initiated and promoted by Bob  
Kerr Member profile: we profiled one member each week. Managed by Bob  
Kerr.  
Outbound student Lucas Larsen goes to Austria as our club's Youth Exchange (YEX)  
Buckley family receives Paul Harris Fellow awards. Clarence and Evelyn Buckley induct all their  
children into the PHF family.  
Sam Switzer receives an honorary degree from Mount Royal  
University Partner's Coffee part initiated by Marie Rickard  
Youth Exchange farewell party for Fah at Rickard's home in  
Scarborough Cherries for Rotary organized by Chris Lee and Bill Tapuska  
Habitat for humanity managed by Holland Berry  
President's Ball June 18<sup>th</sup> at Calgary Golf and Country Club, where all members present receive an Indo-  
African memento of a Makonde sculpture from Tanzania and an Indian Shawl.

**Fundraising Initiatives:**

We launched the Christmas wreath sales program in collaboration with the CNIB. This was initiated through Carolyn Christison's sister who is involved with the CNIB and Rotary in Yellowknife. This fund raiser raised about \$3,000.00 for us and a similar amount for the CNIB and continues annually. The Guatemala School latrines and classrooms program initiated and managed by Bill lawless Bolt man now manufactured at Motive action, thanks to Karl Herzog, previous manufactured at Shawnessy School which is now being amalgamated with Central Memorial High.

Meals on Wheels initiated by Dick Brown

Employment partnership where we participated in assisting in finding work for challenged youth capable of taking on meaningful employment. Managed by Jim Barnes

New Member Cheese and Wine party initiated by Grant Ritchie, who hosted it at his lovely Spring bank home.

**It was an honor to serve this wonderful club. This is a club that flows like a healthy river and needs very little direction. It just flows successfully and merrily along! You will note that every member of this club was engaged in something for which they were passionate. Without this level of engagement and passion, we would not be the club that we are! I learnt a great deal about life and leadership and I gained more than I gave in this most memorable year of my Rotary life. I thank the club for this wonderful opportunity.**

## 2009-2010 Karl Herzog



My preparations began early but the excitement really started at our trip to Birmingham for the Rotary International Convention. It was great to have our friends join us.

The 2009-10 theme was “The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands.” In typical Calgary West fashion, it was suggested that the theme should really be “The Future of Rotary is in *Our* Hands.” As indeed it now is!

### Birmingham Bound!”



Prior to the start of the year we did a SWAT analysis. The results are as follows

Analysis of Calgary West’s Internal Factors	
Strengths	(Perceived) Weaknesses

A strong social environment that is caring and supporting resulting in excellent fellowship	Too many senior members have carried the load for too long– new energy is required
Strong base of committed Rotarians with compassion & willingness to help	Established practices do not quickly welcome & include new members in our activities
Strong history of excellence in Rotary service	Lack of identity due to large variety of activities
Fantastic pool of management and professional expertise	Requirement to participate is too demanding for some

Analysis of Calgary West's External Factors	
Opportunities	(Perceived) Threats
New Location, new Community	The weak economy: there is little spare cash for joining an organisation such as Rotary.
There is need in the community and internationally to help.	Time commitment: business and personal time sacrificed to attend lunch, committees, and the other activities, such as casino.
Good people like to help	Increased competition for \$ and human resources

### 2009-10 Objectives

Our primary goal for the year was to focus on membership. Calgary West's success over the long term depended on us having a strong and vibrant membership and it was clear that there was no time to lose in attracting new members and invigorating our current members.

#### **Primary Objective: Increased Membership Growth & Club Development**

#### **Supporting Objectives: Improved Program Speakers and good Service Projects**

#### Directorships

#### **Membership Growth Focus: Mike French - Chair - responsible for:**

- New member referrals
- Membership interview committee work
- Internal Membership Extension, and
- Guidelines for membership

**Member Retention and Development Focus: Steve Rickard- Chair - responsible for:**

- Re-engaging members,
- Strike a mentorship and sponsorship program to engage new members,
- Assist new members to make service choices

Curly Galbraith, Doug Martin, Evelyn Buckley, Rod O'hara and Ray Huffman as honorary members for the year 2009-2010

It is with sadness that I report the passing two Calgary West members. Honorary member Ray Huffman passed away on September 22, 2009. On Saturday September 19 we lost Past President Jo Johanson.

**Youth - Bruce Taylor**

- Promote value of youth programs to Rotary
- Encourage incoming students to contribute and attend regularly

**Fundraising - Ron Brookes**

- Have three successful initiatives
- Assistance required to maximise sales

**Club Administration - Bernie Ward**

- PR effort to support membership
- Monthly bulletin
- Public Relations – Chair: Garfield Ganong
- Website – Chair – Bill Lawless
- Bulletin – Chair: David Williams
- Roster – Chair: Gordon Rodrigues
- Photography – Chair: Marg Henschel
- Integrity Awards – Chair: Grant Ritchie
- Conferences – Chair: Ted Valentine
- Sergeant at Arms – Chair: Ron Jones
- Foundations – Chair: Bill Quinney
- Assemblies – Chair: Helen King
- Continuity – Chair: Saadat Keshavjee

**Club Activities – David Williams**

- Programs – Bill Tapuska -emphasis on current events and high profile speakers – some classifications - Financial requests go through committee
- Front Desk (House) – Chair: Kurt Schurer
- Venue Committee– Chair: Garth Evans
- Music and Song – Chair: Don Axford
- Program – Chair: Bill Tapuska
- Christmas Party – Chair: Verneil Martin
- Dinner Club – Chair: Denise Penner-Collins
- Christmas Brunch – Chair: Bill Tapuska
- Bridge Club – Chair: Joe Klassen

**Service and Grants – Bryden Horwood** Bryden and company did a lot of work to identify the criteria for project selection. The following criteria was communicated to the club:

**Project Selection Criteria**

- For the “poorest of the poor”
- For many rather than a few
- Projects where benefits attributable to RCCW can be identified
- Efficiency, effectiveness & accountability
- Involvement of local Rotary and/or RCCW members
- Preference for projects that qualify for matching grants
- Preference for capital versus operating expenditures
- Consistency with District’s and R.I.’s priorities
- Benefits of continuing with charities that RCCW has supported in previous years
- First consideration to Central/South America & and Caribbean
- Opportunity for RCCW members to make a personal sweat equity contribution

**World Community Services & Funding Outcomes:**

Guatemala School Project		\$15,000+
Champion Bill Lawless	Education of Children, Sweat Equity, Ongoing	
Malawi Girls on the Move		\$5,000+
Champion Marie Rickard	Girls’ Education	
Hawkers’ Market		\$6,000
Champion Sa’adat Keshavjee	Girls’ Education, Ongoing potential	
Lift the Roof in Columbia		\$5,000
Champion Mike French	Care of handicapped children	
Embocraft Grannies Sewing		\$5,000
Champion Amy Weatherall	Enabling care of orphaned children	
Ensenada House Build		\$7,000
Champion Dan Doherty	Housing for a family, Sweat Equity	

**Community Grants Funding Outcomes**

Chair: David Watson	Champions: Buckley, Lee, Aboussafy
Calgary Dream Centre	\$2,000
L’Arche Calgary	\$2,000
Hospice Calgary	\$4,500
Development Disabilities	\$2,000
Universal Rehabilitation Society	\$2,000



Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured	\$2,000
Accessible Housing	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total	\$16,500

**Community Sweat Equity Projects:**

- Habitat for Humanity – Casinos & House Builds
- Rotary Flames Partnership – Casinos
- Motive Action – Casinos & Golf Tournament Help
- Feed the Hungry
- Salvation Army Kettles
- Highway Cleanup
- More to come!!
- Others: RCCW Casino, World Skills, Food Bank

**Rotary Flames Partnership**

- Partners: Rotary Clubs: Calgary; South; West & Flames Foundation
- RCCW Representatives: Brent Barootes Ted Valentine
- Accomplishments: Rotary Flames House, Rotary Flames Park  
Reach, Amateur Sports
- 2010+ Initiative: \$10,000,000 over 5 years  
Developing Ideas  
All District 5360 clubs invited
- RCCW Input: Fund Boys and Girls Clubs, Kerby Centre, Challenger Park

**R.I. New Vision**

RCCW Representatives: Bill Lawless, Amy Weatherall

Rotary International unveiled the New Vision program . The objectives were to:

- Reduce R.I. costs by downloading to districts
- Test for three years in 100 district pilots including 5360
- Bigger/fewer projects (min \$30K + \$15K)
- Focus on sustainable projects
- Focus on six main R.I. interests
- Incorporate pilot feedback into final modus operandi

**R.I. New Vision Rules:**

- District & Club must be certified Presidents sign MOU, Chair WCS trained
- Certification is annual
- Partner clubs must be certified

Partnerships are encouraged – size

District 5360 designated funds    2010/11 - \$181K,  
2011/12 - ~50%, > 50% WCS

### Youth - Bruce Taylor

School Partnership    Chairperson – Walter Krawciw

RYLA/RYPEN/Adventures in Citizenship    Chaired Kurt Schurer, Bruce Taylor, Saadat Keshavjee

It's A Crime Not to Read    Chairperson – Chuck Morrison

Four Speech Contest    Chairperson – Carolyn Christison

Youth Exchange    Chairperson – Marie Rickard

We were fortunate to have two very hard working and deserving youth exchange students.



Outbound- Emily Cadman France



Inbound – Marco Barsani-- Brazil

### 2009 Mission & Vision Statements Work

In 2007 the Continuity Committee developed a Strategic Plan was to guide the club in its actions. According to Club bylaws “This strategic plan is meant to be a living management tool that will be used to sharpen focus and give consistent direction over a 3 to 5 year period of time. At the core of this strategic plan is a commonly shared Vision of what success will look like in the future. It provides a detailed road map on how to attain that Vision with specific strategies and tactics”. As a part of the development for a strategic plan for 2009-2010, the 2007 Long Term Strategic Plan was revisited.

Vision Statement:                    A Rotary Club that actively supports the ideals of Rotary International through fun and fellowship.

Mission Statement: The mission statement of Calgary West is to uphold the ideals of Rotary in all avenues of service, with a focus on aiding the disadvantaged and developing the potential of youth, both in Canada and internationally, in a spirit of fun and fellowship.

Upon review, it was noted that the 2007 Committee first agreed upon a Vision and then decided that the Mission Statement which has been in effect for the past few years was still appropriate. It was then decided that the 2009 committee would engage a facilitator to assist with the process of trying to modify the statements to make them more useful in the upcoming membership drive.

To include all interested club members, an invitation to participate in the July 25 Mission Vision Extravaganza was sent out June 12, 2009. On July 25 and evening of Aug 5, a group consisting of PDG Steve Rickard, Marie Rickard, President Elect Saadat Keshavjee, PP Jim Willson, Director Bryden Horwood, new Rotarian Janet Slemko, President Karl Herzog and facilitator Richard Michelle Pentelbury worked to modify the statements. Our goal was to better describe what we at Calgary West aim for (vision) and how we aim for our vision (mission), as well as, to simplify the statements to make them easier to present. It is with enthusiasm, that the following statements were presented:

Vision Statement: An improved world, one project at a time.

Mission Statement: To serve and to lead through local and international projects that enrich lives and brighten the future for all.

## **2009-10 Successes**

Addition of seven strong members – *prime objective*  
Outstanding program of speakers – *supporting objective*  
Settled in our new location  
Meeting Attendance was strong  
Level of Foundation giving was good  
Excellent Bulletin & Website  
Raised the money and framed a house for H4H

## **Awards**

Committee of the Year-Bill Tapuska's Programs Committee  
Member of the Year – PDG Ted Valentine  
Honourary Membership - Verneil Martin

## **Challenges going forward**

Membership growth and retention  
Revenues are down –Casino and Fundraising

## **Conclusion**

It was a great honour to be the President of Calgary West and to work with our board, consisting of Past President Lynne, directors – Des DeFreitas (Treasurer), Ron Morrison (Secretary), Stan Beveridge

(Membership), Bryden Horwood (Service and Grants), Bruce Taylor (Youth), Ron Brookes (Fundraising), Bernie Ward (Club Admin), David Williams (Club Activities) and Saadat Keshavjee (President-Elect).

While we did not achieve all our goals, I am very proud of our accomplishments and the Esprit de corps we enjoyed. I thank everyone, especially my wife Cindy, for their outstanding support and encouragement . I could not have done it without them. I shall never forget 2009-2010.



## 2011/2012 Grant Ritchie

The year opened with Provincial Election candidates Ted Morton and Alison Redford as our guest speakers.

Calgary West had a busy year with Dan Doherty taking his group to Ensenada, Mexico to build homes.

Karl Herzog led a contingent group of Rotarians to climb the base camp on Mount Everest .

Karl and his team raised \$150,000.00 for the Sir Edmond Hilary Foundation to build a school in Nepal.

Calgary West won 1st place in curling with team mates, Grant Ritchie, Don Bateman, Dan Doherty and Kirk Schurer

Calgary West section of the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation was enhanced by \$90,000.00 from our own Rotarian Sam Switzer.

To complete my year for Calgary West my wife, Victoria and myself where privileged to attend the International Conference in New Orleans in May. Bill Gates was the guest speaker.

It has been a great year for CalgaryWest Thank you.



## 2012 /2013 Don Bateman

This was another year of changes or proposed changes for our Club.

My induction and first meeting was at the Calgary Elks Golf Clubhouse. This was one of the sites being considered as a meeting place. We had left the Holiday Inn on McLeod after two years. Possibilities were Elks Club. Italian Club. Community Centres. Our goal was stability, convenience and longevity. The decision was to move to the Italian Club, with great meals, great space upstairs, and a downstairs that was crowded and noisy.

We had one of the best speaker programs throughout the year.

Hats off and thanks to Robyn Braley and his committee.

The Fall assembly was a time to review Calgary west. Change was prevalent, in the world of Rotary and in the Club. New members look at Rotary differently. Committee 61 was struck at the Fall assembly to assess our direction and make recommendations for the Club. The report was delivered in the Spring and the results considered by the incoming Board and incoming president Duncan Stanners.

Member participation and fundraising had a great year. Stampede Parade was the best ever. Also successful casinos, Christmas wreaths. We joined in Habitat for Humanity in Calgary and Cochrane. We had another Lobsterfest at Sam Switzer's Ranch, and to close the year, a President's Ball at Calgary Golf and Country Club.

Thanks to all who supported me in this Rotary year. And special thanks to my wife Jill and to all the partners and families for volunteering to make Calgary West work so well.



## 2013/14 Duncan Stanners

### Introduction

It has been my great pleasure and honour to serve as the president of the Rotary Club of Calgary West in the 2013/14 year. Since its inception in 1967, our club has a long history of service, fellowship and fun. The good we have done has benefited so many, both locally and internationally. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for the true Rotarians in the club, and I am awestruck by the incredible things they have accomplished. Having just joined in September 2009, a mere neophyte in comparison to many who have been Rotarians for more than 20 years, I dedicated myself to leading by example. Rotary is all about service above self, and I served as best I could. Countless hours were spent at regular club meetings, board meetings, all-presidents meetings, the RI global conference in Lisbon, Portugal, all of the fundraisers and social events. I took on the role of change agent, and there was some expected and unexpected support and opposition to what I was trying to do to start down the path of revitalizing the club. In addition, I took on a significant international project for sustainable water and microfinance within the Honduras Economic and Community Development Program to help the people of that beleaguered country. I experienced the power of Rotary, with our club's \$10,000 turning into a \$600,000 project, and experienced my Rotary Moment when I was able to tell the people of Quebrada, Honduras that they would have the fresh water they need. The old saying about getting back more than you put in is so true.

Looking back, I feel good about what was accomplished in my term. The power of Rotary is in the acts of individual Rotarians working together in service. I am deeply indebted to my fellow board members, the chairs of the committees, and all members who contributed in so many ways. Together we made a difference. Thank you all.

### Board Members

The board was purposefully made up of a combination of new Rotarians to bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and experienced Rotarians to provide continuity and wisdom gained through experience. Duncan Stanners - President, Don Bateman - Past President, David Hamilton - Treasurer, Malcolm Harrison - Secretary, Mike French - Membership, Jim Willson - Administration, Ben Kormos - Youth, Gail Williams - Service and Grants, Activities - Terry Felton, Fundraising - Helen King, President Elect - Tony

Knight.

At the fall assembly, the club voted to create a new board position used by some other clubs, President Elect Nominee Designate. This position would be in succession to the President-elect for the President's position. Terry Felton was named to this position, with the expectation that he will be President in 2016/17.

## Setting the Scene for 2013/14

In the Fall Assembly in 2012 the members started to come to grips with startling trends in the club. Membership numbers had been declining for the past 5 years. The members themselves were aging, some no longer physically capable of some of the activities, many retired and thus without the professional network that could provide access to potential new members. The dominant demographic was the stereotypical "rich, old white guys". Some members had lost the passion that caused them to become Rotarians. All the club work was being done by a core of the same people, and this core was in danger of burn out. It was clear the club was headed down the road to slow extinction. Change was needed to reverse this trend.

The club priority objectives were clearly defined: To retain and rekindle the flame in existing members, and to recruit new members, expanding our demographic to attract a greater diversity of gender, race and classification. After surveying the membership to determine their wants and needs, the factors contributing to the loss of members and the barriers to new members were identified. A plan was devised to increase the value proposition of the club to its existing members and attractiveness to new members.

In the Spring Assembly of 2013, the proposed changes to the club were introduced.

## 2013/14 Changes to Revitalize our Club

### Theme - Be a part of the solution

The 2013/14 theme had 2 meanings. The first is reflective of service. It was a call to members to continue the long, proud history of helping locally and globally. Secondly, it was a call to be a positive force in the changes we needed to make to revitalize the club.

### The Team Concept

Several members had floated the idea that forming teams would be a positive step. Six teams of 10 or 11 people were designed with board members, active and inactive members on each team to achieve 2 main objectives:

### Sharing the workload and providing each member with the opportunity to serve

The teams would take on the responsibilities of the regular meetings. Each team was assigned 2 months of the year where they would perform the duties:

- Man the front desk to collect lunch payment, sell 50/50 tickets, greet
- Find a speaker, introducer, thanker and perform the invocation
- Sergeant-at-Arms, Rotary Moment, write the Weekly Westerner

Each team was also charged with having a member on each of the major committees to bring the team's views and report back to the team. These committees were for Youth, Local Service, International Service, Vocational Service, Continuous Improvement, Fundraising and Social Activities.

### Caring for each other

Teams were charged to look out for each other. This included things such as making phone calls to encourage attendance, make sure the sick knew that the club was behind them, recognize contributions, find ways for each member to contribute, and generally make each member feel a part of the team in the larger family of Rotary.

The team concept took a while to catch on, and there was some confusion and frustration along the way. In the end, it was a success and was adopted in 2014/15 with some re-design to improve.

## Meetings

Friday lunchtime has been the club's meeting time throughout its history. I felt that this was a barrier to potential new members based on my experience. I had brought several potential Rotarians to meetings, and the comments I received were that they would like to join, but could not commit to that day and time. The fact is that most people still employed cannot commit to 2 hours each Friday lunchtime, and so are we being exclusionary, unintentionally elitist, to attract only those who have that kind of freedom at work? I proposed that we try holding meetings on Wednesdays, e.g. one morning meeting, one evening meeting and 2 traditional meetings each month. At the Spring Assembly there was no opposition, and the board had the impression we had a mandate to proceed.

However, when the rubber hit the road in July where implementation was defined and announced, there was significant and vocal opposition. Those opposed argued that we had always been a Friday lunch club, that we get outside Rotarians to our meeting as it is the last opportunity in the week for make-ups, varying days and times would be confusing, and that if a potential Rotarian didn't like the day and time, there are a dozen other clubs in town with different days and times to choose from. I held that to make our club more accessible to a larger number of people, we needed to do something. I had faith that our members were capable of handling different times and days in their calendars. I was less concerned about visiting Rotarians than I was opening doors to new Rotarians. And if a new Rotarian went to another club because of the barrier, that wouldn't help our club.

In the end, the idea was shelved as being too divisive, and the board promised members that we would not make any changes to day, time or location without putting it to a vote.

The other proposed change to meetings was to designate the last of every month as a business meeting. The intent was to provide an opportunity for the teams and committees to meet, team-build and get work done. This would also reduce the number of meetings and time commitment.

Again, despite the standing agenda provided, there was initial confusion about what was to be accomplished during the business meetings.

However, most people agreed that the concept of holding business meetings was a positive move, and the practice will continue in 2014/15, with these meetings now scheduled for every second month.

## Attendance vs Service

RI requires that a record of attendance be kept, that each member is required to achieve 60% (down from 80%) , and that make-ups could be used to be in compliance.

Feedback obtained in a meeting for new members held by Mike French provided feedback that attendance is not a priority. Further, attendance requirements at regular meetings, which are largely social gatherings in which little club business actually gets done, are barriers to new members and increasingly an issue with retired members who head south for the winter. What is most important is service. Therefore, we asked all members to inform the Secretary of their service activities for which they will be given attendance credit.

## Satellite Club

President-elect Tony Knight formed an informal "Calgary West Satellite Club" of young people who want to help us serve. They are not official Rotarians, but meet occasionally in a social setting. They communicate through a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/calgarywestsatellite?fref=ts>. This exposes young people to Rotary, provides hands-on help, and my well be a source of future RCCW members.

Tony also created a Facebook page for RCCW <https://www.facebook.com/CalgaryWestRotary?fref=ts>

## Our year in Service

Service is what Rotary is all about, and this year was no exception.

### Local Service

- High River - RCCW took on the responsibility of pooling all donations for flood relief - Mike French
- Meals on Wheels - all year, some by individual members, some shared
- Rotary Challenger Park golf tournament Aug 8/9- Ron Jones
- Motive Action golf tournament Aug 14 - Karl Herzog
- Habitat for Humanity casino Sep 8/9 - Orlin McMillan
- Highway Cleanup Sep 28 - Larry Doyle
- Food Bank Oct 7, Nov 21, Jan 27, Mar 6, May 15 - Joe Klassen
- Salvation Army Kettles Nov 30, Dec 14 - Malcolm Harrison
- Car wash sales to help Philippine typhoon victims - Andrew Bitcon
- Movember - Dan Doherty raised \$15,000. Dan underwent treatment for prostate cancer
- Rotary Mattamy Greenway - in place of the discontinued Rotary/Flames partnership, RCCW agreed to run casinos on behalf of the downtown club as our part of the financial commitment
- Chartering of new Rotary Club of Chestermere - Bill Quinney
- Feed the Hungry - David Watson
- High River George Lane Park - Gail Williams

### Youth

- RYLA - Dan Doherty
- RYPEN - Dan Doherty
- Scholarships - SAIT, Mount Royal University, Motive Action (new)
- Louise Dean High School
- We decided to take a year off from the Youth Exchange program. We have inbound and outbound students for the 2014/15 year
- It's a Crime Not to Read - Chuck Morrison
- Adventures in citizenship - Sa'adat Keshavjee
- United Nations scholarship to Saskia Knight



## International

- YWAM Homes of Hope in Mexico - Dan Doherty
- Child Haven repair in Nepal - Steve Rickard
- Malawi School for Girls - Marie Rickard
- Hearts and Hands Mayan school books - Terry Felton
- Honduras Economic and Community Development - Duncan Stanners
- Save the Rain in Tanzania - Tim Anderson
- Zamboanga Philippines medical training

## Fundraising

- Stampede Breakfast \$25K - Bill Lawless
- Strawberry Shortcakes \$19K - Tony Knight
- Christmas Wreaths \$5K - Helen King
- Casino Feb 2014 \$70K - Orlin McMillan

## Social Events

- Lobster Dinner at Sam Switzer's ranch
- Dinner Club - Denise Penner-Collins
- Bridge Club - Joe Klassen
- Curling - Dan Doherty
- Golf - Bill Lawless
- African Safari - Sa'adat Keshavjee
- Christmas Brunch Dec 15
- Christmas Dinner Dec 20
- President's Party Jun 21 - This was special for me. I went away from the traditional ball to an informal party and asked all members to submit their favourite dance tunes. Current DG Pat Killoran attended, and speeches were given by Past DG's Steve Rickard and Mike French, along with Malcolm and Gail.

## Club Meetings in review

Our club is well known for its great speakers, and 2013/14 was no exception. We wanted our members to be aware of the charitable works we do, and so many of the recipients of our grants came to tell us of their efforts. I also tried something new, that is to eliminate the head table. My thoughts were to remove some of the pomp and ceremony, and place all members as equals. This practice did not survive my presidency.

Mike French also came up with the idea of incorporating a "Rotary Moment" into the meeting. Teams would appoint a member to provide their moment each week. This practice was well received.

**July 12, 2003** - The handover meeting. Mike Carlin was the MC, and had Clarence tie me up and then produce implements of cattle work - needles, ear tag applicators and castration devices. Then all members were encouraged to "brand" me with "RCCW". This was all great fun!

**July 19, 2013** - The day I announced the proposed changes. I decided to don a "Rotarian" superhero costume, complete with the banner with the RI theme for the year "Engage Rotary - Change Lives" as my cape. I opened with a spoof on the Superman intro from the old TV series

"Look over there – Conflict, Disease, People with no water, Mothers and children in poor health, Illiteracy, the poor..."

"This is a job for....Rotarians!"

"Faster than a speeding government ( well, marginally...)"

"More powerful than polio"

"Able to leap to solutions to poverty in a single bound"

"Yes, it's the Rotary Club of Calgary West!"

"Not so strange people who collectively have powers and abilities to help their fellow man"

"Rotarians"

"Who can divert mighty rivers to deliver water to thirsty people"

"Bend steel to create homes for the homeless"

"And who, disguised as normal people,"

"Fight a never-ending battle for Truth, Fairness, Goodwill, and benefit to all"

"And now for another exciting episode in the adventures of Calgary West."

**July 26, 2013** We bid farewell to Valentina, our exchange student. Clare Nolan, Sr. Manager of the East Village Development told us of the plans to re-develop the 49 acres of prime real estate.

**Sep 6, 2013** The honourable Dan Hays talked about the Canadian Senate

**Sep 13, 2013** Gordon Stewart, Recovery Director for the flood, provided an amazing presentation on the damage done and the actions taken to get the city back in business.

**Sep 20, 2013** My friend Mario Siciliano, director of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame gave us the low down on the impressive interactive facility at Canada Olympic Park.

**Sep 27, 2013** Vito Culmone, Executive VP and CFO for West Jet

**Nov 1, 2013** Pat Killoran, District 5360 DG provided greetings from RI president Ron Burton and admonished us to focus on membership

**Nov 6, 2013** Fall Assembly. Motions were passed to create a new board position, and to clarify board authority to look at meeting venue and time.

**Nov 8, 2013** Rotary Remembers. I had the honour of listing our members past and present who had served in the military at the annual Remembrance Day all-Calgary service at the Legion.

**Nov 15, 2013** Dan Doherty told us the story of the Rotary Foundation and the Calgary Rotary Foundation, and brought along 2 First Nations youths who had participated in RYPEN.

**Nov 22, 2013** Del Dyck, Executive Director of the Automobile Insurance Rate Board

**Nov 29, 2013** Devin Atkins, our previous winner of the Adventures in Citizenship told us of his trip to Ottawa

**Dec 6, 2013** Patricia Jones, CEO of Catholic Family Services talked about the Louise Dean High School and their teen pregnancy program

**Dec 13, 2013** James Zackowski CEO of Rotary Challenger Park described plans for the next phase

**Jan 3, 2014** Tim Gillespie Chairman of Meals n Wheels

**Jan 10, 2014** Andrew Lockhart, Director of the Calgary Drop in Centre

**Jan 17, 2014** The Honourable Jonathan Davis, MLA, Justice Minister, Attorney General and Solicitor General

**Jan 24, 2014** Steve Armstrong, professional disaster manager spoke on crisiscommunications

**Jan 31, 2014** We began the practice of having the secretary read out the significant outcomes of the board meetings

**Feb 7, 2014** Vance Neudorf, director of the Canadian Badlands Passion Play

**Feb 21, 2014** Dr Frank McMaster spoke on depression and suicide in youth

**Feb 28, 2014** Business meeting

**Mar 7, 2014** Jerry Brunen Western Sky Land Trust spoke of the efforts to secure land as parks along the Bow River

**Mar 14, 2014** Dr Eugene Beaulieu, Professor of Economics at U of C spoke on the Investment Canada Act that controls foreign investment

**Mar 21, 2014** Clara King, pastor of St Stephen's Church spoke on diversity

**Mar 27, 2014** Special evening event co-hosted by Calgary Olympic and Calgary North featuring the Flames CEO and COO

**Apr 4, 2014** Jody Mosely, Director of Communications for the Calgary Airport Authority spoke on the future expansion plans

**Apr 11, 2014** Brian Keeting spoke on his adventures looking at wildlife

**Apr 16, 2014** Spring Assembly. No motions were made.

**Apr 25, 2014** Business meeting. Charlene Beard told us about police checks required for members to interact with the exchange students

**May 2, 2014** Dr Dean Vause Director of the Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre

**May 9, 2014** Lara Dionne, GM Financial Development, YMCA

**May 16, 2014** Sa'adat Keshavjee, Garfield Ganong and Gail Williams presented their African safari

**May 23, 2014** Zamboanga Medical Specialties Upgrading Program for doctors from the Phillipines

**May 30, 2014** Formation of new teams for 2014/15

**Jun 6, 2014** Bill Skinner spoke on the Mayan ruins

**Jun 13, 2014** Duncan Stanners on the Honduras Economic and Community Development Programme

**Jun 20, 2014** John Lockhart spoke on the use of Microcredit as a tool in High River

**Jun 27, 2014** Business meeting