



## Rotary Club of Edmonton The Edmontarian

Monday, October 27, 2008

 [Club Web Site](#)

**Editor:** Russ Mann  
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

### Future Speakers

**Oct 30 2008**

[Patrick LaForge and Guests](#)

"Oiler's Hockey - Chair Clayton Tiedeman"

**Nov 6 2008**

[Colonel Andre Corbault, Brigade Commander](#)

"Remembrance Day-Chair Brian Hehn"

**Nov 13 2008**

[Dr. Lloyd Steier, U of A School of Business](#)

"Family Business"

### Upcoming Events

[RC Edmonton Board of Directors Meeting](#)

Nov 18 2008

[Millennium House Christmas Party](#)

Dec 6 2008 - Dec 6 2008

[Rotary District 5370 Conference-Jasper](#)

May 14 2009 - May 17 2009

This eBulletin has been generated by **ClubRunner** club communication software. Visit [clubrunner.ca](http://clubrunner.ca) for details.

© 2002-08 Doxess. All Rights Reserved.

### ClubRunner Sponsors



Please visit our Sponsors. To place your ad [click here](#).

### Rotary Program October 30, 2008

Over the past 25 years **Patrick LaForge** has enjoyed many wonderful business experiences with leading sports and entertainment organizations in the areas of professional and major junior hockey, alpine ski racing, auto racing, horse racing and professional rodeo.



Born in Lac la Biche, Alberta and raised in Edmonton, LaForge enjoyed a lengthy career with Molson Breweries of Canada where he ascended to Vice President of International Marketing, working in the United Kingdom, Japan and across Canada. He also enjoyed a leadership position within **Olympics Canada**, as President and CEO of Alpine Canada Alpin and served on the Executive Board of the **Canadian Olympic Committee**.

In July 2000 LaForge was appointed President and CEO of the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club. Since that day he has worked diligently to build pride of ownership for the organization in "Oil Country" while seeking to strengthen and stabilize the club commercially. In the spring of 2008, the Oilers were purchased by leading Edmonton entrepreneur, Daryl Katz. Today, working from one of the smallest markets in the League, the Oilers are ranked in the top seven most financially successful Clubs in the NHL and rated as a Top 10 sports club in the world by **Money Magazine**.

In 2003 and again in 2004, **ESPN the Magazine** named the Edmonton Oilers in the top ten "fan satisfying" professional sports franchises in all of North America. "Without question, having ESPN Magazine score the Oilers as the most fan friendly pro-sport franchise in Canada in 2004, was something very special for all Oilers employees, especially Kevin Lowe and I" says LaForge.

One of LaForge's most broadly known achievements has to be his role in producing the FIRST regular season NHL game played outdoors. The Heritage Classic featured two storied NHL franchises, the Edmonton Oilers and Montreal Canadiens playing in front of 57,167 hockey-crazy fans at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton on a bone-chilling winter day in November 2003. The Heritage Classic also featured the most watched NHL Alumni hockey game ever played with a star-studded roster that included hockey icons Guy Lafleur, Mark Messier and the Great One - Wayne Gretzky playing the game they loved and mastered so well. The Heritage Classic is known now as a watershed event for the NHL, who now hosts an annual outdoor hockey game, attracting NHL fans worldwide.

Another major achievement has to be the return of the Edmonton Oil Kings of the Western Hockey League to the Alberta capital in 2007. The once legendary major junior team won two Memorial Cups before leaving town in 1976 and under the Oilers stewardship, it is anticipated that they will be Canadian champions again soon.

As President and CEO LaForge is responsible for keeping the Club on strategy - working with Hockey Operations and Ownership in every way possible to bring the next championship to our wonderful fans. In addition, LaForge's priorities are to enhance the organizations financial viability, maintain a positive community image for the Club(s) and build quality relationships with Oilers and Oil Kings fans, sponsors and customers in Oil Country.

## Club Site Sponsors



Please visit our Club Website Sponsors.  
To place your ad [click here](#).

Currently, Patrick is an Alternate Governor for the Oilers in the NHL and Governor of the Oil Kings in the Western Hockey League. He is completing a term as Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Board and is also on the Advisory Board of the Edmonton Amateur Sports Council and is a Rotarian.

Public recognition is never planned but so graciously received when it arrives and this year LaForge was pleased and proud to be selected as a *Top 50 Most influential Person in Alberta* by Venture Magazine and was also the recipient of the *Consumer Choice Award as Edmonton Business Person of the Year, 2008*

LaForge is a graduate of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and has attended the University of Western Ontario, School of Business and completed the Executive Management Program at the University of Michigan.

Away from the workplace Patrick cherishes every minute spent with his wife and children.

## Legacy Project Update

by Mann, Russ

**President Gord Deeks advised the members of the Rotary Club of Edmonton that Board of Directors met Monday October 20 as a result of the tie vote the week previous.** The decision was to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> vote - **Canadian Council of Advancement of African Canadians.** Gord asked members for their support on the vote and referenced DK Lee's call out to Rotarians to save the children of the world. The Board decided to support the CCAAC, but there are some challenges. Board has decided to have a Project Team lead by Muriel Dunnigan to help this needy group move forward and build a facility that can help these war torn refugees from Africa. If they need some engineering or design assistance, our club can help; if they need work parties we can help them; if we need to partner with other organizations (Boys and Girls club, Big Brothers, Big Sisters) to assist in developing programs. We have an opportunity to help new Canadians start a new life. As President, Gord ended his comments by saying ""I am proud to support this worthwhile project. I am asking as your President that you support this initiative."

Members president have supported the Board and thier decision.

## Mei's Adventures

Mei has been to a number of events over the past several weeks. It includes the Mexico/Canada Soccar Game thanks to Past President David Black and Margarita Hansen, A Kids in the Hall event, thanks to Fred Katz ( she met Mayor Mandel and Councillor Ben Henderson), A significant fund raiser thanks to Rotarian Era Rowles and Janet Brown, Thanks Giving Dinner, and Don Henry's 65 Birthday Party. Pict ures can be seen in the Photo Journal under the heading Mei's Adventure October



## History - Dr. Wilbur Bowker



**Wilbur Bowker** had been Dean of Law at the University of Alberta for about a year when he was invited to join the Rotary Club of Edmonton. The teaching of Law has been Wilbur's life. As Dean of La, he saw the Faculty of Law grow from about forty students to around two hundred. Many of those students rose to positions of prominence including two

who sat on the Supreme Court of Canada.

Wilbur was President of the Rotary Club of Edmonton in 1959-60 and his quick wit, gentle sense of humour and administrative abilities made it a good experience for all members. If one were to ask him to list his happiest memories as a Rotarian it is certain that the Spokes Club, the entertainment and the sing songs at club meetings would top the list.

As Club Historian for five years, Wilbur did much to keep the spirit of Rotary Fresh for old and new members. His stories of Vaudeville Shows put on by our club in the twenties and thirties, were fresh and highly entertaining. He was also our chief elocutionist and several times recited "Casey at the Bat" with such fervour that it left no doubt that "this boy from Ponoka" loved baseball. He also loved theatre. At Fort Edmonton Park he and a number of members of the club gave a hilarious rendition of "The Shooting of Dan McGrew"

As reported by Dave Miller.

### Centennial Interact Club

**Rotarian Suresh Gurjar** introduced two Edmonton Centennial Interact Club Executives: Ross Sheppard High School students Anisha Chotalia (President) & Alanna Hedden (Fundraising Director). They showed a powerpoint presentation and spoke of their trip to a school in Belize last year. They are holding a fundraiser on November 22, 2008 at the Maharaja Banquet Hall titled "An Unbelizeable Evining" with banquet, silent auction, entertainment & dance. Sponsorships are available for \$250.00 (Includes 2 tickets + Company name on the Dinner Table and in the program). \$40 per person to attend. If you would like tickets, or are able to contribute items to their auction, please contact Rotarian Suresh Gurjar ([sgurjar@thurber.ca](mailto:sgurjar@thurber.ca)).

### 50/50 Update



New member Rotarian John Kopeck had his number drawn in the 50/50 last week and ended up with the chocolates. The jackpot of \$33.00 will begin to grow and should be in the \$65.00 range on October 30. Buy early and buy often.

### Integrity Committee

Rotarian Kevin Keough, Chair of the Integrity Awards Committee, is looking for several more committee members. The awards committee is active in the March-May period and has the responsibility of soliciting nominations, reviewing information and selecting a candidates to be the Rotary Club of Edmonton Integrity Award winner. This is very enjoyable committee work.

You can reach Kevin at [kevinkeough@shaw.ca](mailto:kevinkeough@shaw.ca)



As with many exchange students Javier Escute has remained in touch with our Rotary Club. In recent correspondence with Rotarian Al Jacobson, Javier sent some photos which can be seen in the Photo Journal on the website. He can also be seen on youtube in the

following links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHjSUO914Lc> ;

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zdyXV-jomI&feature=related>

## Sage Awards

### Brent Abbott announced the SAGE Awards Gala

Tickets are \$125 by phoning SAGE at 780-701-9009 for "The Evening of the Stars" taking place November 12, 2008. Proceeds go to support the Senior's Safe House and other Sage programs.



Evening includes:

Charlie Austin on Piano

Cher, Marilyn Monroe and many others presented by Tracey Bell, Woman of Many Talents

The Chance! Quartet

Honorary Chair - Hector Potihier

Meal provided by the Sutton Place

<http://www.mysage.ca/sageawards.cfm>

## Rotary Club Core Office Hours

The Rotary Club of Edmonton Office is **open daily** between the hours of **9:00 am and 3:00 pm**. The office is located in the bottom level of the Westin Hotel.

The **Club Administrator Lovina** can be reached at 780-429-3256