

Reporter,
Ron Robertson

Our guest speakers, Ann and Garth Toombs, Madeleine King and John Ridge took us on a tour to Uganda and our projects there.

Madeleine explained that Uganda is in east Africa, is stable and a member of the United Nations. It is a mostly Christian country, and many of its areas are very poor. The population has been severely affected by HIV/Aids.

Situated near the Tanzanian border, we were shown TRACC (Taking Rotary to African Communities and Children) projects. The projects support building houses, and education and training for children and youth in very poor rural areas. Our Adopt-A-Hospital project in Kalisizio was the beneficiary of two containers of hospital equipment and "stuffies" collected in Calgary and shipped there. We were shown beds, examination tables and linens unpacked by 22 Kalisizio Rotarians for installation at the hospital. The beds were set up in the Rotary Club of Calgary Maternity Ward. A prized anesthesia machine was supported by \$19,000 from the club and \$29,000 from individual anonymous members of the

A report from our ambassadors to Uganda

Club. An ultrasound machine was donated from Red Deer and installed at an HIV/Aids Clinic.

John Ridge thanked everyone for their support, both in time and material for the shipment. In a country where half the population is children, where aids started and is still rampant, TRACC contributions are critical to rebuilding the

his brother and is passing along his skills. Joseph, who is the proprietor of a bookstore, attends school on the weekends and assists with web designs, graphics and helps teach computer skills in the TRACC office. We met Daisy who used a micro credit loan and now works as a massage therapist at an Aids Clinic, and we met Victoria – a fashion designer. Christine, widowed with two

children, has had her house repaired and finished thanks to the Rotary Club of Calgary, and thereby has had her faith and confidence restored. The common thread was a deep appreciation from each individual for the work we do in Uganda. We are sharing with grateful people.



Madeleine King...



John Ridge...



Ann Toombs...



Garth Toombs...

lives of abandoned and orphaned children. Children's lives are being rebuilt by choosing and supporting other family members (or supervisors) for them, rebuilding homes, providing access to education and assisting with micro-finance. These children are being given an opportunity to learn to help themselves and to give back to their families and community.

Ann Toombs put faces to the TRACC projects. We saw a young man, trained as a bricklayer who was reunited with

Garth summarized by reminding us that the work could not proceed without the heavy involvement of local Rotarians. These individuals supervise and coordinate the work. Our \$55,000 has been extended to over \$650,000 through matching grants over the next 5 years. Special donations have helped with building homes and latrines, acquiring bicycles or to provide scholarships for children to attend schools. There are many ways to help. He thanked his co-presenters and all members of the Club.



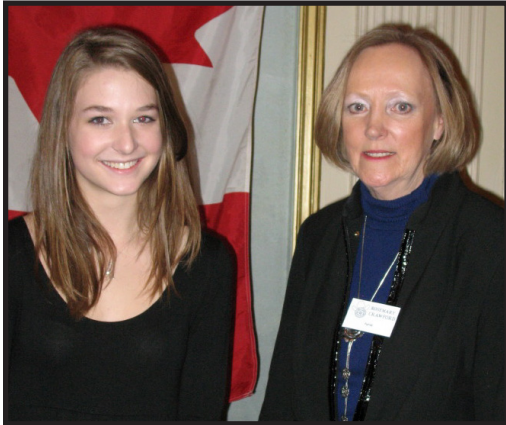
Bill Keech and Lynn Lehr welcome new member, Dan Regier...



Bill Keech and Kent Hehr welcome new member, Aaron Miller...

The Meeting

- President Bill called the meeting to order and welcomed a full house of members and guests. Michael Pierson led us in O'Canada and Bev Gallagher delivered the Invocation.



Rosemary Crawford introduces our outbound exchange student, Hayley Fairbanks...

- Lunch was excellent, and if noise levels are indicative, a great fellowship session was enjoyed by all.
- Chuck Simpson was welcomed back. (He urged us all to get pneumonia shots). Members in the news lately included: Madleine King, Michael Broadhurst, Carol Rosdobutko, The Rotary Club itself, and of course George Brookman. It seems we are everywhere.
- Tim Heaton treated us to a historical perspective of "Jingle Bells", written originally by John Lord Pierpont in 1859. We joined in singing the original version – called "One Horse Open Sleigh". It was fun to note the differences in language and nuance in 150 years!

- Visitors and guests were introduced by Bev Gallagher, and Carol Rosdobutko reported on the value of giving thoughtful gifts. She informed us that it represents an extension of our personality, is an investment in a relationship, gives us an opportunity to share our talents, and if given from the heart can be extremely satisfying.
- We sang a resounding "Happy Birthday" to Rotarians Gord Cummings, Kent Hehr, Chuck Simpson, and Scott Tizzard.
- Maria den Oudsten was thanked for her donation to the Christmas Helper Program. Her \$320 donation was the proceeds from the sale of her book "Journey to Snowmanland" sold at last week's Rotary Meeting. Donations are still being received.
- Bjorn was given two gifts – food? - and no speech this week. He was happy.
- Members were thanked for their support for last Sunday's Seniors Christmas Party, and reminded of the Chinese New Year's Dinner on January 28. Tickets are available.
- Rosemary Crawford introduced Hayley Fairbanks outbound Youth Exchange Student for 2011 – 2012.
- Lynn Lehr introduced new member Daniel Regier. Daniel is an engineer who enjoys his family, outdoor pursuits and travel.
- Kent Hehr introduced new member Aaron Miller, an oil and gas analyst with a passion for giving back to his community.
- Ed Williams Men's wear and Ron Robertson were thanked for their sponsorship of the Cog this week.



Bev Gallagher introduces visitors and guests...



David Arthur is going to find out who is naughty or nice...

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

December 21

Partners Christmas Luncheon

Dr. Karen Benzies, Associate Professor with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary.
"Bright from the Start – Building Healthy Connections".

December 28

Informal Fellowship Meeting

Cancelled

January 4

Robert Millar, Pres. CDFAI

"Why Canada needs a Private Western Canadian Foreign Affairs Research Institute"

January 18

Dr. Elizabeth Cannon

Partners Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday December 21st

11.15 a.m. – Cash Bar

12 noon – Christmas Luncheon

Crystal Ballroom, Fairmont Palliser Hotel

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Karen Benzies, Associate Professor with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary. Her presentation is entitled: "Bright from the Start – Building Healthy Connections".

This is a Rotary Flames Alliance project for young children.

No Informal Fellowship Meeting on December 28

Please be advised that there will be no informal fellowship club meeting on Tuesday December 28th. Our first regular meeting of the New Year will be on Tuesday January 4th.

Chinese New Year Dinner

(The Year of the Rabbit)

Friday January 28

Regency Palace

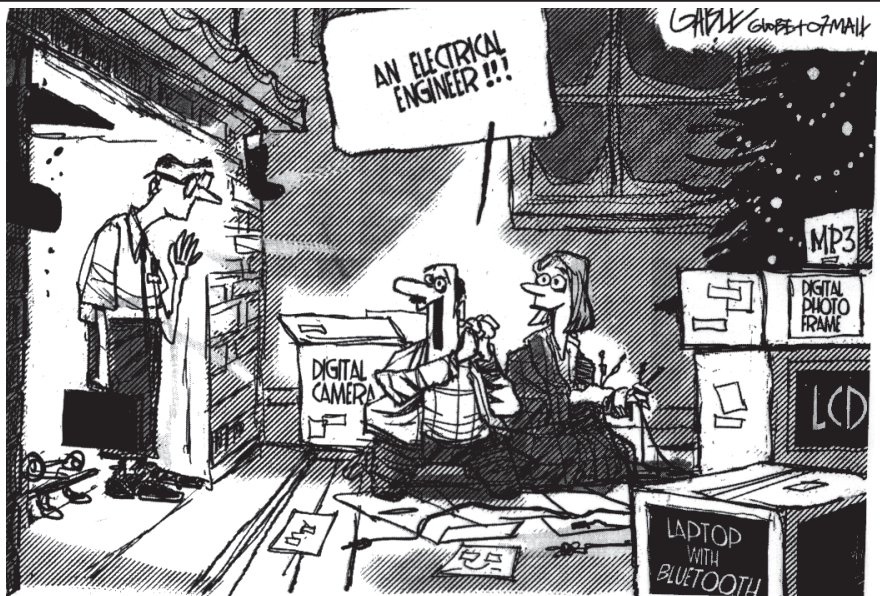
5:30 - 7pm Cocktails - Cash Bar

7pm - Dinner & Entertainment

Contact Wing-Keen Chan or the Rotary office

\$45. pp

\$420. table of 10



MIRACLE ON 34th STREET 2007

Cartoon submitted by Tony Howard

Another Successful Seniors Christmas Party



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL...
and thanks for sponsoring



Bruce Millar

THE COG



Dave Hiller

DEADWOOD PUBLISHING

"The Famous Five"
by Nancy Millar (a person)

Phone (403) 547-3919

We Deliver!

The Rotary Club of Calgary is an organization of professional and community leaders who come together through commitment and fellowship to create opportunities and a better future for generations to follow.