



*Reporter,
Tony Howard...*

Our Speaker, Richard Truscott was "introduced" by **Jeff Bradshaw** who was seen sporting an elegant moustache for the November Prostate Cancer Campaign. He noted that Richard had a degree from the U. of C. followed by an MBA from Queen's. After working for several years in communications he joined the Canadian Federation of Independent Business as the Director of Provincial Affairs, Alberta. He started his talk by asking how many small business owners were in the audience. A rough estimate was that one-third of the room is involved with a small business. Richard said that the CFIB is a non-partisan, not-for-profit advocacy organization that was founded in 1971 and represents 107,000 independently owned and operated businesses. He noted that what makes the CFIB unique is that it meets with hundreds of small business owners each and every month to collect their views as well as advocacy on business issues affecting their members.

To illustrate the impact of small businesses he noted that 98% of all businesses are small or medium-sized enterprises employing more than 60% of all Canadians and produce almost half of Canada's economic output. Their surveys of the members produce the Business Barometer on a monthly basis. Based on his presented graph the optimism overall has recovered to the levels prior to 2008 but when the sectors are examined it shows that the levels of optimism in finance, realty, hospitality, transportation and agriculture remain relatively depressed. In reviewing the priority issues for small businesses it was easy to name the key issues: tax burden, government regulations and paper,

Creating a Better Environment for Small Business...

government debt and deficits, Employment Insurance. Rising issues include Employment Insurance and the shortage of qualified labour. When they surveyed Albertans as to the level of respect they found that farmers and small business were at the top. The lowest levels were banks, large companies, government and unions in decreasing order. Richard commented that "People

Kelowna, Edmonton and Red Deer. Calgary ranks 13th out of 100. A major issue of concern for the CFIB is the "tax gap" whereby 71% of Alberta's municipalities charge higher rates of property tax to businesses than similarly assessed residential property. Businesses paid on average 1.89 times more than residents. However, for the larger municipalities the ratio was 2.36 times more. Calgary is the worst charging 4.57 times more! Edmonton is close at 3.12. These figures do not include education property taxes. In contrast Saskatoon initiated a plan ten years ago to reduce their gap from 2.36 to 1.75 and to become the "most business-friendly community in Canada." They succeeded! In Alberta, Richard commented, it has one of the best tax environments for small businesses and while meaningful steps have been taken the "other provinces, particularly the western neighbours, are closing the gap fast." Richard noted that when governments were graded small business owners gave Alberta a lower grade than Saskatchewan and BC. Almost half of the owners gave the Alberta government a "D" or worse. "Alberta has been a leader but really hasn't implemented any specific measures in about the past 4 or 5 years to help improve the environment for small businesses and entrepreneurs." Richard summarized the steps that policy-makers can do at each level of government to be as follows:
Federal: Contain CPP and EI costs, and Implement EI-based training tax credit.
Provincial: Cut red tape and Ensure the tax system is conducive to new small business.
Municipal: Examine regional business licenses and Explore new ways of delivering services. **Catherine Brownlee** thanked our speaker and presented him with the usual CAWST certificate.



Our Speaker, Richard Truscott...

seem to understand that if small businesses grow and entrepreneurs thrive, that's good for us all." So why do they do it? Why do entrepreneurs take the risk, strike out on their own and start a small business? The answers are that more than half of them want to be their own boss, to make their own decisions, independence and flexibility in their life styles.

An interesting tabulation listed what are the Top 100 entrepreneurial cities in 2010. The top city is Grande Prairie followed by Lloydminster, Saskatoon, Prince Albert,



Tim Heaton has "A Little Grass Shack" Sub prime?



Catherine Brownlee introduces new member William Sattlegar...

The Head Table entered the Crystal Ballroom accompanied by **Frank McKittrick** playing "Let it Snow" which was appropriate with an outdoors wind chill temperature of -30 deg. C. After greetings from **President Bill Keech**, O'Canada was sung at a breath taking pace. **Jim Coyle** followed with a nice traditional invocation. This COG Reporter then relaxed for a few minutes to enjoy several conversations with long-time Rotarians including **Giles Wilderman, Bill Gillott, Lloyd Flood, Tim Heaton, and Madeleine King**. President Bill reluctantly acknowledged the Sunday Western Final football game that was won by the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The 13th man in the stands coupled with the cold weather certainly helped. He offered the Club's best wishes for success in the Grey Cup Game on November 28th. President Bill reviewed the recent history of the Rotary Flames Partnership. He noted that the Club had fallen behind in their contributions but had put in place a plan to catch up albeit over a slightly longer period of time than the original time line of 5 years. The total amount was to be \$4million and this remains as the Club's commitment. Members with concerns or questions were invited to speak with him directly or with any member of the Board. **Tim Heaton** followed with "My Little Grass Shack" played on a fine old ukulele. By the end of the song's verses everyone

in the audience was bilingual, i.e. English and Hawaiian. **Carol Rosdobutko** then recognized the Visitors and Guests which included a group of 13 engineers from the China Bureau of Prospecting and Geology. They mingled with the members and other guests in attendance. The Rosdobutko Birthdays by Carol Rosdobutko covered a short list of "Birthday Folks" including **Catherine Brownlee** (Innisfail) a former Alberta Body Building Champion and "guest inviter" par excellence. The second was new member **Daniel Regier** (Edmonton). The announcements included thanks to COG Sponsor **Dave Leslie & Calico Land**, and thanks to **Murray Young** and **Rotaractors Simon & Jason** for ably managing the ticket sales. Other announcements included **Brian Guichon** urging members to support the Seniors' Christmas Party, **Walter Haessel** noting his recent brief meeting with RI President Roy Klingsmith and announcing that there

will be a donation of \$15,000 from an anonymous donor to come to the World Community Service Fund, and a reminder to everyone to support the Christmas Hamper Programme.

The meeting ended in a rush with Catherine Brownlee introducing New Member **William Sattlegar**. We will have to have him re-introduce himself at a future meeting. Welcome Aboard William!



Lloyd Flood reports on Lombok water success story...

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

November 30

**Dr. Reed Ferber Asst. Prof.
Faculty of Kinesiology, U of C**
“Healthy aging and pain free walking -what research has done for us”

December 7
Mark Tremblay

December 14
**World Community Service
Uganda Project Update**

December 21
Partners Christmas Luncheon

December 28
**Informal Fellowship Meeting
Cancelled**

January 4
Robert Miller, Pres. CDFAI
*“Why Canada needs a Private
Western Canadian Foreign
Affairs Research Institute”*

January 18
Dr. Elizabeth Cannon

TRAVELLERS

Duncan McKillop - Port Augusta
- Salisbury,
South Australia

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCESS WHITE SLIP REQUEST

NAME: Kristin Fedorak
PROFESSION: Director of Non-Profit Association
CLASSIFICATION: Associations – Non-Profit
COMPANY: The Nicaragua International
Development Project
PROPOSED BY: David Mears & Walter Haessel

NAME: Garry Kelman
PROFESSION: Oil & Gas
CLASSIFICATION: Seismic
COMPANY: Edge Technologies Inc.
PROPOSED BY: Bill Redmond & Bruce Fenwick

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.

Bjorn in need of Ski Equipment Can You Help?

Our YEX Student Bjorn is looking for loaned ski equipment to use while he is in Calgary. He is seeking:

- 10.5 men's boots
- Skis (intermediate)
- Helmet
- Ski pants (tall)

If you would be able to help him out with some loaned equipment during this ski season, please contact him directly at:

lj-93@hotmail.com

ROTARY SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday December 12
at the BMO Centre
(formerly The Round-up Centre)

Online registration available
through the Rotary Website
under the News section

**You can also register with
Karen or Tina at meetings**

**Many thanks to everyone for
making this such a success
each year**

CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM

Our annual Christmas Hamper Program is about to get underway. It provides a wonderful opportunity to all of us to help less fortunate families at this special time of year.

There are four ways you can help:

- ◆ Make a donation
- ◆ Sponsor a family
- ◆ Shop to fill hampers
- ◆ Deliver hampers

For more information
contact Mark Stiles or Carol
Rosdobutko

ORPHANS IN UGANDA NEED OUR HELP

By Garth Toombs

Uganda T.R.A.C.C. special need

(Taking Rotary Assistance to Communities and Children)

In 2008, when our Club's Uganda orphan program had been underway a year, the Rotary Club of Coquitlam Sunrise decided they would also get involved and funded a program of support for 180 AIDS orphans for two years. Their project ended this Fall, and they are not in a position to carry on.

But, the Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial would like to carry this program on for a further two years, and are going through the steps to identify \$52,000. This will involve Club funds, District Designated Funds, possibly a Community Initiatives Grant from Alberta and a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation. This project won't get underway until likely about April-May 2011 because of all the steps in getting approval for the funds.

In the meantime the orphans are at risk of having to drop out of school before writing their exams because the funding has ended, and school fees for the current term have to be paid. We are attempting to raise \$4700 to meet an immediate need to pay school fees, due now, for this second group of orphans. We are grateful to Donors who have come forward to fund \$3000. If any member or friend would like to help with this need, please contact Garth Toombs at 403 239 6317, or at a club meeting or by e-mail

garthtoombs@shaw.ca The funds can be contributed to the Club and a tax receipt will be issued for a donation. Funds should be identified as being for the TRACC project in Uganda. If excess of \$4700 is raised, the additional amounts will go to support orphans school fees for the next semester which starts in February.

With this type of donation there are no administration or promotional fees – all the funds go to meet the needs of the beneficiaries.

Donate Your Stock to the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation



- › Tax deduction for contribution
- › No capital gains
- › We provide commission-free sale

The Calgary Rotary Club Foundation provides over one million dollars to our club annually. Thank you for helping our Rotary Club.

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