

COG

The Rotary Club of Calgary



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This week's reporter

Barbara Burggraf



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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.



Letha MacLachlan: One Woman's North

Dan Hays introduced speaker Letha J. MacLachlan Q.C, a Calgary-based lawyer specializing in environmental and resource law, who has an impressive resumé of accomplishments and a tremendous understanding of the complexity of Northern development and the effect on people. Her presentation entitled "One Woman's North" was rich with information, detail, and powerful photos too.

Her first slide showed a photo from 1890. How amazing to see her father Doug MacLachlan's grandfather, in the Yukon, staking a claim in Dublin Gulch about a 5-hour drive today from Whitehorse. Letha stood on the same spot 2 years ago with her mining clients by coincidence. Her cousin sent her the photo shortly after she visited the site. Imagine her delight when she learned that she had been standing on the site where her great-grandfather had been 120 years before! Letha is not exaggerating when she says that her passion for the north is bred in the bone. She is proud of the fact that she was involved in finishing what her great grandfather started 100 years -- the building of a gold mine from the ground up.

According to Letha the North is many things to many people. There is nothing moderate about the North especially when folks with differing views and values engage in a dialogue about it. The North can be contradictory on the surface. It is a harsh, unforgiving environment, yet it is fragile and delicate too. Letha showed us photos of polar bears and the magnificent northern lights. She also reminded us that the North is home to several different groups of Aboriginal peoples and many unique species of flora and fauna, and fascinating geological formations. It is also a treasure trove of riches for those who seek to extract oil & gas, diamonds, metals and minerals.

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Sing Song



Tim seeks the Northwest Passage...

Happy Birthday



Michael belts out Happy Birthday...

Happier Birthday?



I'm Paul from Moose Jaw!

Letha MacLachlan (cont'd)

Canadians are connected to the North through our national anthem. How many times have you sung 'the true north strong and free'? We see images of the North on coins and bills but how many of us really understand how the North is run today? Going from a harsh and humble environment full of cultural and racial divides, to a modern society is a mindboggling transition. Letha's first significant job in the North was in 1971 with the Department of Local Government. As a young graduate with a degree in International Relations she arrived at a time when northern people were still being moved off the land- a jarring and disorienting experience to say the least. The desire of northerners at the time was to take more control over local decision-making. In 1975 the first fully elected council was sworn in. Previously all members had been appointed and were Ottawa-based civil servants. Finally a huge step was made towards responsible government. To this day the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is based on consensus decision making rather than the party system.

Today 'North of 60' is three distinct geographical territories: Yukon, North West Territories and Nunavut – each with their own legislature and varying degrees of control over matters ranging from education to resource control. North of 60 is a vast geographic area that covers more than 1/3 the land mass of Canada.

Bill Kaufmann thanked Letha for her informative and visually interesting presentation, and noted that a donation had been made to CAWST in her name.

Meeting Report

Bruce Fenwick called the meeting to order and Michael Pierson led us in the singing of "O Canada". Gary Slipp treated us to a meaningful invocation. Bruce thanked Tony Howard and Bill Gillott and our COG sponsors Gene & George Edworthy and the Edworthy Vision Centre. The very talented Tim Heaton tried his best to lead us in the singing of 'The Northwest Passage' by Stan Rogers. I remember hearing Stan Rogers sing this song at the Yellow Door Café in Montreal in 1975. He nearly took the roof off!

Our very special Rotary guests were introduced by Eva Friesen. Eva also acknowledged all the lucky Rotarians born in early September. She talked about a place I have never been to called Moose Jaw. It has a colorful history and is full of tunnels that were highly valued at one time for rum running during prohibition. Carol Rosdobutko introduced new member Laura Krantz. Bruce Fenwick and Greg Stevenson reminded us again about the importance of volunteering for Feed the Hungry on Sept. 18.

There are two great fellowship events coming up. Shoot & Meal Rotary on Sept. 17 and 'The Highway Cleanup' on Sept. 20. Gary & Carol Murray are organizing the Dinner Club. Bruce Fenwick and Brian Larson spoke about the Rotary Leadership Institute and Rotary International building capacity training starts in October and will be held over for 4 weekends. More details to follow. Michael Broadhurst reminded us to support the raffle he has organized to support programs. Following the speaker address, Bruce Fenwick noted that Marie Delorme and Tom Jackson would be speaking about the aboriginal Stay in School initiative next week.

Photos



Fellowship...

Dave Hiller laughs through the pain...



Gunalchéesh!



Bill Kaufmann thanks our speaker...



Carol Rosdobutko welcomes new member Laura Krantz...



Upcoming Luncheons

COG staff, Sep. 13 issue

Editor.....Oliver Kuhn
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Photographer.....Ralph Lundberg
Sponsorships.....Lorne Larson
Office support.....Jo-Ann Clarke

- Sept. 20..... Marie Delorme – “The history and misconceptions of Aboriginal Canadians”
- Sept. 27..... Dr. David Docherty – “Incoming President, Mount Royal University”
- Oct. 4 Martin Parnell – “Running for Kids”
- Oct. 11 Jan Damery – “Aga Khan Initiative”

**Many thanks to this week’s COG sponsor,
Jim Fries and Cenera!**



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