

COG

The Rotary Club of Calgary



this issue

RI meeting in Bangkok **P.1**

Meeting Report **P.2**

Fellowship Calendar **P.3**

Calendar **P.4**

This week's reporter
Ralph Lundberg



Volume 30

No. 06

August 10, 2012

District No. 5360

103rd RI meeting, in the Land of Smiles



Garth Toombs led off with his description of Thailand as “The Land Of Smiles”, where the 103rd Rotary International Meeting was hosted by Bangkok, a city of 13 million. Delegates felt quite at ease and safe even in a city of this size, although transportation was a real challenge, as the combination of trains and buses often led to delays and late arrivals. One measure of the international scope of the meeting was the simultaneous translations available including: English, French, Italian, Japanese, Cantonese, Russian, Spanish and Thai! Our own Jan Damery gave an address on the topic of maternal and children’s health which would have been translated in all the preceding languages. Garth noted that next year’s meeting is slated for Lisbon, a lot closer to home.

Ann Toombs described a central feature of the convention, “The House of Friendship”, which was almost encased in flowers, with song in the air at all times. This was a welcome respite after the rush of catching trains and buses to get on site. Ann tended the Canadian Rotary booth garbed in her near hockey shirt which drew delegates in. Many Rotarians returned home with photos of themselves in the company of Canadian Rotarians sporting red and black shirts with “Canada” emblazoned on the fronts. Our booth displayed our activities including TRACC in Uganda, biosand filters, our Sustainable Cambodia water project and the role of James Wheeler Davidson in founding the first Rotary club in Thailand. With visits from people like Nilobon’s mother and George, our Rotary Exchange student of ten years past and Michael, a colleague from Uganda, there was a great element of networking.

Walter Haessel, in his remarks, emphasized the networking aspect of the meeting. Walter has a ten year history of involvement in the area, which included a visit to the tsunami disaster scene which received restoration support from Rotary. Our current focus, dubbed “Sustainable Cambodia” is on water projects. He noted that District 3350, with headquarters in Bangkok, includes Cambodia. Sadly, in the past the district has not offered matching monies or other support to Cambodian Rotary projects, however support in the future has now been

Continued on Page 2

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.



Calgary, Alberta • Chartered April 1914 • Club #949
Suite 300, 105 – 12th Avenue S.E., Calgary Alberta T2G 1A1

Tel: (403) 398-9969 • Fax: (403) 264-2393 • Website: rotaryclubofcalgary.org • email: admin@rotaryclubofcalgary.ca

President: Doug MacDonald • Vice President: David Bromwich • RI President: Sakuji Tanaka • District Governor: Fran Leggett



Tim Heaton is "Under The Boardwalk"



Eric Bennett introduces the "Gang Of Four"



Our speakers – the "Gang of Four"

Land of Smiles (cont'd)

promised. Walter concluded by presenting certificates of appreciation to President Doug and Charles Pratt from the Rotary Club of Bangkok for our club's matching support for eight water projects from 1998 to 2007.

Frank Sparks, in his third role of the day, the first two being pianist and Club Secretary, took over the mic to regale us with tales of travel and intrigue (all supported by photographic evidence), which included a visit to the Bangkok palace, a picturesque floating market, the River Kwai of movie fame and a jewelry store where he was relieved of a thousand bucks. In displaying an image of a giant gold plated Buddha, Frank noted that the Thai Buddhas are distinguished from others in two ways: they smile and they are thin. Come to think of it, they look a little like Frank. An experience with the Orient Express, an elephant ride, and a four dollar pedicure which helped average down his purchases, rounded out Frank's Thai experience.

John Boyd rose to thank our quartet of speakers and to present our customary CAWST certificate in recognition of their speeches. Let's see if more of us can make our way to Lisbon next year!

The Meeting

The meeting began with Frank Sparks trying to emulate our other Frank on the piano: luckily for us an electronic McKittrick showed up after some urging and saved the day. Bruce Millar delivered a concise and appropriate invocation and we tucked into our salute to the cuisine of the London Games: bangers and mash, chicken pot pie and beer battered halibut with chips. Michael Broadhurst might have been caught trying to smuggle out his fish and chips wrapped in a newspaper !

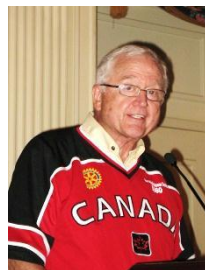
In response to a plea from President Doug for the meeting's assigned COG writer to stand up, there was no response, so your diligent repeat offender took on that role.

As part of his continuing tribute to our hot summer weather, Tim Heaton rose to the "Headless Table" as he put it, to lead us in a rendition of "Under the Boardwalk". It's always startling to learn from Tim how long ago these songs were hits!

Frank Sparks, in his second role of the day, announced visitors and guests and presented our birthday Rotarians, following which a short segment of "Happy Birthday" emerged from the depths of our laptop. The upcoming Rotary hike was announced, details on the website.

Eric Bennett took over the podium to introduce our speakers, but yielding to pressure from the Gang of Four, announced that they needed no introduction.

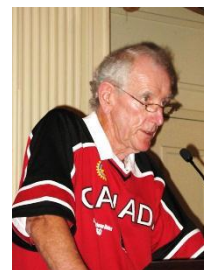
Next week, we will hear another member of our club, Kent Hehr, MLA, speaking on Alberta's fiscal sustainability.



Garth Toombs



Ann Toombs



Walter Haessel



Frank Sparks

What's Happening – Fellowship Calendar

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
Bi-weekly	Mastermind Group	Steve Stein stevejstein@gmail.com
August 16	Frank 'n Stein (see details below)	Frank Sparks 403-255-3250 frank@foothills.ca
August 29	Calgary Airport Authority Challenger Cup (9:30am shotgun start)	Donald Ross donaldross@shaw.ca
September 15, 16	Rotary Music and Motion	Rick Erven RotaryMusicandMotion.com



Certificate for President Doug

Frank 'n Stein

It's time to have some fun before the summer is done!

Thursday, August 16, 4:30 to 7:30 pm

Wild Rose Brewery in Lincoln Park



Certificate for Charles Pratt

COG staff
August 10 issue

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

Upcoming Luncheons

- **August 14 ...Kent Hehr, MLA – Alberta’s fiscal sustainability**

Sponsor an issue of the COG and get some valuable publicity for your company.

Contact Lorne Larson at:

lhlarson@shaw.ca or 403-289-8527

**Want To Stand Out?
Get your ad in the COG.**



Click HERE!