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VALENTINE'S DAY PROGRAM 'Speed Dating' — Catherine Saykaly-Stevens

Bart introduced our guest speaker, Catherine Saykaly-Stevens.

Catherine moved to Calgary in 2008 from Los Angeles. At this time she moved out of online marketing, and took over Calgary Speed Dating which she operated for the next five years. Although she now concentrates on full time writing, she runs the annual Geek Speed Dating Events at the Calgary and Edmonton Expos. She then went on to regale us with stories and misadventures involving "speed dating". Catherine has written a book about speed-dating, and refers to 600 plus speed-dating events in her writing. Her web site is: www.thenetworkingweb.com
Editorial comment: Since all the members present were as couples, except Berto, who needs no help in dating, the scribe censured the remarks and directs those interested to the above electronic connection.



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Valentine's Day Party

President Terry called the meeting to order at 6:30pm suggesting that enough cocktails had been drunk! He announced that the scribe for the evening was Ian Burgess, and someone similar was dragooned into the Sergeant at Arms role also.

There were 55 members and guests in attendance, and they made a passable attempt at the national anthem with the support of Ruth Wylie at the piano. Rotary grace was mumbled in tune as well.



There were no Minute Men for the evening, so Berto was prevailed upon to disclose his activities for the past week. They included convincing a young lady to drive him to this evening's meeting (as John was not available), curling (he is in practice for next week's bonspiel) and a discussion of 12 June!?

The Sergeant-at-Arms, who was dragooned by the president, proceeded to extract a suitable purse of coin from those attending. In doing so he asked for an estimate of those in attendance and only received one approximately accurate number. He asked for the correct number when 111,111,111 is multiplied by itself (without the help of electronic gadgetry). Again he only received one correct

answer. Those who introduced the guests all paid fines, except for Bart, who as a professional spokesman, got it right. There was small fine for the speaker's slogan, Love Is Random, which Bart was assessed as the SAA, objected to the indiscriminate phrasing.

Bart was then called upon to regale us with jokes before introducing our guest speaker. He used some facts about Valentine's day, including the history of the origin of the day, to segue into the guest speaker's talk. Bart liked to blame Valentine's day on the misdemeanours of one Claudius, who didn't want able-bodied Roman soldiers to marry before they were 35. No one would marry couples



for fear of the Emperor's wrath, until a Christian priest, Valentinus began to do so in secret. Of course the ladies couldn't keep that kind of a secret, and soon Valentinus was in prison awaiting his fate. The jailer's blind daughter spent many of her waking hours visiting with that kind man, Valentinus. Before going off to meet the executioner, and his maker, he, Valentinus, left an affectionate note to the blind girl which he signed "Love, from your Valentinus". This was tied into a Roman fertility feast which occurred on February 14 (Lupercalia). As the Holy Roman Empire became Christian, the feast became Valentine's Day!

Bart then explained how illiteracy led to signing things with an X, and kissing the X to seal it, hence the current day custom. He also noted that Casanova ate chocolate to give him virility. Richard Cadbury, a Brit with some skill in marketing, produced the first box of Valentine's chocolates in the 1800s. A few facts on flowers were included in Bart's voluminous coverage of the festival of love, including the following information on roses: Red Roses are the favourite flower of Venus, Goddess of love; 110 million roses will be delivered worldwide, this week; 73% of flower purchases will be by men; 15% by women; 3% will send Valentines to their pets.

On Friday, February 14th 220,000 men will ask their lady love to marry them.

Bart then ruined the mood by describing Al Capone's Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago in 1929. Those of us who were romantics in the audience, stopped listening at this point. (The reader should Google Al Capone Valentine Day massacre if they want the details of this macabre event).

Bart then proceeded to introduce our guest speaker, Catherine Saykaly-Stevens.

Gord Billings won the 50/50 and donated it to the pot.

The meeting adjourned at nine o'clock.



World Understanding Month

February 18th Club Assembly
 February 25th Abe Janzen — Mennonite Central Committee (meeting at 12:15 at Willow Park Golf Club)

Literacy Month

March 4th Miriam Dreher, Yodelfest Organizer
 March 11th Eliese Watson — Alberta Bees and Beekeeping
 March 18th St. Patrick's Day Festivities
 March 25th Robert Greenwood and Dana Luebke, Sun Ergos Theatre
 March 25th Mustard Seed — food service

Magazine Month

April 1st Ton Loszchuk, Woodshop Manager, Calgary Drop In Centre
 April 6th Ronald MacDonald House — meal prep
 April 8th Alessandro Massolo, Urban Coyotes
 April 11th-13th District Conference, Lethbridge Lodge Hotel & Conference Centre
 April 29th Youth Evening Meeting

Promote RI Convention Month

May 24th President's Dinner
 May 27th Karla Tejeda, Outgoing Exchange Student
 May 29th Brown Bagging for Kids — lunch bags prep

Rotary Fellowships Month

June 1st - 4th Rotary International Convention, Sydney, Australia
 June 2nd Brown Bagging for Kids — lunch bags prep
 June 3rd Meeting moved to June 4th
 June 4th Fellowship Event @ Spruce Meadows — a non-parking event ... watch the horses jump!
 June 4th - 8th Parking @ Spruce Meadows for The National
 June 24th Club Assembly — Passing of the Gavel



Valentine's Day Party



Jim Costello, referred by those who knew him well, as 'Jimmy', was a Charter Member of our club and the 2nd President 1978/79. I first met Jimmy in the late 40's. He was 6 years older than me, his family was down the street in the community of Scarboro here in Calgary. His father was the founder/owner of Costello Equipment, engaged in selling heavy road building and construction equipment. He and his brother could be seen scooting about in a custom made, motorized box on wheels, certainly not street legal, that we all coveted.

He and his first wife Bonnie Burns, had 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. Bonnie was the daughter of the founder of Burnco Industries, and sister of Jim Burns, a member of the Calgary South Rotary club. Jimmy put the "F" into fellowship in Rotary. Always up for a good time, lots of humour and good fellowship, he opened his home and lifestyle to his fellow Rotarians. I recall Board meetings (I was club secretary during his term) at his large home just south of the city where he had an indoor pool. After the meetings, we often had a few drinks and a dip. Those days we rotated the meetings from house to house – his was the obvious favourite. Our first big picnic, involving our spouses and kids, was held there, along with a Rotary delegation from some other country, who needless to say were very impressed by the fun our club had.

He had a motorhome too, that he made available for our annual golf trips to the Windermere Valley. He participated every year, in our ski trips to Panorama, before moving to Vancouver Island, sometimes providing all the wine for the big steak BBQ that was always part of the festivities. Ron Smith knew him very well and enjoyed his time when he visited Sundre. Several other of our current long-time members will remember the famous photo of he Jimmy and Norm Russell, one in each leg of Blake Anderson's very large coveralls, a classic photo! He was a true character! Together, he and I created the Kootenay Klassic Gross Low Gross trophy, emblematic of the Kootenay Klassic annual golf tournament, played against the Invermere Rotary club. It took 2 men to lift it and one to keep us straight in moving it (more on that another time). I believe it is still in the Rotary Invermere

meeting room. After he left our club for the coast, I visited him several times, fishing and sharing a lot of laughter, involving good memories of Rotary fellowship that we had enjoyed.

Jimmy was predeceased by daughter Jodi, he is survived by his wife Kathleen and his 3 surviving children and numerous grandchildren. He passed away February 11th at the Resthaven Lodge in Sidney B.C. after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for many years. Kathleen remains at their home in Sidney. Rest in peace Jimmy, time with you was a blast!

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