



The Bulletin

Of
The Rotary Club of Calgary South
Calgary, Alberta, Canada



R.I. President Dong Kurn Lee; Rotary Club of Seoul-Hangang, Korea; 2008-2009 "Make Dreams Real"
District 5360 Governor: Mark Starratt; member of Rotary Club of Calgary Crowchild

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Photos: Terry Allen

BURNCO TOUR



Jim & Scott Burns

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Vocational Service Written in Concrete and Asphalt

Today we went on our long-awaited tour to see the Shepard Place Plant of Burnco Rock Products presided over by **Scott Burns**, the great grandson of the first James Burns who started mixing cement for commercial purposes in 1912, the year of the Stampede. Scott's father, our Jim Burns, actually came home from Scottsdale to welcome us. About 70 of our members (all of our engineers and contractors)

came out for this attendance meeting in the Truck Barn for the gleaming \$300,000 cement carrying trucks (as shown in Terry Allen's pictures).

So, before we go any further, **we want to thank Scott and his helpful and friendly divisional managers, truck drivers, and others for making this possible.** We thank Jim and Pat for giving us all a **wholesome plowman's lunch and a stainless steel mug.** There were two buses to carry some of us

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around to have the asphalt plant explained to us by Tracy. Other more foot strong walked and Tommy Low had the privilege of using his vehicle to carry himself and Larry Kwong around the big yard. Hope they were given an interpreter.

BURNCO Rock Products Ltd is a fourth generation family business established in Calgary in 1912 by James F. Burns and has become "Canada's largest independent supplier of ready mix concrete" as well as a major supplier of asphalt and aggregate products along with a network of Landscape Centres.

Rotary South is proud to have the Burns family represented in our Club and remembers how James Burns II and his wife Pearl donated a cool \$1,000,000 in 2003 to make possible the Calgary Rotary Challenger Park's Jim and Pearl Burns Centre.

During the building boom of recent years, this plant was creating and shipping out concrete mix and asphalt at a phenomenal rate, according to every specified order, too fast for me to grasp the possibility, one truck after the other. All of us were impressed with the Burns family and their "dedicated, motivated, knowledgeable and experienced employees".

I had the good fortune to meet Jim who drove the second new rig parked inside. He has been with Burnco for about 20 years and, like others, said this was the best firm to work for!

A recently made video showed us how **the First Generation** started with hands-on labour until engine-driven concrete mixer re-

placed hand mixing. **Second Generation James F. Burns (II)** joined the firm at age 14. He became the driver of the first gravel truck which was loaded and unloaded by hand. He started the Burns Sand and Gravel business in the 1930s, designed and built a stationary crushing, screening and washing plant on the north bank of the Bow River in Calgary.

The **Third Generation Burns, our Jim**, purchased his father's interest in 1975, becoming President. Under him the firm began to expand into Canmore, Red Deer, Okotoks, Medicine Hat and Airdrie followed. For many years, 1850s to 1980s, Pioneer Paving involving our Clayton Carroll as Deerfoot builder, had an association with this third generation. The Asphalt business continued as Jim Burns expanded in new operations, and into Cochrane and Strathmore.

There was further expansion, even into four locations in BC, when Scott took over the business in 1986 as the **Fourth Generation**. Those members who were there and those who missed out can find this and much more by googling on the Internet for **Burnco Rock Products**.

No Concrete Jokes but one Story

I tried hard to get some cement jokes out of the employees. They allowed there were some unrepeatable ones. I don't know what claimed them up. Surely it was not our refinement? One joke was produced though: "What is grey and hard on a politician? Concrete Boots!"

Story: A few years back George noticed a cute little green "keg" with a black top in a catalog. It

was a **manual cement mixer**. It had vanes inside to keep the mix flowing. You were supposed to put the concrete mix in it, add the proper amount of water, screw on the lid, then roll it around the yard to mix it.

Now he can't find the catalogue, nor any mention of the mixer on the net. Did anyone have an idea where he could find one? He was getting tired of mixing this stuff in a #3 washtub with an old hoe.

Boswell: You nitwit! For what you'd pay for that [\$50], you can buy yourself a nice wheelbarrow and use your hoe to mix it there.

Words of the Week?

What interested this editor was **the term aggregate** and **overburden**. If you want to learn about this subject beyond what the Burnco Video showed us, there is a student anthropological thesis on **the Bearspaw Gravel Pit Controversy of the 1990s** about the "risks" to be measured when a company like Burnco, desperate for new sources of rock and gravel, found a likely source near Rocky Ridge. Burnco eventually got their permit over several years of opposition from residents in the Bearspaw municipality.

How Burnco has adapted to process aggregate below the overburden and to use everything without wasting anything was fascinating, even to the extent of covering the operation to minimize crushing noise and machine-driven dust.





Announcements, Calendar and Upcoming Events



Meetings

- Mar. 19 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 26 Michael Brown, Encana; The New Bow Building
- Apr. 2 Bob Rowe: Missionaries in Africa and the work he and his organization are doing in the region
- Apr. 9 Denis Dick; Air Traffic Control
- Apr. 16 New Members' Auction; EVENING MEETING

Calendar

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| • Mar. 10 | Four-Way Speech Competition at St. Mary's High School | • Apr. 13&14 | L'Arche Casino - Deerfoot Inn |
| • Apr. 4 | Mustard Seed Dinner Service | • May 8 | President's Ball; Calgary Golf & Country Club |
| • Apr. 6 | Board Meeting | • May 29-31 | Spring Golf & Fellowship Weekend; Radium |

Special

- April 24-April 26, 2009; District 5360 Conference; Canmore Radisson Hotel, Canmore, Alberta
- June 21-24, 2009; 100th Anniversary of Rotary International Convention; Birmingham, England

Sent on behalf of DG Mark Starratt and the 2009 District Conference Committee.

Traditionally at District Conferences, there has been a memorial service to honour those Rotarians who have passed away during the current Rotary year. This year we would like to commemorate not only those who have left us, but recognize the young ones (children and grandchildren of Rotarians) who have been born during the last year as well.

This will be a "Celebration of Life" service, and we request your assistance in providing names of those members who are recently deceased, and also the names and/or pictures of children/grandchildren who have arrived this year. The committee would like to prepare a PowerPoint of the babies' pictures in particular.

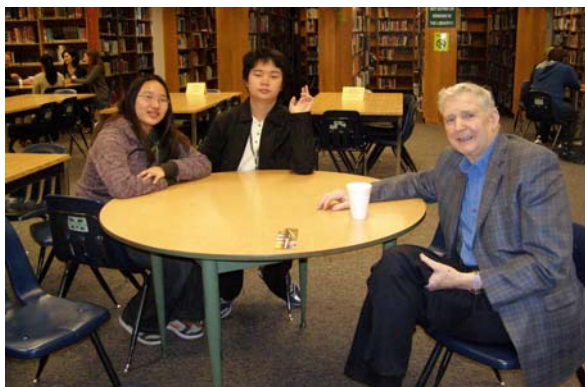
Calgary South Members, if you would like submit names and photos of your children or grandchildren born this Rotary year, please e-mail them to Linda Tattersall and she will forward the information to District.

2008-2009 Partners' Pen

(by Trish Terrill)

- Please be advised that **Lillian Bietz** is in the Agape Hospice. Cards would be welcome. The address is Mrs. Lillian Bietz, c/o Agape Hospice, 1302 8 Avenue NW, Calgary AB T2N 1B8.
- **Note Change of Location:** **March 16th at 10:00 A.M. Book Club** will be held at **Judy MacLachlan's**. Please phone her at 403-255-1397 if you plan to attend. Also, for our "Book Club discussion" in June we have selected two books: 1) The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows; 2) Ragged Company by Richard Wagamese (local author).
- **April 17; Spring Luncheon;** More details to follow!
- **June 25; Annual Dinner**

St. Mary's High School Mentoring Sessions & The Four-Way Test Speech Contest



March was declared Mentoring Month at St. Mary's High School and Calgary South Rotarians have stepped forward to represent their professions during a number of breakfast sessions.

The mentorship breakfasts have been coordinated through Calgary South's St. Mary's Partnership Committee and St. Mary's Career Practitioner, Lori Michelini. Lori expresses her appreciation to Calgary South for the excellent speakers who have volunteered to share with students about their career choices.

The weather played havoc with the mentoring session on Tuesday, March 3. Since the majority of the students come by bus and buses were held up, only a fraction of the students were available. That said, those that were there were very enthusiastic about the four lawyers who came and it was a terrific morning, says Lori. Thanks to **Al Pearce** and **Bob Boyden** who represented the legal profession. Bob also invited two lawyers from his firm to participate in this session as well.

On Tuesday, March 10, **Claudia Brews** was a dynamic speaker, and had an interesting career story to tell. Earlier in the school year, **Penny Leckie** and **John Fitzsimmons** were entertaining relating their experiences as entrepreneurs. A second session on entrepreneurship is scheduled for Tuesday March 24 with **Patrick Lor**, **Murray Flegal** and **Bruce McDonald** participating.

Lori is also hoping to recruit some engineers for a final session prior to the Easter break. Any club members interested in participating should contact **Dorothea Schaab** at schaabd@telus.net or by phone at 403 660 6232.

Photos by **Principal Bonnie-Jean Marconi**:

Mentorship breakfast #1 : **Al Pearce** counsels at St. Mary's High School

Mentorship breakfast #4: **Bob Boyden** takes questions from students at St. Mary's



Speech Competitors



Craig Stokke & Sharon Allen with Principal Bonnie-Jean Marconi



Dorothea Schaab and Don Gass with 3 top placing students.

Ten student speech enthusiasts competed in the Rotary Four-Way Test Speech tournament on Tuesday, March 10 at St. Mary's High School.

The judges had their work cut out for them as the excellent presentations varied greatly with each presenter interpreting the Rotary Four-Way Test. Appreciation is extended to competition judges: Sharon Allen, Claudia Brews, Phil Hochhausen, Geoff Hughes, David Ryzebol and Craig Stokke; and final round judges: Terry Allen,

Charlie Gouldsbrough and Don Gass.

The keen competitors have also been competing in provincial speech competitions. The speakers were: Christabel Amanoh, Amanda Brost, Jennie Chen, Trent Cherak, Claire Eagle, Kelcey Leavitt, Jessica Mercier, Hadyn Place, Alexandra Pulwicky and Carolyn Streich.

The three top placing students (**Christabel Amanoh, Alexandra Pulwicky and Carolyn Streich**) will present their talks

to Calgary South at the May 14 luncheon at which time they will also receive their financial prizes.

Organizing the event for Calgary South were Tom Low and Gordon Weicker and from St. Mary's, Principal Bonnie-Jean Marconi and Toni Mosca, St. Mary's Speech Coordinator. Dorothea Schaab, Chair of Rotary's St. Mary's Committee and Don Gass, Past Chair presented the certificates to the winners.