



Club #85, founded Oct 2, 1913

November 16th 2010

Attendance: Herman Alves; John Bishop; Andy Dang-Duy; Bertrand de Cardillac; Jacques Dénomée; Mikkel Elsborg; Carlo Pugliese; Steve Sadler; George Shalhoub; Udo Stundner; Nemo Turner; Bob Velan; Drew Webster; Henry Zalzal. Guests of Mikkel Elsborg, Lonnie Elsborg, Birgitte Bentzen. Guest Speaker: Carel Folkersma.

President Nemo welcomed the guests of **Mikkel Elsborg** with the observation that Mikkel deserved a medal for bringing such a great number of guests to our meetings. This time we had the pleasure of meeting his wife **Lonnie Elsborg** and a business associate, **Birgitte Bentzen**.



Boeing 747 airliner and then its sudden transformation into an emergency working session to find a way to deal with an engine problem the aircraft was experiencing in flight. We had to manage 200 plainclothes policemen every time President Marcos came into the hotel in Manila. We heard about a headless ghost in Kuala Lumpur. We counted the bar inventory on every shift in Fiji. In Tokyo, we heard how easy it was to get lost. We shivered on arriving at Mirabel airport in -30°C temperature on the day after Christmas. **Carel** was manager of the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Montreal for 8 years, during which time it was listed three years in a row as one of the 100 best hotels in the World.

The travel business is starting to look better, except that in India it is “booming”. It will be difficult to move rates back to their pre-slump level. Award programs are “big”. Inventory management is critical. Restaurants in hotels have been franchised out.

Members learned that **Andy Dang-Duy** had received official notice to the effect that he would become a citizen of Canada on December 1st 2010. A hearty round of applause expressed the satisfaction of members who have been following the progress of his citizenship application.



George Shalhoub introduced our guest speaker, **Carel Folkersma**. Carel is not unknown to members of this club, having been a member himself a number of years ago. He is a Paul Harris Fellow. He has been in the hospitality business for 45 years and the General Manager of 8 hotels. He is a runner with a keen interest in calligraphy and photography. He has two sons. Carel played a vital role in helping our club provide home hospitality to visiting Rotarians at the recent international convention in Montreal. He is the General Manager of the McGill Faculty Club.



Andy Dang-Duy thanked **Carel Folkersma** and **President Nemo** presented him with the Friend of Rotary Award.

Next meeting: Nov 23, 7.30 am
Location: The St. James Club
Speaker: TBA

Asked by **President Nemo** to speak about new trends in the hotel industry, **Carel** told us about two kinds of people in the industry, the stay putters (people who stay put) and the gypsies (people who move around a lot). As he spoke about his experiences in Paris, Hartford, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Fiji, Tokyo, on a cruise ship, and on two separate occasions in Montreal, he left no doubt as to which of the two categories he fitted into. He took us on a fascinating tour that started in a restaurant in Paris frequented by Salvador Dali and Cary Grant. It continued with the description of a grand party in Connecticut to celebrate the first transatlantic flight of the

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