

**BRYANT KERRISON  
FOR NEIGHBOURS**

The Canadian Progressive Club is by no means a secret society. Although you may never have heard of them, they are out in the community trying their best to make a difference. With seven chapters with over 150 members in Calgary, the club has a low profile, but its members are ready and willing to go out and give a helping hand through fundraising and community service. The Calgary Wild Rose chapter of the Canadian Progressive Club meets twice a month to events and service activities. Being a women's only chapter, the group is filled with serious and friendly women who appreciate the chance to serve the community as much as they do the chance to get together.

One of our mottos is that we're 'fun-raising' so it has to be fun," said Cari McLaughlan, the most attending member of the club. "It's like having 150 new friends here in Calgary." Offering a service and social organization allows the club to attract members from many different backgrounds. From grandmothers and mothers to career-oriented women, the club is open to everybody. "That keeps me coming back because of camaraderie," said Gwen Hinch, a member for two years. "I'm meeting all my needs at the same time. We stand alone as the role models and women that we are."



Bryant Kerrison, for Neighbours

The ladies of the Calgary Wild Rose-Canadian Progressive Club are, from left, in front row: Rhonda O'Neill, Donna Berthelet, Gwen Hinch, Robin Waldo, Pauline Sauve. Back row, from left: Alicia Duhault, Cari McLaughlan, Jennifer Hameluck, Patti Nolan.

# 'Fun-raising' ladies

## Camaraderie fuels compassion, service of Canadian Progress Club

Just two years ago, the chapter was down to four members. But with hard work and a name change, the Calgary Wild Rose Club's membership increased to 18.

"It was really a resurrection and success story for us. And we continue to move forward and grow and prosper," said past-president Patti Nolan.

These days, the women are energized about their upcoming

fundraisers, including a casino in March and their Perfect Pamper Party, a wine and cheese event for women being held May 7 at the Westin Hotel.

The club supports many charities but has a special connection to the Grace Women's Health Centre (now known as the Women's Health Centre), for which they raised \$30,000 last year.

Aside from fundraising, the

club also gives themselves monthly "reality checks." These checks have nothing to do with self-reflection but are about actually getting out into the community and doing something that is close to their hearts, be it spring cleaning for the Children's Cottage or adopting a disadvantaged family during the holiday season.

"Our monthly reality checks really help to put things in per-

spective by helping in the community," said Jennifer Hameluck, chapter president. "You leave thinking that all those small problems that you have been thinking about during the day are really nothing in the grand scheme of things."

So no matter how busy or insane their lives are, they know that they need to be at meetings and volunteer events.

"Having this structure and a

**Vision Statement:** "A vibrant group of women building friendships and joining forces to inspire positive change in the lives of individual within our community."

**Meets:** The second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the Metropolitan Grill Restaurant, 880 16th Ave. S.W. in Mount Royal Village from 5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Number of Members:** 150 Calgary wide; 15 of the Wild Rose Club

**When established:** The Canadian Progressive Club was founded in 1922 in Toronto. In 1977 the first all-women's club was chartered in Calgary, under the name of "Calgary Eves." The Calgary Wild Rose chapter was founded in 1987.

**Membership Fee:** Minimal yearly due around \$100

For more information: Contact Myra Skerret, the new member co-ordinator at 410-6990. Go to [www.progressclub.ca](http://www.progressclub.ca).

group of women I enjoy spending time with guarantees me that I won't get consumed with other things," said Hameluck.

Another big part of being a member is the personal development that one undergoes, such as overcoming inhibitions.

"I've stood up in front of 300 people to speak," said past-president Patti Nolan. "Three years ago, never in million years would I have seen myself doing that."