



# Campfire Memories

## Last Week's Speaker:

*Jim Opdahl, interim administrator  
Richardton Health Center*

The burning question everyone had on their mind last Wednesday was "Why is the Richardton Health Clinic (RHC) giving up their Critical Care Access and converting to a Skilled Nursing Facility?"

Jim Opdahl answered that question directly stating that

1.) The RHC cannot continue to survive as a critical care hospital and trying to do so will eventually lead to its closing, 2.) The future of St. Joseph's Hospital and Health Center depends on it gaining Critical Care Access, 3.) RHC believes its future can best be served by transitioning to a 20-bed skilled Nursing Facility. Critical Care Access was to be relinquished by RHC within 180 days (March 2009), but rehabilitation of the building and some other items will probably push it to August of 2009. Grants have been received and Richardton is also looking into a 1½% sales tax to fund annual operations.

The Richardton Healthcare Foundation has embarked on a capital campaign to eliminate existing debt, create a public partnership with a public entity to own the skilled nursing facility, and create a not-for-profit corporation governed by physicians to legally own the clinic.

~submitted by Linda Steve



**Jim Opdahl, left, from Richardton Health Center, was accompanied by board members Jerry Messmer and Kathy Hueske.**

## Announcements:

- ⇒ **LaVonne Bullinger** rolled her car on the way to Bismarck to catch the airplane for Guatemala. She was determined to go to the project and is now in Guatemala.
- ⇒ **Attendance Goal at meetings** is 60%. Our club's September total was 49% so let's encourage everyone to attend!
- ⇒ The **Triple Crown** is a club fundraiser, working 3 rodeos at DSU. Each club member is expected to work at least once. Those who don't *will be billed \$20.*

**Yvonne Kroll** is proposed as a member by **Karen Boulden**. Classification is Nursing Homes. She is the new Foundation Director at St. Luke's Home and Park Avenue Villa and is a Rotarian from Fargo.



**Special thanks:  
Wells Fargo Bank  
&**

**Mike Ross  
for printing the Branding Iron!**

## Birthdays last week:

**Brad Fong:**  
He's one year short of a double nickel.



## Guests last week:



**Harvey Brock's, back,**  
guests were Mary Van Vleet, Joy Schoch and Jennifer McBride.



**Karen Boulden's, left,**  
guests were Shawn McKay and Anne Malberg.



**Dennis Cannon's**  
guest was Carolyn Riley, interim CEO at the hospital.

Dickinson Club Website:  
[www.dickinsonrotary.org](http://www.dickinsonrotary.org)  
District Website:  
[www.clubrunner.ca/5580](http://www.clubrunner.ca/5580)  
Rotary International Website:  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)