



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

March 3, 2008



Created and produced by Riet Carter

Neil Creighton welcomed our guests Richard Belanger of the Rotary Club of Nipissing, North Bay, Ontario, Ria York of the Rotary Club of Kelowna, our former member Bob Nowell who is now with the Rotary Club of Lake Country, Kelowna and our speaker Michael McCarthy with his wife Nancy.

Announcements

Tour of the Downtown Eastside

The West Vancouver Club has arranged a tour of the Downtown Eastside with a representative of BC Housing on March 12, at 1:00PM. They have extended an invitation to all clubs and so far Riet, Bud and Pat have signed up to join them. They will be meeting at 355 Princess Street, in Vancouver. If you are interested just let Neil Creighton know.

Salmon Sales

We would like to complete our salmon sales for this year and ask anyone that still has either salmon left or money to pay to report to Fred Sverre so we know where we stand with this fundraiser.

VASS Corporate Challenge Cup

Norm Binnion reported our club was represented by three intrepid Kamikaze warriors, Norm, John Ward and Laurie Porter. They were teamed up with Mike Diering, a 17 year old member of the Provincial Paralympics Team who is a grade 12 student at Windsor. Mike had a great attitude and pulled up the team substantially with his excellent technique. Jeff slapped on the skis and stepped into the roll of the official event photographer. Dan was directing traffic on the gates and was ready to step in with his first aid skills should one of the Kamikaze Rotary Racers take out several gates in a row. All in all a great day! The VASS organization is providing an outstanding service to our community. At lunch Dan had a chance to speak with Brynna who is the prime user of the sit-ski our club donated last year. Dan says "the look on her face when she successfully navigated the course says it all for me". Our donations are helping numerous physically challenged people enjoy winter and increase their own self confidence at the same time.

Spring Fling

The Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise fundraiser was attended by Neil Creighton, Bud and Pat Fast, Jeff and Heather Pearce, and John and Susan Ward. It was a very successful event and great fun.

RYLA

Jeff announced we are still looking for a candidate between the ages of 16 to 18 to attend the Camp Jubilee RYLA. The event takes place March 17-19 so time is running out.

Change of Venue for West Vancouver Rotary Club

The West Vancouver Club has a new home, together with a different meeting night. The new location is Taso's Pizza Steak and Seafood Restaurant, 1337 Marine Drive, West Vancouver and the new meeting day is Tuesday (still at 6:15PM). Go check them out!

Norooz



Brian Hooshi spoke on the upcoming Iranian Festival, March 16 at Mahon Park. It promises to be a great event with lots of activities, several bands and excellent food. Make sure you are there! John Ward has agreed to coordinate our booth at the site and is asking our members to support him by volunteering to staff the booth and making suggestions as to what we can display or hand out.

GSE

David Philip has agreed to be our representative on the North Shore GSE Committee. We are looking forward to meeting the incoming team from Tanzania. The team will be in our District from April 16 to May 13 and on the North Shore from April 21 to 26.

Sergeant at Arms

Bud Fast was called to perform his sergeant duties. He finds it quite a depressing job as nobody likes you giving those fines. He commended Norm Thomson on a great invocation and told Alec it should rub off on him after the poor performance he did a few weeks ago.



Bud challenged the members to recite the first paragraph of the Wheel Squeals from last week; nobody could and John Stuart was fined for not printing this issue. Bob Nowell received a fine as well for being responsible for our club losing an outstanding member to Kelowna and Peter had to pay up for producing the nicest music on his cell phone during the meeting.

Program

Joan Ferri introduced our speaker Michael McCarthy, a free lance writer for local magazines and newspapers; he is also a travel writer and writes fiction and non fiction books.



Tonight Michael talked about his latest book “The Translator” a thrilling biographic novel of an Iranian immigrant to North America who has led an amazing life. The book explains Persian culture, religion, history and politics to a North American readership.

Michael is engaged in several projects in Vancouver and Asia that he feels may be of strong interest to Rotary and our club. His joy in life is bringing people together with the use of the media. He would like to come back and talk to us again about fundraising, including showing his documentary film to the public at the Centennial Theatre.

Brian Hooshi thanked our speaker for coming to talk to the club about his country and thought his analysis explained the distinction between the two countries of Iran and Iraq very clearly.

The meeting was closed with a toast to Rotary International and reciting of the 4-Way Test.

Future Meetings

March 10	Mind Spin High Definition Thinking – Jerry Hennessey
March 17	St Patrick’s Day Dinner (Partners Eveing)

Wheel Squeals – Editor for the Day

March 10	Bud Fast
March 17	Randy Fowle