



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS



July 20, 2009

*Written by Jeff Pearce
Edited by Neil Creighton*

Members & Guests

17 people were at tonight's meeting including returning guest and potential new member, Phil Perry, and for the last time as our inbound exchange student, Aymeric Dietrich, who will be returning to Switzerland on Saturday.

O Canada was lead by Deneka Michaud and an appropriate invocation was given by Joy Jones.

Dinner

A fine roast beef dinner with Yorkshire pudding followed by hot apple pie with whipped cream was served.

Sergeant at Arms

Aymeric drew Catherine Michaud's ticket but she did not pick the elusive ace for the 50/50 draw. Sergeant at Arms, Peter Taylor, got most in attendance to pay the piper for not having their Rotary pin on.

Happy & Sad's: Neil Creighton happy for the 40th anniversary of Apollo 11 (moonwalk) and for seeing the International Space Station, with Space Shuttle Endeavor docked, fly over on Friday evening; sad for Aymeric's coming departure as our Youth Exchange student for the year and sad for the folks whose homes and safety are threatened by the wildfires in the interior. Norman Thomson happy for his birdie at Langara Golf Course last week and Alec Wallace had a happy and a sad for the remarkable play of Tom Watson, who at 59 years of age with a recent hip replacement, lost in a playoff for the British Open Golf Championship on the weekend.

Program

In the absence of our guest speaker, Aymeric spoke about his year in North Vancouver as a Rotary Exchange Student. He very much enjoyed his year here and can hardly believe it is over. There have been many highlights for Aymeric; he has made many friends at Carson Graham Senior Secondary school through his participation in the Rowing Club and the Rugby Club. The Tweedsmuir Trek at the start of his year and the recently completed BC Tour with 13 other exchange students from our District were both fantastic adventures. He was very complimentary and appreciative of his 3 host families - he gained 10 kilos during his year here!

Neil McDonald, who is this year's Vice-Chair of Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program, followed Aymeric's talk with an update on some of the areas they are working on for the year ahead. Neil said the program involves 8,000 exchange students per year. He mentioned that the RI YEX Committee is looking at the possibility of implementing one-way exchanges to accommodate more students traveling from third world countries. Neil spoke briefly about the mandatory certification process for all primary contacts for the youth exchange program and how it is now, well established, here in District 5040. He also mentioned that past exchange students Outi Ruusuvirta from Finland (1999 - 2000) and Marine Battier from France (2003 - 04?) will be visiting the club this summer. Our club is sponsoring Sara Kokobun from Squamish as an outgoing exchange student this year. Sara will be heading to Switzerland in August. The club is not hosting an inbound student this year, but will hopefully get things in place this fall for an exchange in August 2010.

New Projects

President Norman is trying to get permission to hang Xmas lights up on the trees in the Lions Gate Bridge traffic circle to West Vancouver. He is also meeting with Past DG Chris Offer to discuss the possibility of projecting Rotary's End Polio Now logo on iconic Vancouver structures during the 2010 Olympics. Stay tuned....

Adjournment

Neil McDonald made the toast to Rotary International and Rolf Gillardon lead us in the 4-way test.