



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER

WHEEL SQUEALS



September 21, 2009

Text by John Stuart

Alec Wallace led our club in singing *O Canada*. Bob McKilligan gave the invocation.

Guests

We welcomed the following visitors:

Elizabeth Chong has moved recently to the North Shore from Scotland with her husband who is a pharmaceutical doctor. He works for a Swiss company. She describes herself as a homemaker and mother of two. She was trained as a nurse (she is now an RN) and was working on a childcare diploma when her husband was transferred to Vancouver. She had a view in mind to teaching child care. One of her children takes piano lessons on Monday evening and thus Elizabeth is looking at Rotary Club that can accommodate her family activities.

We also welcomed Larry Brun from New Zealand.

Announcements

After too short a time enjoying another wonderful meal at Cheers, President Norman led off the announcements:

- Wine Festival planning is going forward. The date for the event: Oct 24, 2009. This is an initiative of all four North Shore clubs. The main beneficiary will be the North Shore Youth Safe House. Other Rotary beneficiaries will share remaining revenues as decided by each club.
- Ken Wilson reported on the Shelter box project. There is a dinner at Cheers as a fund raiser. Tickets: \$40. Date: Thursday October 22, 2009. Note that it is just before Wine Festival. The Shelter Box is a large plastic box and comes equipped with cooking equipment etc. It is to be distributed after earthquakes, fires. It houses 8 - 10 for six months. It is re-useable.



- President Norman is looking for a building or a surface on which to project the END POLIO NOW logo in order to have Vancouver Olympic spectators realize that Rotary is a very active organization in Vancouver.



As an example, this concept is shown on the Sydney Opera House in Australia. One site possible in Vancouver is the Pacific Central Station.

Sergeant-At-Arms - (Bud Fast)

It is amazing how reliable "No name tag" is at producing fines. Whosoever had not taken tickets for the wine fest was also fined.

Jim Cuthbert gave us a few words on the B.C. Binning house that we supported last year. It was on the North Shore Heritage Weekend Home tour this year.

Sad dollar for Bud who missed a tour.

It was noted that St. David's Church is the drop off on Friday, between 4 and 8 pm, for a sale on Saturday starting at 9 am.

Deneka reported that a shipment was sent off to Tanzania. It contained everything from 26 hospital style beds to computers and toilet paper.

Neil M announced he was happy that Lions Gate Rotary has agreed to participate in Youth Exchange next year.

Fred has another grand child.

The drawn was number 200, won by Fred. King of Spades drawn.

Tonight's Program - Khayanga Jenipher Wasike - WHISCA

Deneka announced our guest speaker Khayanga Jenipher Wasike as an amazing woman and a member of the Vancouver Quadra Rotary Club. Jenipher had taught Deneka's Group Study Exchange team enough Swahili to get by.

Her project is in Kenya. Her assistant IT person tonight is Dinny. They are appearing on behalf of Willing Hearts International Society - Canada (WHISCA). They are working on the Lugari Community Resource Centre which is in western Kenya.

Jenipher has been in Canada for 14 years. She had come here hoping to go back to build a school. She is a teacher and went back to UBC and received a degree in Social Work.

When she went back to Kenya she discovered that things had changed. For example, now girls are going to school. With growing generations, as land is passed on and divided among family members, the individual parcels have become so small that it is not possible to produce enough food.

The Mission of WHISCA includes: Education and the relief of poverty.



We were shown a picture on ground breaking day. They had expected 20 people. Over 100 arrived.

A lot of their work is to promote goals of self-sufficiency and holistic health, beginning with improving clean water.

When Jenipher arrived she hosted dinner for all. She had things on the menu that had not been seen for years.

Looking to the future, projects are to include:

- Bee keeping
- Micro financing
- Scholarships
- Library
- Trade schools
- Entrepreneurial programs
- Tree planting
- HIV-AIDS education
- Keeping poultry, goats, pigs and sheep
- Oil processing and soap making

Agricultural projects are to include:

- Tree planting for wood for cooking
- Oil for lighting and heating (food)

People are still eating a meal a day. Sometimes that falls to one meal every three days.

In bee keeping the honey is squeezed through muslin before eating. It is not pasteurized.

It is difficult for girls to go to school for the whole month because girls have their period. The subject of a girl's period is not talked about with anyone. Pads (napkins) produced locally are reusable for five years with washing. One village was supplied with two heavy duty sewing machines to make pads.

Small scholarships are provided to some students.

In the school there are clear objectives.

A basic direction for literacy is to promote vocational skills for self employment. There is a community library.

A basic issue in health is water and sanitation. Typically people have been drinking and washing in the very same water cows and goats use. Thus when wells are dug they must be dug deep.

There are quite extraordinary issues such as transportation. Children going to events are carried in an open truck. It is not unknown for children to be thrown off the open truck to be injured and killed.

WHISCA is a Canadian registered charity. A \$50 donation entitles the donor to a membership. Donations may be to VanCity Credit Union, Branch 12, Account 417147. Donations should be made to the Willing Hearts International Society in Canada.

Question: how much is a small scholarship for students?

High school student scholarships are about \$1000 a year. University student scholarships are about \$3600 a year. One \$1000 scholarship is supported by a class in a West Vancouver high school.

Neil McDonald thanked the speaker, and considering the extraordinary efforts Jenipher was making, he recalled a quotation: "If your dreams don't scare you they aren't big enough."

Khayanga Jenipher Wasike may be reached at:

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The Toast to Rotary International - Fred Sverre raised the toast.

The Four Way Test - John Stuart led us all in The Four Way Test.

Adjournment - Hearing there was nothing further for the "Good of Rotary", President Norman adjourned the meeting and wished one and all a "Good Rotary Week".

Future Meetings / Key Dates

September 28	Recruiting & Retaining: Are You Prepared For the Economic Recovery - Brad Herbert
October 5	District Governor Visit - Gordon DalGLISH - Partner Evening
October 12	No Meeting - Thanksgiving
October 19	Brain Injury - Gabrielle Martin, Lower Mainland Brain Injury Association
October 22 (Thursday)	Shelterbox Benefit Dinner
October 24 (Saturday)	North Shore Rotary Wine & Food Festival

Wheel Squeals - Editor for a Day / Proof Reader

September 28	Terry McGauley
October 5	Maryam Hashemi
October 19	David Spears