



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

March 29th, 2010



*by Fred Sverre*

## **Attendance:**

Almost three full tables were in attendance with 1 guest, Mike Little, Councilor with the District of North Vancouver and an Honorary Rotarian. We are looking for better attendance by our members – or great reports when they return from great trips. Joy Jones was at the desk to sign everyone in and sell 50/50 tickets.

Norman Thomson, our very capable President, only had two reassignments. Norm Binion led us in O Canada – the initial duck quack got us off key but he managed to lead us well, and Babak Shahbazi accepted the Sergeant At Arms duties. Bryan Chalmers said Grace.

## **Announcements:**

David Spears, together with two of his incoming directors, Laurie Porter and Terry McGauley, attended a workshop for the coming year and reported changes in our granting program, which he will further elaborate on at a later time.

Joy Jones announced she has already registered for the Rotary District Conference being held in Prince George. Who is going to join the North Vancouver Rotary Club team at the conference?

Deborah Sommerfeld just returned from 2 weeks of safari in Africa and has 900 pictures to sort out before sharing her experiences with us - a travel epilogue.

Norm Binion and Marianne attended the Swedish fashion show that John Stuart had a hand in with the Swedish Cultural Society at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. Marianne had the opportunity to show off an elegant historical bridal gown.

Norm Binion also reported on the successful VASS event with Joy Jones, Laurie Porter, John Ward and Jeff Pearce. In spite of no

snow, they raised some \$35,000 through three 'Chuck a Duck' events: 1) – in a barrel; 2) - ala duck throw at the Duck; and 3) – barrage of ducks into a hockey net (where Norm was the goalie). Norm even got to try out for the sledge hockey team, but found that it was too hard to get up when he fell on the ice, so apparently he was satisfied with a trial only.

### **Sergeant at Arms:**

Babak Shahbazi took the role of Sergeant At Arms and did a great job as always – fining everyone who did not volunteer for the Norouz Celebrations. There were a number of Happy and Sad dollars collected.

### **Guest Speaker:**

Mike Bowman was introduced by Bud Fast. Mike grew up on the North Shore and attended Handsworth Secondary School from where he graduated in 2000. He wanted to become a medical technician so he joined the training program of the Canadian Forces, assigned to the Navy, where he spent 2.5 years for his medic program. After his training he spent one year of duty as a soldier, including being shipped off to serve as a paramedic in Afghanistan for 6.5 months.



Mike Bowman, a former soldier serving in Afghanistan.

He reported on his experiences of war and camp duties, meeting the local people and even spending time at Kandahar Tim Hortons where the ice cappuccino was the most popular drink in the 50 degree C heat. Tim Hortons personnel were rotated every three months at the Canadian controlled Kandahar airport. After completing his duty he joined the BC Ambulance Service as a paramedic.

Catherine Michaud thanked our speaker for tonight's interesting presentation and presented him with the customary Certificate, pledging to vaccinate 20 children against polio, on his behalf.

**A related note:** Canada has been in Afghanistan for eight years, and in that time 140 of our men and women have given their lives in extraordinary acts of courage and bravery for their country. Cpl James Arnal was the 88th soldier to sacrifice all. His mother Wendy, and brother Andrew, went to Kandahar last September. Follow the link "[I was...In the Middle of Nowhere](#)" for Wendy's account of her journey, in her own words.



**Corporal James Arnal**



**Cpl Arnal's mother Wendy and brother Andrew beside James' plaque**

## **Adjournment:**

The Toast to Rotary International was delivered by our own David Spears, and Deborah Sommerfeld led us in The 4-Way Test.

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### **Future Meetings / Key Dates**

- Apr 5 No Meeting - Easter Monday
- Apr 12 Organ Donation - Natalie Zigarlick, Rotarian and Volunteer Speaker, BC Transplant
- Apr 19 Member Classification Talk - Deneka Michaud
- Apr 26 No Meeting - Moved to Apr 27
- Apr 27 Group Study Exchange (GSE) - Philippines Team - Joint NS Rotary Club Meeting (Partner Evening)

