



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

October 18, 2010



Created and Produced by Neil McDonald

Front Desk and Opening: Joy Jones was at her usual position at the front desk to welcome members and guests to another evening of Rotary. With "Captain" David Spears at the helm, the ship pulled slowly away from the dock as the National Anthem was sung and Terry McGauley rendered the Invocation. At this stage your newsletter scribe was appointed.....rising brilliantly to this unexpected honor with a sustained burst of note scribbling at break neck speed.



Guests: Guests comprised - Rotarian Tony Law (Wendy's Dad) visiting from Hong Kong; Rotarian Hazel Powell from Woodstock, Ontario; Deborah's friend Willow Penno, returning for another Rotary "look see" and David's wife Louise, visiting to listen to our guest speaker.



Announcements: President David announced the two events for the homeless that the club had supported last week, the luncheon and soccer tournament, has both been successful and that exactly four servings of lasagna were all that remained of the food.



David also reminded members that Sunday was World Polio Day and that to mark this event Rotarians can accumulate 2 for 1 recognition for every online PolioPlus contribution of CAD\$100 or more during 18-24 October 2010



Pres. David noted that VASS (Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports) is having their annual fundraising dinner again on Nov 2 at the Vancouver Rowing Club in Stanley Park and encouraged members to participate. Another imminent event is the November 19 "Rotary on Ice" event at the Pacific Coliseum when the Vancouver Giants will play the Regina Pats.



Two future events that need Rotary volunteers are the Wine Festival this coming Saturday night at Park Royal Mall and Operation Red Nose, our community road safety initiative held at Christmas. ORN is looking for someone to serve as a Volunteer Coordinator. Strangely both events are associated with alcohol!!



Sergeant-At-Arms

Alec Wallace held the usual draw for the 50:50 pot and Wendy Law held the lucky ticket. However her chosen card, the King of Clubs, came close (but not close enough) to the Ace of Clubs that would have scooped the prize. Never mind Wendy, the pot was minute this week as the contents had been dispersed at our last meeting!



Despite being fed several wonderful leads at his table, Alec elected not to fine anyone, but noted that Bob Nowell was heard to make the (outrageous?) statement that "fines were a good thing" and that another member has remarked about the size of fines levied at another Vancouver area club.

.....which brought us to the Happy and Sad announcements:



- Bob Nowell was happy to be visiting once again
- Wendy was happy that her Dad was in attendance, about her birthday tomorrow (a brief musical "Happy Birthday" interlude followed) and sad that she was getting old.



- Visiting Rotarian Hazel from D7080 was pleased to be with us and told us a bit about her club
- Fred Sverre was happy about the good weather
- Visiting Rotarian Tony was also pleased to be here and promised to return. He was delighted that his daughter had joined our club and promised to bring his own club banner next time around.



- David was happy about the weather and sad about the BC Lions losing their last game.
- John Ward was pleased to be home from a great vacation in Nova Scotia

- "The Other Neil" enjoyed his trip to Europe and a cruise in the Med. He also presented the club with a Rotary banner that he and Liane had collected during a makeup meeting at the Rotary Club de Paris Porte D'Orleans.



- Willow Penno was pleased to visit us once again
- Joy Jones had spent a long time looking for a happy and sad looney and was sad that when she finally found one she couldn't remember what it was for!



Presenter: Neil Creighton introduced our speaker, Dean Valli, the BC Lions centre. Dean is a North Vancouver native presently out of commission after breaking his leg during a game against Montreal Alouettes on Sept 3rd.



Dean, an outgoing and very entertaining character, clearly wished to avoid the obvious topic of the Lion's performance this year, and elected instead to provide us with a run-down on the best places to eat when visiting other CFL cities. After first learning to play football at

Windsor, he initially pursued his career in a losing cause at SFU before being picked sixth overall by the Lions in the first round draft. He admits that he was then spoilt by collecting Grey Cup ring in his rookie year and only now fully understands what a difficult task this really is. He had interesting anecdotes regarding the Lions owner David Braley and mentioned that coach Wally Buono was "not the players' friend" but a professional who always put business first.



Dean mentioned that there are no guarantees in the CFL and players can be released at any time at a moments notice. He also flagged the constant pressure of being followed by cameras during every practice and wondered how the average office worker would react to such an environment.

In response to questions, Dean talked about how the larger CFL field favors smaller more mobile American imports and, in some cases like Cameron Wake, provides them with a show case to display their talents. He also noted that CFL linemen need to be more nimble than their NFL counterparts due to the 1 yard neutral zone between CFL lines that does not exist south of the border.

John Stuart thanked Dean for his lively presentation and noted that he had been a spectator when the BC Lions won their first ever CFL game, which we assume was before Dean was born.

John Ward gave the Toast to Rotary and David Spears led us in the Four Way test before closing the meeting.
