



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER **WHEEL SQUEALS**

November 8, 2010



Text by John Ward

Rick Mitchell led our club in singing O Canada. Bob McKilligan gave the invocation.

Guests

No guests, with the exception of our speaker, Carla Bragagnini.

Announcements

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

- Rotary on Ice, Nov. 19 - Vancouver Giants. A few people from our club are going, with the majority of people coming from the West Vancouver club.
- ORN volunteers must get their criminal record checks done.
- Starry Nights at Park Royal, Nov 28 & 29 - \$10 or \$15 for two nights.
- West Vancouver club is hosting a 4 club Christmas party at Gleneagles on Dec 14th.

Sergeant-At-Arms - (Alec Wallace)

- Fines were applied to people with no Remembrance Day poppy and people who have not yet had their criminal record check done.
- Terry McGauley won the ticket draw, however was unable to pick the Ace of Spades.

Tonight's Program - All Hands Volunteers

Jeff Pearce introduced our guest speaker Carla Bragagnini. Carla is recently returned from a position with All Hands Volunteers in Haiti. Carla is originally from Lima, Peru but grew up in North Vancouver. She has a Bachelor of Science from UBC. Since her graduation she has worked in research with the UBC Diabetes Group and in the not-for-profit sector of Science World. She has always had a passion for volunteering, whether it was in Canada, Peru, or most recently, in Haiti. Over the summer she spent two months living in Leogane, Haiti, doing relief work in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck tragically in January of this year. Her intention now is to spread awareness of the

situation in Haiti by sharing her first-hand experiences with her local community. Her mission is to continue to contribute, both locally and globally, in order to educate and empower communities. One day she hopes to specialize in creating health campaigns to help prevent epidemics in developing nations.

In January, a 7.0 Richter scale earthquake struck Haiti with its epicenter near Leogane. Two hundred and fifty thousand people died, and 1.6 million people were left homeless. Within a week All Hands Volunteers was at the site to do an assessment. Carla joined All Hands Volunteers and was sent to Haiti in early summer.

A typical day for Carla started at 7:30 AM, working from 7:30 to 4:30 with a 2 hour break at noon. A meeting to assess the day was held at 5:00, and generators were turned off at 10:00 to finish the day. The work during the day comprised many different duties, and required many volunteers. Duties included:

- House demolishing and rubble clearing. CHF International would build new shelters on cleared slabs.
- Build transitional schools to replace the 201 schools that were destroyed in Leogane. These schools could be built in 8 weeks using a Transitional Shelter model that was designed during a previous project. So far 6 schools have been built.
- Provide support for the medical staff at St. Croix Hospital.
- Tent distribution with the help of Sustainable Aid, another NGO. Tents included Rotary donated ShelterBoxes.
- Help with schooling at orphanages.
- Help with DRR / art therapy for traumatized victims of the quake.
- Provide instruction and assistance in the construction of compost toilets with Save the Children, another NGO.
- Help train and assist administration officials, such as the Mayor's office.
- Assist with bio-sand project to provide clean water to the population.
- Work with the Joint Logistics Base to co-ordinate the activities of all the NGO's. There are over 10,000 NGO's operating in Haiti. Activities sometimes conflict or cause confusion. Actions must create positive responses from the population and not create dependency.

Leogane Haitians have since experienced additional troubles since the quake. A cholera epidemic is now contained, and Hurricane Tomas deposited knee-high mud in homes. Carla says her experience in Leogane was most enjoyable with her greatest joy being working with the wonderful and courteous people. Carla is encouraging us to donate to the fund that will help the Haitians by linking with www.hands.org.

President David thanked our speaker and expressed the wonderful dedication of young people like Carla in helping to make the world a better place.

The Toast - John Stuart led the toast to Rotary International.

The Four Way Test - Neil Creighton led us all in The Four Way Test.

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

Future Meetings / Key Dates

Nov 15	Classification Talk - Wendy Law
Nov 19 (Fri)	Rotary on Ice - Vancouver Giants Hockey
Nov 22	Club Assembly
Nov 29	BC Biomedical - Doug Buchanan