



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS



**February 7, 2011**

*Created By Norman Thomson*

**Desk:** Joy Jones welcomed the 24 attendees with her usual warm smile.

**O Canada:** Deneka led us in a good rendition of O Canada. Jeff Pearce, Bud Fast and Norman Thomson were out at a meeting in Maple Ridge the next day and can assure you Deneka did a much better job than them.

**Invocation:** You had to be listening carefully or you would have missed Fred Sverre's short but appropriate invocation.

**Introduction of Visitors:** We had a good group of visitors and they were uniformly seated at the various tables. We extended a welcome to:

- Colin McSween
- Dee Dhaliwal
- Katherine Taylor
- Dr. Nasir Jetha
- Johanne Fredette
- Tan Panyanonwat, our Youth Exchange student

## **Announcements:**

David Spears reported that 67 people attended our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner last Saturday. A rousing round of applause was given for the hard work David did to make that evening a success.

David told the members that he had taken on the position of Co-Chair of the wine festival.

Events to plan for are the Leadership training course and the District Conference May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

Finally David said he would be running in the fundraiser for Prostate Cancer and if anyone would like to sponsor him that would be great.

President David Spears then invited Dee Dhaliwal to say a few words to the club. She said that she felt blessed to be living in one of the best communities in Greater Vancouver and in an area described as the most livable area in the world. With her work at the North Shore News she knew that it was a passionate and committed community. She said she shared the commitment to the North Shore and wants to run for the position of federal Liberal candidate. For those who were interested, she said she had brought along some sign-up forms if any members of the club wanted to show their support for her and the party.

Tan Panyanonwat, our Youth Exchange Student, reported an abridged version of a fun weekend with his fellow exchange students at Whistler. It sounded like there were some bumps and bruises on the slopes but the rest was fun all the way.

Norman Thomson then was invited to demonstrate how to erect a Duck sales display so that our members would know what was required for the various sales locations. The following people committed to look after:

- |                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| • Lynn Valley Mall         | David Spears   |
| • Capilano Mall            | Bud Fast       |
| • Park Royal Mall          | Alain Fredette |
| • Park and Tilford         | Bob McKilligan |
| • Lonsdale Quay            | Jeff Pearce    |
| • Save on Foods Marine Dr. | ???????        |

### **Sergeant-At-Arms:**

Hopefully it wasn't a forecast of things to come, but Dee Dhaliwal managed to hold the lucky ticket - but missed the Ace of Spades.

Absent Sergeant Alec Wallace sent along a large basket of Purdy's chocolates, since it was coming up to Valentines Day. Joy Jones arranged with Deborah to raffle off the chocolates and the lucky winner was Norman Thomson (yum yum).

During the Happys and Sads, Colin McSween did a rapid fire two minute stand up comic presentation.

## **Induction of New Member:**

David Spears had the pleasurable task of inducting our newest member, Alain Fredette. David read the obligations and responsibilities on becoming a member and Alain confirmed he would undertake these. David presented Alain his pin and all members of the club came forward to shake Alain's hand, welcoming him into the club.



Alain's In-Ducktion

## **Introduction of the Speaker:**

Jeff Pearce very eloquently introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr. Nasir Jetha from BC Children's & Women's Health Centre.

## **Program:**

Dr. Jetha started his talk by saying he wanted to talk about, "Children's health, where it has been, where we are now, and the future." The health of children is his passion and he has a special interest in premature babies. To reassure us he started by confirming that, generally, we have healthy children in Canada. Our weaknesses, he indicated, are the Aboriginal and immigrant population, who are both at greater risk. He threw a group of statistics at us. Children born today in Canada can expect to live to 80 (twice the expectancy of a child in Afghanistan). Of those 80 years they can expect to have 70 in good health. Infant deaths are about 5 per 1000. When compared with the developing world he told of a woman he met in Afghanistan who had 12 children, but only 4 survived. He identified some of the things we are doing right in Canada, such as good dental health, in-school examinations and routine vaccinations. While we still have children born with Down Syndrome and Spina Bifida, he went on to say the biggest threat to children is preventable accidents. These include automotive accidents and sports injuries. He was glad to say the medical profession had come out in favour of banning mixed martial arts and boxing.

Yes, there also remain problems, he said, with asthma, cancer and leukemia, which 70% now survive as opposed to 40 years ago where a child with leukemia would only live for 6 months. Another of his concerns is childhood diabetes which, he said, they could survive and manage. But he raised the concern of Type 2 Diabetes becoming epidemic in a decade. Obesity is another preventable problem that is affecting children much more, and when Dr. Jetha is in consultation with an obese child's parents he asks, "what sport does the child play?" Of the illnesses he discussed he probably surprised many of us by including the effects of bullying, and it's mental health aspects, on children.



Dr. Nasir Jetha and President David Spears

Unfortunately, he did not conclude by saying all the problems would go away. In his concluding statement he said we are just starting to see the effects of obesity and mental health problems. But his last wrap up statement must have brought a feeling of pride to our club members as he declared that he believed polio would be eradicated.

### **Thanks to Speaker:**

John Stuart must have felt good to present Dr. Jetha with our club commitment to immunize 20 children against polio in his name.

**Toast to Rotary International:** John Ward led the group in toasting Rotary International.

**The 4-Way Test:** Bud Fast led the group in the 4-Way Test.

President David, hearing nothing more for the good of Rotary, adjourned the meeting.