



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS



**April 18, 2011**

*Created By Norman Thomson*

**Desk:** Joy Jones welcomed us with a warm smile of relief that the Duck Splash was over.

**O Canada:** Daniel Tardif led us in a solid rendition of O Canada.

**Invocation:** John Stuart in the invocation reminded us of the worth of the work we did in running the Duck Splash and our commitment to the community.

**Introduction of Visitors:** We had the pleasure of having Johanne Fredette and potential new member Eduardo Valdez here this evening. Also introduced at this time, briefly, was our speaker Andrea Yeo, who was accompanied by one of her students, Sanna Welyk.

## **Announcements:**

David Spears reported that the District Conference was coming up on May 7<sup>th</sup> and he encouraged our club members to attend. David also reported on the Friendship Exchange to New Jersey (September 7<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>). Sonya has indicated she would like to go. (I hope they have a Terry Fox Run there since it will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September this year.) Finally David said that there would be a Duck Splash Review meeting immediately following the club meeting.

I was asked to make a few comments about the Duck Splash. I took this opportunity to thank everyone who came out to remove the tags from the Ducks last Monday and to express appreciation of all the hard work undertaken by all members who had made a success of a very wet Duck Splash day.

**Sergeant-At-Arms:** Alec Wallace did his usual friendly job of convincing us to make a contribution to the club. He started with the draw and Terry McGauley was holding the number 940 ticket, which gave him the opportunity to find the Ace of Spades. But he drew the 6 of Diamonds. Happy and Sad was the main source of revenue. There was a dubious donation requested for the Rotary Month theme. Joy said it was Literacy and we all donated on the understanding that, right or wrong, we probably would not have known what was the correct theme for the month.

### **Introduction of the Speaker:**

Bryan Chalmers introduced our speaker for the evening- Andrea Yeo, Seycove School Planning Department Head. Andrea said that she had completed a Masters Degree in 2009 and had used her experience taking the students on the Humanitarian Work trips as the basis for her thesis.

### **Program:**

Andrea explained that she had organized two trips for the Seycove school students. In 2008 they went to a project in Mexico and in 2010 to the Dominican Republic. Both these trips were organized in conjunction with "Hero Holidays." This was the brainchild of a not for profit Canadian charity founded in 2000 - called Absolute Leadership Development. The vision statement for this organization is "To empower emerging generations to change their world by living their lives with purpose."

Andrea spoke with enthusiasm of the impact that taking the students on the trip had on their moral compass. Like Rotary, Andrea had a 5-way test for measuring the value of what she undertook. She asked herself if the things she did had a positive impact on her 1) Work, 2) Self, 3) Marriage, 4) Family, and 5) Spirituality.

She then set out some of the information about their trip last year to the Dominican Republic. The party was comprised of 26 students and 6 adults. Their major objective was to participate in the building of a house for a single mother living there. The duration of their stay was 10 days so their part was to do some work on the house and other students would come through later and work on the same project until it was completed.

A video presentation of the Seycove school students' visit was shown and Sanna Welyk, who was on the trip, narrated her experiences. It showed them digging foundations, mixing cement, and lifting and laying concrete blocks as they worked under the supervision of a local tradesperson. There was a sequence in the video that showed the local children scavenging in the local dump. They

were looking for usable materials and Sanna commented that the children were constantly in danger of running into needles and other hazardous materials because most of them were there in bare feet.

Her pride in participating in helping others shone through her words. She had developed a real sympathy for this community, which had so little in comparison to ours. The impact on her and her fellow students was demonstrated in a material way when it came time for them to leave. Without prompting by anyone she said they left lots of their clothing and other personal items with the local people.

### **Thanks to the Speaker:**

David Spears thanked Andrea and Sanna for taking the time to come and tell us about this great project. He presented Andrea with a Rotary certificate to immunize 20 children against Polio.

**Toast to Rotary International:** Fred Sverre led the group in toasting Rotary International.

**The 4-Way Test:** Rolf Gillardon led the group in the 4-Way Test.

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