



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

March 18th, 2013



Written by David Spears

Alec Wallace kindly took our money at the desk and cheerfully greeted us all. Ten members attended as well as guests Naomi Yamamoto and guest speaker Ben West with assistant Tara Stafford.

O Canada was led by Norman Thomson after which Bob McKilligan gave the Invocation.

We sat down to dinner consisting of prime rib bones with a dessert of ice cream.

### *Guest Speaker:*

Wendy Law introduced our speaker, Ben West from Forest Ethics Advocacy, who focuses his environmental efforts on the Alberta Tar Sands. Ben spoke about delivering Tar Sands diluted bitumen (dilbit) via an expanded Kinder Morgan pipeline to Vancouver. The current pipeline was built in 1952 and he reminded us of the Trans Mountain (Kinder Morgan) pipeline rupture in Burnaby in 2008 during road excavation where poor mapping of the pipeline lead to the issue, something prevalent along its length. The worst part of the spill was the smell.

After the spill, Kinder Morgan expanded the pipeline capacity by 50k barrels per day, a relatively unknown fact. Oil tanker traffic in Burrard Inlet has increased from 22 tankers in 2005 to 82 in 2008 and would rise to an excess of 400 annually with the proposed pipeline expansion. Double-hulled vessels only slightly lessen the risk of tanker spills.

Ben expounded on pipeline failures, with the causes being about 50% equipment failure and 10% human error. He showed a map of the vast number of reported spills in North America. The Enbridge dilbit spill in the Kalamazoo River in Oklahoma 2 years ago occurred while Enbridge was promoting the Northern Gateway pipeline as a safe way to get our Tar Sands bitumen to Asian markets.

Ben is touting alternatives to reduce our reliance on oil. He showed the comparison of moving 60 people by car, bus and bike and its impact on road space and energy consumption.

Norman Thomson thanked Ben with the coveted Certificate stating that our club will donate funds in his name to immunize 20 children against polio.

Wendy Law proposed the toast to RI and led us in The 4-Way Test. Meeting adjourned.

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

- Mar 25** Club Assembly / Fellowship Evening
- Apr 1** No Meeting - Easter Monday
- Apr 8** 2014 Canada Cup for Homeless Soccer - Charles McGregor
- Apr 15** Operations Briefing for The Great Capilano Duck Splash - Norman Thomson and team
- Apr 21** Great Capilano Duck Splash  
(Sun)
- Apr 22** Fellowship Evening - Duck Detagging
- Apr 29** Choosing to Smile - Glenda Standeven, Rotarian, 25-Year Cancer Survivor and Amputee

