



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS



May 6th, 2013

*Created By Daniel Tardif*

**Desk:** Joy Jones welcomed the attendees at the NS Winter Club for this special Duck Splash evening. With open arms Joy extended her usual cordial greeting - one arm extended in greeting, the other to divest us of our dinner fee and Rotary International donation.



**O Canada:** President Wendy was barely able to control Norman Thomson's jubilant duck enthusiasm and after first attempting a quacking version of our national anthem, Norman was able to lead us gracefully into a very good rendition of O Canada.



**Invocation:** Bob McKilligan once again produced a very appropriate invocation, reminding all of us the good reasons to be Rotarians, to serve and to help others.

**Guests:** This meeting being also a partners evening, many guests joined us. Heather Pearce, Liane McKenna, Pam McDonald, Willow Penno (Photographer for the Duck Splash event), Frances McKilligan, Pat Fast, Susan Ward, Marilynne Nowell, Kelly Ketchen, Anne-Marie Ferguson (Lions Gate RC), Gary and Janet Johnstone (Johnstone's BBQ's, one of our



sponsors), Dianny and Williams who are students visiting from Venezuela, Christer Hulten (1<sup>st</sup> prize winner) and finally Brad Garside (2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner).

### **Announcements:**

Anne-Marie from the Lions Gate Rotary Club explained her Club's upcoming fashion show fund raiser that will take place on Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Lexus Show Room located in the North Shore Auto Mall. The benefits from the show will be going to the trade school the Club is sponsoring in Bali. The school helps kids who, due to a locally common genetic deficiency where the child is born hard of hearing, and who, without training, will be unable to support themselves.

Dianny and Williams live in a German town in Venezuela. Williams first came to Canada to learn English. They were hiking up the Capilano River when they saw a Rotary Wheel sign at a lookout point. Williams sister Dianny lives with someone who has a sister who knows someone who knew about Rotary and they found our Club.



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

Norman Thomson felt sorry for all the Rotarians who worked very hard to sell tickets but were not allowed to buy duck tickets themselves. To give all of us a chance to enjoy a sensation similar to what all ticket purchasers might have experienced, Norman prepared two large

plates full of numbered ducks for us to buy for \$1 apiece. Bud managed to rightfully win the first prize which was a sumptuous bottle of red wine. Bob Nowell won the box of chocolates while Pam McDonald won a golf shirt for Neil to grow into.

**Happy and Sads:** The collection of the happy and sad dollars was accomplished using the mini duck subterfuge. Some of the happys consisted of Neil McDonald closing a house purchase, Bob McKilligan's twin grandchildren turning 8, Joy being very happy the Duck Splash went smoothly, David being almost at the point of getting his house back after hosting distressed family members, Norman Thomson being able to Skype with his wife in Scotland. Not too many sad dollars, other than for the Canucks...

### **Presenters:**

The presenters this evening were our Duck Splash top two prize winners. Christer Hulten, the top prize winner, first thought when he received Norman's call that a marketing agent was calling at supper time and he came close to hanging up on him.

Interestingly, Christer's wife had sent him out to pick up bananas. As he was walking out of the grocery store, he was approached by one of our dedicated salespeople and spent his last \$20 encouraging the Rotary Club as he has done several times in the past years. Christer received a warm hand of applause from all present.



Brad Garside, the second prize winner was at Save-on-Foods at Park and Tilford when he saw the North Shore Rescue sign. Brad thinks North Shore Rescue is a very commendable organization and he was happy to be able to help them. Brad wanted to thank all of us for the efforts we made during the Duck Splash and for all the causes we support.

### **Thanks to Sponsors:**

We could not thank all the Duck Splash sponsors but we took this occasion to give special thanks to the Johnstone family for their continued support over the last 12-16 years. Gary and Janet have played a very important role at all our Duck events and their contribution is extremely appreciated.

**Nostalgia:** The club members were reminiscing about the earlier "Duck" years. The first Capilano River Duck Race took place 26 years ago. The first few years required intricate radio communication with the Metro Vancouver operations control room in Burnaby. Neil McDonald remembers asking repeatedly for more water from the operator until he realized the 20 minute lag between the dam control valve opening and the flood arrival. We were reminded that the second lookout on the Capilano River trail was paid for entirely using the proceeds from one of our Duck Races. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans eventually ordered us to end the River Race. The Club first thought this was the end of the Duck Race and its benefits until Bud Fast came up with a very intricate plan involving helicopters, kayaks, and a drop of thousands of ducks into the ocean. Bud's plan first attracted many skeptical looks from the other club members but his enthusiasm and attention to details were to set the tone for the Great Capilano Duck Splash. Then there was the order of 15,000 ducks from China which arrived many sizes too small for our purpose. The order was shipped back to China and it looked like we may not have our ducks back in time for the Race when the Maple Ridge Club came to our rescue by offering us their 18,000 ducks for "free".

All are happy to be able to take a rest from this year's Capilano Duck Splash. We ended the program by watching the CBC video clip on the event as well as Willow Penno's picture and music slide show of the Splash. Thanks Willow.

**Toast to Rotary International:** President Wendy led the group in toasting Rotary International.

**The 4-Way Test:** President Wendy led the group in the 4-Way Test and then, hearing nothing more for the good of Rotary, adjourned the meeting.

Of the things we think, say or do:  
Is it the TRUTH?  
Is it FAIR to all concerned?  
Will it build GOODWILL and Better FRIENDSHIPS?  
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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#### Future Meetings / Key Dates

- May 13** Canadian Newspaper Industry - Peter Kvarnstrom, Glacier Media Group
- May 20** No Meeting - Victoria Day Statutory Holiday
- May 27** Education for Women in Africa - Maness Samuel, former student at a Rotary supported school in Malawi
- Jun 3** Sustainability Television - Jason Robinson, CEO
- Jun 10** RCMP Schooner St. Roch - Dan Lemieux, Retired RCMP Staff Sergeant

