



## ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER

### *WHEEL SQUEALS*

*23 SEPTEMBER 2013*

*By Terry McGauley*



#### **Guests**

Joy Jones extracted our money and recorded our attendance. Our guests were Kirsten Harkins, our speaker for the evening, our exchange student from Belgium, Valentine Beguin, and Jack Chiang, Wendy Law's fiancé.

#### **Invocation**

David Spears led us in singing O Canada and Bob Nowell gave the invocation. Wendy Law presided over the meeting as Deborah Sommerfeld is touring Italy.

#### **Announcements**

Wendy Law indicated that Sue Godey of the Lions Gate Club is looking for host families for the student exchange program for next year. If you are able to host a student please let Sue Godey know by September 27<sup>th</sup>.

David Spears advised that the wine festival tickets were now available and can be obtained from David. Fred Sverre indicated that 4 members had attended the traffic circle work party last weekend.

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

Bob Nowell was the Sergeant-At-Arms and did a diligent job of extracting money from us. Neil Creighton won the draw, but drew the Two of Diamonds.

#### **Program**

Neil Creighton introduced our speaker, Kirsten Harkins. Kirsten is the Executive Director of the [Canadian Society for Mucopolysaccharide](#) (MPS) and Related Diseases which provides support for families having children with MPS, advocates for funding for treatment of affected patients and raises funds for research in to the diseases. Kirsten's son Nicholas was diagnosed with MPS in 2001.

## 2.

MPS and related diseases are diseases involving genetic enzyme deficiencies affecting the metabolism of various organic substances. The resulting build up of the organic substances cause a range of mental and physical disabilities and shortening of life. The build up can affect many critical organs of the body and often results in severe cognitive decline by the age of 8 or 9 and death by the age of 12 to 14.



These diseases are fairly rare with an average rate of 1 in 25,000 children. Over the last 10 years some enzyme replacement therapies have evolved for some of the diseases which can stabilize the disease but not cure it. These are expensive therapies which are required to be taken continuously throughout the life of the child and many of the provinces are reticent to cover the costs. Kirsten's son Nichlas is on enzyme replacement therapy which he receives once a week and he is now 18 years old and attending Capilano University.

Wendy Law thanked Kirsten and presented her with a certificate indicating we would immunize 20 children from polio in her name.

### **Toast**

Wendy Law led us in the toast to Rotary International and the 4-Way Test.

### **Future Meetings**

- September 30th - Fellowship Excursion - Seylynn Development Tour
- October 7th - Paraguay Water Purification Project - Jeffery Hwang, Rotary Club of Vancouver Centennial
- October 14<sup>th</sup> - No Meeting - Thanksgiving
- October 19<sup>th</sup> - North Shore Food and Wine Festival - Park Royal North
- October 21<sup>st</sup> - Youth Exchange Student Presentation - Valentine Beguin (Belgium)

