



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

November 25, 2013

Written by Bob Malcolm

Desk: Joy Jones greeted those members attending.

O Canada: President Deborah Sommerfeld led us in O Canada.

Invocation: Bob McKilligan gave the invocation.

Guests: Our only guest was our speaker who was formally introduced later in the evening.

Announcements:

- President Deborah updated club activities. She announced that Daniel Tardif has agreed to be President-Elect which was greeted with cheers for Daniel.
- David Spears reported on the Wine Festival accounting. He and Joy Jones reported on Operation Red Nose which starts Friday.
- Joy also sold tickets for our Rotary Foundation raffle.

Sergeant-At-Arms:



Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Schelhaas did this duty. In the ticket draw our guest drew the ticket. Wendy Law had the lucky ticket, but drew the Ace of Clubs. There were no fines because of the raffle.



Joy then held the draw for the gift basket and the donation slip. Our guest drew the tickets. President Deborah won the raffle and Bob McKilligan won the receipt. Joy was congratulated for all her work for this successful event.



Happy and Sads: A few happy and sads were expressed. Many happies were for Daniel in honour of his being President-Elect. Sergeant-at Arms Michael circulated a recent article in The Province about Colin McSween, a regular visiting Rotarian from Abbotsford, and his passion over details surrounding the death of President Kennedy 50 years ago this week.

Presenter:

Our speaker, Abbie Norrish of Covenant House Vancouver, was introduced by David Spears. Abbie has a Paul Harris Award courtesy of her grandfather, Jim Robinson, a long time member of the Campbell River Rotary Club. Abbie is a commerce graduate who very recently moved to Vancouver from the Okanagan to work in the not-for-profit sector as a community liaison officer for Covenant House Vancouver. This talk was her first test (which she performed to perfection).

Abbie spoke in glowing terms of the services to homeless young people Covenant House provides. Covenant House Vancouver is funded by donations. It is associated with the U.S. Covenant House organization and Covenant House Toronto. It services homeless youth who come to it. Vancouver has between 500 to 1,000 such youth each day. It has two shelters in downtown Vancouver with 54 beds for drop-ins and 25 rooms for transitional residents.



Covenant House has three main programs:

- A no charge drop-in centre with counselors, food services, showering facilities, and used clothing racks.
- A shelter for residents limited to three day stays.
- A "right of passage" residential program for youth entering into a Covenant Agreement negotiated with a youth worker.

It also has outreach counselors working in two person teams in the East side of downtown Vancouver.

The focus of all programs is to teach and train youth to learn life skills to live independently. Incremental change is often small and occurs over time. Homeless youth live alone because of poor or non-existent support from adults in their early years. The first step is to get them in the door and ask for help. Covenant House uses a safe and supportive approach building trust by responding to one basic need, then another. It takes care to keep its facilities free of bedbugs.

Abbie answered questions well past the program period. More information on Covenant House Vancouver, its volunteering programs, and fundraising and donations activities is available at its [website](#).

Thanks to Speaker:



President Deborah thanked Abbie for her very informative talk and presented her with a certificate promising, in her name, to immunize 20 children against polio, with the intent of its worldwide eradication. Abbie's presentation was well received and enjoyed by all. Covenant House Vancouver is a valuable community resource.

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

The 4-Way Test: President Deborah led the group in The 4-Way Test:

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?

Hearing nothing more for the good of Rotary, President Deborah adjourned the meeting.

Future Meetings / Key Dates:

- Dec 2 Annual General Meeting
- Dec 9 Importance of Public Speaking and Taking Leadership in Your Own Life – Linda Vicic, Student, Speaking and Leadership Program
- Dec 16 An Evening of Christmas Fellowship with Frances Roberts and The Argyle Alumni Choir – Partner Evening
- Dec 23 No Meeting – Christmas / New Years Break
- Dec 30 No Meeting – Christmas / New Years Break
- Jan 6 Liberian Experiences of a Rotary Peace Fellow
- Jan 13 The Rotary Foundation, An Information Session – Don Evans, Rotary District 5040 Annual Programs Chair and Strategic Planning Chair and member, Rotary Club of Vancouver
- Jan 20 How To Take Charge of Your Online Presence – Rory Kermack, Founder and Lead Developer, KermackCreative
- Jan 27 Robbie Burns Day Dinner, An Evening of Scottish Fellowship – Partner Evening
- Feb 3 Fish Farming – Fred Sverre, President, Entech Environmental Consultants and member, Rotary Club of North Vancouver

