



Rotary



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

March 24, 2014

Written by John Ward

In President Deborah's absence, and at her request, Neil Creighton opened our meeting and chaired the meeting until she was able to join us later in the evening. Michael Schelhaas led us in singing O Canada. Bob McKilligan gave the invocation.

Guests

- A past speaker to our club, Neil Cave, joined us.
- Terry Lehouillier, our Assistant Governor, joined us and talked to us about several things. She highlighted the upcoming District Conference in Squamish. Also, she spoke about the District Assembly and Foundation Meeting on April 26. One club member must attend this meeting in order for the club to obtain District grants. She told us about the new rules applying to RI dues payment. Payment must be made to RI for all members on the roster as of July 1. It was suggested that members be asked to pay their dues well before July 1 in order to effectively determine who is remaining with the club into the new fiscal year. She also confirmed that President Deborah has submitted the documentation to the District indicating that the club is eligible to receive a Presidential Citation. And, finally, she presented Treasurer Bob Nowell with a cheque for \$6000, the club's share of the Operation Red Nose proceeds.
- Brenda Plant, representing Turning Point Recovery Society, was our speaker.



Announcements

- Joy Jones had so much fun dancing at the St. Patrick's Day party that she fractured two bones in her foot.
- The Interact Club at Carson Graham has fulfilled 6 of the 9 requirements for the Presidential Citation.

Sergeant-At-Arms - Michael Schelhaas

Our speaker, Brenda Plant, won the draw, and drew the 4 of Clubs.

Program



President Deborah introduced Turning Point Recovery Society Executive Director, Brenda Plant, who has over 30 years experience as a social worker in the non-profit sector, specializing in addictions, mental health and domestic violence. She is a graduate of UBC. Brenda is licensed as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and Certified Addictions Program Administrator with International Reciprocity.

Brenda's primary responsibilities throughout her career have included planning, implementing, developing and monitoring program goals, objectives and outcomes, including monitoring the quality and quantity of services and compliance with contract, accreditation and regulatory requirements. She has extensive experience providing community leadership through networking with community leaders, funding partners, advocacy groups and government relations. She has been responsible for contract and national accreditation compliance utilizing best practices methodologies, ensuring the maintenance of program integrity and responsible fiscal management of budgets in excess of \$2M.

She currently serves on numerous community boards and committees and was most recently honoured for her work in addictions and mental health as a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Val Anderson Humanitarian Award.

Jim Ross was the founder, in 1982, of what became Turning Point. Jim wanted to help people who sincerely wanted to stop drinking alcohol. He lived in a small apartment and had as many as 26 people sleeping on the floor of his place. Within a year he rented a house at 14th and Alder, and had moved his 26 clients, and built support networks to become the Turning Point Society. The house was condemned in 1983. Prominent citizens such as Grace McCarthy and Dave Fulton came to the rescue and two new houses were purchased at 13th and Cambie. A house was later purchased in Richmond for women only.

There has been a great need for such a facility on the North Shore and a facility is now being built at an ideal location adjacent to Murdo Fraser Park near the golf course. It has been approved by Council, and obtained funding for construction by BC Housing. The site will be licenced and monitored by health authorities to accommodate all addictions including persons with disabilities. It will have a site manager and 24 hour staff. The grand opening is in September. There is a need for volunteers to help with landscaping and other minor items such as books and wall adornments.

Programs provided at these sites include employment readiness and family re-integration. Clinical support will be provided off-site. Currently there are 40 people in the program, 22 in Vancouver and 18 in Richmond. The clients must be internally motivated to quit alcohol or they are not admitted. The stay is 3-5 months. There is a 6 months waiting list.

The government does not provide any on-going funding. Gala events, which include entertainment from named entertainers who are recovering alcoholics, provide funds that pay for everything. See [Turning Point's website](#) to read about the latest Gala featuring Matthew Perry as well as other information about the organization. Interestingly, alcohol is served at the Gala because it is part of our social atmosphere, and recovering alcoholics must adapt to its presence.

Michael Schelhaas thanked the speaker, and presented the coveted "polio immunization certificate".



Toast to Rotary International: President Deborah conducted the toast to 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 there was nothing further for the "Good of Rotary", President Deborah adjourned the meeting and wished one and all a "Good Rotary Week".

Future Meetings / Key Dates:

- Mar 31 Relay for Life - Maureen Turner, Canadian Cancer Society
- Apr 7 Employment Development for the Homeless - Brenton Walters, Employment Development Coordinator, Lookout Emergency Aid Society
- Apr 14 Self Development, Happiness and Reducing Stress - Linzi Martin, Simplify Life
- Apr 21 No Meeting - Easter Monday Holiday
- Apr 28 Fellowship Evening - Covenant House Thank-a-Thon (5:30 to 8:00 pm)
- May 5 Peer2Pear Student Presentations - David Steverding, Vancouver Police Department

