

HIGHLIGHTS of 1995-96

Dale Bradford, President

The 1995/96 Rotary year will long be remembered as the "Year of the Lawyer Jokes", just as the preceding year was the "Year of the Short Joke". It seems that the prime requisite of being President of the White Rock Rotary Club is the ability to be the butt of many bad jokes and accept such abuse with equanimity and good humor! That is an easy task as long as one keeps in mind that good-natured kidding is a sign of affection and friendship. In our club there is an abundance of both!

While we enjoyed much good humor and fellowship during the year, we also were saddened by the passing of several of our outstanding members, in particular Robbie Robinson, Ralph Long and Bill Fuller. We were also shocked by the sudden passing of a recent member, Wen Chang, and of Muriel Pascoe and Hugh Robertson's daughter. All will be missed.

Despite losing so many members to death, resignation and transfers, we were able to maintain our membership level at 72 at the year end. With a number of prospects waiting to be admitted, we should be able to again approach the 77 members which we reached early in the spring of '96.

Attendance levels at our weekly meetings were generally good, with our average for the year being over 80% - high enough to rank in the top 10% in the District. Much of the credit goes to our Program Committee Chairman, Frank Teskey.

Our weekly meetings also ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of Rod MacLeod and his set-up and front desk committee.

After the windfall casino proceeds which we received in the spring of '95, our budget for '95-'96 was restricted somewhat due to our not being able to receive another casino licence until last year's proceeds had been spent. However, with \$40,000 of retained earnings carried forward from last year, we were able to commit a total of \$55,000 from this year's budget toward the multi-purpose building in South Surrey Athletic Park. Wayne Baldwin has been chairing the committee comprised of various user groups to push the project through to construction. A new society has been incorporated for this project and our club is guaranteed four seats on the board - provided that we contribute \$100,000 (One seat for every \$25,000 contributed). Funding for this project will be a major obstacle as the expected cost has increased from an initial \$550,000 to \$1.15 million! We hope the cost will not be prohibitive.

This past year saw the completion of the Rotary Field House (announcer's booth, washrooms, storage and concession facility) on the south side of 20th Avenue in the South Surrey Athletic Park - Our club donated \$30,000 toward the cost of that structure.

Our major fundraising project for the year, our annual Book Sale was the most successful ever! Chaired by our President-Elect Bob Gilholme, the committee conducted the best organized, smoothest operated and most profitable sale to date with net proceeds of \$27,000. This will be a hard act to follow next year!

Another success this past year was our Partnership in Education with Earl Marriott Secondary. Thanks to the efforts of Doug Brown and Margaux Molson, we were hosted by the students of EMS and treated to excellent entertainment

and meal – all performed prepared and served by the students! Hopefully this will become a regular fixture on our yearly program.

Margaux and Doug also arranged for an EMS Improv group to entertain us at one of our regular meetings and Margaux brought Students-of-the Month to our meetings during the last several months of our year.

Our Exchange Student this year was lovable Carolina Villareal from Argentina. "Caro" arrived unexpectedly in November and, after a few tense hours at Vancouver International Airport, she was welcomed into the home of Jim and Gail Fenyedi. She stayed there for several months then moved in with Martin and Anna Vance who continue to host her at this time. If our club has a weakness, it is that we have such a hard time finding host parents for our Exchange Students. Hopefully this will change as we bring in new members to our club!

This year we concentrated much of our energies and resources on youth. We sponsored Jackie Oehr on an Adventure in Citizenship in Ottawa and Andy Kailay on an Adventure in Forestry in Prince George. Both are students at EMS and attended one of our meetings to thank us and describe their experiences. Each of these programs is worthwhile and, hopefully, we will participate again.

We also granted four scholarships, each valued at \$1,500 to worthy students. It is noteworthy that, thanks in a large part to the chairman of this committee, George Fric, these scholarships are not limited just to students bound for university with high scholastic standings. They are also open to students who wish to further their education at a post-secondary facility other than a university and factors other than academic standing are taken into account when allocating these awards.

This year our club also sent four young people to RYLA (two male, both grandsons of Bill Hall) and two female, (one wasn't able to attend due to illness). The three who went joined us at a meeting and confirmed once again what a great program RYLA is!

On the senior side, we, once again, organized a Christmas Lights Tour. The event brought joy to all who participated. Special thanks goes to Gerry Gorrie for overseeing the project.

To the children, we held our annual Breakfast with Santa, thanks to our head Elf, Roger Olson and our Santa impersonator, Scott Wheeler.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Bruce Tingley who assisted Martin Vance in learning the International ropes, we cemented our relationship with the Rotary Club of Bombay, Worli, India. That club received a container of books from us last year and wishes to expand the program with more books and possibly medical supplies and other equipment. Martin will be applying for a Carl Miller Discovery Grant to visit the Gadag club to further explore this opportunity.

Special mention should be made of the efforts of Rick Uyede who persevered in arranging for the establishment of a Rotary Village Bank in the Dominican Republic.

I must also congratulate Bill Dyke and his Foundation Committee on another banner year.

I hope I haven't omitted too many of this year's highlights. So much goes on in a Rotary year that it is very difficult to summarize all activities in one sitting. To those I've missed, I apologize. I hope you all had a good year. I know I did!

HIGHLIGHTS of 1996-97

Bob Gilholme, President

Did we make a difference? Let me review the past year.

Program Chair Pam Glass started and finished the year with a first class range and quality of guest speakers. Our membership goal of eight new members was achieved. We were also saddened by the passing of Al Speers, Ray Pascoe and John Rogers.

The Sea Breeze continues to set the standard for Weekly Bulletins and sometimes we overlook the hours of work by Roy Jelly and his committee.

Charlie Cuthbert continued to provide the music for our meetings and deserves our thanks.

Thanks to Rod McLeod and the volunteers who manned the desk and acted as greeters during the past year. Many do not realize how much effort is expended in these preparations.

Fellowship was given a boost by the efforts of Barbara Courtney Young and her Committee who arranged the "Guess Who Is Coming to Dinner" social. Roger Olson and his Committee once again organized a highly successful Children's Christmas Party at Hazelmere.

Fund Raising was a priority and we undertook ambitious projects. Wolf Paech and his Committee developed our first TV Auction, in conjunction with Peace Arch and Semiahmoo Rotary Clubs. His efforts and those of Committee members were outstanding and set the stage for future auctions. This particular auction raised the profile of Rotary in the community. Lowell Bleiler and the Book Sale Committee achieved a new gross sale record of \$31,496. Jim Fenyedi and the Casino Committee participated in a three day event in December which netted over \$21,000. We also raised \$2,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, thanks to a large bicycle ride organized by Doug Brown.

Wayne Baldwin continued to Chair the User Group developing the new Multi-Purpose Building and raised substantial funds through corporate entities, as well as City and Federal Governments. Our target date for construction is Fall, 1997.

We raised money, but also distributed it. George Fric and his committee selected four deserving students to receive \$1,500 scholarships apiece. We provided \$1,800 to send six young people to RYLA. We also provided funding for candidates to attend the Adventures in Citizenship, Forestry and Aviation, as well as Miss White Rock Pageant.

We have set aside a further \$25,000 to raise our contribution to the Multi-Purpose Building to \$80,000. Gerry Gorrie and his Committee once again arranged a Senior's Christmas Lights Tour. Contributions

were also made to the Community Christmas Dinner and the White Rock Anniversary Committee. The AJ2 Youth Group received \$1,000 and White Rock Pathfinders \$100.

Carolina Villareal, our exchange student returned home to Argentina at the end of September. Bob Martin and his Committee have arranged to accept an incoming student from Belgium for 1997/98 and she will arrive in August. Our outgoing student Breanne Fenyesi will depart for New Zealand. Bob Martin also arranged for a number of former exchange students to attend a Club Meeting.

Our commitments to International Service included six Paul Harris Fellowships. Once again, our donations to the Rotary Foundation were at the high end for District 5050, thanks to Bill Dyke and his Committee. Martin Vance and his Committee researched a number of deserving International Projects. We contributed \$2000 US to Penny Burley to support her efforts to aid Romanian children. Other recipients include School and Nursing Station in Guatemala, Student Funding, Ghana, Project World Reach, Brazil, Habitat for Humanity, Congo, Soup Kitchen in Lima, Peru, Sleeping Children Around the World, School Repair, Bombay, India.

I am also delighted that Telfer Dicks was selected as Rotarian of the Year. A very well deserved and popular choice.

Our financial records received a real boost when Bruce Ledingham accepted the role of Treasurer. I owe a great deal of thanks to the Executive and all Club members for all their support this past year. I also want to acknowledge the support of the Rotary Anns over the past year. Last but not least, we will receive a Presidential Citation for our efforts. Thank you for allowing me to serve as President for 1996/97.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1997 - 1998

Wayne Baldwin, President

With the delightful title of Past-President, and the able assistance of **Len Reeves**, who stayed on my case until I reviewed his draft, I submit this report to the Club. The year was eventful, and certainly from my perspective, at least, very busy. Your Directors and officers performed their duties in a diligent, and exemplary manner. The list of who did what is much too long to repeat in a highlight document. So with all due respect and apologies I will only hit the major highlights.

This year was the second year in a row we earned a Presidential Citation (in fact this year, every club in the District did) - thanks in no small part to the direction given by our own **DG Hardy Staub**. Additionally, we had the highest per capita Foundation Giving (for the third year in a row), and sent the most youth candidates of any club to RYLA (eight).

Our fundraising for the year was particularly successful under the guidance provided by **Lowell Bleiler** and **Alex Dobbins**. **Jim Fenyedi** organized a couple of teams for three days (and nights) of Casino assistance. The Club netted \$30,361 from this endeavour. **Wolf Paech** ramrodded a two club Rotary TV Auction using **Earl Marriott** as a production studio where we earned a ton of coverage and \$7,488 in revenue. **Lowell, Alex**, and crew worked hard all year on the book sale and after a week of furious selling we ended up with a net of \$30,683. In terms of operating budget, our beloved Sgt.-At-Arms, **Gordon Howden**, and his erstwhile assistant **Rick (give me your money) Uyede** skilfully extracted dollars from the rest of us by every means possible.

Treasurer **Bryce McElroy**, kept up former Treasurer **Bruce Ledingham's** high standards of reporting and accounting with the end result that the Directors and Officers always knew where they were financially.

Telfer Dicks led his committees in Club Service I by example. Our membership grew by a net of only three, even though we brought in nine new members. Our programs remained a source of pride for the club, thanks to **Pam Glass**, with many excellent speakers including **Ozzie Juroch** who was featured at a tri-club meeting we hosted. **Roy Jelly** continued to publish our Bulletin in an amazingly timely fashion - another source of pride for our club, as well as acting as the production manager for not only our club's roster, but also the Semiahmoo and Peace Arch clubs.

Club Service II was ably led by **Barbara Courtney-Young**. Without social events there would not be much point in having a club and Barbara and her chairmen kept things happening. The Christmas Party, the Christmas Lunch, the Bridge, and the Guess Who's Coming to Dinner event all added immeasurably to the enjoyment of the year.

Our Crown Prince, **Doug Brown**, had the dual role of Director of Vocational Service which he fulfilled with a vengeance. With the assistance of **Margaux Molson** we had an extremely enjoyable annual luncheon at Earl Marriott. Margaux also made a point of regularly bringing one or more of her outstanding students to the club for an introduction, or as in the case of the cast of *Oliver!*, for a show. The club sponsored students in Adventures in Citizenship, Forestry (two), and Aviation, approved not the usual four, but six \$1,500 scholarships, and hosted our Belgium Exchange Student, **Sophie Lienert**, for the year. Our outgoing student was **Breanne Fenyesi**, who went to New Zealand.

Martin Vance continued as Director of International Service for a second year and did a sterling job. A number of World Community Service projects were funded during the year in Guatemala, Romania, Peru, Africa, and our major project - Russia. Martin made a real effort to ensure the cheques were not simply mailed out but were given to a representative of the recipient organization in front of the club - a gesture

that was appreciated by all. We participated in two Group Study Exchanges (Japan and South Africa) this year and of the eight "students", three were nominees of our club, plus one of the two Group Leaders - **Rod** ("call me Bwana") **McLeod**.

Director **Pam Glass** made sure that our community spending was taken care of. The Club's major project (as it has been for three years now) is the Rotary Fieldhouse.

The Club committed to \$120,000 in support of this \$950,000 project which finally has started as of July, 1998. Another \$30,000 was pledged by the Club in support of the Earl Marriott Secondary School and Community Auditorium.

The Club made a major effort this year to recognize community builders at our Annual Installation Dinner. This garnered us a lot of positive publicity and provided well earned recognition to some people in our community. Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded to: our own **Bill Reid**; Peninsula Citizen of the Year **Bob MacKeracher**; Rogers Cablevision's **Marlene Gurvich**; and outstanding teachers **Dave Proznick**, **Paul Horne**, and **Neil McInnes**.

In conclusion , I want to thank the Club for its support and for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. It was an honour and a privilege.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1997-98

Wayne Baldwin, President

This year will be remembered as the "Year of the Fieldhouse" as much time, money and effort went into getting the project off the ground.

During the year the number of members continued to be of concern to the club and several people, notably among them Mike Harrigan sought to bring in new members for acceptance and installation. At the years start there were 69 registered members in the club. Early in the new year, Pat. Lucier was installed, while John Morfitt joined us in November as did the Reverend Bill Senyard. Mark Casson joined us in January and Diane Magnuson was reinstated having been absent for a long period because of her health. Ray Bower, proposed by Mike Harrigan, joined the club in March. Other new members were Gary Ackerman, Jim Gillies and Bob Bezubiak. In May Betty Gilholme was added to the club roster.

There were several people who were forced to relocate and therefore had to leave the club. Bruce Ledingham moved to New Westminster, Mike Emrich moved to Richmond. Pat Lucier resigned from the club in March and a tireless worker Lowell Bleiler left us near the end of the Book sale. With the celebration of 100 years after the Klondike Gold rush he became overwhelmed with duties with the Yukon Association. Father Jim Fagan retired from the club in December 1997. Bereavements during the year were Jack McDonald and Al Leal. At the end of the present Rotary year in 1998 the club membership had risen to 72 members.

A large donation was approved for a fieldhouse in the Surrey Athletic Park. President Baldwin headed a committee to negotiate a donation and supervise our participation in it. Architect plans were approved and the final agreement with Surrey included the donation of some \$900,000 dollars with the participation of the municipal government of Surrey. The final deal was approved by the Rotary club at a regular meeting. The process of negotiation was particularly difficult because of the changes in estimated cost of the project as time went on.

In the Social events committee Barbara Courtney Young arranged a delightful event of "Guess who is coming to Dinner". All reports received on the evening were excellent, showing that Rotarians are excellent hosts even to themselves.

Pam Glass has continued to delight the club with excellent speakers. We enjoyed a political talk from Gordon Campbell, the leader of the provincial Liberal Party. Bill Dyke reported on the eighth International Rotary Convention held in Glasgow and rated it second only to Calgary the year before. A later talk by Bruce Tingley, emphasized Volunteerism in Rotary and brought the message from Glasgow of the Rotary decision to attack the world problem of Literacy and Numeracy.

The White Rock Rotary Club has been able to contribute to alleviate the world problem of Literacy by donations of books after our yearly Book Sale. In this

year a container of books was shipped to the South Pacific. Fred Renihan CEO of the Surrey School District gave us a survey of the unusually diverse problems of the District. Bill Barrable, executive officer of the B. C. transplant Society, gave us the complete story of the importance of the matter of Organ Donation. In September Gordon Hogg our new MLA and son of Dr. Al Hogg our long time member, gave an address on the strategy of running for election. Siobhan Vinish public relations Director for West Jet Airlines, who fly out of Abbotsford to Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Kelowna and intermediate points spoke in September 1997.

Andrew Burt a dog trainer with the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, gave an excellent talk on the difficult job of training dogs for the blind and the various stages they all go through.

Pam Glass who arranged such a fine group of speakers was presented with a well deserved Paul Harris Award by Colin Smith in November 1997.

The annual Book Sale of the Rotary Club was chaired by Lowell Bleiler and it is generally recognized as our largest fund raiser of the year. The size of the overall job can be gained by noting that over 60,000 books are handled for the sale. Almost everyone in the Rotary Club participates during the one week period of the sale. Additional volunteers to sell books were recruited from the Rotary Families in order that each Rotarian did not have too many shifts. At the end of the sale work was provided by a small number of Earl Mariott students of the Rugby team who were paid handsomely for their contribution. A small expense is also incurred for the rental of trucks to transport books. The net profit to the Rotary Club from this years sale was \$29,283.

The Rotary Upside Down Auction proceeds by first obtaining the objects to be auctioned from the community. These were classified and evaluated according to retail or appraised value. Wolf Paech, the chairman for the event organized the soliciting of donations for the auction and a large number of items were listed for the Broadcast. The donation of TV time was made through Marlene Gurvich, secretary of Rogers Cable TV. The producers were Jack McGaw and John Spalding. There is no doubt that the profile of the "Rotary Club of White Rock" was greatly enhanced by the exposure to the community in the TV. Auction. The final amount raised in the TV Auction was \$7,525.

A committee led by Jim Fenyesi arranged three Casino nights. Enough Rotary members were trained to work three nights at the Casino in Newton. This was a great fundraiser earning the Rotary Club some \$30,361 for their efforts. In the negotiation with the Government it was realized that the donation to the Rotary Club should be tax free. A further \$29,000 was given to the club as a gift. By a vote of the club the second sum was pledged to Earl Marriott Secondary School that is in the process of building a theatre for use of the students and that could also be used by the community.

Ken Thompson arranged a schedule of Rotary Members to man the Salvation Army Kettles at Christmas time. As usual, there was a good turn out of Rotary members for this work. The Club also participated in the Heart and Stoke Foundation Big Bike Ride and obtained 721 dollars which went directly to the Foundation. Doug Brown enthusiastically organized this event.

Highlights of 1998-99

Douglas Brown, President

'The end of a millennium, or is it?'

Rotary International's theme for this Rotary Year is 'Follow YOUR Rotary Dream' and in my exuberance as the 'New President on the block' I announced my dream was to see our Club Membership at or near 100 by year-end. One Rotarian was overheard to say, 'that's not a dream that's a nightmare'. Well, we did not achieve 'My' target, however, thanks to the many Rotarians who took up the challenge, we have laid the foundation for our future growth.

Sadly we lost Jim Bryans in October 1998. 'Gentleman Jim' was a Rotarian for over 50 years and over 35 years perfect attendance. In March 1999, Ken Thompson, almost a founding member and Past President in 1961-62 passed away. Ken will be remembered for his warm good humor and straight talk. Both Jim and Ken exemplified 'Service above self'.

For many and varied reasons the following Rotarians moved on:- Diane West (health), Garry Ackerman (moved), Bryce McElroy (transferred), Diane Magnuson (promoted & transferred), George Van Wensen (resigned), Wolf Paech (joined Peace Arch Rotary), Major Archie Peat (retired). On a positive note our new member program has started to produce results and the following new members joined:- Jay Fettinger, Rob Salter, Ellie Halcrow, Peter Glassford, Daphne Fortin, Bob Cherkas and Jay Besteman.

Pres. Elect Pam Glass continued her excellent work in arranging speakers' for our weekly meetings. We heard about the Crescent Beach Triathlon, The City Of Surrey, Generation Why and Surrey Eagles Hockey.

Year Round Schooling, Crescent Gardens Retirement Community, Women Entrepreneurs Of Canada, Surrey Metro (merger), Irish Dancers, Organ Donor, B.C. Lottery and Community Policing. We have also invited our spouses to many meetings and held several Club Assemblies. Scott Wheeler painlessly extracted 'happy bucks', 'sad bucks' and 'any reason bucks' from one and all and made them feel good in the process.

Our thanks to Rick Uyede, Rod MacLeod, Jack Hood and the many other Rotarians who looked after 'Meeting Setup', 'Greeters' and the 1001 other jobs. A big 'thank you' to Charlie Cuthbert for his music which we enjoyed even when he was not able to attend.

This Rotary Year will be remembered as 'the year of the Rotary Field House' and how do we thank Wayne Baldwin for the many years of dedicated 'Service Above Self' to make this dream a reality. Our club pledged and paid \$120,000 prior to this year and an additional final \$10,000 was pledged in March 1999. The official opening of the Field House in March permitted us to hold our first 'trial meeting' on March 9th. and as our program speaker was Lloyd Craig from Surrey Metro (merger) we opened the meeting to spouses resulting in over 80 persons attending. Following on from this experience the Directors devoted an entire meeting to discussing whether we should move our meeting venue to the Field House.

On March 23rd. the Directors presented the following motion to a Club Assembly:-

"The Rotary Club of White Rock should move the regular meetings from Hazlemere to the Rotary Field House on May 4th. 1999". This motion passed with a large margin on a show of hands.

Our annual Book Sale was the most successful to date resulting in sales of over \$34,000. A huge thank you to Alex Dobbins and his Book Sale 'stalwarts'; also to spouses Michael Young, Ritva MacLeod and Jean Fichtner who received special recognition at our June 15th. meeting. Now that we have our own book storage and sorting facility we look forward to more very successful book sales.

We met and exceeded our projected budgeted revenue of over \$70,000 so we were able to continue to support many Community and International programs such as scholarships (\$6,000), RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (\$6,000), Adventures Programs (\$1,500), Earl Marriott Theatre (\$30,000), Community Support (\$3,500) and International (\$21,000).

Special thanks to Martin Vance and the World Community Service Committee for the thorough and caring way in which they have researched the many International Projects and made sure that our club's allocation of \$21,000 is put to good use. International programs are funded through the Rotary Foundation and once again our Rotary Club was in the forefront of contributors in our District. When I attended PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) last March I committed our club to \$10,000, however, this should have been \$10,000 Canadian. Needless to say our wonderful Foundation Committee, after giving me heck, rose to the challenge and raised over \$15,000 Canadian. Well done everyone and especially Colin Smith, John Morfitt and Bill Dyke.

Margaux Molson as Director of Vocational Service has had a real challenging year as Earl Marriott School undergoes upgrading and extension, however, Margaux and her committees have efficiently taken care of Scholarships, Adventures, RYLA and our 'Partners in Education. We did however miss out on our annual January visit when we have held a meeting at the school. Regular 'student of the month' guests and the Guatemala Team visits have kept us in touch with our 'Partners in Education'. We were also able to help student Justin Matthews during his fight against cancer; we paid for new eye glasses and in co-operation with London Drugs and Intergate (Internet Provider) we provided Justin with the use of a Laptop Computer connected to the Internet.

One of the objects of Rotary as stated in the Manual Of Procedures is the development of acquaintances as an opportunity for service' and Barbara Courtney-Young and her committees have certainly encouraged us to meet this objective through 'Cloverdale raceway', 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' and other fellowship events. We look forward to a repeat of these excellent opportunities for fellowship.

Our weekly bulletin continues to keep us informed of upcoming events and also reminds us of the many interesting programs we enjoy; thanks to Betty Gilholme and Jim Gillies for continuing the excellent tradition set by Roy Jelly. And speaking of Roy, he produced an informative 'Rotary Club of White Rock' brochure that was put to good use during our new member drive. Thank you also Roy for the cards that show the Canadian and American National Anthems and our Rotary Grace and for the colourful Notice Board that was displayed at the Book Sale and on other events. In addition, he is also responsible for producing the Rosters for the four local clubs.

As we move towards the year 2000 and welcoming our first female President, I know that this past year was an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life. I hope and trust that I have in some small way made a positive contribution to Rotary International and in particular The Rotary Club of White Rock. Thank you for a wonderful year as your President.