

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C O G S”



Volume 96, Number 8

4,691st Meeting

Friday, August 21, 2015



Hovercraft off Pipers Lagoon Park — *Photo by Ian Williams*

**Club Meeting Friday at 12:00 p.m.
at the Coast Bastion Inn**

CLUB OFFICERS 2015-2016

President ----- Lila Tanner
Vice President ----- Janeane Coutu
Secretary ----- Bob Janes
Treasurer ----- Lynne Pankratz
President Elect ----- Debbie Narver
Immediate Past President ----- Bob Wilson



**Serving Our Community Since
May 1, 1920 - Charter Number 43**

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Bob Patrick Bob Fenty Bruce Samson
Norm Myden Kevin Cantelon Charles Ramos

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Nanaimo Oceanside

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Meeting Notes from August 14th

By John Shillabeer

President Lila opened the meeting and after the singing of O Canada, **Joan Ryan** gave the invocation. Joan's invocation particularly drew attention to the long drought, consequent wildfires throughout the west, the hard work and dedication of the fire fighters.



Introductions of Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Frank Shoemaker called for the introduction of visiting Rotarians. **Jane Currie** introduced **Wolf Neumann**, a member of the Berlin Club (over 200 members). Wolf's background is in aviation and he is vacationing here.

Mike Herold introduced **Maureen Bird**, a financial planner from Toronto visiting Nanaimo to celebrate and help out in connection with the birth of her new granddaughter. **Dave Hammond** introduced our speaker from the Day-break club, **San Mahara**. There were no guests of Rotarians.



Berlin Rotarian exchanges banners with President Lila

Notices of Motion



Norm Myden gave notice of a motion on behalf of the International Service Projects Committee that the club contribute \$5,000 towards a water harvesting project in San Miguel, Mexico.

Bob Fenty gave notice of a motion on behalf of the Community Grants Committee that the club donate \$5,000 to the Nanaimo Child Development Centre for up to

five lap top computers to assist children with communication problems.

Bob Fenty gave a second notice of motion on behalf of the Community Grants Committee to donate \$3,000 to the Janes Neighbourhood Park Association to help create a child friendly space. This would be near the Colliery Dams and in the catchment of Harewood School.



Announcements

Joan Ryan reminded everyone that the annual picnic is coming in just over one week and will be held at Huddleston Park, Lantzville on 23 August, starting at 2:00 pm. Joan circulated a sign-up sheet.



Sergeant-at-Arms: Dave Hammond

Dave caught **Charles Ramos** for admitting to have recently become a Blue Jays fan and all those sitting with **Kathy Smith** for the privilege of sitting in the glow of her excellent Nepal T-shirt. Dave also fined **Bob Patrick** for having the misfortune to be on the winning golf team against Dave's team the previous evening.



Happy and Sad Bucks



Joyce Smith was happy and sad: sad that her husband's truck had been stolen last weekend and happy that it was returned on Monday.



Bob Patrick was happy to announce that both his children are working in their chosen professions after many years in school and university.

Kathy Smith was happy and greatly impressed by the unbelievable determination of the athletes in the Para Pan Am games.

Joan Ryan was happy that **Senyo** had visited Terri Mack's aboriginal book shop and made the connection for future cooperation on books connected to indigenous life here and in Africa.

Janeane Coutu was somewhat unhappy to have discovered that there was no ace of spades in the card pack from which she drew past week.

Jane Currie was happy to be home from Victoria and now fully retired after raising over a million dollars for the symphony.

However, after here long absence, she must now teach the dog that her side of the bed is indeed hers and not the dog's.



So ... is there an Ace?



John Salem was happy that his son and family are visiting Nanaimo for a niece's wedding and that his son has accepted a job as the college registrar in Terrace BC

The Draw

Al Smith won the table stakes. **Frank Shoemaker** won the card draw, but could only manage to pick the Ten of Hearts, so the 50-50 pot continues to grow.



Nepal Earthquake Project

By Charles Ramos

Club member **Moe Lessan** introduced our speaker today; a member of the Daybreak Rotary Club, **San Mahara**. Moe mentioned that it takes courage and compassion to support humanitarian causes in today's world, and that San is an example for us all.

San Mahara is a native Nepalese, who relocated to Canada 18 years ago. He is a dentist with a practice in town and also an active member of the Daybreak Rotary Club. In April and May of 2015, Dr. Mahara was visiting Nepal in order to identify a good project that the Daybreak Club could support when a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck. In a matter of hours, massive damage and loss of life had taken place, and the entire country was in a state of destruction and turmoil.

Dr. Mahara was thrown into a state of near-refugeeism as the population fled their houses in fear of the aftershocks, which continued for several weeks. He slept in tents with his Nepalese relatives while attempting to help one another. San's son was on a flight to join his father when the earthquake struck, and the plane still landed, but it took days before they were reunited. San related the riveting experience of human connection that took place in the days and weeks following the earthquake, where distant relatives, acquaint-



ances, and strangers all came together to help, and offered all they owned to help others. The military was called out to

help, and the countryside soon seemed like a refugee camp with the military presence and organized aid camps.

Using his experience, Rotary connections and funds from the Daybreak Club, San volunteered with the medical group, and used his entire extended family as volunteer labour to purchase, transport and administer the supplies. For several of the transports, they used a wheeled bedframe since nothing else was available. Over 100 people were supported by his support group.

Following his return to Nanaimo, Dr. Mahara has continued his fundraising efforts through a combination of T-shirt sales, candlelight vigils, and donations. In a single fundraising effort, he raised over \$5,600, and intends to continue his efforts. He is very concerned that the ones who will suffer the most are the poor. While the disaster will soon be forgotten by the world at large, the poorest of the victims will continue to be affected. Dr. Mahara is determined to do whatever is possible in his power for their support. An event planned will be a charity hike up Mt. Benson on Saturday, September 26.

Dr. Mahara noted that there is a vast discrepancy in support between nations. For example, during the Japanese tsunami, the international aid equated to \$150,000/hour, while for Nepal, the aid was \$5,000/hr. It's predicted that the repairs to Nepal will cost approximately 50% of the country's GDP; Japan's repairs were approximately 6% of the country's GDP. He mentioned the irony that the best-prepared and most modern countries are also the ones who are best-supported by their neighbours during a disaster.

For his work, **San Mahara** was identified as the Daybreak Rotary Club's *Rotarian of the Year*.



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 23—Rotary Summer Picnic at Lantzville. Bring your whole family for summer fun and Rotary fellowship!

September—Work Party at Westdale/Leslie Park in North Nanaimo. More details forthcoming.

ATTENDANCE

By Bob Janes

Attendance for August 14th was **57%**

We missed these Rotarians

Ali, D. & W. Anderson
Cantelon, Cowling, Finnegan, Gerrand, Y. Gosselin, Hais, Heisterman, Jiang, King, Knutsson, Lewis, Pankratz, Raedler, Ross,

Stetar, Wilson

Visiting Rotarians :

Maureen Bird, Toronto,
Rolf Neumann, Germany
San Mahara, Daybreak

Makeups: Narver, Ryan

Birthdays

Bill Horman, August 23rd

Spouse Birthdays

Jacqueline Bonneau (John Shillabeer), August 23rd

Kathy Smith thanked San for bringing this life changing event that has forever changed his life to our club, and urged all Rotarians to support San's efforts and Nepal. She then presented San with a wooden pen handmade by **Dave Connolly**.



CORRECTION: It took a non-Rotarian to notice this, but in last week's cover caption we erroneously changed our Treasurer's last name—our sincere red-faced apologies to Lynne Pankratz!



HAPPY BUCKS are always part of our meeting hi-jinks, and here are a couple more photos of members contributing to the club coffers collected by **Jane Currie** who assisted Sgt-at-Arms **Dave Hammond**.



ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 23rd

HUDDLESTONE PARK, LANTZVILLE

*Come and Bring the Whole Family for
an afternoon of
fun & fellowship!*



- Games for all
- BBQ
- Soft Drinks

WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS & MEMBER DUTIES

MEETING DATE	Friday, August 21st	Friday, August 28th	Friday, Sept 4th
GREETERS	Bob Fenty, Lynne Pankratz, Carmon Henderson	Ian Williams, Bob Patrick, Mike Herold	Bruce Gordon, Wendy Pratt, Egon Holzwarth
CASHIER	Barbara Blinston	Barbara Blinston	Ed Borisenko
SGT-AT-ARMS	John Heisterman	Joan Ryan	Bruce Samson
INVOCATION	Janeane Coutu	Doug Cowling	Bob Fenty
HEAD TABLE	Pres. Lila, Crystal Dennison, Dave Hammond, Bill Horman, Bob Fenty, Lynne Pankratz, Carmon H.	Pres. Lila, Norm Myden, Carey McIver, Ed Borisenko, Joan Ryan, Ian W., Bob Patrick, Mike Herold	Pres. Lila, Elizabeth Loudon, Doug Cowling, Guenter Raedler, Egon Holzwarth, Wendy Pratt, Bruce G.
INTRO GUESTS	Joyce Smith	Susie Stephens	Brent Stetar
INTRO SPEAKER	Dave Hammond	Cerey McIver	Doug Cowling
PROGRAM	Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation—Crystal Dennison	International Service Video Norm Myden	Edgewood Treatment Centre Elizabeth Loudon
THANK SPEAKER	Bob Fenty	Ross White	Janeane Coutu