

# ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

# “C GS”

Volume 99, Number 8

4828<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Friday, August 31, 2018



Wahid Ali, Debbie Narver and Denise Wittkofski presented Rotary’s \$10k donation to VIU’s Foundation Executive Director William Litchfield (center) for the Canada Learning Bond Accelerator Project. VIU’s Donor Stewardship Coordinator Chelsea Carne and Advancement Manager David Forrester were also on hand to accept the cheque.

Club Meeting Friday at 12:00 p.m.  
at the Coast Bastion Inn  
CLUB OFFICERS 2017-2018

President ----- Charles Ramos  
Vice President ----- Wahid Ali  
Secretary ----- Bob Janes  
Treasurer ----- Lynne Pankratz  
President Elect ----- Janeane Coutu  
Immediate Past President ----- Jane Currie



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May 1, 1920 - Charter Number 43

## DIRECTORS

Wendy Pratt Peggy Richardson John Shillabeer  
David Woodward ~ Brenda Grice

President Rotary International

Barry Rassin, Rotary Club of East Nassau

District Governor

Craig Gillis

Campbell River Daybreak

Assistant Governor

Wayne Anderson

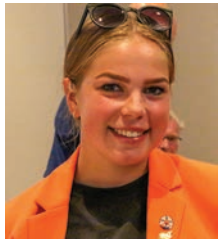
Rotary Club of Nanaimo

## Meeting Notes from August 24 2018

John Shillabeer

Vice president **Wahid Ali** conducted the meeting. After O Canada Rebecca Taylor gave the inspiration by quoting an old saying attributed to Maori culture: “Turn your face to the sun and shadows will always fall behind you”.

### Guests



Dorien Abbekerk

**Dave Connolly** called for introductions. There were no visiting Rotarians. **Jason Bradley** introduced our first incoming exchange student. **Dorien Abbekerk** is from the Netherlands and will be with us for the better part of a year. **Norm Myden** introduced his wife **Barbara** and two granddaughters, **Riana** and **Page**.

### Health of the Club

**Al Smith** reported that **Bruce Gordon** yesterday had some heart issues and was rushed to the Emergency Department at the Hospital. He is now at home resting but expects that a pace maker is in his near future.

### Announcements and Motions

On behalf of the Community Grants Committee, **Wendy Pratt** gave notice of a motion which will be presented for vote in two weeks that the Club should donate \$1,500 to the Nanaimo Art Gallery to help fund a new entrance way to be produced by local artists. Two weeks' notice having been given, **Debbie Narver** presented a motion on behalf of the Community Partnerships Committee to provide \$11,500 to fund an initiative to encourage low income families to register for RESPs, taking advantage of starter contributions. The motion was seconded by **Joyce Smith** and was carried unanimously on a show of hands. Debbie noted that the committee is looking for volunteers to help at the event itself. **Denise Wittkofski** announced that the next Happy Happy hour will be on October 15. **John Heisterman** could not resist reminded us that the BayView Christmas Lunch is now less than four months away(!) **Jason Bradley** reminded us of the beer and burger social night and fundraiser for the student exchange program on Tuesday, August 28th at Cavallotti Lodge. Tickets are \$25 and \$15 and are available from Jason.

### President's Remarks

**Wahid** gave a short summary of the 21 August Board of Directors meeting: The matching of committees to directors is now complete. A list of committees with members is being prepared and will be published. The Board reviewed a draft new membership recruitment process prepared by **Denise**



**Wittkofski** and made suggestions. It is Club policy that the Club will pay for one lunch of a prospective member. The Board decided to cancel the meetings on October 12 and 19 during the book sale, but the meeting on October 5 will go ahead as usual.

### Sgt at Arms

The report of Sgt **Dave Hammond's** fining activities is omitted for brevity and our mutual protection.

Happy and Sad Bucks **Shawn Martin** and **Denise Wittkofski** were happy to celebrate their wedding anniversaries. **Wendy Pratt** was happy to see blue sky again after all the smoke from the forest fires. **John Heisterman** was happy to see his old friends after a long absence fishing and crabbing. **Bob Wilson** protested that **Dave Connolly** had got it all wrong last week and he really needs the electric bike. Bob also introduced a sobering thought: he recently found a 1997 Club Roster: of the 112 members listed, 51 have died and 11 are still active in Rotary.

### The Draw

**Justin Molander** won the table stakes and **John Shillabeer** won the chance to chase the Ace of Spades. However he missed and drew the Ace of Hearts.

### Life as the Parents of an Olympic Athlete

Denise Wittkofski

After a heartfelt introduction by **Sean Martin**, **Barb** and **Norm Myden** delivered to us a personal and emotional journey of their lives as parents of an Olympic athlete. Their story revolved around son **Curtis**, the second of their three boys, and a swimmer who competed in three summer Olympic games in the 1990s and 2000.

As we perused two large albums full of interesting articles and Cheerio sponsorships, the Mydens recount-



ed the tremendous commitment it took from the entire family: the time that Curtis committed in practices and meets; the time that Barb put in officiating and Norm for fundraising events; and the financial commitment from both parents.



Barb talked about how she chose to officiate the swim meets in order to avoid the smoke-filled bingo halls (the fundraising aspect that she left to Norm) and the huge commitment that officiating entailed. She described the meets as “exciting, but also stressful ... and expensive.” As Curtis’ competition involved a lot of travel--particularly the games in Barcelona, Atlanta and Sydney--the trips almost doubled in price with each consecutive game.

But it was all worth it. The family enjoyed the sense of community and camaraderie from the many different and interesting people they met over the years when Curtis competed.

Norm talked about how Curtis’ passion for swimming actually began in Freeport, Bahamas where they lived for five years when their boys were very young. Here their sons swam, but just treading water mostly. When they moved back to Calgary and the boys were a bit older, they joined a swim club. By the time Curtis was 10 years old, he was excelling. When he attended a swim meet in Toronto, he called home and said he needed a bigger suitcase for all of his trophies. To their surprise, he actually won every event that he competed in.

Curtis was humble about his success as a competitive swimmer, and didn’t really vocalize his wins. They realized that when he said he did “ok” or “good” that he probably won everything.

Their first Olympic adventure started in 1992 after Curtis qualified in the trials in Toronto. Now the entire family was going to Barcelona and it would be expensive. Swim Canada at the time offered no support to families such as theirs. And they were not successful finding a Rotary family in Barcelona to stay with. The Barcelona games were exciting, however. They enjoyed their time in the city and Curtis excelled, coming in second in the B Event.

In 1996, the Mydens traveled to Atlanta for their second summer Olympic experience and here they were able to stay with a Rotary family. As Curtis qualified for heats and continued to win, the Mydens were dismayed to find their very expensive seats did not even afford them a view of the video screens. After some fast-talking with the officials, though, they were able to secure some unused handicapped only seats and got to see Curtis compete and win the bronze medal in his category.

In 2000, with the help of sponsorship from Cheerios, the Myden family travelled to their final Olympic venue in Sydney. It was an exhilarating time, even though they were more or less forced to buy tickets to venues they weren’t really interested in seeing.

Through it all, Barb and Norm realized how much the swimmers sacrificed. They saw Curtis give up a lot of time for practice that he would have been spending otherwise with friends and at school. The competition was grueling, yet Curtis never complained.

Interestingly, he gave it all up after the Sydney games. Today a doctor, Curtis only swims with his kids for fun.

One of our members asked if it was a stressful time, to which Norm replied that he used to “have hair” before it all started.

Brent Stetar thanked the Mydens for sharing their story and Jane Currie presented them with a Paul Harris Plus six medal.



**Community Service committee met after Rotary to discuss proposed projects.**

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### ***Member Birthdays***

Raedler, Guenter	Sep 06
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### ***Spouse Birthdays***

Iris Borisenko,	Ed	Sep 02
Pam White,	Ross	Sep 06

### ***Anniversaries***

Ed and Iris Borisenko,	Sep 02	63 years
Bruce and Barb Gordon,	Sep 03 3	0 years
Carlene Shaw and Holly Wright,	Sep 06	33 years

### ***Club Anniversary***

None

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**September 11: Friendship Exchange at the yacht club, see Gill Campbell for details.**

**September 20: Fireside Chat, Joan Ryan’s house; 6-8 pm**

**October 4th: Five Club Meeting at VIU. See Wendy Pratt for Tickets.**

**Oct. 13: Club Pizza party, Beban Park**

**October 15: Happy Happy Hour, Coach and Horses; 5-7pm**

## WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS AND MEMBER DUTIES

Meeting Date	August 31 2018	September 7 2018	September 14 2018
Greeters	Doug Wortley, Denise Wittkofski	Rebecca Taylor Dave Woodward	
Cashier	Brent Barootes	Brent Barootes	Brent Barootes
Sgt at Arms	Wahid Ali	Wahid Ali	
Inspiration	Justin Molander	Jane Currie	
Head Table	Pres. Charles, Jason Bradley, Justin Molander	P. Charles, Don Bonner,Doug Salem, Bob Wilson, Rebecca Taylor, Dave Woodward	
Intro Guests	Doug Cowling	Mikel Knutsson	
Intro Speaker	Jason Bradley	Doug Salem	
Program	<b>Youth Exchange - Grace Bradley</b>	<b>Tribal Journeys - Don Bonner</b>	<b>Literacy Projects - Donna Klockers</b>
Thank Speaker	Jane Currie	Wayne Anderson	