

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C GS”

Volume 98, Number 27

4801st Meeting

Friday, January 26, 2018



Dark rain clouds bringing rain obliterate a brief sunny period on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018

photo - Ian Williams

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

President ----- Jane K. Currie
Vice President ----- Carey McIver
Secretary ----- Bob Janes
Treasurer ----- Lynne Pankratz
President Elect ----- Charles Ramos
Immediate Past President -- Debbie Narver



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

DIRECTORS

Henry Jiang ~ Susie Stephens ~ Moe Lessan
David Woodward ~ Christine Parsons

President Rotary International

Ian H. S. Riseley, Sandringham, Australia

District Governor

Tom Carroll

Assistant Governor

Bev Hilton

Gateway Rotary, Olympia, WA Nanaimo Oceanside

MEETING NOTES FOR JANUARY 19, 2018

By Charles Ramos

Photos by Lucie Gosselin

President **Jane Currie** called the meeting to order, and led the singing of the national anthem.

Joan Ryan delivered a thoughtful inspiration

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Bob Wilson called for visiting Rotarians and guests. There was one visiting Rotarian, and several guests: Daybreak Rotarian **Doug Lam** joined us, together with **Peter**, the Hungarian RI student he is hosting. **Christine Parsons** introduced guest **Colin Mackay**, retired Canadian Surgeon General, who has recently relocated from Ottawa to Nanooose. **Brent Stetar** introduced **Sean Martin**, an investment advisor from RBC, joining us for a second week in a row. **Chris Coutu** introduced his guest, **Guenther Raedler** and **Geoff Clay** introduced his guest, **Patrick Brannen**.

Bob thanked all visitors and guests for joining us today.

President's Remarks

President Jane discussed the upcoming club meeting schedule and interruptions:

February 23 will consist of committee reports and presentations

March 20 meeting will not be held, in honour of Good Friday

May 4 will be a lunch meeting at Eden Gardens, rather than the Coast Bastion

April 13 meeting is canceled for the book sale

April 20 meeting may be canceled for the second week of book sale. More discussion will be held before making a decision.

June 22 will be installation at the Coast Bastion

Announcements

Charles Ramos had two announcements: First, he announced that our club is in the process of revising our



constitution and bylaws to meet the new Society Act requirements. Proposed document revisions will be circulated to members within the next couple of weeks for review prior to voting on a resolution to change our bylaws. Second, installation is scheduled for June 22 at the Coast Bastion. At this point, it

can be either a lunch or dinner installation. Charles requested members consider their time of day preference, and this will be decided by a club vote in the near future.

Dave Hammond announced that there will be a Centennial Committee meeting after today's meeting

John Shillabeer announced that some changes to COGS are being considered. A meeting will be held after next week's lunch, and all are invited to attend and present their thoughts.

Janeane Coutu announced that book sale sorting help is needed and greatly appreciated; come by NNTC any or every

Saturday between 9am-2pm.

Sergeant at Arms

Dave Hammond was today's Sergeant at Arms. He elected Wendy Pratt as collector of the fines, and immediately began doling out punishment. **Charles Ramos** was fined for missing his post as greeter. **Jane Currie** tried to defend Charles and was properly penalized.

Chris Coutu was fined for wearing a Mexico shirt and a deep tan from long hours in tropical sun

Guenther Raedler was fined on general principles

Christine Parsons was fined for stretching the truth by describing her clearly youthful guest as 'retired'

The Sergeant then opened the floor to Happy and Sad bucks:

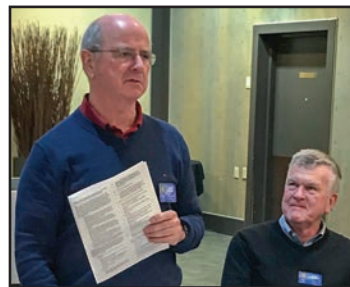
Brent Barootes had three: first, he was looking forward to Dr. Nilson's presentation; second, he was glad to see guest, Sean, again; and third, he discussed another fundraising group in town

Doug Lam gave happy bucks to be visiting us today. He has been in Rotary for 17 years, and this is his first visit to our club. What took you so long, Doug?

Behzad Forghani-Targhi gave happy bucks that he and his family have been in Canada for 3 years now. We're glad you're here, Behzad!

Geoff Clay gave happy bucks that he is back from a busy time in Vegas. At least he had the courtesy to avoid a tan like Chris's.

Retired bank manager **Bob Wilson** felt the need to defend himself against disparaging remarks in COGS regarding the



style of clothing he donated to a less affluent club member. Bob expounded on the lack of respect, appreciation and civility in today's society, and concluded, "...now I'm really glad I kept all my nice clothes"

Dave Hammond gave happy bucks about the recent *Rotarian* article discussing Bill Gates's promise to settle Nigeria's debt

Sean Martin gave happy bucks that he and his wife are expecting a baby

Jane Currie gave questioning bucks about rock pounding in Nanooose Bay



John Salem said *Being Warren Buffet* is an excellent documentary that details the immense support Buffet has provided to the Gates Foundation's fight to eradicate polio

Table stakes were won by **Laurie Bie-nert**, and **Dave Hammond's Chase the Ace** draw attempt was unsuccessful.

SPEAKER RECAP – FRIDAY JANUARY 19, 2018

Submitted by Brent Barootes

As President Elect **Charles Ramos** noted in his introduction of our speaker this week, there is no need to introduce him. President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Vancouver Island (VIU) **Dr Ralph Nilson** came to present an update to us on VIU. In his opening Dr Nilson thanked our Rotary Club and all the Clubs in the region and the business owners for their continued support of VIU and its students. He indicated that our commitment to education was great and very important. In fact, his topic this day about VIU was about investing in people for the future and how education and VIU and all of us play a role in that.



Dr Nilson's message was clear. Education is a key determinant of social change and sustainable economic prosperity. By the 2020's the research shows that the greater Nanaimo economy will require that about 80% of the jobs be filled by people with post secondary education. We need to understand that our economy needs a different workforce than it has had in the past and that VIU and other institutions play a vital role in getting us there. As he noted, presently many people are being left behind in our current and changing economy which has massive social costs and consequences. Much of this comes from the multi dimensions of poverty and access to higher education; an absence of support while in K-12 bridging to post secondary education, historical inequalities; a big disconnect between our historic Nanaimo economy and our emerging economy and finally a lack of bridging between post secondary education and workforce.

Dr Nilson noted that what is now VIU was started as a trade school in the 1930's then to a college in the late 60's to a University College in the late 90's and by 2008 the present VIU status. He pointed out that growth at the college continues at all campuses. The new Cowichan campus in Duncan is the most beautiful campus around and it has been experiencing 30% growth year over year for the past several years. Back in Nanaimo there is the amazing development of the new Health and Sciences building as well as expansion on the trades center both under construction on campus. As well Dr Nilson reminded us of the extensive environmental and reusable energy project to heat and cool these two new buildings and others through the geo-exchange thermal heating program using the hot mine water nested below the campus! Overall a \$60 million investment on the main campus right now in Nanaimo.

So what is VIU doing to meet the needs of a social change around post secondary education as the need exists to provide post secondary education to more student and change from the mining, fishing and forest economy and economic mindset to the future economy and its human capital needs. Child pervert he noted is one of the biggest barriers to post secondary education and our region is in dire straights around this. The Canadian average child poverty rate is 26%... one in

4 Canadian children live in poverty. In BC overall that number drops to 20% or 1 in 5. But in Nanaimo the child poverty rate is 34% and amongst first nations it is 51%. So VIU has looked at how they can ensure children are not barred from a post secondary education due to poverty. Scholarships and such are one route, but there is also the Canada Learning Bond. Presently the government will pay children \$500 a year into an RESP with no required contribution by the family if they are below the poverty level. The problem is that the accreditation process is you need to show on your tax return that you are below the poverty line. People who are below the poverty line do not file taxes... hence not eligible for the funding. This means in Nanaimo and the Cowichan Valley alone 9,933 children who are eligible for this money cannot access it. That means that \$19,866,000 of possible university or college funding for these children goes unused each year. When we look at the entire province of BC that number is over \$400 million! each year! VIU is working with the federal government to find other ways (other than tax returns) to identify and set criteria for eligibility because the system is not presently working to get this money into the hands of those that need it most. Dr Nilson is leading this charge so that these almost 10,000 children can have the funding to go to university or college when they are ready. Research shows that children are five times more likely to go to university if at the grade 4 level they know there is money for them to attend post secondary education. Knowing there is "money in the bank" provide incentive to achieve.

Dr Nilson also spoke about the dual credit programs. Through this program (again one that is little known) BC student who finish their required credit load for grade 12 education early can start trades college or university courses and until they are 18 the school board will pay for their education. WOW... that means if the child finishes all their credits with a semester to spare... and they are 17... they can start trades school courses, apprenticeships or university classes and the local school boards will pay those tuition fees. VIU is working with NDSS and other high schools to showcase this program and make it happen.

Furthermore, statistics show that only 10-15% of foster children go onto to post secondary education. Again, a barrier to education and our future economy needs post secondary educated workers. This scenario is even greater focused on our First Nations population. Four percent of the BC population is aboriginal. But of the 8700 children in foster care in BC, 64% are aboriginal. This means that most of these kids will not get to university or college. So it was VIU who initially funded and piloted the guarantee for any child in foster care to receive free tuition to VIU. The province has now followed suite across the province. WE need these folks for our future economic sustainability.

Dr Nilson also noted that the natural resources companies all want to work on the lands of First Nations. But the First Nations are saying 'we want to be the CEO's and engineers and such on our own land'. The problem though is that to work on these projects. Pipe fitter to engineer. HR manager to CEO requires a post secondary education. The bands do



not have the funding to send their children to university. In fact, the money that was endowed for the First Nations and university funding back in the 90's has grant from a base of \$100 to \$143. The cost of education has gone from \$100 to \$380! Hence today each First Nation has only enough money to send 1/3 of their student who wish to go to university to university. So VIU has engaged the MasterCard Foundation and the Rideau Hall Foundation and have ensured funding for another third of those potential students in a pilot project at VIU. They are working on the third part of that funding model now so that 100% of First Nations students who want to go to University can! They need the education to be able to manage the companies that operate on their land and we need their talent to grow our local economy!

Just a few of the ways that VIU is working to provide funding and remove the barriers to poverty to receiving a post secondary education. Economic development is key and to continue our economic development we need to be attract-

ing and retaining businesses and industry to a region where there is an available and highly qualified work-force. VIU is doing its part to make this happen.

Dave Hammond then thanked **Dr Nilson** and presented him with a hand made Rotary Club of Nanaimo pen.

Grant Management training session 2018.

This training session will qualify you for the 2018-2019 Rotary year.

DATE: Saturday, February 10, 2018

TIME: 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM (Doors open at 9:30)

PLACE: Royal Arbutus Room, VI University

COST: No cost to participants

REGISTRATION: Please email Doug Pearson at: dougmail@telus.net

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Member Birthdays

Gosselin, Yvan Jan 27

Anniversaries

Jiang, Henry Zhao, Alice 20 yrs Jan 26

Club Anniversaries

Hammond, Dave 32 years Jan 30

Holzwarth, Egon 26 years Jan 31

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 4-5 2018, District Training and Conference

June 23-27 2018, Rotary International Conference

Meeting Date	January 26, 2018	February 2, 2018	February 9, 2018
Greeters	Mike Knutsson, Brent Barootes, Peggy Richardson	Laurie Bienert, Joan Ryan, Norman Myden	Moe Lessan, Barbara Blinston, John Salem
Cashier	Lila Tanner	Wendy Pratt	Wendy Pratt
Sgt at Arms	Brent Barootes	Bruce Samson	Wayne Anderson
Inspiration	Dave Hamond	John Heisterman	Carmon Henderson
Head Table	Pres. Jane, Carolyn Phillips-Cusson	Pres. Jane, Ewen Moir, Donna Hais	Pres. Jane, Mikel Knutsson, Charles Ramos
Intro Guests	David Woodward	Denise Wittkofski	Mike Minhas
Intro Speaker	Susie Stephens	Donna Hais	Charles Ramos
Program	Celtic Arts in Today's World Carolyn Phillips-Cusson	Economic & Social Benefits of Trade and Ports Ewan Moir, CEO Nanaimo Port Authority	To London to visit the Queen - Mikel Knutsson
Thank Speaker	Joan Ryan	David Woodward	Bruce Samson