

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C O G S”



Volume 98, Number 4

4779th Meeting

Friday, July 21, 2017



The New SPCA facilities in Nanaimo

photo - SPCA

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

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Meeting notes from July 14, 2017

by Lucie Gosselin

President **Jane Currie** opened the meeting and **Brent Stetar**



President Jane

gave an invocation. **Wayne Anderson** introduced guests and visiting Rotarians including a wise crack about **Kathy & Al Smith** being visiting Rotarians. **Al & Kathy** have been away travelling for most of the year so we have seen very little of them.

There were a number of announcements.

Laura Shimer who accompanied our guest speaker told us of their current fundraiser of paws for a cause and the raffle tickets she was selling. Anyone interested can likely get tickets through the SPCA.



Laura Shimer



Lila Tanner

Lila Tanner brought forth a **Notice of Motion** to make a donation of \$1,500 to Disaster Aid Canada for the victims of the BC fires. **Dave Hammond** moved that we waive the need for a 2 week notice period and that was seconded by **Wendy Pratt**. All members were in favour. Therefore the motion was

made by **Lila Tanner** and seconded by **Susie Stephens** that the club donate \$1,500 to Disaster Aid Canada. The motion passed. **Frank Shoemaker** added that Rotary has formed a group in Victoria which is gathering toiletries and other similar urgency items needed. A shipment will be going shortly. For more information contact **Frank**.



Frank Shoemaker

Yvan Gosselin reported on the health of the club. Both **Dave Connolly** and his wife **Pat** are undergoing health issues. **Pat** had a cardiac issue on BC Ferries which required the ferry to turn around. She has now been fitted with a pacemaker and **Dave** has been diagnosed with bladder cancer.



Yvan Gosselin

President Jane reminded everyone of the 5 club event to be held at the Nanaimo Golf Club on July 25th. The golf club needs numbers so please sign up as soon as possible if you are going. **President Jane** then brought forth a **Notice of Motion** to be brought to the meeting in 3 weeks because

there is no meeting in 2 weeks. The motion is an attempt to make Rotary more accessible and affordable. The motion is *to reduce the annual dues from \$300 to \$250 per year*.

The sergeant at arms was **Wahid Ali**. He reminded members to have the courtesy to be quiet when someone is



Wahid Ali

The 3 Wise (?) Men

speaking. He then set up a kangaroo court to hear a complaint by **Bruce Samson**. Three senior members of the club, **Ross White**, **Wayne Anderson** and **Egon Holzwarth** were the jury. **Bruce** stated his case of being invited to sit at the head table and then being "pushed aside" by **Wendy Pratt**. By the time it was all said and done, fines were collected from the jurors, the accuser and the defendant. The only winner was Rotary.



Lynne Pankratz

Many members had happy bucks. Among others, **Ross White** received good medical results about his pacemaker, **Lynne Pankratz** thanked Frank Shoemaker for looking after the cash while she was away on vacation and **Joan Ryan** told us of the Senior Scooter Rodeo tomorrow and that RYLA on the island is looking good for this year again. **Janeane Coutu**

reminded members that all are welcome to drop in to sort books at Nanaimo North Center whenever they can. She is often there on Saturday mornings around 9:00 and is willing to teach newcomers what is needed. There are club members there daily between 9:00 & 11:00.

Ian Williams won the table stakes and **Ross White** had the chance to pull the Ace of Spades. The pot continues to grow.



Speaker Recap – Friday July 14, 2017

by Brent Barootes

This week our speaker was introduced (without flaw or confusion) by Past President Lila Tanner. As Lila noted, our speaker was Leon Davis who is from the BC SPCA and



Leon Davis

is the Branch Manager for the local Nanaimo branch. Leon has been in this role for eight years. Leon came to us from England where he worked for a conservation based theme park. He has brought with him to the SPCA a feeling and philosophy of his own about “helping more than animals... helping the community overall”. Leon is married and has a three-year-old son

as well as three SPCA adopted pets (two dogs and a cat)! Lila also noted that the local SPCA presently has about 60 registered volunteers but actually needs about 200 volunteers to do the work they are mandated to do and ensure they are not burning out existing volunteers.

Leon was full of energy and excitement as he delivered his presentation. You can really tell that he loves his job. He was also very complimentary to our Club. He noted he has spoken at several other Rotary Clubs in the region and he thinks this one is the best! He then qualified that he was not a morning person and thus he loved our Club because the meeting was held at a civil time... noon! He also noted that none of the other Clubs had a “a Wahid” which he thoroughly enjoyed! (Wahid had been Sergeant at Arms and then left early before the speaker got to the podium so unless he reads this will never know about the compliment!) Leon updated us on some history of the BC SPCA and specifically Nanaimo as well as the work they do and the new building they have after 35 years in the little house on Labieux! Some of the highlights of his presentation were as follows:

- The BC SPCA has 36 branches across BC and 36 actual constables
- Nanaimo is one branch and actually has 1 constable based here and she handles over 400 cases per year!
- It was interesting to hear that only the RCMP and the SPCA can issue search warrants, seize and lay charges in regard to animal cruelty... this is a strong role they play in our community and they work very closely with the RCMP on all they do
- The BC SPCA provides emergency medical care and sheltering for 37,000 animals each year through its 41 facilities and operations across B.C. (30 animal shelters, three adoption centres, two spay/neuter clinics in Prince George and Kamloops, four volunteer-run branches, an animal hospital in Vancouver and Wild ARC, the society's wildlife rehabilitation centre in Metchosin).
- The Nanaimo branch processes between 1200 and 1400 animals each year and the Victoria call centre manages over 20,000 phone calls a year for assistance,

information or notifications of possibly cruelty to animals

- Leon noted that though the mission of the BC SPCA is to protect and enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia, they do much more
- They base their mission on the following five freedoms for animals.... Which Leon noted can apply to humans as well!
 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
 2. Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
 3. Freedom from distress
 4. Freedom from discomfort
 5. Freedom to express behaviors that promote well-being
- Leon was clear to note that they are **not** a “no kill” shelter and explained thought that they only euthanize for medical reasons and quality of life situations for the animal or the public at large or other animals, **never** based on finding homes for animals
- When Leon arrived the average time for a cat stay between arriving and finding a home was 3 months and now it is 20 days... and dogs are also about 20 days!
- Leon showed a few pictures of situations where they received an animal who had been neglected or purposely hurt and then showed them after recovery. Our SPCA does great work!
- We then saw pictures of the old 1000 square foot house on Labieux that was the Nanaimo SPCA for 35 years and then some terrific pictures and stories about the new shelter that opened last year
- The new facility houses ample space for staff, guests and animals, has a pet store in it, plus a facility meeting room that can be rented out for board meeting use or birthday parties and such, a dog friendly patio with food and refreshments available as well as terrific dog runs and this fall will introduce BC's first membership based dog off leach park with 24-hour access, lighting and ensuring dog (and people) sociable animals to ensure the safety of everyone
- The new facility also has a self serve automated dog wash centre
- Leon is also working on behind the shelter on their land (still short \$77,000 of the \$207,000 needed) a much-needed large animal seizure area – right now when there is a surrender or a seizure of a large farm animal they really do not have the facilities to manage them and this will be the only one on the island when completed
- The BC SPCA also run a Humane Education program

which works with children aged 8-13 in the school systems to teach and show them about animals and empathy to animals and humans in hopes of limiting bullying and animal cruelty

- Each year the branch manages the following annual numbers:
 - 1,300 abused neglected and abandoned animals
 - 400 neglect complaints
 - 100 dogs left in cars on a hot day calls
 - 450 requests for financial assistance
 - 50 requests for compassionate boarding
 - 30 requests for compassionate euthanasia
- Leon noted that they do provide 350-500 free spaying and neutering a year and spend over \$92,000 spaying and spend over \$91,000 on medical care
- They also work with several local community organizations to ensure that they are community oriented and ensuring that people within these other agencies get the support and care for their animals as necessary
- And Leon also noted that he found when he arrived that the staff culture was wrong... he felt that the staff almost looked down on people when they surrender an animal... made people uncomfortable coming into surrender or even adopt as they went through almost a "Spanish Inquisition" interrogation before adoption. He has since changed over to a service industry / hospital-ity based culture of staff that is warm and friendly and inviting. This was confirmed by several people during questions that noted they had seen the change!

Yvan Gosselin then thanked **Leon** and presented him with our world-famous speaker gift of a handmade pen! Yvan delivered his own brand of humor Leon as he noting that Leon was the "Top Dog" at the Nanaimo SPCA and other puns!

New Member Proposal

Unless written objection is received by the Secretary within the mandatory seven (7) days, the following applicant will be invited to join the Rotary Club of Nanaimo:

Wanda Hamilton
Head of United Way
Proposed by: Bob Janes



GUESTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Guests:

Wanda Hamilton - guest of President Jane

Birthdays:

Narver, Debbie	July 21
Pratt, Wendy	July 25

Anniversaries:

Minhas, Mike	Minhas, Gagan	Jul 25 2015	2 yrs
Ryan, Joan	Ryan, Bruce	Jul 26 1974	43 yrs

Make-ups

Lila Tanner, Wayne Anderson - Membership committee
 Mikel Knutsson - Community Grants meeting

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 25 - 5 Club social dinner. 6 PM -
 Meet **DG Tom Carroll**.

Aug 6-12—Rotary District 5020 International Golfing Fellowship, Victoria, BC at Bear Mountain. You can volunteer and/or register: mailservice@clubrunner.ca

Oct 13-22—Rotary Fall Book Sale at Nanaimo North Town Centre.

WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS & MEMBER DUTIES

Meeting Date	July 21, 2017	July 28, 2017	August 4, 2017
Greeters	Wahid Ali, Laurie Beinert, Wendy Pratt		Wayne Anderson, Wendy Pratt, Lucie Gosselin
Cashier	Egon Holzwarth		Egon Holzwarth
Sgt at Arms	Dave Hammond		Brent Barootes
Invocation	Laurie Beinert		Brent Barootes
Head Table	Pres Jane Currie, Laurie Beinert Moirra Jenkins, Charlotte Mougeot	NO MEETING - DG Social dinner July 25, 2017	Pres Jane Currie, Karen Fry, Kathy Smith
Intro Guests	Keith McFarlane		Mike Minhas
Intro Speaker	Debbie Narver		Kathy Smith
Program	New Memer Talks - Moira Jenkins, Charlotte Mougeot		My Journey as a Female Fire-fighter - Karen Fry
Thank Speaker	Wayne Anderson		Christine Parsons