

# ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

# “COGS”

Volume 96, Number 44

4,727th Meeting

Friday, June 3, 2016



The city's Economic Development CEO John Hankins tells Rotarians about Nanaimo's bright future.

**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**

#### **DIRECTORS**

Bob Patrick      Bob Fenty      Bruce Samson  
Norm Myden      Wayne Anderson      Charles Ramos

#### **President Rotary International**

K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka

#### **District Governor**

Rose Bowman  
Chehalis Rotary, Washington

#### **Assistant Governor**

Bev Hilton  
Nanaimo Oceanside

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 405, Nanaimo, British Columbia V9R 5L3 — Web: <http://rotarynanaimo.org>**

## Meeting Notes from May 27th, 2016

by Mike Herold

Today's meeting was directed by **President Lila Tanner** with Invocation given by **Brenda Grice**.

**Bruce Gordon** introduced Visiting Rotarians and Guests and while there were no guests today, **Wayne Anderson** introduced Honorary member **Rudi Steinmetz**.

Announcements included **John Shillabeer** reminding members of the Book Committee meeting, **Keith McFarlane** reminded members about *Installation Night* three weeks from today's meeting starting at 6:00 cocktails and dinner at 7:00 at the Coast Bastion. It is very important to let Keith know who will be coming to get an accurate count for dinner.



**Dave Hammond** reminded us of the *Rotary Golf Tournament* which needs more players for June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Nanaimo Golf Club. Golf is \$25 and dinner is \$25 and golf starts about 3:00 and is nine holes. Dave and/or **John Salem** need to have an accurate count of who is planning on attending by Monday May 30<sup>th</sup>. Golf will be "Best Ball" and will be a lot of fun especially watching **President**

**Lila** golf.

**Douglas Anderson** told members to let someone in the Membership Committee know if you are involved in Rotary functions that could count towards a make-up. Functions include meetings, book sorting and Rotary events.

**Mike Herold** visited **Honorary Rotarian Bob Peters** at Nanaimo General Hospital Friday morning and Bob was doing well, was in good spirits and hoping to get back to Nanaimo Seniors Village in the next week. He would be quite pleased to have visitors at the hospital.

Mike also mentioned the passing of **Evelyn Cicconi**, wife of long time member **Harry Cicconi**.



Bob Peters

### Tour of Eden Gardens Tomorrow

Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a tour of new *Traveller's Lodge Eden Gardens Project*

**A presentation of our clubs**

**\$50,000 donation**

**will be made during the tour**

*If you are planning on attending let Lila know*

**President Lila** told the club to not make fun of her at the golf tournament next Friday and also that the Coast Bastion is hosting its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 9<sup>th</sup> this year with a celebration and inviting members from our club to attend.

Lila reminded us about *Aboriginal Day* Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30-1:30 and to let Debbie know if you plan to attend at 250-756-3343.

Lila presented club member **Charles Ramos** with her monthly *Rock Star Award*.



Rock Star of the Month went to Charles Ramos.

**Ed Borisenko** also mentioned that "Mr. Rotary" **Bill Horman** was in the hospital and **Norm Myden** told us of the Rotary Appreciation dinner to pay tribute to **Dr's Cameron, Smith and Seldenrich** for "Service Above Self" for volunteering their services in aid of fellow Rotarian **Senyo Agbedra** on June 11<sup>th</sup> at Rewsters Restaurant with cocktails at 6:30. Dinner cost is \$25 and RSVP to Norm by June 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Sgt-At-Arms Joan Ryan** was assisted by **John Heisterman** to squeeze money of members and Joan was relatively gentle today compared to her usual slaying of club members. Fines went to **Bruce Samson** for being a rat and Joan fined herself for having a shake test at VIU.

Happy and sad bucks followed with **Mike Herold** talking about his water running all night (from the tap as well). **Ross White** thanked those attending the 50 and under breakfast, **Jane Currie** with her niece graduating from Veterinarian School in Glasgow Scotland, **Lucie Gosselin** told us of the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Dragon Boat Fundraiser at Arrowsmith Golf Club and to see Lucie if you would like to play and **Keith McFarlane** giving a very proud buck for his son-in-law who is a RCMP Officer preventing a suicide.

There was no winner of the table stakes and **Douglas Anderson** got to draw for the Ace of Spades without any luck so the 50-50 pot continues to grow until some lucky winner picks the Ace of Spades!





# Economic Development

by Kathy Smith

**Donna Hais** was pleased to introduce **John Hankins**,



CEO of the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation. Since his arrival in January, they have worked on several projects together and Donna is excited about what John is bringing to Nanaimo.

John, who was born in England, moved to Calgary in 2000. After work with Nortel ended, he secured a job with the Economic Development office in Calgary and learned lots about how provincial and federal governments interacted. After 5 years, he wanted a change, and so went into consulting where he did work for the US Consulate and Lego! On January 4, 2016, he arrived in Nanaimo to snow but arrived with excitement for his new position.

His initial research on the computer showed unfavourable reports on Nanaimo. So his immediate challenge was to change the dialogue on Nanaimo. Bloomberg came and visited and then wrote an article that has proven to be great publicity for our city. John stated, "We are a BC made solution for Vancouver's challenge." Nanaimo is more affordable for businesses and families! John has been working with commercial realtors to work on a plan to target companies who are struggling in Vancouver and could relocate to our city. Nanaimo is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest tech center in BC, and with technology it is easy for businesses to be located anywhere.

His goal is to change the narrative about Nanaimo and to be consistent with the message. We all need to get others talking about our city. He asked us to go onto *Facebook* and go to the *Tourism Nanaimo* site and click LIKE US! He has worked with the Ministry of International Trade and the Conference Board to change their perspectives. *Trivago* has listed Nanaimo as one of the Top 10 places to visit in 2016! John is working with event and conference planners to promote side trips to a city filled with adventures like kayaking, diving, snorkelling, hiking and other beautiful scenery. *Destinations BC* has provided significant funding for advertising and promotion, which includes a campaign, entitled Life Beyond Victoria. The Nanaimo Economic Development Corp. is about to launch the top 10 things to do in Nanaimo using the new 360-degree camera technology. John is enthusiastic about Nanaimo and has many great ideas to promote



our fine city.

There were many questions – one of which was regarding the current and future economic drivers. John replied that VIU, retail and lumber are some of the major economic drivers in today's market but wonders if Nanaimo, and Vancouver Island, could become leading edge with regards to clean technology. Can the Island become carbon neutral and could Nanaimo start the wave? He is hoping to see more densification in the downtown – more employees in offices and more people living in condos will create a more vibrant downtown core. Local First Nations are also actively involved in the plans for moving forward. There is much to look forward to as our city expands.

**Lucie Gosselin**

thanked John for coming today and commented on how the Bloomberg article has had a huge impact on people talking about Nanaimo. I am sure Lucie took home the *Globe and Mail* that had Nanaimo on the front cover!



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **YOUTH EXCHANGE BBQ JUNE 13 @ 6 PM** \*  
\* **Hosted by Terry and Jodi Rogers at 3730 Polaris Drive** \*  
\* You are cordially invited to join us to celebrate successful exchanges with our two Inbound students, Daniel from Colombia, and Saeko from Japan. They will finish the school year, go to the District Conference at the end of June, and return to their home countries in July. \*  
\* Food and beverages will be provided. Guests are asked to bring folding chairs. Kayaks are available, if you wish to partake bring appropriate footwear and clothing. \*  
\* Kindly confirm if you will attend, and indicate how many people you will be, to Terry at [trogers@smythecpa.com](mailto:trogers@smythecpa.com) \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## ATTENDANCE

By Bob Janes

Attendance for May 27<sup>th</sup> was **54%**

### We missed Rotarians;

Ali, Barootes, Blinston, Coutu, Fenty, Gerrand, L. Gosselin, Henderson, Janes, King, Knutsson, Lessan, Lewis, McIver, Narver, Pratt, Raedler, Ross, J. Smith, Tessier, Williams, Woodward, Woychuk, Zhang

### Visiting Rotarians:

Rudi Steinmetz

**Make ups:** John Salem

### Spouse Birthdays:

Joan Huck [Dale] June 8  
Marie Fenty [Bob] on June 9th  
Sandy Herold [Mike] on June 9th

### Club Anniversaries:

Brent Barootes, 27 years on June 1st

E.& O.E.

## Ravindran moves audience with personal story

RI President K.R. Ravindran closed the convention in Korea on Wednesday, 1 June, with a poignant story about his mother's fight to survive polio at age 30.

When Ravindran was 11 years old in his native Sri Lanka, his mother awoke one day feeling weak and short of breath. Sitting down to rest, she found herself unable to move. The polio virus had quickly invaded her nervous system, resulting in paralysis.

She was placed in an iron lung at the hospital to enable her to breathe, and was told that her chances of walking, or even surviving without a ventilator, were slim. But most Sri Lankan hospitals were not equipped with ventilators in 1963.

Ravindran's grandfather, a Rotary member, hosted a club committee meeting in his living room the evening after his daughter was rushed to the hospital. Rather than simply offer consolation, his fellow members went to work, using their business acumen and professional connections to find a ventilator.

One of the members was a bank manager who called a government minister to facilitate a quick international transfer of funds. Another member, a manager at SwissAir, arranged to have a ventilator flown in. The next day, it arrived at the hospital.

"There was so much red tape at the time in Sri Lanka, but somehow, those Rotarians made it all fall away," Ravindran told the packed audience at the KINTEX Convention Center in Goyang city.

Ravindran's mother spent a year-and-a-half in a hospital bed, but her condition gradually improved. She eventually left the hospital walking -- with a walker, but upright, on her own two feet.

"Fifty-three years ago, my mother's life was perhaps one of the very first to be saved from polio by Rotarians," Ravin-

dran said. "We have saved millions of lives since then.

"Tonight, I stand before you as her son, and your president, to say that soon -- perhaps not in years but in months -- Rotary will give a gift that will endure forever: a world without polio."

At the convention's general session the day before, Rebecca Martin, director of the Center for Global Health at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had [described how close we are to polio eradication](#). Earlier that day, Rotary released an additional \$35 million in grants to support global efforts to end the crippling disease.

This year's convention, one of the largest in Rotary history, attracted more than 43,000 attendees from over 150 countries. Ravindran, in his final speech to members as their president, emphasized what it really means to be a Rotarian.

"There are people on this planet whose lives are better now because you traversed this earth," he said. "And it doesn't matter if they know that or not. It doesn't matter if they even know your name or not. What really matters is that your work touched lives; that it left people healthier,

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**June 3**—Rotary Fellowship Golf Tourney at Nanaimo Golf Club. \$50 for 9 holes, dinner & prizes, \$25 for dinner only. Register early with Dave Hammond or John Salem.

**June 4**—Rotary Tour of the new *Eden Gardens* under construction on Northfield Road. Tour starts 1 pm on Saturday, please advise President Lila if you would like to attend as we need numbers for site safety concerns.

**June 17**—Rotary Installation Night with fellowship starting at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. This is a pre-paid event for Rotarians and their partners to come out and wish Debbie Narver a successful year.

**June 24-25**—District 5020 Conference in Olympia Washington. District Governor Rose Bowman and the Rotary District Committee at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia to celebrate Rotary!

## WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS & MEMBER DUTIES

MEETING DATE	June 3rd, 2016	June 10th, 2016	June 17th, 2016
GREETERS	David Woodward, Bob Patrick, Brenda Grice	John Woychuk, Donna Hais, Wendy Pratt	<b>ROTARY INSTALLATION NIGHT</b>
CASHIER	Allan Smith	Allan Smith	
SGT-AT-ARMS	Bruce Samson	Dave Hammond	
INVOCATION	Lynne Pankratz	Christine Parsons	
HEAD TABLE	Pres Lila, Christine Parsons, Bob Wilson, David Woodward, Bob Patrick, Brenda Grice	Pres Lila, Fay Laing, Ian Williams, John Woychuk, Wendy Pratt, Donna Hais, John Shillabeer	<b>COAST BASTION INN</b>  <i>Fellowship at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m.</i>
INTRO GUESTS	Bruce Gordon	Lucie Gosselin	<i>Installation of Debbie Narver and her 2016-17 Rotary Executive</i>
INTRO SPEAKER	Bob Wilson	Ian Williams	
PROGRAM	<b>NEW MEMBER TALKS</b> <i>Christine Parsons</i>	<b>TRAVEL ADVENTURES</b> <i>Fay Liang</i>	
THANK SPEAKER	Barbara Blinston	Ed Borisenko	