

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C O G S”



Volume 96, Number 33

4,716th Meeting

Friday, March 4, 2016



The rugged coastline at Neck Point as February draws to a close—*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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Meeting Notes from February 26th, 2016

By Charles Ramos

President **Lila Tanner** called the meeting to order, and led the singing of the national anthem. Our Invocation today was delivered by **Bruce Samson** who reminded us to be thankful of all that we have.



Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Wahid Ali called for visiting Rotarians and guests. There were no visiting Rotarians, but Wahid made a point of recognizing **Fay Laing** from a 6-month vacation following her retirement from NNTC, and also **Doug Cowling** from an extended Hawaiian excursion.

President's Remarks

President **Lila** recognized the club's monthly 'Rotary Rock Star', saying that many members are continually benefiting Rotary by working quietly behind the scenes. This month's Rock Star is **Joan Ryan**.



A host family is still needed for Rotary exchange student Daniel between March 1 – July 1 of this year. Please contact **President Lila** or **Paul Geneau** if you can help out.

Dave Hammond has suggested that funding of Syrian refugees to Nanaimo embodies the concept *Service Above Self*, and that our club may want to consider funding the *Central Island Multicultural Society* for \$1,000. He further suggested that the urgent need for funds may be cause to request the 2 weeks' Notice of Motion period be waived. Much discussion followed by members, with **Frank Shoemaker** mentioning that the two week period can only be waived if all are unanimous. He, for one, does not agree with waiving the two weeks as the immediate needs of the refugees are very likely already taken care of, and there will be time to review this objectively.

A Notice of Motion was made to donate \$1,000 to the Multicultural Society in 2 weeks

Sergeant at Arms



Wayne Anderson was today's Sergeant-at-Arms. He fined **Doug Cowling** for the best tan in the room, and **Yvan Gosselin** for having gotten such a good deal on a truck that he could donate some of his savings. **Yvan** said that he and **Lucie** were driving in to Rotary separately, and **Lucie** was so eager to get here that she found herself on the wrong side

of a speeding ticket, so their truck savings have already been depleted.

Happy and Sad Bucks

Additional happy and sad bucks were plentiful:

Frank Shoemaker said he attended an outstanding evening of songs from the 50s, 60s, and later.

Wahid Ali gave embarrassed bucks about listening to the US Republican candidate debacles.

Bob Wilson gave bucks to report a point of clarification about Wahid's comments.



Barbara tried to explain Wahid's embarrassed buck to Bob

Fay Laing gave happy bucks to be back after a long vacation.



Brent Barootes gave happy bucks that his daughter will be performing in Aspengrove School's, *Anne of Green Gables* tomorrow.

Doug Cowling gave sad bucks that he had to leave before today's presentation, and he recognizes the work of NALT as being extremely important to our community.

Bob Wilson asked where *Paul Bunyan* parked his ox, in reference to Doug's outfit.

Barbara Blinston gave confused bucks about a poker game location mixup—her house was ready, but everyone showed up at Janeane's.



Charles Ramos

gave follow-up bucks on the burglar in their neighbourhood, and identifying him with game cameras. The image will be forwarded to police.

Table stakes were won by **Barbara Blinston**, and **Yvan Gosselin's** draw attempt for the Ace of Spades was unsuccessful. The 50-50 pot continues to grow—and your chances of winning are getting better!



Nanaimo Area Land Trust

by Jane K. Currie



Gail Adrienne

Past President **Joan Ryan** introduced guest speaker **Gail Adrienne**, ED of the Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT). Gail recently won an award for social justice, a theme that has carried through her work experience for many years. Originally from Victoria, she studied political science at Carleton University, did the hippy trek through Europe in the 60's and travelled the world. She has lived in Nanaimo for 25 years, in an old house in the old city and now feels firmly rooted in this community.

The goal of NALT is to promote and protect the natural values of land in the Nanaimo area. NALT began in 1995 with a \$500 donation; now with charitable status this organization manages about \$200K/year, supported by 400 members, 400 volunteers and 1500 donors. Two FT, two PT and one contract bookkeeper are supported by countless hours of pro-bono work by various environmental & law experts.

A key tool to protect the natural values of ecologically important land, in perpetuity, is the creation of Conservation Covenants. NALT actively prepares, registers and monitors conservation covenants to ensure specific attributes of designated land are preserved. The RDN recently approved, after 10 years, a covenant on Mt. Benson Park. Other areas with conservation covenants that NALT administers are in Errington, South Winchelsea Island, and on Gabriola and Lasqueti Islands. NALT currently holds 7 conservation covenants, and is in the process of covenanting two more properties. NALT also provides information and advice to land owners who are interested in pursuing this option.



Land acquisition by purchase (often with municipal partners and major fundraising campaigns running into the millions) and land acquisition by donation (by living donors, or bequeathed from an estate) are also important. Two notable gifts include a 22-acre parcel of forested land in QB (from the Martha Warde estate) and the 40 acre Van Kerkoerle property in Cassidy.

Cassidy is also the location of

the wonderful Native Plant Nursery, an educational and fundraising operation. Over 150 species of native trees, shrubs and plants can be viewed and purchased for the home garden; 40 kinds of native seeds and some dried herbs are also available. With increasingly intense pressures on Vancouver Island for water conservation during summer droughts, homeowners are strongly encouraged to investigate many beautiful (and hardy!) native plants for their gardens and landscape plantings. *[author's note – next time*



your fussy English rose, astilbe or Asian species rhodo perish in a drought, do think of replacing them with a wild rose, or lupines or flowering currant that actually thrive in our Mediterranean climate!]

Nanaimo's beautiful Linley Valley park and the ongoing Nanaimo River project are also key NALT achievements in preserving our natural heritage. Please see nalt.bc.ca for more information about NALT results and initiatives.

Ian Williams thanked Gail for the major work that NALT is doing to protect and save precious natural green spaces. Gail left some 2016 picture calendars featuring beautiful photos of NALT natural areas. The calendars are an annual fundraiser for NALT.



ATTENDANCE

By Janeane Coutu

Attendance for February 26th was **55%**

We missed Rotarians;

D. Anderson, Fenty, Grice, Gerrand, Hais, Hammond, Heisterman, Henderson, Janes, King, Lessan, McIver, Narver, Patrick, Pratt, Raedler, Salem, Shillabeer, Stephens, Tessier, Woodward, Woychuk, Zhang

No guests or visiting Rotarians

Birthdays:

John Salem, March 4th
Bob Fenty, March 5th

Club Anniversaries:

Janeane Coutu, 24 years on March 6th
Lucie Gosselin, 24 years on March 6th
Frank Shoemaker, 18 years on March 6th

E.& O.E.

Presidential Message - March 2016



K. R. Ravindran
President 2015-16

Some years ago, I was asked to speak at an Interact club in my home city of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I have always taken my interactions with Rotary youth very seriously, so I prepared my remarks carefully and put the same effort into my presentation that I would for any other event. After the meeting, I stayed to chat with a

few of the Interactors, answering their questions and wishing them well.

I came out of the classroom where we had met into the autumn afternoon. The bright sun was shining directly into my eyes, so I found a bit of shade behind a pillar where I could wait for my ride.

As I stood there, hidden from view, I overheard a group of the very Interactors who had just listened to my speech. Naturally I was curious: What would they be saying? What had they taken away from my presentation? I quickly realized that what they had taken away was not at all what I had intended.

They were not talking about what I had said, the stories I had told, or the lessons I had come to their school to impart. To my astonishment, the major topic of conversation was my tie! I listened with amusement as they chattered about my Western clothes, my background, my business; every aspect of my appearance and behavior was dissected and discussed. Just as they began to speculate about what car I drove, my ride arrived and I stepped out into view. They were perhaps a bit embarrassed, but I just smiled, got

into the car, and drove off with a wave.

Whatever they learned from me that day, I learned far more. I learned that the lessons we teach with our examples are far more powerful than those we teach with words. I realized that as a Rotary leader, and a prominent person in the community, I had, for better or worse, become a role model for these young people. Their eyes were on me in a way that I had never before appreciated. If they chose to emulate me, they would model themselves on what they saw, not what I told them.

All of us in Rotary are leaders, in one way or another, in our communities. All of us bear the responsibility that comes with that. Our Rotary values, our Rotary ideals, cannot be left within the confines of our Rotary clubs. They must be carried with us every day. Wherever we are, whoever we are with, whether we are involved in Rotary work – we are always representing Rotary. We must conduct ourselves accordingly: in what we think, what we say, what we do, and how we do it. Our communities, and our children, deserve no less.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 5—Duncan Daybreak Rotary 5th Annual Whisky Festival at Silver-bridge Travelodge. Samples of 50 whiskeys, appetizers, silent auction. Tickets \$85, see <cvwhiskyfest.ca> for more information.

March 11—Rotaract Beer & Burger Night at Old Station Pub at 6:30 pm Come out for some fun, meet Rotaract members and support their fundraising. Tickets are \$15 each.

April 1-3—District Leadership Training Assembly, Victoria. For more info go to <Rotary5020.org>

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 | March 4th, 2016 | March 11th, 2016 | March 18th, 2016 |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| GREETERS | Barbara Blinston, Bob Janes, Ellen Ross | Ed Borisenko, Joan Ryan, Henry Jiang | Bill King, Eric Brand, John Salem |
| CASHIER | Henry Jiang | John Shillabeer | John Shillabeer |
| SGT-AT-ARMS | Joan Ryan | Bruce Samson | Dave Hammond |
| INVOCATION | Mike Herold | Egon Holzwarth | Bob Janes |
| HEAD TABLE | Pres Lila, Kix Citton, Bob Wilson, John Salem, Bob Fenty, Bob Janes, Barbara Blinston, Ellen Ross | Pres Lila, Randy O'Donnel, Wayne Anderson, Ed Borisenko, Joan Ryan, Henry Jhang | Pres Lila, Michele Hillier, John Shillabeer, Joyce Smith, Bill King, Eric Brand, John Salem |
| INTRO GUESTS | Douglas Anderson | Bruce Gordon | Brent Barootes |
| INTRO SPEAKER | Bob Wilson | Wayne Anderson | John Shillabeer |
| PROGRAM | Nanaimo Brain Injury Society <i>Kix Citton</i> | PHOTOGRAPHY TECHNIQUES <i>Randy O'Donnell</i> | LITERACY NANAIMO <i>Michele Hillier</i> |
| THANK SPEAKER | Debbie Narver | Wahid Ali | Wendy Pratt |