

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“COGS”

Volume 96, Number 21

4,656th Meeting

Friday, November 14, 2014

FOB (Forward Operating Base) Sperwan Ghar



Photo: Adam Day

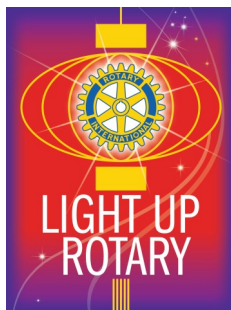


Sgt Olie Fredericksen gave Rotarians a close-up and personal view of his several tours of Afghanistan, and told us of his first hand experiences trying to bring some sort of peace and order to the innocents in that country.

**Club Meeting Friday at 12:00 p.m.
at the Coast Bastion Inn**

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

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Meeting Notes from Nov 7th

By Janeane Coutu

After beginning the meeting with singing our national anthem, **Donna Hais** led us with an invocation inspiring us to remember those men and women who lost their lives serving their country so that we can enjoy the freedoms and wonderful place in which we all live.



President Bob Wilson then called for a moment of silence in Remembrance. He also acknowledged the two veteran's in the room, **Bob McDougall** and **John Morris**, and

thanked them for the service which was echoed with applause from all present.

Barb Blinston introduced visiting Rotarians and guests who included mayoral candidate and former Rotarian **Jim Routledge**, our guest speaker **Sgt. Ole Frederickson**, and our Honorary Rotarian Rudi's guest, **Gudi Carrol**.

President Bob thanked the *COGS* committee for the wonderful photo on this week's cover page – many have commented it is best photo yet! (*and it wasn't a squid*)

Continuing with President's remarks, Bob noted that he and **Wendy Pratt** attended a wonderful presentation at VIU from *Nurses to Nepal* and hopes to have them come to our club soon.

An update on the vote for RI Annual Theme "Service above Self" – 55 of the 88 clubs in District 5020 have provided their input regarding the proposed item of legislation for the 2016 Rotary Council on Legislation, that the permanent theme of Rotary International be



Honorary Rotarian Rudi Steinmetz introduced his niece, Gudi Carrol who is visiting from Williamsburg, VI, USA.

"Service Above Self" with 40 clubs being in favor. Since a majority of the clubs voting have voted to endorse the legislative item, it is considered to be supported by the District and will be forwarded to RI for inclusion as an item of legislation.

Bob has asked if there is anyone in the club interested in becoming Shelter Box champion to please contact him.

We received a "Dear Bob" letter from *Nanaimo North Town Centre* thanking us for the book sale and congratulating us on the success and hitting the \$500,000 milestone during the sale. They have committed to the spring sale and proposed dates in April and are looking forward to hosting us again. As Bob stated during happy bucks, it is a symbiotic relationship – both parties benefit – mall merchants get a great increase in traffic which is a good thing in retail.

Final reminder that Sat Nov 15th in Victoria you can lunch with incoming **R.I. President Ravi Ravindran**.

The club Board meeting will not be the 2nd Tuesday this month due to Remembrance Day, instead they will meet Nov 18th.



Announcements from **Joan Ryan** on behalf of the Fellowship committee; Sunday, Dec 7 *Family Xmas Breakfast* and visit from Santa, 9am at Bowen Park, and

Thursday, Dec 18th is the *Rotary Christmas Dinner* at the Coast Bastion Inn.

Bob Fenty announced the *Bayview School Christmas Lunch* for the kids is set for Wed, Dec 17. 150 kids will be fed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings in an hour – volunteer helpers needed, and it truly is a wonderful



event, sure to get you in the Christmas spirit. **Susan Gerrand** is looking for someone to take the lead for the November *Travellers Lunch* at the end of the month as she will be away. Dec 18th is the

Travellers Tea where members have a visit, put on their dancing shoes and bring a little fun into the elder's day. Donations of baked goodies would be appreciated.



Sgt-at-Arms Dave Hammond took over and started with fining all not wearing a poppy today. Next was those with snow tires (don't you know it doesn't snow here says the realtor!). *Movember* has begun and

he fined all men not participating \$1, he had planned to include women but wife Cindy had some words for him on that plan! Dave then invited all politicians in the room to stand and introduce themselves and the post they are seeking. He then promptly fined them all accordingly, depending on what was said. Our own members **Kevin Cantelon** and **Wendy Pratt** are running for City Council. Guest **Jim Routledge** is running for mayor.

We had many happy bucks from members, of particular note were the special messages of Remembrance Day within families of those who had fought or lost someone in the war. **Donna Hais** was very

proud of 16-yr old **Flight Sgt. Matthew Hais** who will be leading a memo-



rial service at the Parksville cenotaph. It is heartwarming to see the youth in our country take up these traditions and embrace and celebrate the history of our veterans. She encouraged everyone to get out and show support for our troops, past and present.

Lucie Gosselin was the lucky one to win on the table stakes, **Bob Janes** not so much on the cards, even though it was his second attempt in a row.



Remembrance Program

By John Shillabeer

Mikel Knutsson introduced the speaker **Sgt Olie Fredericksen**, a very experienced Canadian soldier and now a member of the local militia. Sgt Fredericksen served in Germany, Cyprus, Yugoslavia, Bosnia and did two tours between 2008 and 2011 in Afghanistan. His talk was a snapshot of his experiences in Afghanistan.



On arrival he was based in the Kandahar area and appointed a CIMIC (Civil Civic Military Cooperation). His job was to mix with the locals, initiate projects to generate local employment and gain the confidence of the people. His objective was to pick up intelligence. At that time the area around Kandahar was home to many displaced people and was a prime recruiting ground for the Taliban. In addition to the hostility of the locals, the challenges of just surviving were many: day time temperatures up to 54°C, sandstorms, insects, bad water and malaria. On arrival he weighed just over 200lb and at the end of his tour he was down to 164 lb after an attack of giardiasis. Infant mortality at that time was about 40%.

Next Sgt Fredericksen was assigned as a CIMIC to work with patrols around outposts at Spervan Ghar in the Panjwai district. While there he was hit by an IED and evacuated. Helicopters accompanied all patrols and were able to evacuate wounded within 20 minutes or so; thus much increasing the chance of survival.

After he recovered Sgt Fredericksen was assigned to the Maywand area in the north where he participated in a training mission with the Afghan National Army (ANA). Again his duty was to find projects for which the locals could be paid. By this time he was more in the background and arranged that the ANA would actually pay the people and

be the “face” of the projects. Still, the objectives were to gain the trust of the people and pick up intelligence. Most small contractors wanted to get enough money to buy a motor bike. At this time they set up a RIAB (Radio in a Box) playing Pakistani hip hop CDs and re-broadcasting an Afghan radio station from Canada. Within a day of starting the RIAB, they received death threats.

On his second tour Sgt Fredericksen had the job of “mapping the human terrain”, that is understanding who was who and who had the power. By this time he found the allied equipment had improved and included balloons with day and night vision surveillance capability, sniffer dogs for explosives detection and a light vehicle mine sweeper. The ANA had also improved but still suffered from irregular pay and corrupt officers. The Taliban had also improved and modified their tactics and equipment. He had three weeks of patrols with the Vandoos before they were withdrawn at the close of the Canadian

commitment and then he stayed on with Americans who replaced the Vandoos.

When asked “Why do it?” Sgt Fredericksen replied by reminding us all that for a member of the armed services it is always *Mission Before Self*, but he also responded by showing photos of happy Afghan youngsters and said the motivation was to help them day to day with the basics of living. Talk of freedom and democracy clearly did not carry much weight.

Bruce Samson spoke from the heart when he sincerely thanked Sgt Fredericksen for his talk and remarked that the military had endured much and done the best job possible under very difficult circumstances. We in the Club now had a much better perspective than when relying on sensational media reports that always seemed to focus on the body counts and the number of injured, rather than the schools and mosques built and children helped to go to school.



Following last week's meeting the Book Sale Committee met for a discussion on suggested improvements for our highly successful fund raiser.

ATTENDANCE

By Bob Janes

Attendance for Nov 7th was **63%**

We missed these Rotarians

Douglas Anderson, Brand, Cowling, Finnegan, Grice, Heisterman, Lessan, Lewis, Myden, Raedler, Ramos, J. Smith, Stetar, Walker, Welch

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: Speaker Ole Fredericksen, Jim Routledge and Gudi Carrol (Guest

of Rudi Steinmetz)

Make ups: Brent Stetar

Birthdays:

Hon. Rotarian Doug Greer, Nov 18th

Spouse Birthdays:

Sherry Heisterman (John), Nov 17th

Club Anniversaries:

Susan Gerrand, 14 years, Nov 17th

John Morris, 54 years, Nov 18th

Lynne Pankratz, 3 years, Nov 18th

Herb Welch, 54 years, Nov 18th

Doug McMillan, 33 years, Nov 20th

WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS

Friday, November 14th

GREETERS	Richard Finnegan, Lila Tanner, Norm Myden
CASHIERS	Bill King
SGT-AT-ARMS	John Heisterman
INVOCATION	Ed Borisenko
HEAD TABLE	Pres Bob, Douglas Anderson, Ed Borisenko, Richard Finnegan, Lila Tanner, Norm Myden
INTRODUCE GUESTS	Dave Hammond
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	—
PROGRAM	MEMBERSHIP / ASSEMBLY <i>President Bob / Douglas Anderson</i>
THANK SPEAKER	—

Friday, November 21st

GREETERS	Susan Gerrand, Sharon Welch, Wendy Pratt
CASHIERS	Bill King
SGT-AT-ARMS	Joan Ryan
INVOCATION	Mike Knutsson
HEAD TABLE	Pres Bob, Guest Speakers Susan Gerrand, Sharon Welch, Wendy Pratt, Kevin Cantelon
INTRODUCE GUESTS	Kevin Cantelon
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	Charles Ramos
PROGRAM	V.I.U. NURSES IN NEPAL —
THANK SPEAKER	Susie Walker

Friday, November 28th

GREETERS	Bruce Gordon, Ian Williams, John Salem
CASHIERS	Bill King
SGT-AT-ARMS	Bruce Samson
INVOCATION	Keith McFarlane
HEAD TABLE	Pres Bob, Janeane Coutu, Wendy Pratt, Bill King, Bruce Gordon, Ian Williams, John Salem
INTRODUCE GUESTS	John Heisterman
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	President Bob
PROGRAM	COMMUNITY SERVICES <i>Janeane Coutu and Wendy Pratt</i>
THANK SPEAKER	—

Restoring Vision to Hundreds in China



Four hundred citizens in northeast China received free cataract surgeries in 2013 thanks to efforts by the Rotary Clubs of Warner Robins, Georgia, USA, and Shanghai, China. Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Shanghai

The Rotary club of Warner Robins, Georgia USA and the Rotary Club of Shanghai partnered to fund cataract surgery for 400 people at two hospitals in the northeast provinces of Shandong, Gansu, and Qinghai, as well as remote areas closer to Shanghai.

The clubs raised a total of \$46,000, including \$21,000 in matching funds from The Rotary Foundation. The surgeries, each of which cost about \$110 and took about two hours, were completed in June. The Shanghai club collaborated with *Vision in Practice*, an organization that provides surgical training, consultation, and assistance to eye care institutions and professionals, to oversee the procedures and assist hospital staff. Frank Yih of the Shanghai Club said "If this type of surgery and outreach can be integrated nationwide, millions of elders in the rural villages can enjoy the benefit of regaining their vision through affordable operations. This will ease the burden of our country's health care dramatically."

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, Dec 7—Family Christmas Breakfast, Bowen Complex, from 9:00 am to 11 am

Wednesday, Dec 17—Rotary Christmas lunch at Bayview School.

Thursday, Dec 18—Rotary Christmas Dinner, Coast Bastion Inn: fellowship 6:00 pm, dinner 7:00. Cost TBA



Winner of
District 5020
Best Bulletin
Awards

"COGS" is the official bulletin of the
Rotary Club of Nanaimo, published each
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