

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“COGS”



Volume 96, Number 20

4,703rd Meeting

Friday, November 20, 2015



John Morris
1920–2015

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air. . . .

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

— John Gillespie Magee, Jr

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 November 13th

By Janeane Coutu

President Lila invited us to stand and sing our national anthem and **Dave Connolly** followed with Invocation. **Douglas Anderson** introduced our visiting Rotarians which included **Brent Barootes** and daughter **Brooklyn**. Guests of **Debbie Narver** were **Carolyn Phillips** and husband **Rene**



Cusson who entertained us at the beginning of the meeting by playing the bagpipes in honour of **John Morris**. **Janeane Coutu** introduced her guests, **Silvia Reid** and daughter **Lisa**, who often accompanied **John Morris** to meetings in recent years and have become extended family members of John and our Rotary club.

We then enjoyed the program presentation before returning to the regular meeting. **Dave Hammond** led off our tribute of **John Morris**, who passed away Nov 7th. **Bill Horman** spoke first and reminisced about the history of Rotary and John's long association - 55 years in our club and with perfect attendance! He pointed out from the Rotary 75th year history book photo's of John at many events, including his infamous "*Address to a Haggis*". Dave then invited other members to come forward to share a memory or story of John and there were many.

Brenda Grice recalled being asked to present a pin of honour during her presidential year to a member and she chose **John Morris** who from that day on wore his new "*Heart of Rotary*" pin with pride. She honoured him for his contribution in organizing our program speakers for so many years, quietly working in the background without fail of having an interesting speaker each Friday.



Janeane Coutu remembered how much Rotary meant to John and that he considered our Rotary club his extended family, looking forward to the meeting each Friday. She thanked Silvia and Lisa for making sure John made it to the meeting each week when he was no longer able to get there on his own, and also thanked Rotarians who pitched in for rides home whenever asked. Janeane was glad to have visited with John the day before he passed and be able to enjoy sharing stories from our Rotary meeting that day and left feeling happy John was doing better.

Silvia bravely stepped forward to share her memories with us.

"Rotary meant a lot to Mr. Morris as he was affectionately called by the Reid family. He was a very proud man and it was important for him to be independent and attend the meeting each week on his own feet. He called his walker his car; it was just a way for him to get around. He often told her, "*a road is not straight, you have to go with the curves*". Mr. Morris' routine never changed, he liked things in their place and doing things the way he did his whole life, on his terms. The items he and his wife owned were about the story behind it, how they came to have it, not the value of the possession. Mr. Morris was a boxer which many of us wouldn't know. It started from being the much youngest child in the family and being dressed up fancy like a doll by his siblings which got him bullied and beat up. His father suggested he take up boxing to defend himself from the bullies."



Lisa and Sylvia Reid were introduced by Dave Hammond to talk about John Morris.

Silvia believes the training as a boxer taught him to be quick on his feet, and his fighter pilot experience taught him to react quickly and be able to roll with the punches - all this played a part in his survival and likely played a role in his longevity and good health until the very last while.

Lisa told us that John loved Rotary and loved all of us, we were his family. She heard many stories about all of us from John, reading and sharing stories from the *COGS* bulletin over the years and looking up our names and photo's in the Roster.

Bob Wilson fondly remembered the *Address to a Haggis* delivery by John - what a memory for all of us his delivery in his Scottish brogue and the theatrical swinging of the knife.

Frank Shoemaker remembered his tremendous leadership of John and many others of his generation when he first joined our club, the "old boys club" in town. Frank admitted he may be one of the few that screwed up John's program by not being able to make the meeting when he was the guest speaker due to a cancelled BC Ferry from Gabriola.

Ian Williams told the story of trying to get John to schedule the Minister of Fisheries to speak in 3-weeks time when he would be visiting Nanaimo. Ian was told an emphatic NO, speaker is already booked, and the Salvation Army was coming that day. (There was no further discussion.)

Visitor **Carolyn Phillips** recalled that as a visiting Rotarian to our club, she never attended a meeting that John wasn't here. He was a bright light and expressed her sympathies for our loss. She explained that the bagpipes Rene played today were once **Dr. Carman C.**



Browne's, and it was from **John Morris'** intervention that they came to have them in their house and treasure them deeply.



President Lila told us it was John himself that is the reason she is in Rotary, after coming to our club as a speaker during her *Altrusa Club* days, John kept at her to join our club and eventually she said yes and was grateful for his persistence to have her join Rotary.

We had an emotional afternoon but what a wonderful way to remember our friend and Rotary family member **John Morris**. Thank you all for sharing stories.

We continued with the regular meeting and announcements;

Brenda Grice reminded us of Foundation month and the matching points offer for donations of \$100-250 this month. She has a list of contributions to date if you would like to know your status, contact Brenda.

John Shillabeer apologized for sending a notice only to himself for a *Book Sale Committee* meeting today. Since key members were not available today, the meeting is postponed to next Friday, **Nov 20th** after the regular meeting.



Douglas Anderson had two membership notices; the first being a new member proposal appearing in *COGS* this week for **Christine Parsons**. The second was regarding participation and encouraged those who miss a meeting to report to the secretary other committee work as a make-up.



Susan Gerrand asked for volunteers to help with a *Nanaimo Travellers Lodge* Christmas party in December.



President Lila told us the club is purchasing a plaque to honour **John Morris** at the **VI Military Museum**.

We had time for a few happy bucks. Our young guest **Brooklyn Barootes** had the winning draw ticket but pulled the Ace of clubs so the pot continues to grow with only 12 cards left—the odds are getting much better. The reporter did not catch who won the table stakes.



Our Future Leaders

Reported by Mike Herold

Our guest speaker today was **Megan Lum** from the City of Nanaimo Parks and Recreation Department. Megan was introduced by **Wendy Pratt** who told us that Megan is the Recreation Coordinator for the City Parks and Recreation and is here today to talk to us about their Leaders in Training and Quest Programs for young people in our community. Today's program is entitled "Our Future Leaders".



Megan started by saying she doesn't always get a chance to talk about these two programs which she is very proud of.

Megan has been Recreation Coordinator at the City since 2010 and the programs currently have twenty-six young people active now and expands to 110 kids participating in the summers.

The Leaders in Training program is leadership at its core and includes volunteer work in the community. The program started in 1982 and is the longest running program at the City. It is set up for 13-18 year olds and 2800 young people have been through the program since it started. This equates to 265,000 volunteer hours spent in the community and they are recognized by their yellow T-shirts.

The Quest program is considered level Z of the Leadership Training and it started in 1996. The program is for 14-18 year olds and requires extra responsibilities for the participants. They are recognized by their blue T-shirts.

Megan showed the club and advertisement for the program from 1992 which said "there are three types of leaders, those that make things happen, those that watch things happen and those that wondered what happened – which type are you?"

The Leaders in Training Program includes 14 hours of training and workshops including clowning, working with children, teamwork and basic job skills and professionalism. Participants select their volunteer placements from community requests received by the City and could include. Dragon Boat Festival, VIX, tennis and soccer camps, Loaves and

ATTENDANCE

By Bob Janes

Attendance: Nov. 13th - **59%**

We missed these Rotarians

Ali, Blinston, Cantelon, Finnegan, Y Gosselin, Hais, Heisterman, Henderson King, Knutsson, Lessan, Lewis, Raedler, Ross, Salem

Visiting Rotarians:

Brent Barootes

Guests: Lisa Reid, Silvia Reid, Carolyn Phillips Cusson, Rene Cusson, Meghan Lum, Brooklyn Barootes

Make ups: Gerrand, Fenty, Stetar – Book Sale, Committee Mtg.

Birthdays:

None to report

Club Anniversaries

Joyce Smith, 4 years on November 25th

Fishes, Maple Sugar Festival among many others.

The participants receive a passport to Leadership after successfully completing a minimum of 50-80 hours of volunteer hours with many of the kids upwards of 300 hours over the summer.



During the summer of 2015 there were 41 summer camp staff involved in the program with nearly 50% of those staff previous Leaders in Training or Quest participants.

Megan routinely receives feedback from the kids who have experienced the program along with lots of positive feedback from parents who said they saw such a positive change in their kids after the program.

Megan said there are 27 kids in the program now who continue to be involved in volunteering for community events such as xmas functions.

After many questions, Megan was thanked by **Janeane Coutu** who said that her own children were involved in the program.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, Dec 6—Family Christmas Pancake Breakfast, Bowen Park. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews—just make sure you provide a wrapped gift for each child you bring!

Wednesday, Dec 16—Bayview School Christmas Lunch. Rotary volunteers needed.

IT'S KETTLE TIME AGAIN!



The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to help with their annual Kettle Campaign. If you can spare a few hours this holiday season, please contact **Dawne Anderson** at *The Salvation Army* or send **Bob Janes** bob@islandoffice.ca a quick email back and he will help to arrange a shift or two. Many of the locations are indoors and most shifts are only 2.5 hours. They are very short of volunteers for the first week which begins November 23rd - 28th.



Six Rotary Global Women of Action were honored during Rotary Day at the United Nations on 7 November in New York City. They are, from left: Lucy H. Hobgood-Brown, Dr. Hashrat A. Begum, Stella S. Dongo, Kerstin Jeska-Thorwat, Dr. Deborah K.W. Walters, and Razia Jan.

The six Rotary Global Women of Action for 2015 were recognized during Rotary Day at the United Nations on 7 November in New York City for their dedication and service, which have improved the lives of thousands around the world.

"The women we are honoring here today are leaders in Rotary," said Rotary President K.R. Ravindran. "They are pushing the boundaries of Rotary service, pushing us all to do more, be more, and achieve more."

WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS & MEMBER DUTIES

MEETING DATE	Friday, Nov 20th	Friday, Nov 27th	Friday, December 4th
GREETERS	Debbie Narver, Brent Stetar, Bob Fenty	Robert Wilson, Lynne Pankratz, Bruce Gordon	Susan Gerrand, Bob Patrick, Bright Zhang
CASHIER	John Shillabeer	John Shillabeer	Ellen Ross
SGT-AT-ARMS	John Heisterman	Joan Ryan	Bruce Samson
INVOCATION	Egon Holzwarth	Mike Herold	Bob Janes
HEAD TABLE	President Lila, John Kenny, Frank Shoemaker, Egon Holzwarth, Debbie Narver, Fenty, Brent Stetar	President Lila, Suzanne Samborski, Wendy Pratt, Bill King, Richard Finnegan, Lynne Pankratz	President Lila and Club Executive, Bob McDougall, Bright Zhang, Susan Gerrand, Bob Patrick
INTRO GUESTS	Doug Cowling	Janeane Coutu	Bob Fenty
INTRO SPEAKER	President Lila	Wendy Pratt	_____
PROGRAM	ROTARY FOUNDATION <i>John Kenny</i>	Culture & Heritage: It's Who We Are	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING President Lila & Club Executive
THANK SPEAKER	Frank Shoemaker	Brenda Grice	_____