

# ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

# “C GS”

Volume 98, Number 9

4783rd Meeting

Friday, September 1, 2017



Approximatley 21 Rotarians, Family of Rotarians, Rotaractors and Friends installed 23 beds in the Vancouver Island Mental Health Society's facilities on Sunday, August 27, 2017

photo taken August 27, 2017, Ian Williams

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

DIRECTORS

Henry Jiang ~ Susie Stephens ~ Moe Lessan  
Fay Laing ~ David Woodward ~ Christine Parsons

President Rotary International

Ian H. S. Riseley, Sandringham, Australia

District Governor

Tom Carroll

Assistant Governor

Bev Hilton

Gateway Rotary, Olympia, WA Nanaimo Oceanside



## Meeting notes from August 25, 2017

By Lucie Gosselin

President **Jane Currie** opened the meeting and **Bob Wilson** gave the inspirational remarks. There was no introduction of guests or birthdays and anniversaries announced.



Pres. Jane

Announcements: **Joan Ryan** reminded everyone of the youth exchange beer and burger fundraiser coming up next Tuesday at the Rugby Club. This is a 5 club event. **Douglas Anderson** announced that a second order of Rotary shirts will be taken in mid-September. Anyone who did not get a chance to order last time should let him know as soon as possible. **Debbie Narver** reminded volunteers that the work project for the Vancouver Island Mental Health Society starts at 9:00 tomorrow morning.

President **Jane** gave us a heads up of two agenda items which will be discussed at the 5-president meeting with Assistant Governor **Bev Hilton** next week. The first item is about RI president's challenge to have every Rotarian plant a tree between now and Earth Day 2018 which is April 22, 2018. The reaction from the members was not overly positive. Among other comments, there was discussion about possibly donating to organizations such as Tree Canada or Scouts Canada who already have that as a purpose instead of our club getting actively involved in it. The second item was the request for a \$500 donation from our club for an Aboriginal library. The members were quick to remind President Jane that such a request should be vetted by the Community Grants and Projects committee chaired by **Doug Cowling**. The committee has the resources & criteria for assessing recipients and their requests.

Sergeant at Arms **Wahid Ali** was not in attendance. Club members hope that he is OK. President Jane therefore asked Past President **Debbie Narver** to be the acting sergeant. Sergeant at Arms Committee member **Brent Barootes** was quick to file a



Debbie Narver

grievance because Debbie is not part of the Sergeant at Arms "union". Debbie used her new found power to fine Brent for whining. Many members had happy money for the pot. **John Heisterman** gave \$5 for a birthday song because he just passed a milestone birthday. Unfortunately the club did comply and sang. **Behzad Targhi** thanked **Mike Minhas** for a good deal on a mattress; **Janeane Coutu** is happy to celebrate her 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; **Jane Currie** was thankful for the program plan which **Kathy Smith** prepared and **Brent Barootes** sent her.



**Kathy Smith** won the table stakes and **Brent Barootes** won the chance to draw the Ace of Spades but failed to get it.

## Speaker Notes for August 25, 2017

by John Shillabeer

### Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society - Kelly McBride

**Christine Parsons** introduced our speaker, **Kelly McBride**. She is the acting executive director of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society. Kelly grew up in Nanaimo and about two years ago returned home after spending about twenty years in Liverpool UK, working in the non-profit Immigration Advisory Services.



Kelly showed a video to illustrate the scope of the Society's services and then answered questions from the floor.

The Society was formed in 1979, originally to help people displaced from the war in Vietnam. It is a registered charity and implements an holistic approach to helping new arrivals. There are numerous programs, but perhaps the most important are those involved with the settling in of new migrants, language training and work preparation. English language training and employment preparation go hand-in-hand, giving neither language nor work priority over the other. They have five class rooms for teaching English and provide instruction from kindergarten level to pre-university level. They also offer classes for illiterate migrants. There is a day care service for pre-schoolers. The day care and English classes are free. Employment preparation includes discussion of Canadian work place culture and practices as well as health and safety in the workplace. WorkBC is an important participant.

The Society offers support to migrants through a variety of programs, services and social activities. There are settlement workers who meet one-on-one with migrants upon arrival and regularly afterwards to help them get started with the basics of living in Nanaimo. There is a school readiness



program of in-home instruction for mothers with kids between 3 and 5 years old. This program is designed to keep the mothers

involved so that they subsequently take over as visitors in later years. This summer the Society started a youth group for teenagers. It organises trips and activities and is very popular. There are over thirty members. The society recently introduced a family matching program in which an immigrant family is matched with a local Nanaimo family of similar profile. They are encouraged to socialise and enjoy together what life has to offer in Nanaimo (e.g. picnics, sports).

The Society operates on an annual budget of about \$1.2 million. It is mostly funded by the federal and provincial governments, together with donations, e.g. from United Way.

Kelly told us that there are about 18 government sponsored and about 10 privately sponsored Syrian refugee families in Nanaimo. Some have adapted very well while for others life is tough and they are taking longer to get established. There are now fewer arrivals from Syria. The newest arrivals are mainly from Iraq and Eritrea.

The Society is notified of a new migrant family and arranges to meet them upon arrival. Government sponsored migrants usually stay in a hotel for up to six weeks and in that time a settlement worker helps them to find their way around, get registered with various government agencies, do shopping and banking, arrange for school, then find accommodation and furniture. Privately sponsored refugees are supported similarly by the Society.

There are many success stories. Many migrants have found work in a variety of trades and occupations and Kelly mentioned a barber, concrete finisher, baker and a tile installer. Kelly said that support from local small businesses has been very good. However recognition of foreign professional qualifications is problematic and can easily take 18 months.

In thanking the speaker and presenting her with a famed Rotary pen, **Bezhad Targhi** said that even though he did not come here as a refugee, he loved the organisation. He benefited a lot from their services and happily still visits the Society from time to time.





**A few pictures from Sunday's work party at Vancouver Island Mental Health Society's facilities**

## Guest, Birthdays, Anniversary

### Guests:

Pat Cox

### Birthdays:

Raedler, Guenter

Sep 06

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

## WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS & MEMBER DUTIES

Meeting Date	September 1, 2017	September 8, 2017	September 15, 2017
Greeters	Ed Borisenko, Bruce Samson, Carmon Henderson	Geoff Clay, John Shillabeer, Mike Herold	Dave Connolly, Carlene Shaw, Egon Holzwarth
Cashier	Mike Minhas	Mike Minhas	Mike Minhas
Sgt at Arms	Joan Ryan	Raedler	Dave Hammond
Invocation	David Woodward	Denise Wittkofski	John Woychuk
Head Table	Pres. Jane, Laura Shanna, Joan Ryan	Pres. Jane, Adrienne Dartnall, Ross White	Pres. Jane, Douglas Anderson, Joan Ryan
Intro Guests	Lynne Pankratz	Christine Parsons	Peggy Richardson
Intro Speaker	Joan Ryan	Ross White	Douglas Anderson
Program	<b>Laura Shanna, Medically-Assisted Death</b>	<b>Adrienne Dartnall KIDS - making a difference in southeast Asia</b>	<b>Rotary Videos - Introduction of Exchange Students</b>
Thank Speaker	Doug Cowling	Hwney Jang	Joan Ryan