



# EYE OPENER

mouthpiece of the  
Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise



Proceedings of the meeting on:  
July 3, 2003

## O Canada

**Invocation:** Hendrik.

## Guests/ Visitors:

- Craig Hennigar, thanks for joining us, welcome to the meeting!
- John Friesen, by now an old friend it seems.
- Logan Fink, Rotarian from Florida and today's' guest speaker.

**Regrets:** Janice, Bruce.

## Club Business/ Announcements:

- Val **welcomed** everyone to her first meeting as President of the Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise.
- First off: Val thanked everyone who worked so hard to make last weeks' **induction meeting** so successful.
- Jim reported to the Club that Tamara now has **the Mike Jeffries Memorial Art Award Trophy**. The trophy is a crystal apex with a marble base etched with Mike Jeffries name as well as our Club's name and the Scotia Bank logo. The award will go from winner to winner over the years, and each recipient will receive a book award as well.
- The Club has donated \$200.00 to the **West Vancouver Memorial Library** summer Reading Program: a \$20.00 gift certificate will be given out once a week for 10 weeks.
- **Canada Day:** Canada is all the richer after last Tuesday's Citizenship Ceremony, the reason: Nico, Estelle, Juri and Sarien became Canadian in every sense of the word. Nico, Estelle, Sarien, Uri: we are all very proud of you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for choosing Canada as your home, this nation can only benefit by accepting a family such as yours into its' community.
- Also at Canada Day the **Shake Shack** was a rousing success: thanks to good weather we netted about \$700.00, thanks to everyone who turned out to lend a hand and have some fun and fellowship.
- **Rockridge School** has expressed an interest in creating an Interact Club; Klaus will be setting the Rotary wheel in motion.
- **Community Service:** Robert met with Const. Tricia Lee and the recipient of our sponsorship: Billy Dan, a native Canadian youth. Const. Lee and Billy will visit the Club to speak about the Journey.
- Mark introduced today's' **guest speaker:** Logan Fink. Logan, a Rotarian, teacher and community

board member, spoke to us about Autism. Logan has two grandchildren afflicted with Autism, thus his interest in the subject, and explained the disorder to us. Autism is a 'spectrum disorder', which means it can have many manifestations or symptoms thus making it very difficult to diagnose a treat. In Canada alone there are 180,000 children with Autism and this number is increasing by 17% per year, faster than any other juvenile disorder. This neuro-biological problem is thought to be of genetic origins and encompasses many anomalies of behaviour and thought. Autism affects not only the child but, by extension, the entire family. Research now must focus on the genetic trigger mechanism of the disorder: it may be related to childhood inoculations, vaccinations, infections, environment or other unknown causes. The symptoms in a child may include, but not be limited to: delayed language development, delayed toilet training, extended silent periods, even an obsessive fascination with spinning movements in objects. The cost to society and family is staggering: \$1 million dollars per child over a lifetime which means that in the U.S.A. now the annual cost of treatment and support is \$180 billion and this will increase dramatically in the next 10 years. Logan stresses that politicians and the community at large must be made aware of these figures so that resources can be made available to stem the rising tide of this disorder. Logan is making his way around North America, at his own expense, to raise awareness of the very serious medical problem affecting so many young people. Klaus thanked Logan for being with us this morning.

- Nancy advised the Club that the next meeting of the **Rotary Business Forum** is Tuesday 07:30h at the Radisson Hotel, Burnaby.

**Quarterly dues** are now owing: \$175.00 per individual, \$150.00 per family member, an adjustment may be made in the future depending on breakfast costs.

- Val thanked one and all for the great **Rotary Family Hike** at Lighthouse Park last Sunday; the potluck social at Val's residence afterward was tremendous fun!

**Meeting adjourned.**

*Words: Mark Ferrari – Publishing: Michelle Rudert*