



# Eye Opener

MOUTHPIECE OF THE  
Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise



Proceedings of the meeting of March 18, 2004

## O Canada

### Invocation:

Mark

### Club Business/Announcements:

- President Val welcomed one and all.
- Our friend and fellow Rotarian Dave Torrance addressed the Club briefly on this year's Wine Festival. Organizing meetings began last week for the event that takes place Oct. 16 once again at the Capilano Mall. Dave notes that although attendance was down in 2003 it should bounce back this year, the committee is hoping to retain its major sponsors and add new ones if possible, anyone with ideas please call Dave. Tickets and promotional materials should be ready by early July.
- This Sunday at 12:00 is the Klahanie Clean-Up day, weather permitting, bring family and friends to the residence, we will be power washing, gardening, minor construction and destruction and bringing a fresh look to Klahanie. Bring your gardening tools and make a difference!
- The Rotary North Shore Legacy project will go before West Van Mun Council this coming Monday.
- President-Elect Janice attended the recent PETS weekend in Seattle: about 730 were in attendance from the U.S.A., Canada, and Russia, next year's Rotary Theme is 'Celebrate Rotary', the event is a great reminder of what Rotary does around the globe, the seminars informative and the speakers inspiring.
- Casino Night/All That Jazz is two weeks away: members are urged to seek out ticket sales and auction item donation.
- **Club Service:** attendance at regular meetings has been unusually low over the past two calendar months, members are reminded that make-up meeting must take place within two weeks on either side of the missed regular meeting, a Club social will take place at Mark's residence Saturday April 24, and our Shake Shack will be coming out of hibernation early in June, a request has also come in for the MS Walk this year, a sign up sheet will be distributed.
- Ken attended a resident's meeting at Klahanie last Monday, they look forward to the Clean-Up and movie night. Ken also reports that the Rockridge Interact Fast/Fundraiser brought in about \$5000.00! Tremendous work for the Clean Water Initiative in Ethiopia and Peru. Ken also suggests that the Kind Acts Project be discussed at the next Club Board meeting and be linked to youth.
- Val introduced today's guest speaker: our own **Dave Bradley** on the topic of The Education System Now. Dave began by giving us a brief history of

the public school system from its early days a church operated system, evolving to the government operated one. Now in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the system seems to be moving towards privatization and specialization. Concerns that special interest groups are receiving more than their fair share of education funds, and that public education is no longer able to provide a venue that insulates children from bad situations, is increasing the public's distrust of the government's ability to administer the system. The arguments for and against privatization and the replacement of the government as the educator are many and varied. On the one hand those in favour of privatization argue that: private schools can provide better discipline and core values to students, school boards can be staffed with professionals and not need to be elected and school taxes can be cut as the government divests itself of budgets and capital assets. The obverse argument is that this will pave the way to a tiered education system that favours those with the greatest wealth. Many private education systems already exist: government voucher systems that reward the schools with the best results, private schools owned by investors for profit (no government funding), and independent schools operated by churches or other non-government organizations. Dave feels that this trend will continue as community and societal values evolve, and this change is natural and should be expected. The future will likely see the government having control over curriculum and content only, more parental involvement, and more private or alternative funding.



© CSIRO

The sand wasp, as used by Dave, to illustrate his talk.

**Special presentation:**

The Club presented Tamara with a lovely jacket this morning to thank her for her years of service and as a farewell gift. Tamara thanked the Club and assured everyone that they were missed.

**50/50/happy/sad:**

Joanie MacDonald couldn't find the Ace. No winners, no losers.

**Meeting adjourned.**