



Eye Opener

MOUThPIECE OF ThE
Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise



Proceedings of the meeting of March 25, 2004

O Canada

Invocation:

Mark

Club Business/Announcements:

- President Val opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to breakfast.
- Judith donated an auction item for our upcoming event: hand knitted teddy bears done by volunteers for children recovering from surgery. Thanks Judith, they'll get a good home!
- Make-ups: Ken went up the hill last night to visit with friends.
- Klahanie Clean-Up: a great success, members from all four NS Clubs turned out to garden and scrub. Easily two tons of debris and trimmings were removed from the common gardens and power washers scrubbed driveways and walls, thanks to one and all for making a big difference for the residents, and a special thanks to Ken Wilson for all his work with the residents and the power washer!
- This Friday is movie night for the kids at Klahanie: Joan and Mark will be joining President Val and parents and children from the residence for pizza and a movie.
- NS Rotary President's Meeting: the Legacy Project has been before WV Council and they have requested a more sculptural structure for the site

proposed. The matter will remain under discussion. The traffic circle beautification will go ahead as a NS Rotary Clubs project.

- WineFest: Klaus reports that the committees are all up and running. There has been some discussion of an OktoberFest to be held at the new Park Royal Village at around the same time as WineFest, Rotary participation will be discussed further.
- The Rotary 5040 railway car sponsorship has been shelved as there has not been enough support expressed throughout the District. The District is considering the Adopt a Highway project for the province.
- Casino Night is coming up: members are asked to seek out as many ticket sales and auction items as possible.

Rotary Moment:

The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees has created a new fund for projects benefiting children.

Mark introduced today's **guest speaker** Doug Sabourin, Executive Director, North Shore Family Services.

Doug addressed a number of concerns faced by Family Services.

Affordable housing is a major hurdle for many NS families: due to inflation and



other economic pressures housing is extremely expensive in our community. Many young families cannot afford to settle in the area they grew up in and are forced to move away from their family and friends support network. This isolation and pressure on both parents to work in order to be able to afford good housing can create stress and disharmony in some families.

Doug pointed out that Rotary and other service clubs are the number one creator of subsidized housing on the North Shore.

There is also concern about our schools: are they safe for students? Issues like bullying, gang activity and drug and alcohol abuse are increasing stress and anxiety for many students. In addition the competition for seats in good universities and colleges puts added pressure on today's students. Family Services notes a corresponding increase in drug and alcohol abuse as well as more eating disorders amongst young people.

Poverty is, of course, also an issue in our community for Family Services. Doug notes that about 800 families were helped out last year by the NS Family Services Christmas Bureau.

Isolated seniors is another area of concern for Doug and his organization.

Doug also expressed concerns about the isolation of our First Nations residents here on the North Shore. Thankfully, Doug notes, the North Shore has a good tradition of service organization like Rotary, good health and education facilities and a great sense of community spirit and neighbourliness.

Dave thanked Doug for being with us this morning.

50/50/happy/sad:
no winners, no losers.

Meeting adjourned.